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MARKET NEWS BULLETIN

8 October – 21 October

Compiled by Nastja Pusic

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Summary Section

UK

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UK student visa plans will ‘aid rivals and cut British exports’ (9 October)

By John Morgan: THE: 9 October

Home secretary’s plan to restrict visas on ‘lower quality’ courses criticised in India.

The UK government’s latest plan to restrict overseas student visas will deter applicants and benefit rival nations, but its political focus on cutting immigration will override concerns about lost British export earnings, according to experts.

Amber Rudd, the country’s home secretary, said in her speech at the Conservative conference in Birmingham on 4 October that the government will be “looking for the first time at whether our student immigration rules should be tailored to the quality of the course and the quality of the educational institution”.

She added that the plans will be detailed in a consultation, expected this autumn, that will “look at what more we can do to support the best universities and those that stick to the rules, to attract the best talent, while looking at tougher rules for students on lower quality courses”.

Theresa May’s government is continuing to pursue a goal of reducing net migration into the UK to the “tens of thousands”, which has led it to target non-EU student numbers. Net migration currently stands at 327,000.

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UK: EU student funding extended through 2017 (11 October)

By Beckie Smith: The Pie News: 11 October

EU students applying to enrol at an English or Welsh higher or further education institutions in 2017 will have access to student funding for the duration of their course, the universities minister and Student Finance Wales have announced. Scotland has yet to announce whether students will have access to this funding, but the country’s HE sector has called for a similar guarantee.

Universities Minister Jo Johnson’s announcement means that EU students at English universities will not only continue to pay domestic fees, but will also have access to student loans and grants – even if the UK leaves the EU during that time.

Johnson acknowledged that the Brexit referendum “brought with it some uncertainties for our higher education sector” and said the move will give universities and colleges some clarity over funding.

“International students make an important contribution to our world-class universities, and we want that to continue,” he said.

“This latest assurance that students applying to study next year will not only be eligible to apply for student funding under current terms, but will have their eligibility maintained throughout the duration of their course, will provide important stability for both universities and students.”

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MPs To Examine Brexit’s Effect On Universities (11 October)

By Beckie Smith: The Pie News: 11 October

The impact of Brexit on Britain’s Higher Education institutions is to be examined by a group of MP’s.

The Education Select Committee is set to examine how British universities will still remain competitive. It will not examine how Brexit will affect University research and funding.

“The inquiry now gives an opportunity to those who value the rights of EU citizenship to make their views heard”

The inquiry will look at what it means for EU students and staff currently studying in the UK and what it means for British students who want to study and work in the EU.

The report will also look at the future of the Erasmus student exchange programme
The report will outline what action the government needs to take to reduce the risks of Brexit and take advantage of opportunities for higher education.

‘There are 125,000 EU students and 43,000 EU staff at UK universities’

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New Irish strategy sets ambitious goals for 2020 (7 October)

By ICEF Monitor staff: ICEF Monitor: 7 October

- *The Irish government has released a new international education strategy covering the period 2016 through 2020*
- *The strategy aims to increase foreign student enrolment in higher education programmes by 33% and enrolment in ELT programmes by 25%*
- *It also aims to boost the overall economic impact of the sector by a third, to reach €2.1 billion (US\$2.34 billion) by 2019/2020*

Irish Minister for Education and Skills Richard Bruton released Ireland's new international education strategy today. *Irish Education Globally Connected: An International Education Strategy for Ireland, 2016-2020* launches a new cycle of targets and implementation for Irish educators and policymakers, and builds on a five-year track record of growth under the previous strategy for 2010-2015.

“As a small, open trading economy we must continue to diversify our economy,” said Minister Bruton. “International students, once they graduate, have a very strong role to play in helping Irish exporting companies to internationalise further and reach new markets through their links to their home countries.”

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USA and Canada

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HE leaders urge voters to back global engagement (21 October)

By Mary Beth Marklein: University World News: 21 October

An alliance of United States higher education, foreign policy, peace-building and national security leaders this week published an open letter urging America's next president to pursue policies and practices that it said will make the United States "a more welcoming and globally engaged country".

The statement, posted online hours before the third presidential debate between two candidates, Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton, on Wednesday, does not endorse one candidate over another. But it conveys an unambiguous message, given the divergent positions the two candidates have taken on issues such as immigration, trade and foreign policy.

“Our next president must value diversity in our nation and in our world, honour our tradition as a nation of immigrants, and be willing to deliberate and collaborate,” it says. “If we wish to create

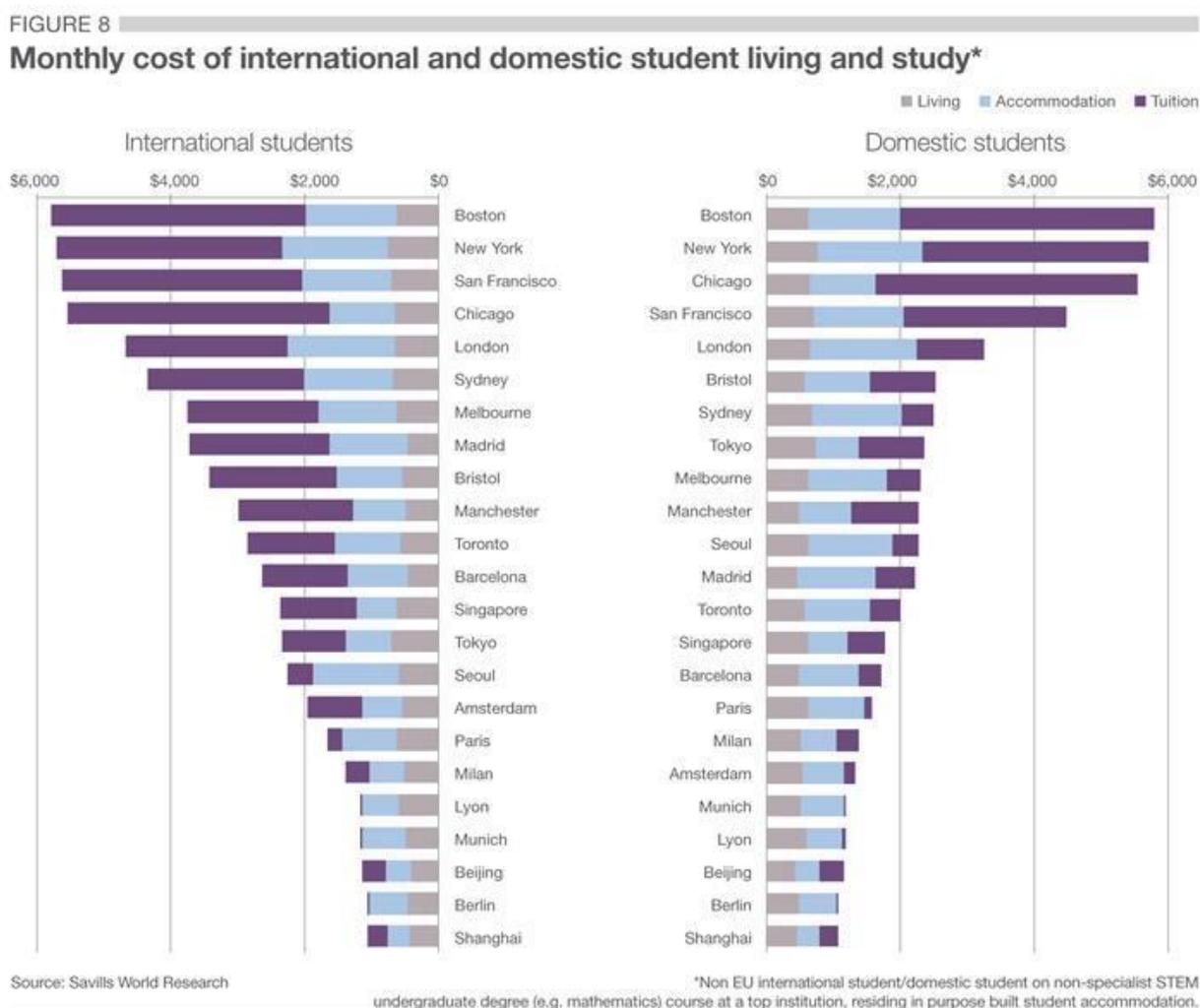
an ever-more secure and prosperous nation, our next president must work with the global community to create a more secure and prosperous world.”

The letter – unprecedented, like so many other aspects of the 2016 election season – was conceived of and spearheaded by NAFSA: Association of International Educators, a non-profit group with more than 10,000 members worldwide.

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American cities most expensive for overseas students (18 October)

By Matthew Knott: ST Magazine: 18 October



Boston is the most expensive city for international higher education students when considering tuition fees and average accommodation costs in a list dominated by cities in the USA, according to a new report by real estate company Savills.

The 2016/17 edition of the annual World Student Housing report showed that overseas students in Boston have an average monthly cost of almost US\$5,810, followed by those in New York, San Francisco and Chicago, the authors said.

London was the highest-placed non-USA location in fifth position, costing an average \$4,672, although Savills commented that for accommodation alone, London was the most expensive city for international students at US\$1,600 per month.

Two more UK cities - Bristol and Manchester - featured in the top 10, along with the Australian destinations of Sydney and Melbourne and the Spanish capital, Madrid.

The findings were based on the monthly tuition, accommodation and living costs of an international student on a STEM degree at a "top" QS-ranked institution and living in purpose-built student accommodation.

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Government links equity requirements to research chairs (12 October)

By The Canadian Press: Canadian Press: 12 October

The federal government is expanding Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's commitment to gender equality to include scientific research.

Universities that want in on a newly launched competition for 11 Canada Excellence Research Chairs will be required to prove they have detailed equity plans and recruitment strategies that promote the participation of women and other under-represented groups in the program.

There are currently 27 such research chairs at universities across the country; only one is a woman.

The CERC program, launched in 2008, awards universities up to \$10 million over seven years to support world-class researchers.

In addition to the equity requirements, Science Minister Kirsty Duncan says the new chairs will be awarded in "priority" areas: two related to clean, sustainable technologies, at least one for business sector innovation and up to three for "open areas of inquiry" that will benefit Canadians.

The government says in a news release that equity and excellence in science are not mutually exclusive.

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Australia's new tax may discourage international students from taking vocational English-language courses (10 October)

By Study International Staff: Study International: 10 October

The Turnbull administration has recently approved the implementation of a 19 percent tax on those holding a Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa, a move which has education providers concerned.

“From 1 January 2017, the Government will set the tax rate applying to working holiday makers at 19 percent on earnings up to AU\$37,000,” it said in a [press statement](#).

WHM visas are open to those aged 18 to 30 years of age, enabling them to work and study in Australia for up to 12 months, and are popular for students looking to do a bit of both.

While the government claims that the changes would boost the number of WHMs, which have been in decline since 2013, according to the organisational bodies representing the country's Vocational Education and Training (VET) and English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) providers, the new tax rate may have a negative impact on enrollment figures.

VET and ELICOS providers rely heavily on WHMs, as a sizeable number of their students are non-student visa holders.

Speaking to [The PIE News](#), [English Australia](#) CEO Brett Blacker said that nearly 50 percent of students enrolled at ELICOS providers in Queensland hold WHM visas.

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Education NZ to focus on 'high-quality' students (12 October)

By Scoop staff: Scoop: 12 October

Education NZ to focus on 'high-quality' students, to maintain high standards across New Zealand's international education industry.

“All of us have a collective responsibility to ensure the experience of our international students is a positive one and results in positive outcomes for them and ultimately for our businesses and New Zealand society and economy. We welcome international students who come here with

genuine intent and means. But New Zealand, like any sovereign country, will take steps to protect our borders and deal decisively with fraudulent or unlawful behaviour when we see it.”

This was one of the main sentiments arising out of the address of Education NZ Chair, Charles Finny, when he addressed the members of the India New Zealand Business Council on Wednesday 5 October. The event was hosted by Auckland Institute of Studies.

The speech titled, "India-New Zealand international education relationship – growth, opportunities and challenges", spoke about the recent crisis that the education industry is facing, with regard to the Indian student deportations and it's aftermath in the industry.

Charles said that this problem, is not only confined to India and other countries have also faced similar issues. “I think it's important to acknowledge at this stage too that New Zealand is not alone in facing issues of student visa fraud and dishonest agent behaviour. The United States, Canada, Australia and other countries all face the same challenges.”

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Australia: education minister releases agent code of ethics (21 October)

By Natalia Marsh: The Pie News: 21 October

Australian Minister for Education and Training, Simon Birmingham today announced a code of ethics for international education agents, at the Australian International Education Conference in Melbourne.

Giving his keynote speech at the event, minister Birmingham also nodded to the success of the Australian international education sector, but emphasised that “we have to make sure that we don't repeat mistakes of the past”.

The agent code of ethics, which Birmingham announced last year would receive government backing, has been designed to strengthen the sector as well as maintain quality, and establish more support in relation to how international education agents work, he said.

“This is something the government wants to work closely with the sector to support and ensure that it is embraced by our providers and is robustly applied to uphold standards,” he said, saying that any lapse in quality is “a risk not just to the one, but to all of us, to all of the providers and to the nation as a whole if we don't uphold those best of consumer experiences”.

Phil Honeywood, executive director at the International Education Association of Australia, said that this code of ethics builds upon the work from the London Statement.

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Taiwan: Ministry aims to boost international student numbers (9 October)

By Sean Lin: Taipei Times: 9 October 2016

A proposal to increase foreign student numbers in Taiwan to about 58,000 over three years includes a focus on curricula designed for the region.

The Ministry of Education is seeking to increase the number of foreign students in Taiwan by 30,000 by 2019 under the government's "new southbound policy," Minister of Education Pan Wen-chung (潘文忠) said.

The ministry has allocated NT\$1 billion (US\$31.77 million) to work toward three "new southbound policy" goals, Pan said at an Education and Culture Committee policy meeting.

The ministry has set aside NT\$770 million to further train people who specialize in trade management and have a comprehensive understanding of Southeast Asian and South Asian cultures and languages, he said.

Taipei would also be used to attract students in the region to Taiwan to pursue higher education or professional education, and to learn Mandarin, he said.

The ministry has allotted NT\$61 million for bilateral exchanges on culture and sports, he said.

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Stricter controls on private institutions offering TNE (21 October)

By Yojana Sharma: University World News: 21 October 2016

New measures to tighten up on the quality, financial viability and information provided by private higher education institutions in Singapore, including foreign branch campuses, that offer external degrees from foreign institutions – also known as Transnational education or TNE – have been published by the Singapore government.

The move follows reports that graduates of such programmes find it harder to secure graduate-level jobs compared to graduates of Singapore's main public universities.

It also comes in the wake of an ongoing lawsuit [lawsuit](#) by several graduates of New York University's now defunct branch of the Tisch School of the Arts in Singapore, Tisch Asia, alleging the institution did not provide the same quality of education as the main campus in New York. NYU is disputing these claims.

The new measures announced on Friday will require all private educational institutions offering external degree programmes – the majority of these are degrees from British and Australian universities – to participate in an annual graduate employment survey to be conducted by the Committee for Private Education or CPE, the Singapore government agency that regulates the sector.

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The dangers in Asia’s quest for world-class universities (19 October)

By Ka Ho Mok: THE: 19 October

The pursuit of high-ranking universities should not be at the expense of education itself

Asian governments are making serious efforts to boost their universities’ global competitiveness and ensure high rankings in global university league tables. The massification of higher education in Asia has also generated growing concern for graduates confronting underemployment and, indeed, unemployment.

Within this policy context, there are major challenges for higher education in Asia. Such challenges call into question the purpose of higher education itself.

Empirical findings show that Asian countries have become increasingly aware of the importance of the impact of global university rankings on higher education development. They are therefore putting more resource into preparing a few select universities to compete globally in university ranking leagues.

While governments in Asia have rolled out different schemes (a central feature of which is the allocation of a concentration of funding to a small number of universities to enable them to develop a critical mass of researchers to engage in international research and collaboration), the quest for “world-class” university status has led to negative – and unnecessary – consequences.

This table shows the different schemes adopted by some East Asian governments to support a select group of universities and enhance their global competitiveness.

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Malaysia, UAE have most favourable policy for int'l school growth, says report (20 October)

By Sara Custer: The Pie News: 20 October

It's true the number of international schools is forecast to double in 10 years, however growth in each country is very much dependent on its national regulatory environment. A new study by Shanghai-based Emerging Strategy explores foreign provider oversight in five key markets and asserts policies in Malaysia and the UAE are the most favourable for international school development.

The report also outlines the policy landscape of China, India, and Indonesia, warning investors to assess the red tape before expanding into these markets. Compared to Malaysia and the UAE, regulations in these three countries "pose greater challenges to operators" the report says. The UAE is "a heaven for international schools" because of the government's view that they are drivers of economic growth. However, with 548 international schools enrolling over half a million students, the market is competitive.

The market also caters to mostly expat communities making it dependent on the region's biggest industry and commodity prices. "A majority of the international schools in the UAE are located in Dubai and to the extent that Dubai is less dependent on oil, I do not think the oil price fluctuation has as immediate impact on the international school growth as other cities such as Abu Dhabi," observed the report's author Satoko Okamoto.

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International

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French university adds new English-taught courses to appeal to international students (17 October)

By Study International Staff: Study International: 17 October

One of France's most respected higher education institutions is introducing its first undergraduate program, in addition to five postgraduate programs, in order to attract more international students.

École Polytechnique, located just south of Paris, has been finding it difficult to market its courses to foreign students, despite the institution's well-regarded international reputation, particularly its flagship program, the 'Ingénieur polytechnicien', a unique four-year engineering course.

Speaking to *Times Higher Education*, the school's vice-president of academic affairs and research, Frank Pacard, said there were several reasons behind the course's lack of popularity outside of France.

“The program is designed in such a way that it is hard to ‘sell it’ to international students. In the core program, it’s very difficult to explain to foreign students what is inside the program because it doesn’t match international standards, but also everything is taught in French,” he explained.

“We realized that by keeping only this program we miss a lot of talented international students. We need to adapt to the fact that there is a need [from students to travel]. Even in the U.S., more and more students want to have some education experience abroad,” added Pacard.

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Number of International Branch Campuses Hits 250 (18 October)

By Elizabeth Redden: InsideHigherEd: 18 October

About 180,000 students worldwide are enrolled in international branch campuses, according to highlights released from a forthcoming report by the Observatory on Borderless Education and the Cross-Border Education Research Team (C-BERT) at the State University of New York at Albany. Steady growth in new campuses has continued: a total of 66 international branch campuses were founded from 2011 to 2015, compared to 67 between 2006 and 2010. There were about 250 total international branch campuses at the end of 2015.

China is the main host country for branch campuses, followed by the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Malaysia and Qatar, which collectively are home to 100 international branch campuses. The top five home countries -- the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, France and Australia -- account for 180 of the campuses.

The full report is scheduled to be presented next month at an Observatory event in Malaysia.

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