



Judo champ's Tefi turnaround: p3

Oz sees English boost

AS EUROPE'S economic woes worsen, students are choosing other places, particularly Australia, to study English. In 2011 over 130,000 students from 140 countries took part in EL courses in Australia, according to language association English Australia. That makes it the fourth most popular destination for EFL students, behind the UK, US and Canada.

Australia's natural-resource-based economy is booming. In April the IMF predicted that Australia would be the 'best performing major advanced economy in the world over the next two years'.

Many students are taking advantage of this by working during their courses and applying to stay on afterwards. *The Australian* reported that the number of Greeks who studied English in Australia increased from thirteen in 2011 to 123 in 2012. China, Korea and Japan are by far the largest source countries for English language courses in Australia.



SPEAKING UP Burmese opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi was guest of honour at a British Council event in London in June (pictured with BC chief executive Martin Davidson). With Ms Kyi's release last year from fifteen years of house arrest, and Burma's military regime apparently moving towards democratic reforms, the country's diplomatic isolation is ending, sparking a new demand for English language learning. Ms Kyi's visit followed the BC's recent signing of an agreement with Burma's education ministry to train 10,000 English teachers a year.

Courtesy: Frank Noon



Page 4: In the honours – Sir Roger Fry leads the Queen's birthday list



Page 6: Read before you rush in – key data about the MENA market

'Guidance' causes course chaos at US unis

EXCLUSIVE: Homeland Security gaffe trips up English programmes over accreditation law change

JESSICA CONTRERA writes

A CHANGE in accreditation law in the US has left thousands of universities concerned about the future of their English programmes. However, the Department of Homeland Security has indicated to the *Gazette* a simple solution: a letter from accreditation agencies.

Enacted in December 2010, the Accreditation of English Language Training Act requires all intensive English programmes (IEPs) to be accredited by a national or regional agency to enrol international students. IEPs are typically English courses leading to university entrance and often based on campus. However, they are not necessarily owned and operated by universities themselves.

Until April 2012 universities who ran their own IEPs were unaffected by the law as accreditation of the university was sufficient. But a message of 'guidance' circulated by the International Student Exchange and Visitor Program (SEVP), a branch of Homeland Security (which includes immigration), stated that all IEPs 'must either possess or have applied for accreditation before Dec 15, 2011, by a regional or national accrediting agency', regardless of whether they are managed by a university.

This is where the problems began. Regional and national accreditation bodies certify universities as a whole – not specific courses.

SEVP began 'out-of-cycle' reviews and IEPs received notification that they had to provide documentation of their courses' accreditation within ninety days. But administrators were at a loss for how to respond. Bronwyn Jenkins-Deas, associate dean of

international education programmes at University of California, Riverside, said her university, the largest recruiter of international students in the country, spent five months trying to properly satisfy SEVP's requests.

'We didn't know where to turn,' she told the *Gazette*. 'It was right up to the wire, and I still don't know if we are going to be successful. And if we are not, well, I can't even say what will happen. We bring in more than 3,500 students to learn English each year.'

Associations such as the American Association of Intensive English Programs (AAIEP) and University and College Intensive English Programs wrote letters and statements to SEVP, trying to find answers. But other than a confusing comment made by a Department of Homeland Security at an international education conference, they received no response.

'It seems as if SEVP did not understand that regional accreditors do not accredit specific programmes,' said Patricia Juza, AAIEP vice president for advocacy. 'By not releasing a statement with a clear-cut answer, they have made thousands of [intensive] English programs vulnerable to closure.'

However, the *Gazette* received confirmation from officials at Homeland Security and three regional accreditation agencies that there is a solution: the accrediting body can submit a letter stating, 'XYZ University is accredited by our accreditation agency. The Intensive English Program at XYZ University is included within that accreditation.'

As for other ways to confirm the IEP is accredited, SEVP response team lead Cynthia Alexander-Stokes told the *Gazette*, 'We are still working it out.'

Language schools
High Standard

- Bell Educational Trust (Cambridge, London, Kent) ****
- British Study Centres Bournemouth ****
- Capital School of English Bournemouth ****
- Churchill House, Ramsgate ****
- Crest Schools of English London ****
- EC Bristol ****
- English in Chester ****
- English Language Centre Brighton and Eastbourne ****
- Francis King London ****
- Interactive English Language School Hove ****
- International House Bristol ****
- Kaplan Bath ****
- Kaplan Cambridge ****
- Kaplan London ****

Page 8: All current Independent Schools Inspectorate results



Pages 9-10: Cill methods in bilingual Belgium and 'upside down' Australia

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