

**In this issue****Research & Collaboration**

International students trail  
UK PhD completion rates

**Recruitment**

New Zealand attracts top  
international PhD students

**In Focus**

PMI2 Strategic Alliance and  
Partnerships

**Markets and Intelligence**

OECD and international mobility  
of researchers

**Laws & Regulations**

Going global in Malaysia

**Diary**

27 October–9 December

**Education Worldwide Fair India**

Various locations in India

For more details:

[www.eduworldwideindia.com](http://www.eduworldwideindia.com)

01–03 November

**The University in the Market**

Stockholm, Sweden

For more details:

<http://www.acadeuro.org/>

02–03 November

**Innovation for Quality & Relevance: Higher Education Summit**

New Delhi, India

For more details:

<http://www.ficci.com>

04–06 November

**ICEF Workshop: International Student Recruitment**

Berlin, Germany

For more details:

<http://www.icef.com>

**Global competition: higher education, talent and innovation**

The first issue of International Focus led with the impressive finding that the UK is, per capita, the world's biggest knowledge service exporter. Now, the **Global Talent Index (GTI)**, a collaboration between headhunters Heidrick & Struggles and the Economist Intelligence Unit, warns that the USA's status as the world's talent hotspot is under threat from the UK.

It claims that the US will maintain its top position for nurturing and developing talent over the next five years but that it faces competition from an increasing number of countries, and that fears of terrorism at home have led to visa restrictions and a less flexible labour market. The UK will rise to second place by 2012, relegating Canada and the Netherlands to third and fourth. China will rise from eighth to sixth place and India will enter the top 10. Australia will fall to eighth, Russia will fall to 11th and be overtaken by Ukraine, while Malaysia, South Korea and Japan will be in the top 15 by 2012.

Several measures were used in assessing 30 countries, including the quality of universities and business schools. Although the GTI is publicised as the 'first ever' such index, it seems familiar. In 2005, Richard Florida introduced the '**Global Creativity Index**' and argued economies that nurture creativity and diversity are the ones that will thrive in the global economy. Florida noted that where research students choose to study is a lead indicator of global talent flow. Again, the UK is near the top of the pile here. Indeed, an **OECD report** on the UK economy, released at the end of September, claims that the country's welcoming approach to globalisation, particularly in attracting international talent, has contributed to a strong growth performance. UK GDP per capita is now the third highest in the G7, compared with the lowest 10 years earlier.

The GTI story was reported by media around the world: the **Indian press** exhibited both satisfaction and a desire to do better, **France** patted itself on the back, **Australia** was unhappy and the

**Dubai-based Maktoob news agency** struggled to take some comfort out of a poor prognosis for the Middle East.

Here in the UK, the national media ignored the GTI and instead reported preliminary findings of the latest research from the Council for Industry and Higher Education. The target was the failure of UK universities to **integrate international students** into campus life, and hence the **failure to utilise their talents** now and in the future. The broader project, entitled 'Internationalising Higher Education' and due to be launched in November, will be featured in a future issue of International Focus.

Whether there is a British proclivity to treat any good news with scepticism, or that boastfulness is considered unseemly, complacency is absent in the UK HE sector. The tone of reports produced, and of the seminars and conferences which follow, is consistently cautionary. But the underlying message – that many things can and might still go wrong – is in fact a prudent stance for HE stakeholders. For one thing, it diminishes the opportunities for a government – when, say, a spending review is approaching – to lessen its commitment to the sector.

Indeed it seems clear at this point in time that the UK government understands the importance of the sector to the country's global competitiveness. The Treasury greeted the release, on 5 October, of the **Sainsbury Review of Science and Innovation Policies**, with an announcement of £1 billion over three years to promote scientific and technological innovation by British business and industry. DIUS is the lead department on this, and has been charged with developing the strategy to implement the Sainsbury Review. The review itself noted a dramatic increase in the quantity and rate of transfer of scientific knowledge from universities into the private sector. This **recognition was welcomed** by the President of Universities UK, Professor Rick Trainor.

## Research & Collaboration

### International students trail in UK PhD completion rates

Completion rates for PhDs released by HEFCE in their annual **Higher Education Statistics report** show non-EU students trailing both their home and EU domiciled peers. The completion rate for international students is a percentage point lower than home students for 2005/06.

**Table 1: UK PhD completion rates 2005/06**

Domicile	No. of students	Actual results % PhD completion	Actual results % PhD completion or active
EU	1,621	78%	81%
Home	8,103	77%	79%
Non-EU	3,908	76%	80%
Total	13,632	76%	80%

Non-EU nationals accounted for almost a quarter of PhD students in the UK in 2005/06 and, overall, the actual completion rate for all PhD students in the UK in 2005/06 was 76%. The International Unit is currently conducting research into the international competition rates for doctoral students.

**Table 2: Domicile of UK PhD students 2005/06**

Domicile	% Full-time	% Part-time	% All students
EU	12%	7%	10%
Home	59%	81%	65%
Non-EU	29%	12%	24%
Total	100%	100%	100%

### International university association launches in Montreal

The **International Forum of Public Universities**, an association of 21 HEIs from around the world, will mark its official launch at an inaugural conference, **Universities, Public Policy and Internationalisation**, on 11-12 October at the University of Montreal.

The Forum, which claims to be the first of its kind, includes public universities from Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and North America. It aims to cultivate knowledge transfer and research collaboration between its members and address the needs of public universities in an era of internationalisation.

## Recruitment

### New Zealand attracts top international PhD students

The New Zealand government is claiming that two of its initiatives are responsible for the country's universities attracting more of the world's best doctoral students.

Total international PhD enrolments at NZ universities rose from 693 in 2005 to 1,084 in 2006 – a 56% increase and more than double the annual growth rate from 2003 to 2005. The rise follows the introduction of a government policy in January 2006 whereby international students enrolling in NZ institutions pay the same fees as domestic students. Acting Tertiary Education Minister Steve Maharey said in a press release that the increase was the result of the government's domestic fees for international PhDs policy as well as the International Doctoral Research Scholarship programme introduced three years ago. This programme provides full funding for course and living costs for up to three years while students undertake PhD work in New Zealand.

The largest growth in PhD enrolments from 2005 to 2006 came from India (up 205%), China (up 103%), and the United States (up 102%). Most new enrolments were in sciences and arts subjects. The International Doctoral Research Scholarship recipients come from 20 countries and will be researching subjects ranging across glacial changes resulting from global warming, molecular biology, film and environmental chemistry.

"The more top international talent we have in New Zealand, the more we benefit. Students from other countries transfer knowledge and capability that benefit not just our tertiary institutions, but also our economy and wider society" Mr Maharey said.

### Warwick retains top spot for international student numbers

The University of Warwick has retained its lead position in this year's HESA 2005/06 HE Statistics for the UK with the highest number of international student enrollments at 5,600. Overall, non-EU domiciled student numbers were up 2.5% in 05/06 compared to 04/05 at 223,855. The top five universities for international student numbers 05/06 are:

1. The University of Warwick (5,600)
2. The University of Manchester (5,580)
3. The University of Nottingham (5,245)
4. London Metropolitan University (4,865)
5. University College London (4,555)

Contact **HESA** for further information

# In Focus: PMI2 Funding

## Bids invited for PMI2 Strategic Alliance and Partnerships funding

A range of funding opportunities for UK Universities is being made available as part of the Prime Minister's Initiative for International Education under the PMI2 Strategic Alliance and Partnerships strand.

Launched in April 2006, PMI2 integrates the activities and resources of the Government and education institutions from all sectors to position UK education overseas.

PMI2 sets out four interconnected strands: UK positioning through marketing and communications, ensuring the quality of the student experience, building strategic alliances and partnerships, and market diversification and consolidation. It is under the third strand of strategic alliances and partnerships that funding opportunities have now become available.

Initiatives such as British Degrees in Russia Project (BRIDGE) and the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) have set firm foundations for building new strategic partnerships to ensure the UK secures a strong position in an increasingly competitive and mobile international higher education sector.

Following on from PMI1, the UK Government set several targets for PMI2 with the aim of meeting these by 2011. These include attracting an additional 70,000 international students to UK HE, doubling the number of countries sending more than 10,000 students to the UK per year and achieving significant growth in the number of partnerships between UK and overseas HEIs.



£6 million is being made available over the next four years. Available funding is to 'pump prime'; the intention is to help establish partnerships which in the longer term will be able to support themselves. All opportunities have been developed and prioritised by the PMI Higher Education Advisory Group and through close consultation with the sector and its representational bodies.

Bids are now invited from the higher education sector in the following areas:

- **Research Co-operation:** a minimum of 20 projects will be supported to facilitate development of high-quality research networks between UK and overseas institutions
- **Collaborative Programme Delivery:** up to 15 programmes will be supported to provide opportunities for international partnerships in collaborative programme delivery
- **International Mobility of UK Students:** funding to develop and pilot sustainable models to encourage UK undergraduate and postgraduate students to undertake periods of study in a variety of countries

The deadline for these opportunities is Friday 14th December 2007.

In addition there will be:

- **Grants for Partnership Development:** up to 50 grants will be made available to encourage UK institutions to develop international strategic partnerships. There will be a rolling deadline until Thursday 14th February 2008.

To find out more:

Phone: 0161 957 7884

Website:  
[www.britishcouncil.org/pmi2-connect](http://www.britishcouncil.org/pmi2-connect)

Email:  
[pmi2.connect@britishcouncil.org](mailto:pmi2.connect@britishcouncil.org)

## Markets & Intelligence

### Contribution call for OECD Survey on International Mobility of Researchers

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) would like the UK HE sector to participate in a current OECD survey on the international mobility of researchers.

The OECD's ad hoc Working Group on the Steering and Funding of Research Institutions (SFRI) is currently addressing the international mobility of human resources in Science and Technology as part of its 2007-2008 work programme. This work complements broader work by the OECD, which is examining measures to minimise the adverse impacts of migration. It is expected that almost all OECD countries will be faced with labour shortages in the future, so the broader OECD project will seek to identify good practices concerning the organisation and management of migration. The SFRI project will contribute to policy development in the area of immigration focusing on highly skilled Science and Technology human resources.

The project aims to undertake an inventory of government and institutional programmes that encourage inward and outward mobility. This will help to identify similarities and differences between countries in terms of the size of monetary incentives, target groups and the scale of initiatives.

To this end, the OECD devised a questionnaire containing two modules to be completed by member countries. The first module covers government programmes, and the second module covers initiatives at the institutional level.

The topic of international mobility of the highly skilled is an important policy area for the UK, which is why the UK expressed its support to this project and already completed that part of the questionnaire dealing with

government programmes. Universities and Research Institutions are therefore asked to complete Part C of the OECD questionnaire and submit the completed form to:

[tricia.hammond@dius.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tricia.hammond@dius.gsi.gov.uk).

Part C focuses on specific programmes in universities, public research organisations, funding agencies or other bodies. It intends to capture a snapshot of institutional strategies and practices in place.

[Click here to complete survey](#)

### Cranfield University opens in Adelaide

Cranfield University opened a branch in Adelaide, South Australia, earlier this month marking the institution's first overseas presence.

The official opening, attended by HRH the Duke of Kent, establishes a Business Development Office and follows the initial signing of Memorandums of Understanding in May this year with Flinders University, the University of South Australia and the University of Adelaide. The three year project, half of which is funded by the Government of South Australia and half by Cranfield, will seek mutual ways of contributing to the defence education sector in Australia.

Cranfield is only the second overseas institution to open in Adelaide; US university, Carnegie Mellon established a campus last year.

The first short courses offered to defence organisations and industry professionals will begin in November followed by nine additional courses in the New Year.

Cranfield already has close ties with industry in the UK, receiving a higher proportion of income from private sources than any another UK University.

These new links are part of a longer-term plan to deliver professional development courses, an accredited Masters degree in Defence Acquisition Management, dual

degrees and to implement academic staff exchanges between universities and the Australian Defence Science and Technology Organisation.

The ultimate aim of the project is to establish a fully-fledged campus in South Australia.

### Bath signs scholarship agreement with Abbey

The University of Bath has signed an agreement with Abbey bank, part of the Santander Group, to fund scholarships, research and awards for staff and students. It will also provide funding for a collaboration agreement with the University of Alicante, Spain, to support mature student education.

Up to ten annual scholarships will be available to staff and students from countries within the Santander Universities Scheme as well as ten for postgraduate study and ten for non-academic achievements.

Established in 1996, the Santander Universities Scheme has signed co-operation agreements with around 550 universities across Spain, Portugal, Latin America and the Russian Federation and has distributed 400 million euros for various programmes.

UK universities involved in funding programmes include University College London, Oxford Brookes, the London School of Economics and City University's Cass Business School.

Speaking at the signing, Bath's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Glynis Breakwell, said, 'Abbey's funds will be used to strengthen our many successful links with Spain and Latin America. It is a fine example of how collaboration between business and higher education can promote both cultural understanding and knowledge transfer.'

The UK HE International Unit  
Woburn House  
20 Tavistock Square  
London  
WC1H 9HQ

**Dr Shaun Curtis**  
**Head of International Unit**  
+44 (0)20 7419 5610  
shaun.curtis@international.ac.uk

**Dr William Lawton**  
**Policy Adviser**  
+44 (0)20 7419 5611  
william.lawton@international.ac.uk

**Elizabeth Sheahan**  
**Communications Officer**  
+44 (0)20 7419 5609  
elizabeth.sheahan@international.ac.uk  
[www.international.ac.uk](http://www.international.ac.uk)

The UK Higher Education International Unit is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Scottish Funding Council, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, the Department for Employment and Learning (Northern Ireland), GuildHE and Universities UK.

The UK HE International Unit is committed to the highest standard and quality of information and every reasonable attempt has been made to present up-to-date and accurate information to you. This newsletter, its contents and any links provided, are for information purposes only and the UK HE International Unit gives no warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, timeliness or decency of the information contained herein, or contained or derived from any linked documents or websites, and accepts no liability for any loss, damage or inconvenience howsoever arising caused by, or as a result of, reliance upon such information. Any views expressed are not intended to be those of the UK HE International Unit, its employees, agents or contractors.

Copyright is vested in the sector-wide UK HE International Unit. This information may be freely used and copied for non-commercial purposes, provided that the source is acknowledged: © UK HE International Unit.

If you have any feedback or suggestions regarding this newsletter and its contents or would like to bring to our attention news from the international higher education sector, please email [info@international.ac.uk](mailto:info@international.ac.uk)

## Laws & Regulations

### Going global in Malaysia

Malaysia's **Limkokwing University of Creative Technology** formally launched a campus in London's Piccadilly last week and is teaching its first intake of students. It already has campuses in Beijing, Botswana and Malaysia and plans to open in 20 more countries.

This private campus is a harbinger of things to come in the rapidly changing landscape of international HE. In geopolitical terms it demonstrates that Malaysia is leading the shift in international HE. Even so, Malaysia is thinking beyond this step. It aspires to be the regional education hub for southeast Asia. Prime Minister Abdullah's vision is for Malaysian Nobel laureates, Malaysian professors dominating Ivy League universities, and Malaysian centres of international excellence (autonomous and research-intensive 'apex universities'). Students from more than 150 countries already study in Malaysia, but the target now is to double their number to 100,000 by 2010.

This 'revolution in HE', in the Education Ministry's words, was set out in two documents in September: the 'National Higher Education Strategic Plan Beyond 2020' and the 'National Higher Education Action Plan 2007-2010'. At least partly in response to lobbying by academics, university boards will be given greater autonomy from the Ministry - for example, Vice-Chancellors will be appointed through an open competitive process. Apex universities will have further control over staffing, student numbers and pay levels. Twenty per cent of the enrolment will be open to international students.

The language of the Plans shows that an explicit process of emulation from abroad is in play, from the desire for the Malaysian Qualifications Agency

(MQA) to provide a 'client-friendly' and transparent quality assurance (QA) service, to the adoption of 'learning outcomes' rather than teaching content as the basis for accreditation. There are some areas, however, where emulation is more difficult. **PM Abdullah was quoted** as having said that 'only the best students will be selected, irrespective of race, but the enrolment into the Apex University should reflect the plural society in the country'. This nicely encapsulates a core tension in Malaysian society and politics. A **law professor retorted** in the Star newspaper that 'race-based decision-making is part of our flesh and bone' and that Malaysia needed to break with this decisively for it to have any chance of realising its global ambitions.

While greater autonomy for HEIs is said to be on the cards, changes in governance procedures also include tighter auditing processes for QA. There is certainly a recognition of the crucial importance of QA for Malaysia's long-term ambitions, though the legislation for it has been slow to get through parliament. However, the **Bill for the MQA** is now simply awaiting royal assent. The MQA merges the National Accreditation Board (LAN - the private-sector body) and the Higher Education Ministry's Quality Assurance Division (the public-sector equivalent). The object of QA will shift from specific programmes to institutions themselves. Institutions meeting the requirements of the external audit will have all their courses accredited. Criteria, to be benchmarked against best practice worldwide, are being worked out.

The purpose of the QA changes is to facilitate international recognition of qualifications from public and private universities in Malaysia - an important step in realising the goals of world-class institutions and 100,000 international students in three years.