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MARKET NEWS BULLETIN

8 September – 21 September 2017

Compiled by Nastja Pusic

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Summary of Global HE News

UK

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IELTS numbers rise to three million a year (8 September)

By: CISION PR Newswire staff: CISION PR Newswire: 8 September 2017

More than three million International English Language Testing System (IELTS) tests were taken in the past year, reflecting the growing importance of the world's leading test of English for international higher education and migration.

IELTS is the most widely used test of English for migration to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the UK. It is recognised by more than 10,000 universities, schools, employers and immigration bodies, including all universities in Australia and the UK and many of the leading institutions in the USA.

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UK visa delays hit Hong Kong agents and students (14 September)

By: Matthew Knott: The Pie News: 14 September 2017

Agents and students in Hong Kong have been affected by UK visa delays, with some students forced to miss the start of their academic courses.

According to a [report](#) in the *South China Morning Post (SCMP)*, more than 1,300 UK student visas for Hong Kong students were delayed, although the British Embassy claims that the backlog has now been cleared.

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Third-party pathway partnerships debated at EAIE (20 September)

By: Matthew Knott: ST Magazine: 20 September 2017

The pros and cons of third-party pathway partnerships and in-house university provision were discussed in a special seminar at the EAIE conference in Spain last week.

In a session entitled *Preparatory pathway programmes: Why and how?*, Gunilla Carlecrantz of [Lund University](#) in Sweden and Suzanne Alexander from the [University of Leicester](#), UK, led a discussion on the decision process that institutions need to go through when deciding what model of pathway provision to undertake and tips for creating a smooth and beneficial partnership

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There has been a massive drop in the number of mature students studying at UK universities (12 September)

By: John Butcher: The Conversation: 14 September 2017

If you step on to a university campus in any town or city across the UK, chances are that most of the students you will see will all be of a similar age. Yes, there may be the odd “mature student”, but for the most part, a lot of the students look to be in their late teens, or early twenties.

Student numbers have [almost doubled over the past 20 years](#), but during this time there has been a massive decline in the number of mature students – both part-time and full-time. Since 2010 these numbers have [dropped by more than 60%](#), which, to put it bluntly, is nothing short of a disaster.

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USA and Canada

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Loophole lets 40,000 immigrant 'students' into US (11 September)

By: Paul Bedard: Washington Examiner: 11 September 2017

A generous legal loophole in U.S. immigration laws is allowing thousands of illegal "students" to receive special visas to enter America, according to a new report on the scam.

The report found that 42 of the country's worst colleges and universities, some that aren't even accredited, are providing the needed "student" documentation to immigrants to clear immigration requirements of the Department of Homeland Security.

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What could the rescission of DACA in the US mean for international education? (15 September)

By: Elaine Loveland: The Pie News: 15 September 2017

DREAMers, undocumented students in the United States, just might become international students—at least in Canada. While hopes of a reprieve for DACA floated this week, Canadian institutions are using the uncertainty to reach out and offer scholarships.

Meanwhile, some US HE stakeholders fear the heat around the story further impacts the image of the US for other international students.

On September 5, the Trump administration announced that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program – launched by the Obama administration in 2012 that allowed for undocumented immigrants who arrived in the US as children to remain in the country – could be rescinded in six months' time.

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College admissions under pressure in the US: International numbers down for some (18 September)

By: ICEF Monitor staff: ICEF Monitor: 18 September 2017

- *A recent survey finds that only about a third of US colleges were on track to meet enrolment targets for 2017/18 as of 1 May*
- *A separate poll highlights that 40% of responding US colleges are seeing declines in international student numbers this fall*
- *An increasing proportion of colleges are planning to expand recruitment efforts going forward, and to more actively manage admissions files to help drive conversions and yield throughout the admissions pipeline*

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Canada to be honoured at the China Annual Conference for International Education (19 September)

By: Tara Siebarth: University Affairs: 19 September 2017

A Canadian delegation including federal Minister of Trade, provincial ministers of education, university presidents and representatives from higher-ed sector will travel to Beijing next month.

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As US and UK Look Inward, Foreign Students Look Elsewhere (18 September)

By: CEB staff: Talent Daily: 18 September 2017

The influx of foreign students to US universities is slowing down and many are opting to study in Canada instead, [Laura Krantz reports for the Boston Globe](#), in a trend driven partly by perceptions of growing hostility toward immigrants in the US since the election of President Donald Trump:

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Boom in number of English-taught bachelor's, with Turkey on top (15 September)

By: Natalie Marsh: The Pie News: 15 September 2017

There has been a huge surge in the number of English-taught bachelor's available in Europe, according to recent research, with the number of these degrees at HEIs in the continent up fifty-fold since 2009.

The [research](#), produced jointly by [EAI](#) and [StudyPortals](#), also found that Turkey boasts the highest number of English-taught bachelor's programs.

There were 2,900 ETBs identified in the StudyPortals database, BachelorsPortal, across 19 European countries, an increase from just 55 listed on the same search site eight years ago.

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Education at a Glance (21 September)

By: OECD: University World News: 21 September 2017

The Education at a Glance 2017 report, published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, or OECD, on 12 September, provides key information on the state of education around the world. University World News highlights its findings on tertiary education.

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E African region to harmonise tuition fees next year (20 September)

By: Maina Waruru: The Pie News: 20 September 2017

University students across the East African region will, from January next year, begin paying the same amount of tuition fees, in the first step towards the actualisation of the newly created East African Common Higher Education Area.

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Russian students hit with visa trouble amid US-Russia tensions (13 September)

By: Patrick Atack: The Pie News: 13 September 2017

Russian students hoping to study in the US have been hit by the side effects of continuing diplomatic turmoil between the two nations, as education agents report major issues in the visa process as a result.

The US consulates in St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, and Vladivostok have suspended all non-immigrant visa processes, and the Moscow embassy continues to operate at a reduced rate. The US government says this is solely due to restrictions on US diplomatic staff numbers imposed by Russia.

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Rolling out the first large-scale scholarship programmes for MOOCs (13 September)

By: ICEF Monitor staff: ICEF Monitor: 13 September 2017

- *Two corporate giants – Google and Bertelsmann – have launched a large-scale scholarship programme for MOOC studies*
- *The programme will fund 75,000 students from the EU, Egypt, Israel, Russia, and Turkey*
- *It builds on a successful 2016 pilot that saw 70,000 students apply for 10,000 funded spaces*

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What rankings are most important to students? (6 September)

By: ICEF Monitor staff: ICEF Monitor: 6 September 2017

- *An annual survey of prospective international students finds that international university rankings remain an important decision factor for about 25% of respondents*
- *The survey also indicates that QS World University Rankings and THE World University Rankings are the most popular among prospective students, including those in China and India*

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Asia

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To many Vietnamese, US still a top overseas study destination in spite of Donald Trump (16 September)

By: Mark Ashwill: VN Express: 16 September 2017

Check out the facts and figures on why so many students are heading state-side.

The U.S. remains a hot overseas study destination for Vietnamese students.

Just as its economy has managed to weather the global storm of the past few years, young Vietnamese people continue to flock overseas to study in large numbers, undeterred by Brexit, the 2016 U.S. presidential election and other potentially game-changing socio-political events. Among U.S.-bound international students, Vietnam is an outlier among the top 10 sending countries. Incredibly, it displaced Canada as the fifth-leading sending country in March 2017.

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ELC helps meet English demand in Vietnam (14 September)

By: Natalie Marsh: The Pie News: 14 September 2017

The [English Language Company](#) based out of Australia has opened a purpose-built campus at a Vietnamese university, to help meet the demand for English language learning.

The school, which opened in this month at [Hutech University](#) in Ho Chi Minh City, has enrolled 1,300 students in its inaugural intake.

ELC set up its partnership with Hutech in April in order to help increase English language learning provision among the 35,000 students on campus.

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Three-quarters of students happy with international study experience ROI (14 September)

By: Anton Crace: The Pie News: 14 September 2017

Just under three quarters of international students from Asia were satisfied their overseas study experience was of benefit to their career, according to a recent survey.

Conducted by the [International Alumni Job Network](#) and analysis group [Nielsen](#), the survey found that 72% of international students were either satisfied or very satisfied with the return on investment from studying in Australia, the UK, the US, Canada or New Zealand.

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Prospects soften for overseas students (18 September)

By: Hou Liqiang: China Daily: 18 September 2017

Stronger universities at home, more competition dim job opportunities for some.

Finding a job in China was once a breeze for graduates who returned home after studying at colleges abroad. Employers saw them as rare assets with an international flavor.

Now the game has changed.

The advantage returnees enjoyed in the domestic labor market has almost vanished in recent years due largely to two factors: a sharp rise in their number and the improving image of Chinese higher education.

As more head out, more are coming home. A record 666,000 overseas students are forecast this year to return home, where they will need to compete with 7.95 million fresh graduates from Chinese universities, according to recruiter Lockin China.

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China's college-aged population to decline through 2025 (6 September)

By: ICEF Monitor staff: ICEF Monitor: 6 September 2017

- *China has been the key driver of overall growth in international student mobility over the last two decades*
- *There are some indications that growth in Chinese outbound began to level off around 2013*
- *Demographic forecasts project that the number of college-aged students in China will decline by about 40% between 2010 and 2025*

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9% rise in Indian students heading to UK (19 September)

By: The Times of India staff: The Times of India: 19 September 2017

The [UK](#) has seen a jump of at least 9% in the number of students travelling from India in the last year. During a press meet in the city on Tuesday, British deputy high commissioner Bharat Joshi said the reasons for the increase include heightened awareness of the education system in the UK, improving quality of students and a cheaper exchange rate leading to lower educational costs due to Brexit.

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Australia and New Zealand

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Why students are choosing to study in Australia instead of US, UK & Canada (11 September)

By: Pulse staff: Pulse: 11 September 2017

Over the last two years, international students census in Australia reveals an increase by over 27% from the previous 498,155 in 2015.

Australia is fastly leading the United States and other countries in the world as the favorite education destination for international students.

Over the last two years, international students census in Australia reveals an increase by over 27% from the previous 498,155 in 2015. Among the top ten Nationalities are China, India, Vietnam, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Brazil, Thailand, Nepal, Indonesia and Hong Kong – Nigeria is fastly adding to the trend with majority choosing to settle in major cities like Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.

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New Zealand considering visa centre closures (20 September)

By: Matthew Knott: ST Magazine: 20 September 2017

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) has proposed changes that will see visa processing streamlined to fewer centres, with 12 offshore locations either closing or ceasing visa application activity.

[INZ](#) Manager of Visa Services, Steve Stuart, said investment in technology and the popularity of online applications - with around half of eligible applications now made online - had created a new approach for more accurate, timely and consistent decision making.

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Making NZ more affordable for international students (15 September)

By: Scoop Education staff: 15 September 2017

Startup: Tambook making New Zealand more affordable for international students

“Making studying English abroad an affordable adventure”. This is the mission of the New Zealand startup, Tambook Limited.

While New Zealand is competing for international students with countries like USA, Canada and Great Britain, we should be giving students an opportunity to book a course at an honest price and as effortlessly as possible, so that more of them get to experience beautiful and friendly Aotearoa. Three years ago, Dmitry Belevich, one of Tambook’s founders decided to make studying abroad more affordable and today students can type in www.tambook.com to compare and book English courses directly from over 50 schools in New Zealand and Australia.

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New Zealand ‘top in world’ for preparing students for future (19 September)

Canada and Finland also score highly in research assessing the effectiveness of education systems in 35 economies.

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