

New tax on schools in NZ

Currency

		1xUS\$ =currency*
Argentinean	Pesos	3.436
Australian	Dollar	1.759
Brazilian	Real	2.668
British	Pound	0.681
Bulgarian	Leva	2.071
Canadian	Dollar	1.537
Chilean	Pesos	661.11
Chinese (PR)	Yuan	8.272
Czech	Koruny	32.23
Danish	Kroner	7.873
Egyptian	Pound	4.620
EU	Euro	1.059
Hong Kong	Dollar	7.799
Hungarian	Forint	255.10
Icelandic	Kronur	89.886
Indonesian	Rupiah	8747.7
Israeli	New Shekels	4.963
Japanese	Yen	125.36
Maltese	Lira	0.444
Mexican	Peso	9.662
New Zealand	Dollar	2.051
Norwegian	Kroner	7.868
Polish	Zloty	4.035
Russian	Rubles	31.331
Singaporean	Dollar	1.791
Slovakian	Koruny	47.036
South African	Rand	10.029
South Korean	Won	1217.3
Swedish	Krona	9.692
Swiss	Franc	1.561
Taiwanese	NT Dollar	33.750
Thai	Baht	42.327
Turkish	Lira	1,482,802.0
Venezuelan	Bolivar	1,152.3

*Rates are subject to change and should be used as indications only. 13/06/02

China is no.1 student exporter

A REPORT released by the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation of the United Nations (UN) indicates that China is the premier source of international students in the world, with 25,000 full-time students studying abroad each year.

The UN points to Singapore as the most popular overseas study destination for Chinese students, attracting up to 15,000 students at present. The *China Daily* newspaper reported that students find courses easier to study in Singapore as they are taught bilingually.

"Singapore enjoys a favourable geographic location where western and eastern cultures meet," said Wong Yongli at China's Embassy in Singapore. □

All institutions in New Zealand that accept overseas students, including English language schools, are likely to have to pay a new levy on student fees received to fund a comprehensive quality assurance initiative, it was announced earlier this year. Schools and universities in New Zealand reacted with dismay to the news and complained that it punished those institutions that were doing well in the international marketplace.

The country's Ministry of Education said the levy – likely to be 0.5 or one per cent of fees received – will raise money to be used to promote research, professional development and industry-wide promotion. "The industry and government have concerns around ensuring growth [in enrolments] is balanced and sustainable, and that New Zealand maintains its reputation in education," said the Ministry in a statement. "Development of the industry has been hampered by market failure... resulting in under-investment in activities that benefit the industry as a whole."



Smaller schools will risk profitability, claims Appel, because of the levy

The Association of Private Providers of English Language (Appel) – a new grouping of English language schools that combines the membership of associations Fiels and Crels – told the *New Zealand Herald* that there was no evidence of the "market failure" cited. Education export was a major success, it said, and quality issues were dealt with via the new code of practice and New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) audits.

Some of the funds, which will be collected from January 2003, will be spent on the administra-

tion of the new code of practice for the pastoral care of international students, which was introduced in March and becomes compulsory in September.

"[The tax] is going to be bad for people who export education," argued Frances Woolcott of Appel. She said that a levy of one per cent of tuition revenue would equal 10 to 20 per cent of profit for some operators, forcing some to make marginal profit or even a loss. Claiming that no school supported the levy, Woolcott added, "We are already contributing large amounts of money to the government in the form of GST [goods and services tax], PAYE [tax on earnings] and company profits."

Lester Taylor, Chief Executive of Education New Zealand (EdNZ), acknowledged that the majority of providers did not favour the levy. "Response has been mixed, with a majority opposed," he said. "Strongest opposition has come from the university and [private] sectors. The polytechnic and school sectors have been more accepting but with some reservations." He said that EdNZ agreed in principle with the levy but argued that the government should be made to match any revenue raised, as the entire country benefited from the industry's earnings.

If the levy is passed by Parliament, schools can expect to see initiatives such as institutional and resource development, core generic marketing – including further development of the MyNZed.com website – industry-funded scholarships from 2004 and a grant to cover their voluntary subscription to EdNZ. □

Canada loses market share

ALTHOUGH the number of international students in Canada reached a record high in 1999/2000, according to the latest National Report on International Students in Canada, published by the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), some sectors of the industry recorded a drop in international enrolments and student intake from Asia dwindled. The results have led the CBIE to call for a national policy on international education.

"Economic recovery has come to most of Asia. Globally, more students are on the move," said a spokesperson for CBIE. "Canada needs a national strategy to give us a boost in the international education arena and allow us to regain our status as a key player in the hosting of international students, from all regions."

University undergraduate programmes fared well, experiencing a 30 per cent increase in student enrolments. However, graduate level enrolments stagnated and some markets, such as Asia, declined. Asia was the top source region for overseas students, but CBIE noted that there were 6,000 fewer Asian students in 1999/2000 than ten years previously. Overall, in 1999/2000, there were 106,068 students from 207 countries in Canada, excluding those studying for under three months.

For the post-secondary sector, overall student numbers were estimated to be 58,845 – placing Canada in sixth position as an overseas study destination, closely followed by Japan. CBIE estimated that the USA, UK, Australia, France and Germany all attracted more students. □

Test fraud discovered around the world

AT THE last count, 75 people had been arrested in the USA as federal agents working for the FBI, the US Postal Inspection Service and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) uncovered a Toefl fraud ring.

A number of individuals were allegedly receiving funds in order to take a Toefl test for foreign students who lacked the appropriate level of English language needed to gain entrance into a higher education institution. Two test-takers, Mahmoud Firas and Begad Abdel-Megeed, were estimated to have taken at least 50 Toefl exams each. Many others were involved in the scam, as warrants have been issued for 160 people.

The fraud ring worked by imposters taking the test and posing for the photograph required and then requesting that the results be sent to a particular address. When the results were sent to this location, a photograph of the actual student requiring the Toefl score was substituted and the results were forwarded to schools in a fake Educational Testing Service (ETS) envelope.

ETS alerted the authorities to the scam and said it was pleased with the arrests made across 13 states. "We will continue to cooperate as this case proceeds in the hope that this will send a warning to those that subvert the system and take the places of honest international students," said the company in a statement.

In Australia, similar fraudulent problems have been uncovered. A police raid in Sydney revealed a printing press equipped to issue fake Ielts test certificates, according to a report in *EL Gazette*. In response to fraud concerns, the three organisations that own Ielts – IDP Education Australia, the British Council and the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (Ucles) – have introduced new security features such as tamper-proof paper, and online checking of candidates' results is expected to be available soon. □

Toefl test centres worldwide to close

THE Educational Testing Service (ETS), which runs test-taking centres around the world for academic and language proficiency exams such as Toefl and the Graduate Management Admission Test (Gmat), is closing 84 of its 195 overseas computer-based testing centres.

ETS said it was reorganising its international operations and closing those centres that had low testing volumes. Instead, hand-written tests will be made available at local schools, universities and advising centres in the affected areas, the company said.

Closures began in April this year and will continue until June 2003. Those cities affected are in many countries, from Bordeaux in France and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates to Chiang Mai in Thailand and Nagoya in Japan. "Our research shows that 80 per cent of our international test-takers are being served by 20 per cent of our centres," said ETS President, Kurt Landgraf. "ETS cannot continue to operate centres without takers to support them, so we're centralising operations at nearby universities and schools."

Novosibirsk in Russia is one city that has been affected. "Toefl tests were rather popular among our students and the fact that the [testing] centre was located here made the situation easier," said Natalia Sagaidak at Benedict School. She said she hoped that students would not have to go to Moscow for the test as "especially in case of failure, [students] will have additional problems with re-taking the test".

Landgraf at ETS said that the company remained committed to computer-based testing as an "effective delivery method" and that new online services and products would be introduced soon. The "next generation" of Toefl is expected to be launched in 2004. For students taking Gmat, a mobile computer-based service is to be offered. Less than one per cent of Gmat tests will be delivered as a handwritten test. □

The Alphe UK Workshop

Date: 23-25 August
Venue: London, UK
Contact: Hothouse Media
Matthew Northover
or Jane Gilham
11-15 Emerald Street
London, WC1N 3QL, UK
Tel: +44 20 7440 4027
Fax: +44 20 7440 4033
Email: matthew@hothousemedia.com
jane@hothousemedia.com

Arels International Language Fair

Date: 27-29 August
Venue: Brighton, UK
Contact: Annie Wright, Arels
56 Buckingham Gate
London, SW1E 6AG, UK
Tel: +44 20 780 29200
Fax: +44 20 780 29201
Email: info@arels.org.uk

International Educational Fair

Date: 27 August
Venue: Pusan, Korea
Contact: Mansuk Bae, KAMC
422-30 Jangjeon 3 - Dong
Keumjeong-Ku
Pusan, 609-840, Korea
Tel: +82 51517 7340
Fax: +82 51517 7341
Email: kamc@thru.net.com

MEI-Relsa Agent Workshop

Date: 2 September
Venue: Co. Clare, Ireland
Contact: MEI-Relsa,
17 Lower Camden St,
Dublin 2, Ireland
Tel: +353 147 53122
Fax: +353 147 53088
Email: info@mei.ie

Language Parade

Date: 6-8 September
Venue: Budapest, Hungary
Contact: LingVisit Educational & Language Travel Ltd.
PO Box 435, Budapest 62,
H-1395, Hungary
Tel: +36 12695489
Fax: +36 13022863
Email: lingvisit@lingvisit.hu

14th Annual Conference of the EAIE

Date: 11-14 September
Venue: Porto, Portugal
Contact: EAIE Secretariat
PO Box 11189
Amsterdam, 1001
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 205 254 999
Fax: +31 205 254 998
Email: eaie@eaie.nl

Expo-Estudenoxterior.com Brazil Roadshow

Date: 12 September
Venue: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Date: 14 September
Venue: Londrina, Brazil
Date: 16 September
Venue: Curitiba, Brazil
Date: 18 September
Venue: Riberao Preto, Brazil
Contact: Daniel Ripple
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7421 Frankford Road #1236
Dallas, TX, 75252, USA
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Fax: +1 972 612 9659
Email: daniel@fppmedia.com

Foreign Languages Plus

Date: 19-22 September
Venue: Moscow, Russia
Date: 28-29 September
Venue: St Petersburg, Russia
Contact: Stas Gaponov, BKC
International House
Starovagankovskiy pr 15 off 5,
Moscow, 121019, Russia

Tel: +7 095 737 5225
Fax: +7 095 737 6579
Email: plus@study.ru

The California Workshop

Date: 13-14 September
Venue: Los Angeles, USA
Contact: Icef, Am Hofgarten 9
Bonn, 53113, Germany
Tel: +49 228 201 190
Fax: +49 228 201 1944
Email: icefbonn@icef.com

WYSTC 2002

Date: 29 September - 5 October
Venue: Rhodes, Greece
Contact: WYSTC Secretariat
Bredgade 25H
Copenhagen, DK-1260,
Denmark
Tel: +45 339 39620
Fax: +45 339 35646
Email: mailbox@wystc.org

Salon "Education"

Date: 16-20 October
Venue: Namur, Belgium
Contact: Frank Leglise,
People & Places,
Blvd Emile Bockstael 191
Brussels, 1020, Belgium
Tel: +32 242 32880
Fax: +32 242 32889
Email: info@saloneducation.be

The Tokyo Workshop

Date: 21-22 October
Venue: Tokyo, Japan
Contact: Icef (as above)

Expolingua Portugal

Date: 24-26 October
Venue: Lisbon, Portugal
Contact: Goncalo Borges de Sousa
Expolingua Portugal
Rua da Esperanca,
4 - 2 Lisbon, 1200-657
Portugal
Tel: +351 139 66089
Fax: +351 139 66223
Email: info@expolingua.pt

International Education Fair

Date: 26-27 October
Venue: Taipei, Taiwan
Contact: Vivien Liu, Tosa
Room 1122,
No.15 Fuhsing Rd, Taipei
ROC 105, Taiwan
Tel: +886 27739330
Fax: +886 27739481
Email: tosa@tosa.org.tw

The Alphe Asia Workshop

Date: 29-31 October
Venue: Phuket, Thailand
Contact: Hothouse Media (as above)

International Education Fair

Date: 2-3 November
Venue: Bangkok, Thailand
Contact: Saijai Sriyayanta, Tieca
503/30 K.S.L. Tower
18th Floor
Sri-Ayudhaya Road
Phayathai, Rajthavee
Bangkok, 10400, Thailand
Tel: +662 642 6114
Fax: +662 642 6115
Email: admin@tieca.com

Vieta International Education Fair

Date: 8-9 November
Venue: Hanoi
Date: 10-11 November
Venue: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Contact: Vieta c/o Vietnam Education
Promotion Association
30 Ta Quang Buu, Hanoi
Vietnam
Tel: +84 48223675
Fax: +84 48223699
Email: vieta@fpt.vn