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MARKET NEWS BULLETIN

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Compiled by Nastja Pusic

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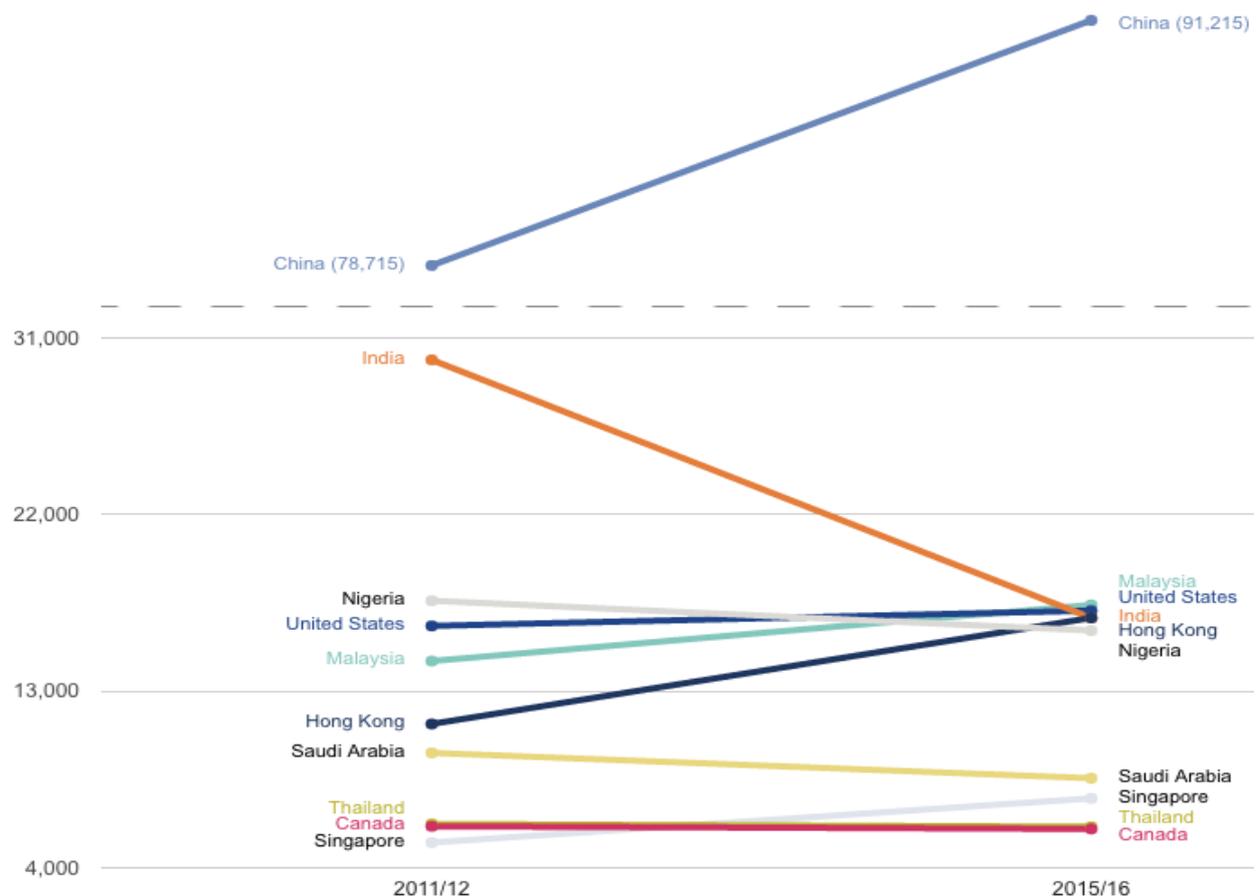
UK HE: non-EU enrolments down 1% as Indian students plummet (12 January)

By Beckie Smith: The Pie News: 12 January

Stagnation of non-EU student numbers at UK higher education institutions shows no sign of abating, as the latest HESA statistics show a 1% drop in international enrolments for the second year in a row. Indian student numbers continued to plummet in 2015/16, as Malaysia pushed into second place for the first time.

The figures from the [Higher Education Statistics Authority](#), published today, also show a 1% drop in first-year non-EU enrolments in 2015/16, as overall non-EU enrolments totalled 310,535.

China remained far and away the biggest provider of non-EU students to UK higher education institutions, climbing to 91,215 in 2015/16.



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Early indications of a notable drop in EU enrolment in the UK (14 December)

By ICEF staff monitor: ICEF staff: 14 December

- *The number of EU students applying for the first admissions cycle for the 2017/18 academic year in Britain has fallen by 9% this year*
- *This represents a relatively small percentage of overall admissions – the application deadline for most programmes is 15 January – but is nevertheless being linked to the pending Brexit process in the UK*
- *A parliamentary inquiry has recently released similar findings, pointing to widespread concern and uncertainty as to how the UK's exit from the European Union will impact the country's higher education institutions*

New data from the UK's Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) reveals a [9% drop](#) in the number of European Union students applying for admission to British universities this year. That equates to a drop of 620 applicants for the admissions cycle that closed on 15 October. UCAS is careful to note, however, that the programmes that close their admissions on that date represent a relatively small slice of British higher education.

In fact, the 15 October deadline applies only for applicants to medical, dentistry, and veterinary degrees, as well as for all programmes at the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford.

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USA and Canada

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16k international students affected as ACICS loses accrediting powers (5 January)

By: Beckie Smith: The Pie News: 5 January

The US Department of Education has withdrawn its recognition of the [Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools](#), which it estimates will affect some 16,000 international students either studying on English language programmes or planning to remain in the US under the STEM Optional Practical Training programme.

ACICS accredits some 250 institutions in the US. This includes around 130 ESL and higher education institutions that are certified by SEVP to recruit international students.

The agency was the accrediting body for the now-defunct Northwestern Polytechnic University in California, which was [exposed as a visa mill](#) last year.

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US: foreign student fee revenue filling public funding gaps (3 January)

By Beckie Smith: Pie News: 4 January 2017

Cuts in state funding for public research universities in the US has contributed to a large increase in international recruitment to these institutions, according to a new paper published by the [National Bureau of Economic Research](#). The findings confirm reports that international tuition fee revenue helps to make up for a shortfall in public funding for US higher education institutions.

A 10% drop in state appropriations correlates with a 12% increase in foreign enrolments at public research universities in the US, the study found.

The same funding decrease tallies with an even greater growth in international enrolments of 17% at the most resource-intensive universities.

State appropriations declined dramatically from around \$12,000 per full time enrolment in the mid-1980s to less than \$7,000 per FTE in 2013/14.

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Australia and New Zealand

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Aussie VCs outearn world best uni heads (12 January)

By: Julie Hare: The Australian: 12 January

Australian vice-chancellors vastly outearn their peers in Britain, including the heads of some of the world's most prestigious institutions such as Oxford and Cambridge.

As revealed by The Australian last year, Michael Spence, from the University of Sydney, was the most highly paid vice-chancellor in 2015, receiving \$1,385,000, \$220,000 more than in 2014.

He was followed by Australian Catholic University head Greg Craven who was paid \$1,355,00 in 2015, \$200,000 more than in 2014 and representing an 80 per cent hike in his salary since 2010, when he was paid \$739,000.

Flinders University's Colin Stirling who received more \$1,195,000, more than Glyn Davis, head of the country's top-ranked university Melbourne, and Margaret Gardner, the head of Australia's biggest university, Monash.

But a survey of vice-chancellors' salaries in 2015-16 by the Times Higher Education, reveals just how highly Australian vice-chancellors are paid compared to their British peers.

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More Chinese Are Sending Younger Children to Schools in U.S. (3 January)

By: Miriam Jordan: The Wall Street Journal: 3 January

When Ken Yan's parents were contemplating his future, they decided the best option for the 11-year-old was to send him 7,000 miles away from his home in China to Southern California.

Ken didn't speak English, and he would need to live with a host family in the U.S. he had never met. But the Yans felt it was all worth it.

In their quest for a U.S. education, more Chinese families are sending their children to America—and at younger ages.

The number of Chinese students at elementary schools surged from 500 in 2011 to 2,450 in 2015, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Over the same period, the number of Chinese nationals attending secondary schools in the U.S. jumped from 17,914 to 46,028. Those numbers pale compared with the tens of thousands of Chinese students enrolled at U.S. universities, but are expected to soar in the next few years.

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Việt Nam seeks stronger education ties with the US: PM (11 January)

By Viet Nam News staff: Viet Nam News: 11 January

Viet Nam is keen on strengthening co-operation in the education sector with the United States, including the building of the Fulbright University Việt Nam (FUV), Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc said yesterday.

Receiving Professor Thomas Vallely of Harvard University in Hà Nội, the PM also said the nation looked forward to having FUV emerge as model institution that would facilitate the creation of jobs and start-ups.

According to Phúc, Việt Nam needs to continuously boost educational co-operation with the US, a world leader in advanced education, as the country mobilises all of its efforts to achieve three crucial breakthroughs in development targets: rapid and sustainable development alongside the development of high quality human resources.

The two sides have worked together to set out all legal procedures for the FUV project.

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France aims to attract 10,000 Indian students by 2020 (11 January)

By Natalie Marsh: The Pie News: 11 January

The French Minister of Foreign Affairs has set a target to attract 10,000 Indian students to study in the country by 2020, more than twice the current number, saying France's Indian student intake doesn't match the countries' trade generation.

During a trip to India this week, minister Jean-Marc Ayrault also launched the Bangalore branch of France Alumni, an online platform operated by Campus France that connects former French international students with other alumni and job opportunities around the world.

Last year, France welcomed around 4,000 Indian students, a number which is "very insufficient" said Ayrault.

While this number of Indian students is 50 times higher than the number who studied in France 20 years ago, the minister said more can be done to attract them.

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Russia: international student spending hits \$1.4bn (9 January)

By: Beckie Smith: The Pie News: 9 January

Spending by international students in Russia reached \$1.4bn in 2015, following a decade of growth that saw foreign enrolments almost triple to over 280,000, new research has shown. The study from the country's largest state-funded institution of higher professional education predicts this figure could increase almost fourfold on the back of a continuing boom in enrolments to 2030.

International student spending on fees and living expenses has multiplied from \$356.2m to \$1.4bn (73.1 roubles) over the last decade, according to research from the [Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration](#).

Over that period, the number of full time international students enrolled at Russian universities grew by an average of 9% a year, up from 82,250 in 2005 to 183,100 in 2015.

When foreign extramural enrolments – short term study and exchanges – are added, the total number of foreign students in Russian higher education courses has nearly tripled in 10 years from 109,286 to 282,900.

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Adapting to the new realities of the Saudi Arabian market (11 January)

By ICEF Monitor staff: ICEF Monitor: 11 January

- *Recent changes to Saudi Arabian scholarship programmes have resulted in notable declines in outbound students, especially to major destinations such as the US*
- *However, there are still significant opportunities for institutions to receive scholarship students, the demand for higher education remains strong among self-funded students, and new government policies are opening up pathways to expanded institutional linkages and exchange programmes*

One of the key senders of international students to the US over the past decade, Saudi Arabia has turned from a seller's to a buyer's market over the past year.

In the ten years up to and including 2015, enrolments from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) across the US soared – with double-digit increases in student numbers each year since 2005 – but recent changes in the Saudi economy and in its government scholarship programmes have put the brakes on that growth.

Recent statistics from the US Department of Homeland Security show that between November 2015 and November 2016, the number of Saudis in the US on student visas **dropped by 19.9%**. This verification from government data backs up what programme administrators have known all too well, with **precipitous drops especially noted in many intensive English programmes** over the past year.

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