

# Deportation rule for students relaxed in UK

Students who overstay their visa will no longer be deported from the UK as a matter of course unless their case is deemed a fraud priority, according to a leaked memo that was first published in British newspaper *The Daily Mail*. The new directive came to light after Chief of the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA), Lin Homer, personally intervened to stop a Chinese student being deported after a mistake applying for a visa extension.

In this particular case, Homer said the student had simply filled in the wrong credit card details on a form that was submitted on time. The leaked memo, from Director of Enforcement, Jonathan Lindley, questioned "such quick removal action" of students in some cases, noting that overstayers automatically become at risk of deportation if they sought an extension late.

And Homer noted, "Student cases that show evidence of fraud or corruption will continue to be referred for enforcement action." At Universities UK, Chief Executive, Diana Warwick, said discretion was important when dealing with such cases. She wrote to the

Immigration Minister last year when, without warning, automatic enforcement proceedings against students were started when they were even one day late with visa extension applications.

"This [approach] failed to take into account occasional extenuating circumstances where students experience problems with the processing of their payments or the student might be receiving hospital treatment for example," said Warwick. "To remove such students would be harsh and inappropriate."

Meanwhile, UK Immigration Minister, Liam Byrne, has announced that all visa applicants will now be fingerprinted from spring onwards as part of tightened immigration rules. Nationals from over 120 countries had already been required to provide fingerprints when applying for a work, study or tourism visa.

"Tougher checks abroad mean we keep risky people out," said Byrne, who noted that 10,000 visa applicants to date have shown up as having previously been fingerprinted in connection with immigration cases or asylum applications. ●

## Open Doors: big increase in Saudi students

RESULTS from the latest Open Doors report into Intensive English Programs (IEPs) in the USA indicate a significant increase in Saudi Arabians across language schools in the country.

Open Doors, produced by the Institute of International Education, has released 2007 figures (relating to the 2006 calendar year) and Saudi student weeks increased by around 530 per cent, with Saudis becoming

the second-largest nationality by volume behind Korea.

Japan was in third position in terms of student weeks, followed by Taiwan. Total volume of the student body across participating IEPs rose by 14 per cent to 636,522 weeks from 557,311 weeks.

The reason for such a surge in Saudi Arabian students is a scholarship programme introduced in 2005. ●

## Problems at private college in Australia

STUDENTS were left in limbo in Brisbane when the nursing department of Shafston College saw its accreditation lapse in late December. Around 400 foreign students were temporarily stranded, having paid more than AUS\$5,000 (US\$4,500) for their first trimester of study and unable to start classes. An agreement was reached with Kranz International College in mid-January.

In Sydney, the NSW Education Department was investigating the Sydney International College of Business's cookery and hospitality courses at the time of going to press and it was forbidden from accepting fees until accreditation was restored. There were concerns that not enough similar course places were available for students should the college be de-registered for over-enrolling. ●

## NSTS in Malta offers scholarships to MEPs

NSTS English Language Institute in Malta, has presented a scholarship package worth €6,000 (US\$8,955) to Member of European Parliament (MEP) Simon Busuttill. Thirty one-week English language courses will now be awarded to senior officials working in the European Parliament to enable them to study English in Malta.

The generous donation was given during "Malta Week", a week-long celebration of Maltese culture organised in the European Parliament. NSTS Chief Executive, Francis Stivala, explained that he wanted to help promote Malta as an English language destination for influential people working in the parliament.

Busuttill commented, "Many MEPs have already come to Malta to learn English. Initiatives such as this will help the country make further steps forward in this direction."

NSTS English Language Institute is the oldest language school in Malta, set up by the University of Malta in 1963. ●



Louis Grech and Francis Stivala of NSTS with MEP Simon Busuttill

Calendar	MARCH	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	APRIL							
	MAY	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		29	30	31				

**Salao do Estudante**  
Date: March 1-13  
Venue: São Paulo, Salvador, Rio, P Alegre, Floripo, Curitiba - Brazil  
brendan@bmimediamedia.net  
www.csglobal.net/www.bmimediamedia.net

**Expo Brazil Roadshow**  
Date: March 1-14  
Venue: various, Brazil  
j.demer@fppmedia.com  
www.fppmedia.com

**The ICEF Japan Workshop**  
Date: March 3-5  
Venue: Tokyo, Japan  
info@icef.com  
www.icef.com

**British Boarding Schools Workshop**  
Date: March 7-9  
Venue: Windsor, Berkshire, UK  
Suzanne@britishboardingschools.co.uk  
www.britishboardingschools.co.uk

**The Alphe Asia Workshop**  
Date: March 17-19  
Venue: Bangkok, Thailand  
jane@hothousemedia.com  
www.hothousemedia.com

**The Alphe Latin America Workshop**  
Date: March 26-28  
Venue: São Paulo, Brazil  
jane@hothousemedia.com  
www.hothousemedia.com

**Work Experience Travel Market**  
Date: March 26-28  
Venue: The Hague, Netherlands  
mailbox@wetm-iac.org  
www.wetm-iac.org

**International Education Fairs of Turkey**  
Date: March 27 - April 5  
Venue: Cyprus, Istanbul, Adana, Ankara, Izmir - Turkey  
Email: info@ieft.net  
Web: www.ieft.net

## Bogus college in UK uncovered

A FRAUDULENT college has been discovered trading as Irish International University (IIU) in London, UK. A BBC London investigation revealed the college's accreditation status was awarded by another virtual company owned by the same "university" boss. Degrees issued to thousands of students – often involving ceremonies held at rented space in Oxford or Cambridge Universities – are worthless, and moreover, the college represented an easy way for bogus students to enter the country.

With a year to go before accreditation is compulsory for all visa-issuing education institutions, the issue of immigration integrity remains a political hot potato. Currently, "registered" private schools and colleges are listed on a register of bona fide education provid-

ers, but this has had its efficacy questioned. Of 256 listed colleges that were chosen to be inspected, 124 have been removed from the register. Companies had simply to prove they were a viable and legal company to be registered initially, with inspection occurring if colleges were then deemed to warrant investigation.

In November, unannounced inspections were introduced to try and enhance the reputation of the register. A government spokesperson said that IIU was never on the register of education providers, although an affiliated college was, said BBC London.

At English UK, Tony Millns, Chief Executive, said, "English UK has never regarded the Dfes/DIUS Register of Education Providers as more than a first step [towards a quality safeguard]." However, he pointed out it had had some success in forcing a few dodgy operators out of business.

"The new UK Border Agency Register of Sponsors, open for registration in the summer, will rely upon accreditation by approved bodies and will be much more robust and effective," he said. Meanwhile, two people from Kelvin Business School have been arrested (see LTM, Sept 2007, page 6). ●

## Russia tells BC to close offices

IN A SIGN of increasingly frosty relations between the UK and Russia, the British Council has been ordered to close its regional offices in St Petersburg and Ekaterinburg, maintaining only the headquarters in Moscow. It is accused of violating tax laws and having no legal basis for its work in the country.

The Council denies all charges, claiming it is fully compliant with tax laws and is in the country under the terms of an agreement signed in 1994. At the time of going to press, a statement on the Council's

website said it intended to continue operations.

"The fact we've got to recognise is that political disagreements between governments [concerning the fatal poisoning of Alexander Litvinenko] don't stop Russian and British citizens from having an interest in one another and wanting to get to know one another better," said Martin Davidson, Chief Executive. "It's precisely at moments like this, when political relations get difficult, that we need to keep channels of people-to-people contact open." ●

## Kaplan Aspect buys out PLI in Canada

KAPLAN ASPECT is on the acquisition trail, with another school becoming part of its global network. This time, it is Pacific Language Institute (PLI) in Canada, which is 20 years old and has two teaching centres, in Vancouver and Toronto.

David Jones, Chief Executive of Kaplan Aspect, said, "We always felt as though PLI set the standard that other Canadian schools aspired to. When you walk into the PLI schools, you are struck by a tangible sense of professionalism and academic integrity." He added, "The management and teaching teams of PLI will be an invaluable asset to the Kaplan group and this merger will immediately establish us as a major player in the Canadian market."

Robyn Inman, International Director of the schools – which will continue to operate as they are – said she felt the acquisition meant an excellent future for PLI and its extended family. "The response from colleagues and agents has been overwhelmingly supportive and positive," she said. "It is a big step for both PLI and Kaplan and it is a huge vote for the future of international education in Canada." ●

## French government accreditation soon to be widespread

FRENCH in Normandy in Rouen, France, is the latest language school in the country to have gained the



French government's seal of approval. Thirty-three schools are already accredited and another 30 or so in process.

Once accredited under the scheme, *Qualité Français Langue Etrangère*, schools can display the logo and French flag as pictured above. "We are thrilled," said Eleri Maitland at French in Normandy about their latest accreditation. "The criteria for the government label are very demanding and it is all credit to our staff who supported our decision to apply and worked very hard to achieve this excellent result."

There is also another accreditation process available to French language schools through the school association *fle.fr* (see LTM, September 2007, page 7). ●

## Currency

1xUS\$ =currency\*

Argentinean	Pesos	3.138
Australian	Dollar	1.111
Brazilian	Real	1.742
British	Pound	0.506
Bulgarian	Leva	1.312
Canadian	Dollar	1.015
Chilean	Pesos	471.99
Chinese (PR)	Yuan RMB	7.242
Czech	Koruny	17.37
Danish	Kroner	4.994
Egyptian	Pound	5.458
EU	Euro	0.670
Hong Kong	Dollar	7.797
Hungarian	Forint	170.20
Icelandic	Kronur	64.091
Indonesian	Rupiah	9,349.95
Israeli	New Shekels	3.699
Japanese	Yen	106.83
Malaysian	Ringgit	3.256
Maltese	Lira	0.291
Mexican	Peso	10.912
New Zealand	Dollar	1.264
Norwegian	Kroner	5.256
Polish	Zloty	2.398
Russian	Rubles	24.259
Singaporean	Dollar	1.427
Slovakian	Koruny	22.392
South African	Rand	6.766
South Korean	Won	935.73
Swedish	Kronor	6.303
Swiss	Franc	1.086
Taiwanese	NT Dollar	32.118
Thai	Baht	29.755
Turkish	New Lira	1.149
Venezuelan	Bol. Fuertes	2.144

\*Rates are subject to change and should be used as indications only. 15/01/08.

### The ICEF Moscow Workshop

Date: March 28-30  
Venue: Moscow, Russia  
info@icef.com  
www.icef.com

### ExpoBeta

Date: March 29-April 7  
Venue: various, Brazil  
Email: tsetuguti@beta.org.br  
Web: www.expo-beta.org.br

### Ukrainian International Education Fair

Date: April 4-6  
Venue: Donetsk, Kharkov, Kiev - Ukraine  
veronika@dteducation.com  
www.dteducation.com/en/fair

### International Language and Study Abroad Fair

Date: April 5-6  
Venue: St P'burg, Moscow - Russia  
iciep@aha.ru  
www.iciep.ru

### MEI-Relsa Agent Workshop

Date: April 12  
Venue: Galway, Ireland  
info@mei.ie  
www.mei.ie

### Ialc Agents' Workshop

Date: April 24-27  
Venue: Munich, Germany  
info@ialc.org  
www.ialc.org

### StudyWorld 2008

Date: April 25-26  
Venue: Berlin, Germany  
beate.kleessen@icwe.net  
www.icwe.net

### The ICEF Asia Workshop

Date: April 28-30  
Venue: Singapore  
info@icef.com  
www.icef.com

### The Australia New Zealand Agent Workshop

Date: May 5-7  
Venue: Sydney, Australia  
info@anzaworkshop.com  
www.anzaworkshop.com

### The Partnership Workshop, Canada

Date: May 12-13  
Venue: Whistler, Canada  
Email: info@csglobal.net  
Web: www.csglobal.net / www.bmimedia.net