

# ETA bomb hits Sampere school

## Currency

1xUS\$ =currency\*

Argentinean	Pesos	2.914
Australian	Dollar	1.545
Brazilian	Real	3.026
British	Pound	0.621
Bulgarian	Leva	1.711
Canadian	Dollar	1.405
Chilean	Pesos	707.39
Chinese (PR)	Yuan	8.277
Czech	Koruny	28.24
Danish	Kroner	6.542
Egyptian	Pound	6.069
EU	Euro	0.880
Hong Kong	Dollar	7.799
Hungarian	Forint	230.00
Icelandic	Kronur	77.489
Indonesian	Rupiah	8,600.0
Israeli	New Shekels	4.426
Japanese	Yen	120.25
Maltese	Lira	0.408
Mexican	Peso	10.716
New Zealand	Dollar	1.720
Norwegian	Kroner	7.195
Polish	Zloty	3.849
Russian	Rubles	30.420
Singaporean	Dollar	1.762
Slovakian	Koruny	36.786
South African	Rand	7.356
South Korean	Won	1,179.0
Swedish	Krona	8.102
Swiss	Franc	1.348
Taiwanese	NT Dollar	34.181
Thai	Baht	41.842
Turkish	Lira	1,395,488.9
Venezuelan	Bolivar	1,598.0

\*Rates are subject to change and should be used as indications only. 06/08/03

## Immigration rule change in New Zealand

NEW ZEALAND has amended its immigration laws in a bid to foster the successful settlement of migrants in the country. Patrick Ibbertson, Chairperson of the Association of Private Providers of English Language (Appel) said that the changes would not affect English language students.

A new Skilled Migrants category of visa is being introduced and applicants will now be expected to have a job offer that is relevant to their qualifications or work experience to be eligible to apply for permanent residency.

Ibbertson noted that having educational qualifications gained in New Zealand would remain a positive factor in the decision-making process. □

A Spanish language school, Estudio Internacional Sampere, was hit by one of this summer's bombing campaigns by ETA, the Basque separatist group in Spain. One of two bombs targeted at the southern Spanish holiday destinations of Alicante and Benidorm in July exploded very near the school in Alicante, injuring students and teachers in the building.

Sadly, one teacher who was pregnant lost her baby, while other students injured as the bomb exploded during a Spanish lesson – taking place close to the bomb's target, the Hotel Bahia – are reported to be recovering from their injuries. At the time of going to press, Juan Manuel Sampere, Director of the school group, commented, "Two of the casualties are making good progress and everything points to a recovery in the near future. The other casualty, a German, is resting at home and intends to resume Spanish studies [soon]."

One of the injured students, from the Netherlands, was reported to be unconscious initially following the bomb blast. The school building was damaged in the explosion and classes had to be continued in another building, lent to the school by the Jesuit



PHOTOGRAPH: ASSOCIATED PRESS

A hotel in Benidorm was one of the targets for the two ETA bombs

Fathers. Sampere thanked his partners around the world for their messages of support and care following the "dreadful ordeal". "We pass on our heartfelt gratitude for the support," he said.

A warning was reported to have been sent by ETA about the bomb in the hotel, but the bomb went off earlier than advised, according to press reports.

Sampere said that lessons continued "barely 48 hours after the bomb explosion". He spoke of an air of determination as well as sadness. "Students and teachers held a party to celebrate the fact that the casualties were making favourable progress and their own close shave," he said. "It was an unforgettable occasion."

Pending the results of a structural survey of the school building, a decision will be taken about whether the school will return to its original site. Sampere said that he was unsure about returning to the building.

The Basque separatist group, ETA, has run a bombing campaign against the Spanish tourist industry since 1979, in its bid for an independent Basque state, although generally, there have been few casualties. But in the past two years, eight people have died in attacks against tourism targets.

Last year, similar campaigns were reported to have had no impact on student choice about study destination (see *Language Travel Magazine*, November 2002). □

## Visa changes planned in the UK and USA

STUDENTS from 10 countries who plan to study in the UK for longer than six months will need to obtain a UK residence permit prior to arrival, from November 13. The new requirement is being phased in in stages, with Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, the USA and Malaysia the first countries to be affected.

Applications can be made by post, in person, or in some cases, online to the nearest British Consulate. The regulation change coincides with new high security stickers being used in passports across Europe, as opposed to the old ink stamps. UK Home Officer Minister, Beverly Hughes, said,

"This new initiative will help tackle immigration fraud and forgery. Genuine foreign residents will also benefit by having more robust evidence of their status in the UK to show employers and the authorities."

The new requirement would help passage through immigration control too, stated the Home Office, because individual eligibility to remain in the UK would have been checked prior to arrival.

The fees for entry clearance issued overseas are currently UK£36 (US\$58) for a student and UK£75 (US\$121) for a work permit holder. The 10 countries chosen initially to follow the regulations send the largest volume of long-term visitors to the UK. The

same regulations will be introduced to other countries during the next two years.

Meanwhile, in the USA, new rules being ushered in in January will see all travellers who need a visa to enter the country being fingerprinted on arrival and departure. This equates to about two-thirds of all overseas visitors entering the country. The fingerprints will then be matched against a list of known terrorists and visa status abusers.

Asa Hutchinson at the Department of Homeland Security said, "Our country will be made much safer and our immigration system will be given a foundation of integrity that has been lacking for far too long." □

## New UK quality group launches

TWELVE independent language schools in the UK have teamed up to compete with language school chains and groups. Joining under the umbrella name of Quality English, the schools offer "the convenience and advantages of working with a group, combined with personal service and attention delivered by locally-managed language schools", according to Trevor Williams of International School, Exeter.

A central website will offer online booking facilities at any of the schools and school members will be represented as a group at trade events and on outbound sales missions. The Quality English logo will also be displayed on all members' promotional materi-

als. From next year, overseas English schools "of exceptional quality and reputation" in other English-speaking countries are also to be invited to join.

Current members include: Beet Language Centre, Bournemouth; Cambridge Academy of English, Cambridge; Cicero Languages International, Tunbridge Wells; Eastbourne School of English, Eastbourne; Eckersley School of English, Oxford; English Language Centre, Brighton; Frances King School of English, London; Lake School of English, Oxford; London School of English, London; Melton College, York; the International School, Exeter; and Wimbledon School of English, London. □

### OISE Group buys Pilgrims in the UK

THE Canterbury-based UK language school, Pilgrims, merged with the OISE group in June this year, becoming a new member of the high quality school chain.

The OISE group claims to be the largest privately-owned language school group in the UK, and its latest acquisition brings the total number of UK schools in the group to nine. It also owns schools in Spain, Australia, the USA, France and Germany.

Managing Director of OISE, Till Gins, commented, "The collection of premium brands in the group will allow us to meet the overwhelming needs of agents throughout the world: one contact as a gateway to a variety of different courses, all designed and delivered with professionalism."

At Pilgrims, Managing Director, Paul Humphreys, said, "Being part of the OISE group will create many benefits for the company as we constantly strive to push the boundaries of customer care and our humanistic approach to teaching."

Pilgrims will retain its name and identity, in keeping with the OISE ethos. □

### Free money for students in Australia

THE AUSTRALIAN government has amended a law to entitle foreign students to claim money owed to them from their employers if they earned more than AUS\$450 (US\$291) per month.

Under Australian law, employers are required to put funds for employees earning over this amount into a superannuation account as a retirement fund. Given that the majority of foreign students return home after their period of study, until now, they have never received the money.

Now, they are entitled to apply for these funds when they leave Australia permanently. Students are encouraged to visit the website of the Australian Tax Office, where they can fill in an online application form if they believe they are eligible. The change is retrospective and applies to anyone who has ever visited Australia on an eligible temporary resident visa.

Some 275,000 foreign nationals apply to visit and work temporarily in Australia each year. They include working holiday makers, international students and visiting professionals. □

## Calendar

### Scope on the Globe

Date: 9-11 October  
Venue: Utrecht, Netherlands  
Contact: Aromedia Events  
Postbus 90510, Amsterdam  
1006, Netherlands  
Tel: +31 206 646127  
Fax: +31 206 646168  
Email: scope@aromedia.nl

### Int. Education Fair

Date: 11-12 October  
Venue: Taipei, Taiwan  
Contact: Albert Lee, Tosa, Room 1122  
No.15 Fuhshing Rd  
Taipei, ROC 105, Taiwan  
Tel: +886 277 39330  
Fax: +886 277 39481  
Email: info@tosa.org.tw

### Nexus World of Study Asian Postgraduate MBA Fair

Date: 11-12 October  
Venue: Taipei, Taiwan  
Contact: Jason Newman, Nexus Media  
Nexus House, Azalea Drive  
Swanley, Kent, BR8 8HU, UK  
Tel: +44 1322 660070  
Fax: +44 1322 616305  
Email: jason.newman@nexusmedia.com

### WYSTC 2003

Date: 12-18 October  
Venue: Pattaya, Thailand  
Contact: Peter Kruyt, WYSTC  
Bredgade 25H  
Copenhagen, 1260  
Denmark  
Tel: +45 339 39620  
Fax: +45 339 35646  
Email: mailbox@wystc.org

### Alphe Asia Workshop

Date: 19-21 October  
Venue: Phuket, Thailand  
Contact: Hothouse Media  
11-15 Emerald St, London  
WC1N 3QL, UK  
Tel: +44 207 440 4020  
Fax: +44 207 440 4033  
Email: matthew@hothousemedia.com

### Salon "Education"

Date: 15-19 October  
Venue: Namur, Belgium  
Contact: People & Places sprl  
Blvd Emile Bockstael 191  
Brussels, 1020, Belgium  
Tel: +32 242 32880  
Fax: +32 242 32889  
Email: info@saloneducation.be

### CEAIE Annual Conference

Date: 18-19 October  
Venue: Beijing, China  
Date: 25-26 October  
Venue: Shanghai, China  
Contact: Fairlink Exhibition Services  
Rm 1155, Jingxin Bldg  
A3 Dongsanhuan Beilu  
Beijing, 100027, China  
Tel: +86 1064660654  
Fax: +86 1084510572  
Email: fairlink@public.gb.com.cn

### The Asia-Pacific Education Workshop

Date: 23-24 October  
Venue: Shanghai, China  
Contact: Karl Badde, Icef  
Am Hofgarten 9  
Bonn, 53113, Germany  
Tel: +49 228 201190  
Fax: +49 228 2011944  
Email: icefbonn@icef.com

### Expolingua Portugal

Date: 23-25 October  
Venue: Lisbon, Portugal  
Contact: Goncalo Borges de Sousa  
Rua da Esperanca, 4 - 2  
Lisbon, 1200-657, Portugal  
Tel: +351 213 966089  
Fax: +351 213 966223  
Email: info@expolingua.pt

### Nexus World of Study Asian Postgraduate MBA Fair

Date: 31 October - 1 November  
Venue: Hanoi, Vietnam  
Date: 2-3 November  
Venue: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
Date: 8-9 November  
Venue: Singapore  
Date: 15-16 November  
Venue: Hong Kong  
Contact: Nexus Media (as above)

### Int. Education Fair

Date: 1-2 November  
Venue: Bangkok, Thailand  
Contact: Saijai Sriyajanta, Tieca  
503/30 KSL Tower 18th Floor  
Sri-Ayudhaya Road  
Phayathai, Rajthavee  
Bangkok, 10400, Thailand  
Tel: +662 642 6114  
Fax: +662 642 6115  
Email: admin@tieca.com

### International Education Fairs of Turkey

Date: 4-8 November  
Venue: Ankara, Izmir, Istanbul -Turkey  
Contact: Global Visions Education  
Mesrutiyet Cad., Asli Han No.  
18/76, Kat 7, Istanbul  
34440, Turkey  
Tel: +90 212 251 1384  
Fax: +90 212 251 0959  
Email: info@ieft.net

### CIEE Annual Conference

Date: 5-8 November  
Venue: Budapest, Hungary  
Contact: Karen Bailey, CIEE  
633 Third Avenue, 20th Floor  
New York, NY, 10017, USA  
Tel: +1 212 822 2782  
Fax: +1 212 822 2779  
Email: conference@ciee.org

### The Berlin Workshop

Date: 10-11 November  
Venue: Berlin, Germany  
Contact: ICEF (as above)

### Orienta European Ed. & Employment Fair

Date: 13-15 November  
Venue: Brussels, Belgium  
Contact: Astrid Callens, Orienta  
Avenue de l'Armee 24  
Brussels, 1040, Belgium  
Tel: +32 274 16161  
Fax: +32 273 20509  
Email: acallens@cpexpo.com

### London Language and Culture Show

Date: 14-15 November  
Venue: London, UK  
Contact: Kerri Underdown, Brintex  
32 Vauxhall Bridge Road  
London, SW1V 2SS, UK  
Tel: +44 207 973 4603  
Fax: +44 207 233 5054  
Email: k.underdown@hgluk.com

### ICC/ISS Workshop

Date: 14-16 November  
Venue: Nagoya, Osaka, Tokyo- Japan  
Contact: Tetsuo Otsuka, ICC  
International Comm. Centre  
Sankei Bldg 3F, 1-28-10  
Takadanobaba, Shinjuku-ku  
Tokyo, 169-0075, Japan  
Tel: +81 3 5272 2330  
Fax: +81 3 5272 2447  
Email: otsuka@iss-ryugaku.co.jp

### 16th International Fair "Education and Career"

Date: 14-16 November  
Venue: Moscow, Russia  
Contact: Irina Shipilova, RTV Media  
Shukhova str. 14 of. 301  
Moscow, 113162, Russia  
Tel: +7 095 2377226  
Fax: +7 095 2370355  
Email: rtv-media@mtu-net.ru