

## Ontario students to be given scholarships to study overseas

STUDENTS IN ONTARIO, Canada, will be able to apply for a new Ontario International Educational Opportunity Scholarship, worth up to CAN\$2,500 (US\$2,267) from the 2006/2007 academic year.

In all, 250 scholarships will be available for students from next year as part of the Ontario government's plan to increase the international exchange between home and overseas students. "Our government supports students who want a diverse learning experience," said Chris Bentley, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities in Ontario. "That's why we are encouraging Ontario students to pursue part of their studies abroad through new

scholarships that will also help our province remain competitive in the global economy."

The Ontario government is also planning to invest CAN\$1 million (US\$0.9 million) in 2006/2007, CAN\$3 million (US\$2.7 million) in 2007/2008 and CAN\$5 million (US\$4.5 million) in 2008/2009 as part of its Higher Reach plan to assist in the internationalisation of Ontario's post-secondary education system.

Plans include negotiating exchange agreements with other countries, supporting initiatives to increase international student numbers in Ontario and creating an award to recognise the international education experience of students.

## UK students head down-under

INCREASING NUMBERS of UK students are choosing to study in Australian universities, according to the latest statistics. Since 2002, UK students on undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Australia have increased by more than a third as they seek to take advantage of low living costs and favourable living conditions.

Kathleen Devereux from the Australian Trade Commission said, "You'd think of the UK market as being a fairly mature market, but we have had 12 per cent year-on-year growth from 2002 to 2005, which is extraordinary."

With average tuition fees at an Australian university averaging between US\$9,160 and US\$19,058 a year, course costs in Australia are higher than in the UK where they average UK£3,000 (US\$5,717). However, when lower living costs are taken into account, studying in Australia is becoming a more appealing option for many UK students.

Last year, 6,250 UK students enrolled at an Australian university and this year five Australian universities are offering scholarships to UK students in an effort to draw them to their shores.

### Turkish scholarships to study in New Zealand

A new Turkish government sponsorship programme is to allow up to 100 Turkish students to study at a New Zealand university. The programme follows visits to New Zealand by Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Education Minister, Husseyin Celik.

The new scholarships are available in 32 subject areas and the first Turkish students are expected to arrive in June 2007. New Zealand's Higher Education Minister, Michael Cullen, said, "The fact that 10 per cent of Turkey's total global allocation of scholarships have been awarded to New Zealand is a real boost for our profile."

### Green scheme at University of Essex in UK

International office staff at the University of Essex in the UK have introduced a novel scheme designed to reduce the carbon emissions created by international students travelling to their university.

The university has teamed up with Tree Appeal in the UK and pledges to plant one broad-leaved tree for every long-haul flight made by their international students. The students receive a certificate as well as information about how to offset their own air travel in the future.

### Korean students can gain more credits abroad

Korean students no longer have to gain half their university course credits in their home country, according to a new ruling from the Korean Ministry of Education and Human Resources. Previously, students wishing to study abroad in exchange programmes had to acquire half their credits from their registered home university.

Ministry official Jeong Bong-chul said, "Previously, some universities had difficulties in making exchange programmes with foreign schools because of the current regulations. Now the universities will have total control of the credit system and we hope to see more exchange programmes in the near future."

### Change to work rights in the Netherlands

The Netherlands is planning changes to its immigration policy that will allow international students more opportunities to look for work in the country after they finish their studies.

The policy is expected to come into effect in 2008 and will include five residence categories that will have their own package of rights and obligations. Current plans have announced that international students will have more time in which they can look for work.

### US graduate students up

The number of foreign students admitted to American graduate schools rose in 2006 for the second year running, according to the results of a survey conducted by the Council of Graduate Schools. Overall, international admissions at graduate schools in the USA increased by 12 per cent on the previous year.

The most popular courses with international graduates included engineering, with enrolments numbers increasing by 26 per cent, and business, which saw enrolments increase by 12 per cent. Admissions from India increased by 28 per cent this year, while admission from China were also up by 20 per cent.

### Chinese language newspaper in Canada

Nova Scotia in Canada has gained its own Chinese language newspaper after the expansion of the East Coast Newspaper of St John into Halifax and Wolfville.

The number of residents claiming Chinese as their mother tongue has increased dramatically over the last few years due to the influx of language and education students coming to the area. The newspaper itself was started by a former Chinese international student, Tao Tao Liu, who studied at the University of New Brunswick.

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## feature

## European hotel and hospitality courses

Students with an eye on future job prospects are flocking to Europe to study on hotel and hospitality courses.

For many international students interested in working in the hotel and hospitality arena, the gold standard in education resides firmly in Europe.

"[International students] are interested in the European traditions in hospitality, French cuisine, German/Swiss technical know-how and British management expertise," says Rod Hardingham from the London Hotel School in the UK. "They still see many expatriate European managers running hotels in their own countries and believe a European qualification will help them get to the top."

With a tradition of excellence that goes back many years, hotel management and hospitality schools in Europe pride themselves in producing some of the most sought-after graduates in the industry. For many schools, the key to future success in their graduates is providing a comprehensive education combined with a long period of practical experience in some of the best hotels in the world.

"We have a one-year paid internship in a London four or five star hotel," relates Hardingham. "Students see this as a vital step in their careers as when they return home, if they

*"A quality work experience programme is vital for students"*

can show one year's work in a hotel such as the London Ritz – where they have dealt with guests from all over the world in a very high occupancy situation – they are almost guaranteed a good job."

At the Institut Hotelier Cesar Ritz in Switzerland, Jonathan Hilton agrees that a quality work experience programme is "vital for students". He adds, "Our contacts with industry inform us that practical experience is the key to success and placement."

At another school in Switzerland, DCT International Hotel and Business Management School, Sharon Spaltenstein relates that hotel and hospitality courses are so popular in Switzerland with international students that 98 per cent of their student body comes from overseas. Spaltenstein believes that her school's popularity largely lies in the number of very specialised culinary arts programmes that are on offer. "They are taught only by highly respected Swiss chefs offering a way for international students to learn European gourmet cuisine and/or about European pastry and chocolate within a reasonable time period – ranging from 11 weeks to 18 months," she says.

Another selling point for DCT is its University of Massachusetts bachelor degree programme, which can be taken by students in less time and at a less total cost than in the

USA, and has been offered since 2003. "DCT's unique combination of a Swiss Advanced Diploma and a well-respected US Bachelor's degree helps to open a wide variety of career options for DCT graduates with fast advancement within many types of large corporations or smaller businesses – from international lodging chains to neighbourhood restaurants, major cruise line companies to event organisers," says Spaltenstein.

Elsewhere in Europe, standards for high quality education in the field of hotel and hospitality management are also evident. Fotine Zijlstra from CHN University Netherlands says that their International Hospitality programme has been ranked for many years as the best in the country. "The knowledge and quality of the European hotel industry is well known outside Europe," says Zijlstra. "For example, many general managers are graduates of European universities."

While already popular with international students, CHN has recently introduced new courses to appeal to overseas markets, including an English communication preparation course as well as "transnational education and the grand tour concept",

says Zijlstra. "[Students have] the opportunity to study part of our programmes at one of our campuses in Thailand, Qatar, South Africa and, starting 2007, China," she explains. "In fact all our programmes have a strong international focus, both in content and structure of the programme as in the mixture of nationalities in the classes, to make it appealing for both the national and international students."

In France too, Arnaud Bouvier from Eshotel Hotel Management School says that they have recently developed a new Masters in Hospitality programme in order to cater for international student demand. "Management programmes are very popular [with international students]," he says. "[Especially] short programmes like our Master in Hospitality Administration. International students will first study in their country then complete their education with a short, hospitality-oriented programme."

With global tourism and travel continuing to grow, hotel and hospitality programmes are likely to remain a popular option for international students in the future and European providers of these courses are already planning to expand their marketing outreach. Bouvier comments, "[We recruit international students] exclusively on the Internet today but we plan to participate in student fairs abroad next year."

## subject focus

## Learning to fly in Canada

Increased industry demand for airline pilots worldwide is driving interest from international students in flying courses in Canada.

According to the latest figures from the World Tourism Organisation, tourism is booming worldwide and tourist arrivals are continuing to grow year on year. Increased demand for air travel in some countries is leading to a shortage of trained pilots, which is good news for flying schools in Canada, which have seen international enrolments grow in recent years.

"We have seen a dramatic increase in students coming from overseas," says John Davis, President of Canadian Flight Academy in Oshawa, ON, which also has a sister training school, Toronto Airways, in Markham, ON. "Most of these have been coming from India. India has seen rapid expansion of its airline industry, which has resulted in the country's inability to train [enough] pilots. The airlines have hired away most of the country's instructors forcing students to look elsewhere for the training."

Lary Loretto from Ottawa Aviation Service in Ottawa, ON, agrees that job opportunities for pilots are definitely increasing in many countries. "To give you a picture, in the last two years our graduates have gone to almost every country that used to be behind the iron curtain, plus Kenya, Pakistan, Ireland, India, UK, Romania, Switzerland and the Comoros Islands," he says.

As well as the wealth of job opportunities available for trained pilots, Yves Le Roux at Passport Hélico in Montreal, QC, points out another reason why international students particularly choose to study for their pilot's licence in Canada. "We get quite a few students from Europe," he says. "They come here to obtain a professional rotary wings licence because it is cheaper in Canada." However, he adds, "We've had [fewer] European students recently and we

think it is because of the depreciation of the euro versus the Canadian dollar."

While flying schools in Canada are keen to welcome international students into their classrooms, many stress that the most important entry requirement is a high linguistic ability and few provide extra tuition in this area. "Our function is to train students to become pilots. We don't organise accommodation, visa applications, employment, transportation and language training," notes Shawn Broughton from Brantford Flight Centre in Brantford, ON.

In Quebec, international students have the opportunity of studying in either French or English, which adds to this province's appeal for European students, according to Le Roux. "Most of [our international students] come from France and we think it is because they see Canadians as cousins," he says. "There are no entry requirements except to be able to read and comprehend French or English."

For most flying schools in Canada, staying competitive in regards to cost is the most effective way of attracting new students. At Passport Hélico, this awareness of price has resulted in a new programme being developed, as Le Roux explains. "We are implementing a new programme in order to help young pilots to accumulate hours for a very reasonable price," he says. "This programme will be in place either fall 2006 or in spring 2007."

However, with oil prices rising worldwide, this price advantage could become more precarious in the future. Loretto says that while they have remained popular with students because "we seem to be a low-cost operator" he also warns, "With energy costs going up this may not last."

Location	Name of school	Courses available	Min. age of students	Min. language proficiency	Lang. support?	Accommodation options
Abbotsford, BC	BC Helicopters	c,i,n,p	19	i	✓	f,h,r
Brantford, ON	Brantford Flight Centre	c,i,n,o,p	17	i	✓	✓
Calgary, AB	Morgan Air Services	c,i,n,o,p	18	i	✓	h
Castlegar, SK	Selkirk College	c,d	18	a		f,h,r
Delta, BC	Pacific Flying Club	c,i,n,o,p	18	e		b,h,r
Markham, ON	Toronto Airways	c,i,n,o,p	16	i		f,h,r
Montreal, QC	Passport Hélico	c,i,n,o,p	16	i	✓	f,h,r
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON	Aviation Academy Niagara	c,i,n,p	15	i		f
North Bay, ON	Gateway Helicopters/Canadore College	c,d,i,n,o,p	18	l	✓	h
Oshawa, ON	Canadian Flight Academy	c,i,n,o,p	16	i		f,h,r
Ottawa, ON	Ottawa Aviation Services	c,i,n,o,p	14	i	✓	f,h
Saskatoon, SK	Mitchinson Flying Service	c,d,i,n,p	18	i		f
Victoria, BC	Victoria Flying Club	c,i,n,o,p	–	i	✓	✓

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