



Newsletter
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From the President's Desk

by Dave Marr

And the winner is ... drum roll ... '**Supporting effective decision-making**'. This is AAIR's new tagline, as voted by you, our valued members (well 59 of you at least).

Congratulations to **Rossana Couto-Mason** from Massey University, New Zealand whose suggestion created the winning tagline. Rossana wins a free registration to either the 2016 SIG Forum or the 2016 Annual Forum. Keep your eye out for the tagline as we start to weave it into our various AAIR media channels, and on the AAIR website etc.

'**Better intelligence, better performance**' was also very popular (thanks to Greg Jacob for this contribution). Jeff Holmes' gem, '**Making Stuff Up**', continues to be our sentimental favourite though. We hope to use all of these in some form or other in Liesha's Bulletins over the next wee while.

I hope everyone who attended the AAIR Forum in Wellington had a great experience and was able to come back with some useful information to apply in your institutions. I wasn't able to be there due to work commitments, but by all accounts it was another very successful Forum. Thanks to Kathie Rabel and the Local Organising Committee (Don Johnston, Southern Cross University; Robert Daldy, Auckland University of Technology; Malcolm Rees, Massey University; Charlotte Ferry-Parker, The University of Waikato; and Jeff

Holmes, AAIR) who deserve a big CONGRATULATIONS on a job well done, and a good rest to get over it all.

Congratulations also go to the award winners:

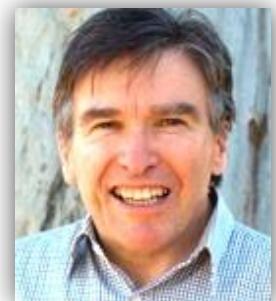
- Best Paper: '*A Technology Solution for the HE Sector on Benchmarking for Quality Improvement Purposes*' – Sara Booth and Michelle Rennie, University of Tasmania.
- Best New Presenter: Penny Szybiak from Charles Darwin University for '*Data and Marketing: What is the Role of Institutional Research and Planning Units in University Marketing*'.
- Best Presentation: Stuart Terry from Otago Polytechnic – '*Engaging the Student Voice: Strategies Used to Boost Participation of Generation Y Students in the Feedback Cycle*'.

All presentations are available on the [Forum website](#).

The 2016 AAIR Forum will be held in Sydney, the venue and dates are still to be confirmed. It is likely that the SIG Forum will be in Adelaide in 2016, although a final decision is yet to be made on that. Stay tuned in the New Year for more information on these events.

As from the Annual Forum in Wellington, there has been a slight adjustment to the roles within the Executive Committee. Bruce Guthrie is standing aside as Honorary Secretary and Andrea Jeffreys from La Trobe University will take on this role until the next election of the Executive Committee in November 2016. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Bruce for his work as Secretary over the past two years. Bruce has done an exceptional job, always approaching the role professionally, methodically and in good humour, as only he can. Nothing's been too hard for him (except possibly getting access to ANZ's accounts; we can blame ANZ for that). I'm sure Andrea will appreciate Bruce's guidance during this handover period.

AAIR is now registered with PayPal so that we can more easily collect money without having to establish merchant banking which has proved quite expensive in the past. We'll trial the use of PayPal for collecting membership renewals in February.



Dave Marr,
President

Higher Education@home

by Louise Hargreaves

Policy & Regulation Watch

1. In late October, the Chief Scientist Ian Chubb, released a report titled [Boosting High-Impact Entrepreneurship in Australia](#). Chubb said universities have a central role to play in developing the entrepreneurial skills Australia needs to insulate itself from downturns in commodity industries. But such training needs to move beyond business schools into mainstream courses.
2. [Group of Eight rejects Nick Xenophon's call on costs](#). Nick Xenophon's move to introduce a motion in the Senate calling for universities to introduce transparency on the costs of teaching across different disciplines has been slammed by the Group of Eight. Following the release of a Grattan Institute report (see Higher Education Funding section below) that revealed for the first time the extent to which universities cross-subsidise research from teaching funds — at least \$2 billion a year — Senator Xenophon said he would call for increased transparency on teaching costs.
3. Australia pushes forward with agent code. The [International Education Association of Australia's](#) plans to create a robust agent code of ethics are underway after receiving government funding for the second stage of development. The next steps will deliver a feasibility study by February of next year on how to establish a quality assurance framework for education agents that incorporates principles from 2012's [London Statement](#) as well as a self-sustaining funding model.
4. [Sector consultation on proposed reporting of key financial metrics](#). TEQSA is seeking [feedback](#) from stakeholders on the public reporting of key financial metrics of registered higher education providers. This proposed release aims to enhance and improve the level of publicly available financial information on the higher education sector, with a view to better informing decision making by sector stakeholders. Submissions close at 5pm AEDT Friday 15 January 2016.

5. [Government considers policies to boost philanthropy for universities](#). The Turnbull government is set to consider new policies to boost philanthropy for universities, including calls for matching funds aimed particularly at promoting giving to universities outside the sandstones that lack the same tradition and capacity for philanthropy.
6. [Better access to student loans for New Zealand citizens in Australia](#). The Parliament has passed [legislation](#) to extend access to student loans to eligible New Zealand citizens who have been long-term residents of Australia since childhood.
7. [Government launches "match-making service" for finding the perfect IP](#). The government has launched a "match-making" service to connect startups with publicly researched intellectual property. [Source IP](#) is a "digital intellectual property marketplace" providing a "single portal" to make it easier for businesses to access IP created by Australian universities and commonwealth organisations through a "one click" platform.
8. [Coalition splits over vote to axe student union fee](#). Government senators have split over a move to axe compulsory student service fees at universities amid claims the charge is unionism by stealth. A motion moved in the Senate called for the fee to be levied only if it had the support of a majority of students at each university campus, to be determined in an annual ballot.
9. [Australia's uni-private sector relationship blasted in report](#). Australia's "piecemeal", "short-term" and "inadequate" approach to university and business collaboration has been blasted in a [major report](#) on Australian innovation. The report, which compares Australia's innovation performance to those of 14 countries, calls for a more interventionist policy approach focused on long-term, tightly targeted investments.



10. [PM challenges university chief to explain poor R&D record](#). Malcolm Turnbull wants universities to be more engaged with industry and vice-chancellors like Melbourne University's Glyn Davis to be more upbeat. But the Prime Minister's vision – part of a major innovation statement due next month – grated with Professor Davis, who said Australian corporations don't invest enough in research to make collaboration pay.
11. [The federal government has backed down from a proposal to increase medical school enrolment quotas for rural students](#) from 25 per cent to 30 per cent in favour of growth targets to be negotiated with individual schools. The decision was labelled "weak" by the Australian Medical Students Association, which argues a higher target is more in line with population parity and that rural background is the best predictor of whether a graduate will practise in regional areas to address shortages.

Higher Education Funding

12. [Recovering student loans from overseas residents](#). People who have benefited from Australian student loans and now live overseas will pay for them the same way as they would if they lived in Australia following the passage of the [\(Overseas Debt Recovery\) Bill 2015](#) and the [Student Loans \(Overseas Debtors Repayment Levy\) Bill 2015](#) through Parliament on the 9th of November. Minister for Education and Training Senator Simon Birmingham said it was estimated that up to \$30 million was lost annually due to graduates moving overseas.

13. [Access to Youth Allowance student support payments will be widened](#) by new legislation dropping two asset tests at a cost to the budget of \$263 million over four years. The measure will particularly benefit regional families who often face higher costs from having to move to attend university.

14. [2016 Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships recipients announced](#). Hundreds of Australian and international students will undertake a highly prized international study experience with the announcement of the Australian Government's Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships for 2016. View the 2016 recipients online [here](#).

15. [The cash nexus: how teaching funds research in Australian universities – Grattan Institute Report](#). More than \$2 billion in surpluses from teaching are being used to fund research in Australian universities. On a conservative estimate, one dollar in five spent on research comes from surpluses on teaching. International students, who usually generate more revenue per student than domestic students, contribute a substantial proportion of this surplus.

16. [Reviews highlight decades of higher education funding challenges](#). The Minister for Education and Training, Senator Simon Birmingham has released a [summary paper](#) of all recent major reviews conducted into Australia's higher education system, as part of consultations into developing a fair, sustainable, world-class system. The background paper summarises the findings of each major review of higher education from the 1988 Dawkins White Paper to the 2014 Kemp-Norton Review of the Demand Driven Funding System.

17. [University finances in reasonable shape](#). The annual [summary report of university finances](#) has been released. Overall, it shows that university finances continue to be in reasonable shape, especially compared to the period up until 2004 (2008 was the writing down of asset values due to the global financial crisis). The operating surplus in 2014 was \$1.9 billion, or about 7 per cent of revenue. It peaked at 9 per cent in 2010.

18. [Funding higher education: time for a more transparent system?](#) With a new minister for higher education comes a reset of the debate over how to fund higher education. In recent weeks there

[have been calls](#) to discuss how we make more transparent what the government and public are paying for in higher education. But what activity do we need to make more visible?

Sector News and Views

19. [Australia's Future Workforce: Digital Disruption of Education](#). In June 2015 the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) released its report, [Australia's Future Workforce](#), which focuses on what jobs and skills Australia might need to develop to ensure our economy continues to grow and diversify. At the launch event Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University Professor Jane den Hollander discussed the digital disruption of education.

20. [The Australian Innovation System Report 2015](#), the sixth in the series, explores innovation through the lens of innovative entrepreneurship. Using newly obtained data, it analyses how start-ups and younger businesses often behave differently and are more likely to report increases in employment, sales, profitability, productivity, product range and product innovation.

21. [Learning Analytics in Australia](#). This site presents findings of an OLT-commissioned project (SP13-3249) that examined learning analytics uptake in the Australian higher education sector.

22. [Disadvantaged university students drop out in droves](#). One in three disadvantaged students drops out of university, according to new research which highlights serious inequity in Australia's higher education sector. This compares with one in eight wealthier students abandoning their university studies.

23. [No prizes for promoting teaching quality](#). After a decade of effort, prizes, rewards funding, regulation, websites and chat, the university sector is still no closer to understanding what constitutes quality in teaching and learning. A new report, [The Quality of Australia's Higher Education System: How it might be Defined, Improved and Assured](#), by Belinda Probert attempts to map the context, history and circumstances under which the quality of teaching has been debated in the past few decades and understand why quality needs to be demonstrated.

24. [Interns Australia: 2015 annual survey](#). 90 per cent of interns work for free or below the minimum wage. In 2015, Interns Australia conducted a survey of 503 respondents on their experiences with internships.

25. [University councils now political footballs](#). A push by universities to drop requirements for their councils to have elected student and staff representatives is turning councils into political footballs, with the state governments in Western Australia and Victoria heading in opposite directions according to their political colours.

26. [Aussie unis 'late to the party' and failing to teach entrepreneurship](#). Entrepreneurship needs to be taught through practical and experiential university programs or Australia risks falling further behind in the global innovation race, Spike Innovation director Colin Kinner says. Kinner is the author of a new report on the current state of universities' entrepreneurial output and what needs to be done, and he says most Australian institutions are currently failing in this key area.

27. [The rise of China: a threat or opportunity for Australian universities?](#) There has been [lots of discussion](#) in the media around the rise of China and the potential threat it poses to Australian higher education – not least given that education in Australia is a big driver for the economy as the third-largest export earner. But is there really cause for concern?

28. [Universities Australia leads push to stamp out fraudulent degree mills](#). Universities Australia is leading a transnational initiative that will help combat fraudulent degree mills by converting paper-based credentials into a secure digital repository that will give students and employers verified evidence of legitimate academic qualifications and boost student mobility and data portability.

29. [Adelaide's academic academy](#). Adelaide University hopes over 50 academics will swap into teaching-specialty roles in the New Year, with another 50 expected to sign up in the near future. The university made public an incentive package it hoped would attract academics into a teaching only role, including a new academy with access to teaching advancement grants and teaching-based promotion.

30. [Australian Defence Force Academy opens engineering degrees to civilians.](#) Australia's military university will allow civilian undergraduates to study alongside defence recruits for the first time. The Australian Defence Force Academy, whose campus is run by the University of NSW, will open its engineering degrees to 40 non-military personnel from next year.

31. [Windfall return for SEEK in \\$330 million IDP float.](#) Investors have brushed off concerns about education stocks by boosting the value of SEEK's English testing and student placement spin-off by 28 per cent on its first day of trading. Shares in IDP Education, which hit the boards at midday on 26 November, opened 60¢ higher than the offer price of \$2.65.

32. For the most part, [ePortfolios are seen as online, digital repositories where students can house their work](#) for sharing with potential employers and other interested parties. In "[The Changing Landscape of ePortfolios](#)," *The Australasian Journal of Educational Technology* examined one Australian university's integration of ePortfolio tools with learning and teaching outcomes across numerous disciplines and learning contexts.

students need to choose wisely and Australian universities might need to lift their game.

35. [Your future job: 2020 trends for university graduates.](#) A university student's future earnings depend more on the degree they do, the industry they aim for and deeds done outside the lecture hall, than which university they go to. "If you're aiming to get a higher financial return on your university education in terms of the salary you earn when you graduate, the course that you choose is going to be more important than the university you choose," Melbourne's Grattan Institute program director Andrew Norton says.

36. [University graduates do 'spectacularly well' with jobs, wages.](#) Australia's higher education is "doing spectacularly well internationally" with an OECD report showing that, despite swelling numbers of graduates, employment outcomes and salaries continue to improve. The annual [Education at a Glance report](#) reveals that Australian graduates have far lower unemployment rates and higher salaries compared to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development country averages.

develop key areas of strength and defuse the push for all universities to offer a comprehensive set of courses.

40. [Why and how University Faculties can take a lead role in recruiting their own students.](#) The Higher Education Consulting Group ([HECG](#)) believes that university Faculties should and can take a lead role in recruiting their own students rather than abdicating the responsibility and leaving it entirely in the hands of centralized recruitment offices. Recruiting students ought to be a process that begins and ends within the Faculty, utilising Recruitment and Marketing departments for their specialized expertise and recruitment facilitation processes when necessary.

Graduate Outcomes

33. [Jobs market for law graduates improves – but there's a catch \[interactive\].](#) The jobs market for law graduates is picking up again but candidates must be willing to look at roles outside the legal industry, says the head of The College of Law. This shift means networks are more important than ever for entry into the ultra-competitive, elite firms and many graduates now have little choice but to abandon hopes of a career in a traditional law firm and look to other industries for work.

34. [This chart shows Australian graduates have the lowest chance of getting the job they want.](#) It's that time when year 12 exams finish up and the anxious wait begins as students await notification on their chosen university courses. But there's sobering news for those with the heart set on a particular line of study, thinking it will help land them their dream job. A survey of more than 4,000 graduates across 14 countries conducted by Instructure, a software-as-a-service (SaaS) company, suggests

Student Recruitment & Mobility

37. [Higher education demand still strong.](#) The 2015 [final applications data has been released](#). One important point is that there has been a revision to the 2014 unique applicant data – that is, the time series that eliminates double counting to get a count of the number of persons who made an application. As some people use multiple methods of application, applications are only a rough proxy for applicants.

38. [Hello Oslo: clever clogs students head overseas where postgraduate courses are cheaper.](#) Young Australian graduates are looking beyond expensive local courses to study in Norway, Germany or France – just three of the countries offering affordable options. Unlike undergraduate degrees, postgraduate degrees in Australia are generally not subsidised by the government.

39. [Push for universities to share students.](#) Students should be allowed to mix and match their degree across multiple institutions as a way of widening choice. It also would encourage universities to

Research

41. [2016 ARC Major Grants Announcements - 899 new research projects to share in more than \\$357 million.](#) The ARC Major Grants for 2016 includes funding under four ARC schemes. The amounts awarded under each scheme are: [Discovery Projects](#), [Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards](#), [Discovery Indigenous](#), [Linkage Infrastructure](#)

42. [Academic publications to become less important when funding university research.](#) The Turnbull government is set to overhaul the way university research is funded by dramatically downgrading the importance of publishing articles in little-read academic journals. Prime Minister Turnbull wants to end the "publish or perish" culture in which academics are pressured to focus on constant publishing rather than producing work with commercial and community benefit.

43. [NHMRC to test peer review of research project grants.](#) NHMRC is to trial a new form of peer review of grants that involves more external assessments in a bid to make reviews more consistent. It comes as spiraling success rates are leaving researchers grumbling they have been overlooked or ripped off.

44. [NHMRC trials ditching grant rebuttal.](#) Medical researchers won't be able to rebut negative external assessments of their grant applications and there will be no chance to "rescue" applications that fail the first cull under a trial of a new peer review process by the NHMRC.

45. [Are we funding the right researchers in Australia?](#) If we want the Australian university sector to help fuel innovation, then we need to ensure the right researchers are being supported by our funding bodies, such as the Australian Research Council ([ARC](#)) and National Health and Medical Research Council ([NHMRC](#)). But if funding is too risk averse, then academics will play it safe and fail to innovate.

International Students in Australia

46. [International students provide \\$18bn annual boost to sector.](#) For the first time, overseas students have contributed \$5.25 billion to the Australian economy in a three-month period. The buoyant September quarter caps off a record-breaking year in the international student sector, which brought in \$18.77bn for the year, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures.
47. [Visa crackdown hits international student market.](#) Australia's resurgent international education industry has hit a speed bump as immigration officials put up the shutters against students from the subcontinent. Student visa grants declined at the end of last financial year, marking perhaps the first setback in the sector's comeback from its 2009 crash.
48. [Chinese source cities for visa applications 2009–2014.](#) Analysis of Australian student visa applications lodged outside Australia by citizens of People's Republic of China who were born in the People's Republic of China, based on data supplied by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), provides insight into the geographic origin of visa applicants from 2009–10 to 2013–14.
49. [Austrade International Student Data Monthly Summary – September.](#) The one-page monthly summary shows year-to-date enrolments of international students in Australia on a student visa. The summary includes volume and growth rates for enrolments and commencements, as well as analysis by sector and 'top 5' source market.

Online Learning

50. [MOOC watch: Open2Study reaches one million students.](#) Just two-and-a-half years after launching its first course, Open2Study – an offshoot of Open Universities Australia (OUA) which offers free online courses – has enrolled its millionth student. Open2Study says the majority of people enrolling in any of its 49 four-week programs are Australians, and many are doing it to get a better idea of what they want to study at university.
51. [Online learning can work if universities just rethink the design of their courses.](#) Early attempts by universities to put their courses online haven't been hugely successful so far in terms of generating strong grades and engagement. Both the government and universities are concerned about the impact of publicly supported students dropping out of online courses. While the [2013 national average rate](#) of first-year dropouts in Australia was just under 15%, the dropout rate was as high as 28% among universities offering online courses.

Rankings and Ratings & Benchmarking

52. [Group of Eight rejects QS graduate employability rankings.](#) Seven of the eight sandstone universities have boycotted a new employability ranking after raising concerns about confidentiality of the information provided. The preliminary findings of the QS Graduate Employability Rankings are due to be released at the end of October in Melbourne.
53. [QS Top 50 under 50 \(and the next 50\)](#) was released in late November. UTS ranked at 14 led the [Australian universities](#) followed by Wollongong (17), QUT (20), RMIT (21), Curtin (23) Uni SA (25), Deakin (36) and Griffith (37). No Kiwis make the cut, although the Auckland University of Technology is in the 71-80 group. Of the second 50 James Cook U and La Trobe are in the 51-60 band, Bond, Flinders and Swinburne rate between 81 and 90 and Charles Darwin, Murdoch and Canberra make it into the 91-100 group.

Who's on the Move (or not)?

54. [Dr Alan Finkel AO has been appointed Australia's next Chief Scientist](#) and will commence in the role in January 2016. He succeeds Professor Ian Chubb AC who has served with distinction since May 2011. Professor Chubb's term concludes at the end of 2015. Dr Finkel is a prominent engineer, respected neuroscientist, successful entrepreneur and philanthropist with a personal commitment to innovation and commercialisation. He is currently the Chancellor of Monash University and is President of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE).
55. [Glyn Davis to stay put at Melbourne University.](#) The University announced that Professor Davis, who took up the role in January 2005, had extended his contract to the end of 2018. This is the second extension, having announced last year he would stay until the beginning of 2017. The latest extension is to allow him time to bed down the third and final instalment in his Growing Esteem strategy.
56. [CQUniversity Australia has announced the appointment of Gladstone industry leader John Abbott as the University's new Chancellor.](#) This news follows the announcement that current Chancellor Rennie Fritschy will retire after more than a decade in the role. John Abbott will be officially installed as the third Chancellor of CQUniversity at a ceremony to be held in March 2016.
57. [Career diplomat elected JCU chancellor.](#) Townsville-raised diplomat Bill Tweddell will be the next chancellor of James Cook University. Mr Tweddell, who has been Australia's ambassador to the Philippines for the past three years, will replace longstanding head John Grey, a career soldier. Mr Tweddell has also served as ambassador to Vietnam, high commissioner to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and deputy high commissioner to India. He is the first JCU alumnus to be elected as chancellor, having been recognised as the university's "outstanding alumnus" in 2010.

Tips and Tricks

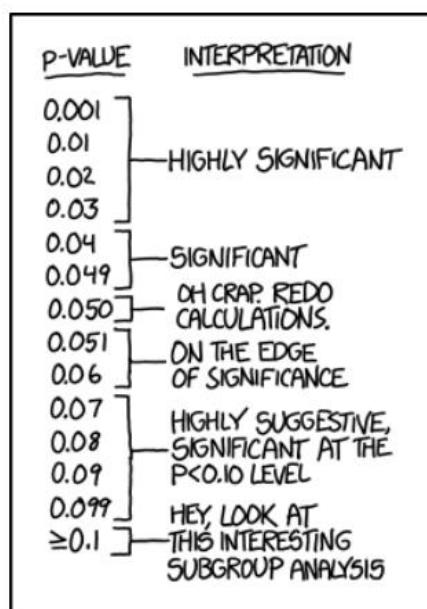
58. [Using Excel Text Formulas.](#) This Tech Tip provides helpful formulas to keep in mind when working with text in Excel - contributed by Carolyn H. Gould, Director of Institutional Research, Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University.
59. [Data validation in Excel.](#) Institutional researchers receive or collect data from a variety of sources. While some of us clean the data afterwards, there are ways to limit the input by restricting the end user on data types and range values. The Excel Data Validation function guarantees that each data value you enter, have entered, or will enter will be correct and accurate. Submitted by Jinchun Yu, Assistant Director of Data Analysis and Management, The University of Alabama.
60. [Setting up a Simple Interactive Dashboard Using Excel 2010 "Slicers".](#) Excel 2010 introduces a new "slicer" feature that makes it much easier to interact with and filter data contained in pivot tables. Slicers make it easier to visualize what fields are being filtered, and they make it easy to set up a simple dashboard to explore your data. Submitted by Jim Fergerson, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota.

Frivolous Favourites

61. [An all new ranking of \(fictional\) universities.](#) I've previously provided a [confusing mix of real and fictional universities before](#) and they are often quite hard to distinguish. No such difficulties here though. To counterbalance the harsh realities of the work of the real rankers here's an entirely made up league table drawn from a large number of imagined realms. Dominated by fictional universities in the US and the UK the list is nevertheless headed by an institution that is literally out of this world. Make sure you check out [Monsters University](#) 'Building Tomorrow's Scars.....Today'
62. [100 Educational Quotes Educators and Ed Leaders Will Love.](#) Check if you share the same vision with any of these great inspirational leaders.
63. [The Second Annual Academics with Cats Awards!](#) You asked for it, and here it is! The Second Academics with Cats Awards! How to enter? Simple! Check out the categories below and tweet your finest cat pics (with caption) to #AcademicsWithCats. We'll collate them and our expert panel will shortlist the best. Public voting will open on 23 November 2015.
64. An [Explanation of P-Values](#)
What to do if your [p-value is just over the arbitrary threshold for 'significance'](#) of p=0.05?

Institutional Researcher's Corner

65. [The Quest for Rigor in Qualitative Studies – Strategies for Institutional Researchers.](#) Institutional researchers devote considerable effort to ensure that their studies are rigorous, valid, reliable, and actionable. Clients (e.g. faculty, staff) expect these studies to be professionally accomplished with precision and objectivity, grounded in sound ethical practice. These expectations, however, are typically oriented towards quantitative designs; the concepts of rigor, validity, reliability, and generalizability are not applied to qualitative studies in the same ways. If different standards are applied to qualitative research to ensure quality and rigor, how can institutional researchers apply those standards to evaluate qualitative studies?
66. [Launch of College Scorecard: Feedback from the AIR IR Community.](#) The much-anticipated College Scorecard, designed to provide consumer information to assist students in choosing the best college, was unveiled in September 2015. The tool allows users to search for institutions by name and by factors such as cost, graduation rate, loan default rate, average amount borrowed, and employment data. AIR reviewed responses to the tool's launch and reached out to members to learn how institutional researchers are responding to the College Scorecard.



Positions Vacant



Seeking another opportunity in Institutional Research in Australia? Try our [Higher Education Jobs](#) webpage for current vacancies in the profession. If you are seeking an international career change see our American colleagues [AIR Careers](#) page.

Looking for some training and development?

See our [Training and Development](#) webpage focused on training for institutional researchers.

[Institutional Research Certificate Programs offered by U.S. Institutions.](#)

AIR provides a listing of IR Graduate Certificate programs as a resource to readers.

[Statistics Studies Online](#)

The Institute for Statistics Education is based in the US and specialises in statistical studies online. If you're looking at brushing up on your stats skills or gaining some new skills this may be for you. Plenty of info about their Faculty on their website plus there's an article about them on Inside Higher Ed [here](#).

Looking for higher education conferences and events?

Here is a selection of upcoming events (or past events) that may be of interest. See our [Events/Fora](#) webpage for more national and international events.

[Aligning STEM Education with Employer Needs](#)

[16th to 17th February 2016](#)

Melbourne, Australia

Increasing STEM participation & better skilling tertiary graduates for employment. Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

[Gartner Business Intelligence, Analytics & Information Management Summit](#)

[22 – 23 February 2016 | Sydney, Australia](#)

Join us at Gartner Business Intelligence, Analytics & Information Management Summit 2016 to get a practical update as well as a strategic view across the breadth of today's IM and analytics priorities.

Exclusive AAIR Member Discount: Register using [priority code MPBIE1](#) and save \$375 on the standard conference rate.

[Universities Australia 2016 Higher Education Conference](#)

[9 to 11 March 2016](#)

National Convention Centre, Canberra

[Registration](#) is now open.

Universities Australia's Higher Education Conference 2016 will be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from Wednesday 9 March to Friday 11 March 2016.

The 2016 Conference will host a poster exhibition. More information will be available about this shortly.

[EUA Annual Conference 2016](#)

[7 to 8 April 2016](#)

National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG)

Call for Presentations EUA's Annual Conference 2016 on the theme "Bricks and clicks for Europe: building a successful digital campus"

In the framework of the conference, EUA has launched a call for presentations for three Working Group sessions.

[EduTECH Australia](#)

[30 to 31 May 2016 | 1 June 2016 \(post-conference Masterclasses\)](#)

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

EduTECH is a giant festival for all of education. It is the only event that brings together schools, tertiary education, VET and workplace learning under one roof. It features one large exhibition with 8 parallel conferences, plus 8 post-event masterclasses for a more tailored and intimate learning experience.

Join the other 8000+ attendees at EduTECH next year! Book now -

<http://edutech.net.au/registration.html>

Enjoy Reading?



Here are a few recent and upcoming releases:

In [*Palace of Ashes: China and the Decline of American Higher Education*](#) ([Johns Hopkins University Press](#)), Mark S. Ferrara contrasts the "downward trajectory" of American higher education against the rise of China's university system. Ferrara, an associate professor of English at the State University of New York at Oneonta, argues that reductions in public funding and deprofessionalization of the faculty have left American higher education ill prepared to compete in a period of increased global competition.

[*The Purposeful Graduate: Why Colleges Must Talk to Students about Vocation*](#). We all know that higher education has changed dramatically over the past two decades. Historically a time of exploration and self-discovery, the college years have been narrowed toward an increasingly singular goal—career training—and college students these days forgo the big questions about who they are and how they can change the world and instead focus single-mindedly on their economic survival.

[*The New Education Philanthropy, Policy, and Reform*](#) – (release date December 2015). Edited by Frederick M. Hess and Jeffrey R. Henig. Philanthropic foundations play an increasingly influential role in education research, policy, and practice—yet this sector has been subject to little research-informed analysis. In *The New Education Philanthropy*, Frederick M. Hess and Jeffrey R. Henig convene a diverse group of scholars and analysts to examine the shifting role of education philanthropy over the last decade, giving particular attention to the large national foundations—Gates, Broad, Walton, and Lumina, among others—that are increasingly aggressive and strategic in their use of funds.

[*MOOC U: Who Is Getting the Most Out of Online Education and Why*](#)

By Jeffrey J. Selingo. Author of College (Un)Bound, Jeffrey J. Selingo follows in real time the stories of all the stake-holders in University of Virginia business professor Ed Hess's popular Grow to Greatness MOOC to distill for MOOC students (seven million and counting) what works, what doesn't, and what to expect next of the phenomenon that is massive open online courses.

Higher Education Abroad

by Louise Hargreaves

Global News & Views

1. EUA calls upon policy makers and higher education institutions in Europe [to enable refugee students to gain access to higher education](#). During its last meeting on 23 October in Brussels, the EUA Council adopted a statement on refugee students and academics.
2. [Google search engine reveals 'top searches' by international students](#). So which universities get the most hits or page views? According to Google's internal search data for 2014, universities in the USA received more searches from abroad than any other country. This means that the US has perhaps regained its position as the world's biggest market for international students.
3. [Academics vs. administrators: Who should rule the internationalisation roost?](#) At the EAIE Conference in Glasgow, one of the now traditional debate sessions took place with speakers from 5 different countries fiercely debating the role of administrators and academics in the international arena. Who should hold sway and why?
4. [Philanthropists favour higher education above all](#). The Stelios Philanthropic Foundation donates to scholarships, the environment and promoting entrepreneurship in Greece, Cyprus and the United Kingdom. The Stelios Philanthropic Foundation's work is just one of the many examples cited in the [Coutts Million Dollar Donors Report 2015](#), which reveals that higher education outstripped other causes as the recipient for multi-million-dollar donations globally in 2014, garnering US\$7.58 billion in gifts or 30.9% of the US\$24.5 billion global total.
5. [Lingua board walks over open access, Elsevier pricing](#). The entire editorial board of a highly ranked linguistics journal has resigned as a growing dispute over open access continues to escalate. All 31 editorial board members and all six editors of the Elsevier-published Lingua resigned last week in protest against the pricing of the journal and a refusal to convert it into an open-access publication.

6. [The Looming Gamification of Higher Education](#). For now, gamification has been taken up by pedagogical early adopters, but the phenomenon seems poised to spread as more professors join the trend and tools supporting gamification proliferate. Soon students everywhere will be on semester-long quests and will be earning a million points per exam.
7. [Metrics and quality: do the numbers add up?](#) Learning from the Australian quality experience, QAA's Ian Kimber argues for the need for a contextualised and nuanced approach to the use of metrics, both in terms of identifying potential quality risk and of assessing student outcomes and their link to teaching quality.
8. [How to judge teaching quality](#). Now researchers at Teachers College of Columbia University and at Yeshiva University believe they are developing a legitimate way to [compare the educational quality of courses across institutions](#). Their approach, which was previewed at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, is likely to raise questions, and at the very least start an interesting conversation about what and how we define quality in higher education.
9. [Another Commission Will Take On the Future of Higher Education](#). The "future of higher education" landscape — already ringing with cacophonous predictions from all manner of task forces, books, conferences, and self-styled disruptors — is about to get another. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences has announced its own Commission on the Future of Undergraduate Education.
10. [The Future of Higher Education? Ask the Magic-8 Ball!](#) Want to know the future of higher education in this age of disruption? Forget all those committees, commissions, and "futurists." Just ask the Magic-8 Ball! Is competency-based education the real disruption we have all been waiting for?
11. [Rethinking college: Disruptive innovation, not reform, is needed](#). To make college more affordable for low-income students we need to rethink what "college" means. The system needs much more than tweaks in financing or regulation; it requires an entirely different business model.
12. [Under pressure: Changing markets and the evolution of the university](#). Demographic and technological change, combined with shifting market conditions, has combined to place traditional higher education models under pressure. Institutions are responding with a range of strategies, including niche programmes, partnering, and a greater focus on innovation and internationalisation.
13. [5 major trends in higher education's use of social media](#). A new [report](#) studies close to a thousand different institutions to provide a detailed snapshot of 2015's dynamic college and university social media use.
14. [Five ways to fine-tune your marketing this year](#). As we turn the corner into the last months of 2015, it is a good time to look at the marketing strategies employed over the past year and see what worked and what didn't go as planned. Here are five tips that can add up to better results.
15. [New Zealand Universities to publish graduates' job data](#). Universities are cautiously welcoming a Government requirement for them to start publishing the job success and pay rates of graduates. But the way the information is presented could "make or break" it, says Universities New Zealand.



16. [New Zealand showing strong growth in international enrolment again this year.](#) New data indicates an overall 12% increase in international student visas issued by New Zealand YTD September 2015. Nearly all education sectors have registered strong growth this year, with Private Training Establishments (a grouping that includes language schools) recording the biggest gains.
17. [NZ's export education reputation at risk from Indian student exploitation.](#) Immigration officials are warning New Zealand's reputation as a destination for international students is at risk because of widespread evidence that Indian students are taking on debts for study here that lead to their exploitation in New Zealand workplaces.
18. [US International student numbers up 10%, largest growth in 35 years.](#) The number of international students studying in the US in 2014-2015 increased by 10%, the largest growth the country has seen in more than three decades. International students on US campuses now total 974,926 students with international enrolments at eight institutions across the country exceeding 10,000, according to the Institute of International Education's 2015 Open Doors report on international education.
19. [US: Six Common Myths about Higher Education.](#) Higher education issues are a matter of public debate at unprecedented levels. Practically every day lately you can pick up a newspaper and find an article on college affordability, or graduation rates or campus sexual assault, or the right to carry firearms on campus. While such public debate is healthy, it sometimes generates myths about higher education that appear self-evident through repetition but are simply not true. Here are six such myths.
20. [Private partners helping to drive growth of US higher education online.](#) American universities have dramatically expanded their online programme offerings over the past five years and there are indications of continuing strong growth through to 2020. One of the reasons is the emergence of a new kind of service provider: the "online enabler" or online programme management (OPM) provider.
21. [Tuition Revenue Is Expected to Be Stagnant Again Next Year, Moody's Says.](#) Public and private colleges and universities alike expect tuition revenue to be relatively stagnant in the 2016 fiscal year, according to Moody's Investors Service's annual tuition survey. A report on the survey said that both public and private institutions project about a 2-percent increase in net tuition revenue, in keeping with a trend of "muted" growth also observed in last year's report.
22. [The U.S. education bubble is now upon us.](#) One of the fundamental purposes of government is to advance important public goods. But, if not handled carefully, the pursuit of significant social goals can have unfortunate economic and financial consequences, sometimes even leading to systemic disruptions that undermine more than just the goals themselves.
- And for an alternative view –
23. [There Is No College Bubble.](#) If you visit collegedebt.com what you find is a stark display, black on white, with an ominous ticker counting up. "Current student loan debt in the United States." Right now it's at \$1.339 trillion, but by the time you read this, the sum will be larger. The site is owned and operated by self-styled maverick billionaire Mark Cuban, who uses it to drive home a point he makes whenever the media will listen: American higher education is overpriced, and the bubble is going to pop.
24. [Bill encourages entrepreneurship among college students.](#) A newly-proposed bill would create a competitive grant program supporting business incubators operated by or affiliated with universities and colleges in an effort to encourage entrepreneurship and more innovation among students. U.S. Representative Eric Swalwell (CA-15) introduced H.R. 3990, the Start-Up America's Students Act, which would create a competitive grant to establish, expand, or improve business incubators operated by or affiliated with universities and colleges.
25. [US: 4 federal recommendations to improve accreditation.](#) In the wake of online learning, competency-based education, and a host of other alternative pathways and programs, accreditation has been in the reformation spotlight this year. And now the government is jumping in.
26. [In early October, Canada's Liberal Party displaced Stephen Harper's Conservatives.](#) swinging to power on a platform that included a promise to ease the route to citizenship for international students. International education stakeholders are optimistic about what the change in leadership might bring for the sector.
27. [Canadian Universities: Public Reputation & Expectations.](#) On behalf of Universities Canada, Abacus conducted an extensive online nationwide study of Canadians' views of universities.
28. [Canada: Growing proportion of university grads overqualified for their jobs: study.](#) A growing proportion of recent university graduates – as much as 40 per cent – face the potential frustration of being overqualified for their jobs, a new report has revealed.
29. [EUA to develop roadmap supporting the transition towards Open Access.](#) On 23 October 2015 the EUA Council decided to take forward a recommendation made by EUA's Expert Group on Science 2.0/Open Science to develop a roadmap to assist European universities in the transition to Open Access. The roadmap will focus on, inter alia, access and use of research publications and research data; intellectual property rights and copyright policies; development of European Open Access policies; promoting advanced scientific recognition systems and fostering structured dialogue among all relevant stakeholders.
30. [EUA presents the first European Atlas of Universities in Energy Research & Education, a compendium of European university-based Master, Doctorate and Research Programmes. The Atlas has been developed by the EUA energy platform, the "European Platform of Universities in Energy Research & Education" \(EUA-EPUE\).](#)
31. [British government proposes major higher education reform package.](#) The UK government has released a consultation paper that proposes wide-ranging reforms to administration, fees, and quality assurance in higher education. The proposals include provisions for a new Teaching Excellence Framework that aims to rebalance institutional focus between research and teaching activities, with greater weight given to the latter.

32. [UK: work rights for PG student dependents.](#) New work rights for the dependents of international postgraduate students who are enrolled on a course lasting for more than a year were announced this week by the UK government in their autumn statement.
33. [England has highest university tuition fees in industrialised world, survey finds.](#) England has the highest average undergraduate tuition fees in the industrialised world, although this investment tends to be repaid many times in higher graduate wages, according to an annual survey of education across more than 30 countries.
34. [Germany scraps tuition fees for all universities.](#) Less than a year after the British government realised that the hike in tuition fees accomplished absolutely nothing besides [landing students in more debt.](#) Germany has decided to abolish fees for all universities. Lower Saxony is the final German state to scrap tuition fees, meaning that all German universities are free of charge for all students – and yes, that includes overseas students.
35. [Are UK universities being cast academically adrift?](#) I expected the Green Paper to use existing research to identify specific problems with university teaching and learning and then make recommendations addressing those problems. But the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) is only a little bit about teaching and not at all about learning.
36. [Denmark to cut university budgets.](#) Tens of thousands of university and secondary school students have demonstrated against cuts to Denmark's education budget by Copenhagen's right-wing government. The government has said it needs to cut the budget for upper secondary education and universities by two per cent each year over the next four years, arguing that the country already spends more on education per capita than any other nation.
37. [Poland launches internationalisation strategy.](#) Although Poland's international student population has increased markedly in the last few years, the Polish higher education sector remains among the least internationalised of European Union – and OECD – countries, with [international students making up just 2.3%](#) of the total student population.

- However, a new government strategy and financial commitment to international education is a signal that this may be about to change.
38. [The market for English language learning in Argentina.](#) Argentina leads Latin America in English proficiency, and the language is both widely taught and widely used in the country, including in business, media, and schools. However, a slowing economy and political uncertainty have slowed outbound mobility this year even as interest in English language learning remains strong.
39. [4 steps Singapore's universities must take.](#) To keep their jobs, Singaporeans will have to learn new skills throughout their lives. The government has launched the SkillsFuture programme to help. Starting next year, every Singaporean aged 25 and above will get education credits worth S\$500, with top-ups spread out over their working life. This credit will not expire but can only be used for education and training.
40. [More Arab Region Universities Offer Blended Learning.](#) The use of blended learning is becoming more common at Arab region universities, and can prove an added benefit to traditional learning for Arab international students studying in the region. Blackboard, Moodle and Desire2Learn are the main platforms used at several universities in the UAE.
41. [Education fever in Korea.](#) Universal access to education has been a major achievement in Korea and it has one of the highest literacy levels in the world. The craze for higher education has been driving Korean students to seek admissions in the universities across the world. Korean students comprise the third largest group of overseas students in the United States after Chinese and Indian students.
42. [Myanmar opening up to foreign investment and international education.](#) Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won a decisive victory in Myanmar's national election earlier this month. The country has opened considerably to foreign investment and international educators in recent years. Education will now play a pivotal role in helping to transform the country's economy.
43. [China's College Counselors Told to Join the Party — the Communist Party.](#) China's Education Ministry has deemed universities an "ideological frontline". Chinese college students looking for a campus counselor will soon enjoy a guide with an added qualification: unwavering commitment to the Chinese Communist Party.
44. [10 higher education buzzwords and phrases.](#) If you still think MOOC is a buzzword, you couldn't be more wrong. Here are the higher education buzzwords and phrases that some like to call "edubabble." For those critics who say education moves at a snail's pace, they're wrong...at least when it comes to terminology.
- ## Online Learning
45. [What does it mean to be an online learning leader?](#) If online learning is to succeed as not only as a legitimate option for learning but as a *respected* platform within an institution, leadership has to build that respect through calculated risks and building multi-departmental relationships. That was the main takeaway from an EDUCAUSE conference panel on the "Hallmarks of Excellence in Online Learning," based on a [newly released report](#) from UPCEA (University Professional and Continuing Education Association).
46. In 2014, Yale first launched Massive Open Online Courses on Coursera, an education platform that partners with the nation's top universities to offer online classes for anyone in the world to take. Now, one year later, [Yale has begun to offer its first "on-demand" MOOCs](#) — courses which have rolling registration so students can join in at any time.
47. [Online Skills Are Hot, But Will They Land You a Job?](#) On LinkedIn, hundreds of thousands of users note on their profiles that they have taken online classes or earned certificates from coding boot camps. But when Richard Fye, the top recruiter at IT firm Fino Consulting, looks at candidates' profiles, those credentials aren't what help them get hired—not yet, anyway.
48. [EdX Stays Committed to Universities, Offering Credits for MOOCs.](#) Coursera and Udacity appear to have found an answer—for now—to the business model questions that have plagued

49. MOOC providers: partner with companies, such as AT&T and Google, design courses that support much-needed skills, then charge students to take them. So where does that leave the nonprofit edX, considered one of the "Big Three" MOOC providers?
50. [Tuition-Free University of the People Sees Enrollment Grow Five-Fold](#). An online, tuition-free University says it is drawing a growing number of students from the United States, and more than a quarter of them are immigrants who left their home countries in search of a better life. The University, founded in 2009, hopes to extend the reach of higher education globally, charging a \$50 application fee and a \$100 final exam fee for each individual course, making the cost of a full Bachelor's degree around \$4,000.
51. [Coursera is Apple TV's first online learning partner](#). Apple TV is introducing online learning as an embedded element of its product for the first time, adding television to Coursera's platform flexibility. Coursera announced the partnership on its blog, saying the TV compatibility will give people access to videos from top academics and industry experts from the comfort of their own living rooms.
52. [Out-mooching the MOOCs: Traditional institutions fight back](#). MOOCs were hailed as the great disruptor to higher education. Now, the institutions they were predicted to dislodge are adapting MOOCs and using their best features for on-campus teaching.

Credentialing

53. [New project tackles alternative credit](#). Participating universities are part of an initiative using alternative credit courses to help nontraditional learners. A group of 111 of alternative credit course offerings will be part of a new initiative to help nontraditional learners earn college degrees. The American Council on Education's (ACE) Alternative Credit Project features low- or no-cost, lower-division general education online courses that were submitted by a group of non-accredited course providers chosen to participate in the Alternative Credit Project.
54. [What the Academic Boot-Camp Boom Could Mean For Small Colleges](#). The rise of alternative credential programs that promise job skills without the cost of a

degree could threaten small colleges, according to a new report by ratings firm Moody's. The report, released in early November, said a move to extend government aid to students in nondegree programs like coding boot camps could make them an attractive alternative to college. "Small, thinly resourced, nonselective colleges will face increasing pressure as other market participants realize the financial gains of these trends," the report said.

Higher Education Funding

55. [US Education Dept. Releases 2 Sets of Rules to Simplify Student Borrowing](#). The U.S. Department of Education has unveiled [two sets of final regulations](#) governing its expanded income-based repayment program and efforts to rein in banks' deals with colleges. The revised [Pay as You Earn](#) plan, dubbed REPAYE, which is one of the department's income-based repayment programs, appears similar to the one negotiators [settled on](#) earlier this year.
56. [Average US Student Debt Climbed Higher in 2014, Study Finds](#). Average student-loan debt among graduates of four-year public and nonprofit private colleges who had incurred debt at the time of graduation climbed to \$28,950 for the Class of 2014, up 2 percent from [the Class of 2013](#).
57. [Malaysia: Universities bear the brunt of cuts as economy slows](#). Malaysia's public universities are reeling after higher education appeared to bear the brunt of cuts announced in the 2016 budget last week. Higher education will see a decrease of MYR1.4 billion (US\$325 million) compared to the previous year – a drop of some 15% from MYR15,785 billion in last year's budget to some MYR13.3 billion.
58. [The German government intends to spend more on education and research next year](#). Higher education is to benefit from this above all with more places at universities, improvements in teaching quality and extra support for research. Federal government funding of education and research is to rise by an additional €1.1 billion in 2016, bringing the total to around €16.4 billion. Well over €2 billion has been earmarked for extra places at universities.

[Trends for Public Funding of Universities in Europe](#). A new [European University Association report](#) on trends in public funding for higher education systems across the continent finds diverging trends, with projected year-over-year increases in public funding for 10 of the university systems studied (the French-speaking community of Belgium, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden) and decreases in another 9 (Croatia, the Czech Republic, Flanders in Belgium, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Serbia, Spain and the United Kingdom). Public higher education funding in Austria was flat from 2014 to 2015.

Technology, Big Data & Learning Analytics

59. [20 should-know technology tidbits from EDUCAUSE](#). A quick-hitting guide to technologies, solutions and business talk from the 2015 EDUCAUSE exhibitor hall. Enabling personalized learning, ensuring mobile capacity and security, and partnering with industry leaders to provide game-changing solutions dominated the exhibit hall at this year's EDUCAUSE 2015.
60. [US Schools focus on data analytics, cybersecurity](#). At EDUCAUSE 2015, Dell announced the Dell Statistica Free Academic Program, a free version of its Statistica advanced analytics software now available to all U.S. college students and professors, to help boost interest in and preparedness for data analytics careers. The Dell Statistica Free Academic Program is designed to bolster college students' interest in data analytics.
61. [Students speak up about learning analytics](#). A [New survey](#) reveals that instant feedback through learning analytics access could help students' academic performance. Students' desire for instant feedback, such as the kind they receive through social media, could be a significant asset when it comes to studying with the help of learning analytics technology, new research suggests.

Rankings, Ratings and Benchmarking

62. [Are global rankings losing their credibility?](#) The international university ranking scene has become increasingly complex, confusing and controversial. It also seems that the big name brands are having problems balancing popularity with reliability and validity. All this is apparent from the events of the last two months which has seen the publication of several major rankings.
63. [University ranking methodologies. An interview with Ben Sowter about the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Ranking.](#) The 2015 edition of the QS World University Rankings published in October 2015, introduced major methodological innovations and, as a consequence, many universities worldwide underwent major changes of their scores and ranks. Ben Sowter, head of division of intelligence unit of Quacquarelli Symonds, responds to 15 questions about the new QS methodology.
64. [Does University Age Count? U-Multirank's New Readymade Rankings by Age.](#) We may admire the vitality of youth, but we venerate the wisdom of age. When it comes to universities, does age count in the same ways? U-Multirank's latest analysis reveals that, 'yes', age does indeed make a difference when it comes to research performance. Older universities tend to do better. However, there are many cases of young universities performing significantly 'above their age'.
65. [Emerging Global Employability Survey 2015 – The rise of university brands in a globalised higher education market.](#) Globalisation and digitalisation are megatrends that are transforming the university market and the concept of employability. A new global landscape of university brands is emerging. Who are the new players and why are they successful? Which university models offer a sustainable answer to talent shortage in this new context?
66. [Using earnings data to rank colleges: A value-added approach updated with College Scorecard data.](#) Following up on previous Brookings research measuring the value colleges add to student outcomes irrespective of student characteristics, this study

analyses the Obama administration's new College Scorecard database to produce value-added rankings for 3,173 colleges (1,507 two-year colleges and 1,666 four-year colleges), based on the earnings of alumni.

67. [US, China and UK top US News global rankings.](#) Universities in the US, China and the UK make up over a third of the institutions featured in the second annual **Best Global Universities** rankings from [US News and World Report](#), which for the first time has included Africa in its regional league tables.
68. [THE 2015 Global Employability rankings.](#) The Times Higher Education list is dominated by US institutions which claim seven of the top 10 spots and 39 places in the overall top 150. After the UK and the US, France is the most-represented country in the table with 10 institutions, including three in the top 25. The ranking was created from the combined votes of 2,200 recruiters and 2,400 managing directors of international companies or subsidiaries across 20 countries. View the full methodology [here](#).
69. [Which MBA Programs produce the highest paid graduates?](#) Want to know more about the current state of MBA hiring around the world? Get all the latest information on the global MBA jobs market with QS TopMBA.com Jobs & Salary Trends Report 2015/16.
70. [French universities struggle in world rankings.](#) The lack of French universities in world ranking tables suggests that institutions are struggling to be recognised globally. In a recent survey of 18 EU countries, foreign exchange students rated French universities lowest in terms of academic satisfaction. Only two French universities reached the top 100 in the recent [QS World University Ranking](#). There is growing talk of the need for reform.
71. [Russian universities to focus on subject-based rankings.](#) Academicians say Russian universities may need a few decades to get into the top 100 in institutional rankings. When it comes to rankings by subject, Russian universities are in a stronger position.
72. [Six universities join Russia's Project 5-100.](#) Six more universities have joined Russia's [Project 5-100](#), an initiative created to get five of the country's universities into the top 100 global rankings.
73. [The state of international student mobility in 2015.](#) As you read this, close to five million students are studying outside their home countries, more than double the 2.1 million who did so in 2000 and more than triple the number in 1990. This astounding growth has occurred in the context of an increasingly globalised world in which economies are closely tied to others within their region and beyond.
74. [OECD: Half of world's mobile students from Asia in 2013.](#) Asian students continued to represent over half of international students enrolled in tertiary education in 2013, according to the latest [Education at a Glance](#) report by OECD, which also shows the proportion of international students is higher at the more advanced degree levels.
75. [Investing in Success of International Students:](#) Understanding Needs and Behaviors of Diverse Segments. [International student segmentation](#) is one of the frameworks that help us understand the changing needs and behaviors of international students. First launched in 2012 with the research report [Not All International Students Are the Same](#), the segmentation framework aims to inform enrollment strategies and practices in the context of the diverse needs, motivations and preferences of international students.
76. [Extreme Study Abroad: The World Is Their Campus.](#) As educators question what college should look like in the 21st century, one answer is: global. And to higher education trailblazers, that means more than junior year abroad or overseas internships.
77. [Science develops an algorithm for college selection—but does it work?](#) Companies turn to scientific modeling and algorithms to help narrow down college selection, with the goal of dramatically decreasing dropout rate. A new algorithm is using data and predictive analytics to determine, with noteworthy accuracy (90 percent), which institution is the best match for students.

Student Recruitment and Mobility

78. [Work, research key to attracting STEM students, survey finds.](#) STEM students are driven to study overseas by employability, access to better quality education and the promise of adventure, according to a [study](#) of mobile students in the world's top four study destination countries. Presented by the British Council, the report released this week includes a survey of STEM undergraduate and postgraduate students in the US, the UK, Australia, and Canada on their motivations to study internationally alongside analysis of each country's policy on post-study work.
79. [Agents of change: How does the rise in digital innovation impact study travel?](#) From online shopping to social life planning to live streaming, many of our everyday consumer needs can now be catered for online. As a result, an increasing number of service industries have shifted their operations away from the analogue and into the digital. But what effect is this having on the landscape of study travel?
80. [2015-2016 MBA Application Deadlines U.S.](#) Those first round deadlines for MBA applications are getting earlier. Though Harvard Business School kept its deadline the same of the 2015-2016 admissions cycle, rivals Stanford Graduate School of Business, MIT Sloan, and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School have all moved up their early deadlines this year for candidates who want to get into those prestige MBA programs.
81. [NAFSA President: Time to change study abroad.](#) Educators in the US must change their approach to study abroad in order to actually boost outbound numbers, Fanta Aw, president of [NAFSA](#), has said. "We understand that study abroad is to change if it is to work in the context of the US," she told delegates at the Australian International Education Conference [this month](#), adding that traditional models of study abroad are being "questioned" by students.
82. [UK, US study travel sector forced to evolve in face of business squeeze.](#) Economic pressures in many markets resulting in the UK pound and the US dollar rising in comparative cost combined with a discounting price war meant that summer business in the UK and US study travel sectors was tense this year. With little change in key market economies or discounting from global chains, discussions at the ICEF Berlin workshop were dominated by serious concerns from ELT operators about the next 12 months.
83. [Canada: 10% year-on-year growth in international enrolments.](#) A state-of-play report released this week by [CBIE](#) in Canada underlines an overall growth rate of 10% in international student enrolments from 2013-2014, with 336,497 international students studying in Canada in 2014 – up 83% in a decade.
84. [Signs of strengthening demand for study abroad in Japan.](#) The number of Japanese students going abroad to study rose in 2012 for the first time since 2004. The number of Japanese high school students participating in group tours abroad also grew by 11% in 2013/14, as compared to two years earlier. China is attracting a larger share of Japanese outbound students, and edged out the US as the leading study destination among Japanese students for 2012.
85. [Finding opportunities within crisis in Brazil.](#) Brazil is in the grip of an economic crisis that has pressured consumer spending and weakened the Brazilian currency. This in turn has made it much more expensive for Brazilians to travel or study abroad. The expectation is that the market will decline this year but there are surprising and important areas of demand, particularly in the form of students who are committed to improving their skills for better employment prospects.
86. [Russia: new language exam could help failing outbound market, say agents.](#) A new push to promote foreign language learning in Russian public education is likely to fuel an increase in demand for outbound study in the coming years, stakeholders have said. As of this year high school students must learn two foreign languages, and the government plans to introduce a compulsory end of high school English exam in 2020.
87. [A record number of 90 thousand foreign students are enrolled in Dutch universities this year, making up more than 10 percent of all students.](#) ²³ thousand of these foreign students are from countries outside of Europe. This is according to figures released by EP Nuffic, the expertise and service center for the internationalisation of Dutch education.
88. [The Guessing Game: Where Will Your International Students Come from in 10 Years?](#) Many institutions think about international recruitment as hitting numerical targets for the coming year, but what about longer-term plans? A British Council report on [graduate mobility by 2024](#) projects that the quickest growing markets for the US between 2012 and 2024 will be Nigeria (+9.4%), India (+8%), Saudi Arabia (+6.3%), Pakistan (+5.4%), and Indonesia (+5.3%).

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A great way to get involved with the AAIR community is to share your thoughts and ideas. Do you have something you would like to share with your IR colleagues? The next AAIR Newsletter will be published in late January. Please send your contributions to the editor@aair.org.au by Friday 15 January.



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