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MARKET NEWS BULLETIN

6 April – 20 April 2017

Compiled by Nastja Pusic

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Brexit sector focus: higher education (6 April)

By: Business Voice staff: Business Voice: 6 April 2017

The transition towards Brexit may mean changes for the UK's education system, from recruitment of staff and students to funding and intellectual property law.

The UK's higher education sector is truly world class, with four British universities in the world's top ten. In economic terms, universities - through direct and multiplier effects - generate £73bn of output and support 760,000 full-time jobs. The UK also boasts a diverse network of further education and specialist colleges.

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The industrial strategy and universities: regional briefings (18 April)

By: Universities UK staff: Universities UK: 18 April 2017

At the local and regional level, universities support growth by providing and creating jobs, and leading on local economic and social issues.

These briefings, published alongside [our response to the government's industrial strategy green paper](#) examine why universities matter for each of the nine English regions. Areas of focus include local businesses, big businesses, communities, school leavers and local services.

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General election 2017: the biggest threat to the HE Bill since it was introduced (20 April)

By: John Morgan: THE: 20 April 2017

Some aspects of university reform – including parts of the TEF – could 'turn to dust', says Nick Hillman.

Theresa May has already performed one screeching U-turn this week by calling a snap general election, veering back on previous assertions that there would be no vote until 2020. Is she about to perform the same manoeuvre on removing overseas students from the government's target to reduce net migration, once again performing an about-turn so abrupt it would leave behind black tyre marks, smoke and the scent of burning rubber?

The *Times* splashes on a story headlined "May forced to weaken key target on migrants".

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Number of Middle Eastern student applications drops in US: Survey (7 April)

By: Susana Mendoza: Middle East Eye: 7 April 2017

Nationwide survey says most Middle Eastern prospective students express worry about their immigration status.

A nationwide survey released on Tuesday showed that the number of university applicants hailing from Middle Eastern nations substantially dwindled this fall from previous years. The survey found that the total number of international students in the 260 surveyed US undergraduate programmes dropped 20 percent, compared to the same period last year.

More than 40 percent of surveyed educational institutions reported a drop in undergrad applications, the majority of them from Muslim-majority countries.

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Trump's New Order on Visas Could Make American Colleges Less Appealing Overseas (19 April)

By: Karin Fisher: The Chronicle of Higher Education: 19 April 2017

Yet again a Trump-administration executive order has the potential to roil American campuses and their recruitment of international students.

President Trump on Tuesday signed a [measure](#) that would target fraud and abuse in overseas guest-worker programs and increase federal oversight of the H-1B visa program for highly skilled foreigners.

Higher education ranks third behind technology-related occupations as the largest industry sponsor of recipients of H-1B visas. But colleges' chief concern is not likely to be the visa holders — typically, professors, researchers, and postdocs — on their payrolls.

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H-1B review needed, but 'Hire American' is the wrong approach, say educators (20 April)

By: Beckie Smith: The Pie News: 20 April 2017

'Buy American, Hire American' rhetoric risks eroding the attractiveness of the US as a study destination, educators warned as Donald Trump's newest executive order marked the administration taking its first steps towards H-1B visa reform.

Though they acknowledged that a review of the skilled worker system is necessary, stakeholders labelled the surrounding rhetoric wrongheaded and populist.

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Canadian universities reporting a bump in applications for 2017 (4 April)

By: ICEF Monitor staff: ICEF Monitor: 4 April 2017

- Canadian universities are reporting significant increases in the number of foreign applications received for this year
- For many institutions, year-over-year growth is often on the order of 20–30% or more
- The increase is being attributed to political developments in the UK and US, but also to expanded recruiting by Canadian institutions and the relative affordability of Canadian education

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International

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Russia's outbound program extended to 2025 (18 April)

By: Natalie Marsh: The Pie News: 18 April 2017

The Russian government has granted an extension to its federal study abroad scholarship fund, which supports students to go abroad for postgraduate degrees provided they return to Russia to work.

The Global Education Scholarship Program was established in 2014, and carried out its pilot phase until 2016. Last month, the Russian government signed a decree to guarantee its continuation until 2025.

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Brand is key challenge for international recruitment (14 April)

By: Nic Mitchell: University World News: 14 April 2017

Brand awareness is the key challenge facing universities in recruiting international students, according to an audience poll of a global webinar on [international student mobility trends: shifting recruitment priorities and strategies](#).

The largest section of the audience also put establishing strong feeder partnerships at the top of their priorities should their institution's budget for international recruitment be increased by 10%.

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Italy: PON returns for 2017, funding language and citizenship courses nationwide (12 April)

By: Beckie Smith: The Pie News: 12 April 2017

In exciting news for the European study travel industry, the Italian government has announced it will resume providing scholarships to enable high school students to complete short, language study abroad courses through the PON scheme after a year-long lull.

After previously hosting thousands of Italian student groups through PON, language schools have welcomed the revival of the program.

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Asia

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China's 'Best And Brightest' Leaving U.S. Universities And Returning Home (17 April)

By: Kenneth Rapoza: Forbes: 17 April 2017

Chinese college students studying in the U.S. are finding it just as interesting these days to return home to the world's No. 2 economy rather than staying a few years in the world's No. 1.

Some 82.23% of students who studied abroad returned to China last year, up from 72.38% in 2012, according to government figures.

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ICEF sees opportunity in central Asia (28 March)

By: Amy Baker: The Pie News: 28 March 2017

Convinced of the potential of the central Asian region, [ICEF](#) has just completed its first Central Asia Focus event, a workshop that enabled educators to meet with 83 education agents from the region.

The agents attending represented Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan.

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Taiwan makes huge investment in building regional HE ties (19 April)

By: Beckie Smith: The Pie News: 19 April 2017

Taiwan's Ministry of Education has announced a three-year, multi-million dollar program of higher education internationalisation initiatives as part of its New Southbound Policy – the national policy to strengthen ties with 18 countries within the ASEAN community, South Asia and Australasia.

The ministry's Higher Education Department has issued a call for participation in seven internationalisation initiatives that form part of the education and training arm of the policy, the New Southbound Talent Development Policy, including overseas internships and summer schools for international students.

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Australia and New Zealand

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Educators go to India to turn Trump and Brexit to Australia's advantage (9 April)

By: Tim Dodd: Financial Review: 9 April 2017

Australia is sending a 120-strong education delegation to India this week on the [back of the prime ministerial visit](#), with Education Minister Simon Birmingham leading the group which aims to build stronger university ties, [win more international students](#) and boost Australia's role in the massive Indian effort to develop skills for its huge population.

"Australia is willing and well-placed to help India with its education aspirations, including its goal of upskilling 400 million people by 2022," Senator Birmingham said in advance of meetings which start on Monday.

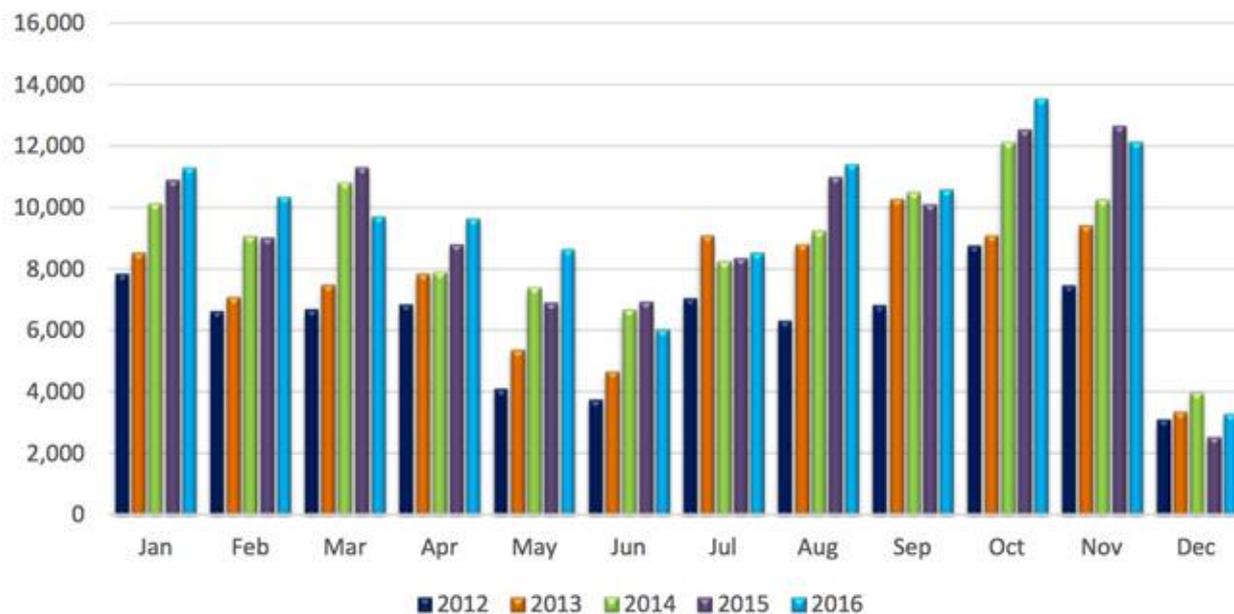
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Australia: ELICOS enrolment grew in 2016 (11 April)

By: ICEF Monitor staff: ICEF Monitor: 11 April 2017

- Full-year data for English Language Teaching enrolment in Australia indicates that total commencements grew by 3.6% in 2016, and total student numbers by 4.3%
- Nearly all of the top 20 source markets for Australian ELT providers grew last year, the notable exceptions being Vietnam, India, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan which all booked substantial declines during 2016
- Even so, 2016 stands as a record-high enrolment for English language programmes in Australia

Monthly ELICOS commencements, 2012-2016. Source: English Australia



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457 visa changes hit international students (20 April)

By: Julie Hare: The Australian: 20 April 2017

Potential international students in India and China have taken to social media to condemn proposed changes to the visa system prompting vice-chancellors to get an assurance from government that overseas student and their visas will not be impacted.

Belinda Robinson, chief executive of Universities Australia, said while she had been told there would be no impact on international student visas, the perception that there would be was being widely promoted on social media in key markets.

“The international student market is very sensitive and any suggestion of policy change is always going to result in concerns, which is why we need this cleared up promptly,” Ms Robinson said.

The University of Technology Sydney took to Weibo to reassure students that the changes would not affect them.

But Karen Cochrane from the Council of International Students Australia said vocational students doing two year courses would be impacted by the results.

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