



Newsletter
Issue
10/2016

October
2016

From the President's Desk

by Dave Marr

Well, the time has finally arrived; my last report from the President's desk. Of course it brings with it mixed emotions. It's been an honour and a privilege to have worked with the great team at AAIR HQ. AAIR continues to be a robust but quite small organisation, reliant on voluntary contributions by its Executive Committee members who work tirelessly in the background to keep AAIR relevant, viable and in touch. The Committee is always well supported by its Executive Officer, Liesha Northover, who continues to find more and more imaginative ways in which to couch our bulletins and other communications. And then there's our superb Newsletter Editor, Louise Hargreaves, who has set the bar very high when it comes to providing the myriad pieces of information that fill the pages of the newsletter every month. We surely have been fortunate to have had Louise in that role for the past two years.

I must also mention Victoria Chapman and her wonderful colleagues at Leishman Associates who have been partnering with AAIR as our preferred event manager since 2008. They make the process of organising our events so much less painful than would otherwise be the case, and for that I'm extremely grateful. Of course, they get paid for the privilege, but I'm certain AAIR gets very good value for the outlay and will continue to do so at least until the end of our contractual arrangement in 2019.

What legacy I will leave when I step down is really for others to judge. Clichéd I know, but that's the reality. What I can outline are those things that have occurred over the past four years. You can be the judge as to whether they've had a positive or a negative impact:

- Strategic Planning – AAIR really needed to revisit who we are, who we represent, and what our goals are, and thus what value proposition we could provide our members. During the period 2014–15 we embarked on a Strategic Planning process with the assistance of Dr Daniel Moody. The Committee gave freely of their time, their ideas and energy, and AAIR has been the beneficiary of that effort (see <http://www.aair.org.au/pages/mission-statement>). We have implemented—or are in the process of implementing—a number of strategic projects: redeveloping the website; revising the membership model (more on that a bit later); developing regional events (the first held in Melbourne in March 2016; another to be held in Sydney in early 2017); looking at ways to further engage with the Australian Network of University Planners (ANUP); and running a webinar series (unfortunately this is still on the drawing board).
- Event Management – Leishman Associates had been AAIR's event manager since the November Forum in 2008, but a new contract was drawn up annually for each individual event. This suited AAIR during those early years, but in 2015 it was decided to put the job of event manager out to tender, expand the scope to being a four year contract, and include management of the SIG Forum as well. Three event management organisations submitted very strong tenders and Leishman Associate were subsequently offered the contract. This now allows AAIR to plan its forums a few years in advance, allowing our members more certainty as to where and when our Forums will be held in the coming years. The Annual Forum will be held in the November of: 2017 in Alice Springs; 2018 in Melbourne; and in 2019 we'll revisit Canberra after an absence of 11 years. There is still less certainty around where the SIG Forums will be held, but clarity around that event will come to the fore in 2017.
- Successful forums – of course our flagship events, the AAIR Annual Forum in November and the SIG Forum in the middle of the year, continue to attract high quality

presenters both for keynote and concurrent sessions, and a vast variety of delegates across all aspects of IR, in particular our special interest areas. One significant development has been the successful inclusion of a stream in teaching evaluation since 2014, which had previously been offered as the Australian Higher Education Evaluation Forum (AHEEF). This joint venture has allowed both groups to enjoy the added dimensions each can now encounter at the AAIR Annual Forum. I'm confident this arrangement will continue to be mutually beneficial for many years to come.

- Endorsement of pertinent forums – AAIR has continued to endorse a number of forums which we believe provides access to 'like' events—often offering a member discount, that AAIR on its own would not be able to run. These have included: Criterion, Edutech, NCVER, Gartner, Liquid Learning, Altis, Tableau and Analytics 8.
- Membership – in 2012, AAIR introduced a new category of membership, [Retired Member](#). To date, no-one has applied to join this category. Wendy Marchmont in 2011 and Roni McDowell in 2012 were inducted as Life Members of AAIR.
- Higher Education Jobs Board – also in 2012, AAIR launched its [Higher Education Jobs Board](#). This facility has proven to be very popular and successful over the years, with more and more institutions availing of the opportunity to advertise both on the AAIR website and through direct email notifications to our members. We plan to improve this facility with the new website in 2017.
- Fellowships – Two categories of fellowship have been created as a way of supporting our members to advance their career aspirations and to attend relevant events for professional development. In the 3 years AAIR has been offering fellowships, two members have been successful in receiving an award.
- A permanent address – [National Postal Services](#) (Natpost) offer a service to host a virtual suite or box in the Melbourne CBD. As AAIR is incorporated in Victoria, it seemed

only appropriate that our address reside in Melbourne. Our new address is: Suite 204, 585 Little Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000.

- Legislative and financial reporting up-to-date – in 2011 AAIR was still struggling to meet its legislative and financial reporting requirements. Since then, due to the efforts of both Jeff Holmes and David De Bellis as Treasurer, AAIR is now in a position where it is up-to-date with its reporting.
- Succession planning of the Committee members – of course it's hard to sustain member interest in serving on the Committee, especially in a voluntary capacity. Since 2012, the Executive Committee has striven to encourage new Committee members to take on a co-opted role in the first instance before standing for an elected position. Likewise, we've encouraged people to 'shadow' key roles on the Committee. In this way, people such as I, can step down knowing that there are others who can confidently step into the role. The Committee is much stronger as a result. Added to this, clear Position Descriptions have been developed.
- Closure of JIR – for a number of years, Forum presenters were encouraged to submit written papers, many of which were deemed suitable for publication in the Journal of Institutional Research. However, insufficient interest over a number of years, despite many a call to come to the aid of the JIR, has meant that the Journal was officially wound up in March 2016, with the last edition being in July 2014. All back issues are still currently available on the AAIR website at <http://www.aair.org.au/journal/index> or via the National Library of Australia's [Pandora](#) web archive. In the wake of the closure of the JIR, AAIR has started to produce Proceedings for its Annual Forums. The Proceedings of the 2015 AAIR Annual Forum in Wellington, NZ, is available [here](#).
- AAIR has invested in some application software to assist in the running of our events and collection of money. These include: PayPal (which allows members to now pay with a credit card), Eventbrite, and Survey Monkey.

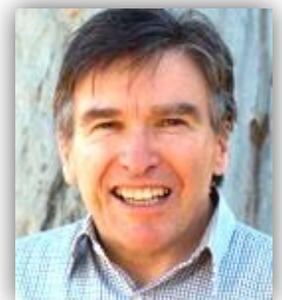
MailChimp has been used for many years now for all correspondence, and is presently still free. We've also recently started using a free conference call facility for all Executive and other Committee meetings, which has saved the Association around AUD\$1,800 per year.

At its last meeting the Executive Committee endorsed a new membership model to commence in 2018. Its main feature will be that membership will not be an automatic part of a forum registration, but simply an option if a delegate chooses to either join or renew their membership at that time. Otherwise, a membership renewal notice will be sent out early in the year to all whose memberships have lapsed. New members can join at any time by completing an [online membership form](#) on the AAIR website. An invoice will then be generated using PayPal. Each member will be assigned a unique membership ID and these will be required to be entered when registering at a Forum as a member. These IDs will be sent out early in 2017. The AAIR membership fee has remained static since 2009, so it is intended that this will rise to AUD\$130 p.a. plus gst (where applicable) from 2018. This model will allow each forum registrant to make their own decision as to whether they wish to become an AAIR member or not. It will also mean that the annual clean-up of lapsed membership will be a much neater exercise.

I will be at the Sydney Forum at least for the Forum Dinner on Tuesday 15 November, and all day on Wednesday 16 November, so please come up and say 'hello'. It's promising to be a great Forum, so please refer to the advert in this Newsletter and register ASAP.

I'm always pleased to hear your views, so feel free to drop me a line at president@aair.org.au, or via our Secretary, Andrea, at secretary@aair.org.au.

David Marr
AAIR President





14-16 November, 2016

Where:

Crowne Plaza Coogee, NSW

Registration is open

Preliminary Program Announced

Take a moment to view the concurrent sessions confirmed for this year's AAIR Forum. With thirty concurrent sessions and speakers from leading institutions from across Australia and New Zealand, the program aims to promote engagement, knowledge sharing and innovation. Please keep an eye out for further program announcements in the coming weeks.

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2016 Annual AAIR Forum which is being held in beautiful beachside Coogee, NSW, Australia. The 2016 Forum: Bridging Data and Decisions, is being held over two days on the 15th and 16th of November, with a welcome reception, pre-forum workshops and special interest groups to be run on Monday, 14th November 2016. Only 20 minutes from the Sydney CBD and Sydney airport, Crowne Plaza Coogee is a convenient and ideal location for this year's event where AAIR guests will enjoy a beautiful beach side setting away from the hustle of the city.

We will hear from specialists across Australasia who will focus on the various topics that fall under the banner of institutional research including: business

intelligence and analytics; compliance and government reporting; informing learning and teaching through evaluation and surveys; planning, policy and positioning plus many more sub themes.

This year's special interest groups will be run on the day prior to the forum, in addition to workshops so that those with a particular interest in these topics can elect to attend an extra day.

We look forward to welcoming our valued sponsors who continue to support the event, many of whom continue to participate in sessions and really are part of the fabric of the AAIR Fora. Over many years, these sponsors have been assisting IR staff to develop their services through technological solutions or other forms of assistance. Take the opportunity to speak with these vendors as often they're working closely with many of your colleagues in other institutions. Now in its 27th year, the Forum is the leading event for those working in institutional research and we anticipate a fantastic program which will be supported by the many institutions across Australasia. Join us in Coogee where we'll be Bridging Data and Decisions at the AAIR Annual Forum!

Dave Marr
President, AAIR.

Themes

- Benchmarking for Continuous Quality Improvement
- Informing Learning and Teaching through Evaluation and Surveys
- Closing the Loop – Putting Evidence into Practice
- Influencing Change through Information and Evaluation
- Modelling the Implications of Change
- Looking forward, looking back, new horizons
- Compliance and Government Reporting
- Planning, Policy and Positioning
- Business Intelligence and Analytics

Our Sponsors:



2016 Bruce Zimmer Travel Fellowship - Report



Naomi Doncaster, winner of the 2016 Zimmer Travel Fellowship

I was the recipient of the Bruce Zimmer Travel Fellowship awarded by AAIR in 2016 and used it to attend the Higher Education Institutional Research (HEIR) conference held in the John Lennon Art & Design Building at Liverpool John Moores University (UK).

The conference was relatively small, with 48 papers presented over 2 days. The majority of presenters were from the UK with others coming from further afield such as the US, Scandinavia, Turkey and Jamaica.

The conference theme of 'metrics that matter' was discussed in light of the forthcoming Teaching Excellence Framework (from the same stable as the Research Excellence Framework), including the notion of measuring learning gain. Some pilot projects are underway to explore ways in which

learning gain might be measured through use of longitudinal grade data, development of skills such as problem solving and critical thinking, work readiness and graduate earnings. The consensus seemed to be that whilst these may work for individual institutions they tend not to be scalable to a national level.

Whilst this agenda is unique to the UK, some of the other metrics discussed would be familiar to Australian institutions, such as student retention, graduate employment and metrics from surveys of student satisfaction & engagement.

It was interesting to hear over the two days where universities were working collaboratively on various projects, and also the active involvement of students in research projects, sometimes in a paid capacity.

The HEIR operates on a different basis to AAIR being a network of institutional researchers rather than a member based association. The main event each year is this conference but they also publish occasional papers, see <http://www.heirnetwork.org.uk/>

I would like to thank AAIR for providing this Fellowship and would recommend others to apply in the future. If anyone fancies a long flight, the 2017 HEIR conference will be held at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen.



Naomi Doncaster
Southern Cross University

Higher Education@home

by Louise Hargreaves

Higher Education Reform

1. [Expert panel to help take higher education reform from paper to policy.](#) An expert advisory panel will work 'hand in glove' with the Turnbull Government to help develop a future plan for Australia's higher education system to ensure it promotes excellence and innovation and is sustainable for generations to come. Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham said the panel would work alongside him to take the more than 1,000 submissions made in response to the Driving Fairness, Innovation and Excellence in Australian Higher Education policy options paper from 'paper to policy'.
2. [John Dawkins says his university reforms are 'completely out of date'.](#) In a dramatic repudiation of Labor party policy, Hawke government education minister John Dawkins has called for sweeping reforms to higher education, including fee deregulation, saying that the system he built 30 years ago is not meeting today's needs.
3. [Slow path to getting fee reform in university sector.](#) Earlier this week Australia's most influential higher education minister, John Dawkins, lamented a [contemporary malaise in higher education](#) policy. From his perspective, too much of the policy architecture he put in place nearly 30 years ago is still there, not coping with circumstances never anticipated in the late 1980s. This is true of Dawkins' most innovative policy, the HECS loan scheme under which students can pay nothing upfront, repaying later according to their income. Originally, HECS loans were taken out by a limited number of students in price-controlled courses. Most early graduates borrowing under HECS left university with debts of \$12,000-\$15,000 in today's money.
4. [Unis balk at fee plans.](#) Universities have balked at the government's plan to allow them to partially deregulate fees using "flagship" courses ahead of a redesign of higher education due to start in 2018. The government floated the idea of allowing universities to set their own fees for flagship courses,

defined as unique or innovative offerings, in an options paper released before the election.

5. [Why we need an independent authority to oversee tertiary education.](#) People without a tertiary education will be increasingly less able to participate in the future labour market. Over the five years to November 2015, the majority of Australia's employment growth [was in occupations](#) that require post-school qualifications through either university or vocational education and training (VET). This is no longer a trend – it is an established labour market reality.

Policy & Regulation Watch

6. [New VET Student Loans a win-win for students and taxpayers.](#) The Turnbull Government will introduce a new affordable, sustainable and student-focussed [vocational education and training student loans program](#) for 2017 in a win-win for students and taxpayers.
7. [Assistant minister intervenes as SSVF brings visa delays.](#) Australia's assistant minister for immigration and border protection, Alex Hawke, has been forced to step in to address visa delays that struck the international education sector after the introduction of the Simplified Student Visa Framework in July. A delegation of education institutions representing all levels of international education in Australia met with the assistant minister this month to discuss huge delays to visa processing caused by new screening requirements under the new system and a sudden influx of applications under the old one.
8. [NSW calls for universities to cap teaching spots.](#) Universities need to stop exploiting the demand-driven system by over-enrolling students in cheap teaching degrees and return to capped places, NSW argues. As part of efforts to lift the standards and prestige of teachers, NSW Education Minister Adrian Piccoli is lobbying for talks between the federal and state -



governments with universities to embrace reforms to ensure the supply of new teachers actually matches the jobs on offer and the needs of schools.

9. [Placing a cap on teaching degrees doesn't guarantee better teachers.](#) The New South Wales Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, has floated the idea of placing a cap on teaching degrees. In an era of demand-driven higher education, where universities have the option of expanding places to respond to student demand and achieve economies of scale, Piccoli has called for reforms to ensure the supply of new teachers matches the jobs on offer and the needs of schools. Would the capping of initial teacher education places in fact achieve these twin benefits?
10. [TEQSA releases summary report from sector consultation on external reporting.](#) TEQSA has released the summary report from its August 2016 sector consultation on TEQSA's External Reporting Program. The proposed areas for reporting aim to enhance and improve the level of publicly available information on the Australian higher education sector, with a view to better informing Australia's higher education in the areas of quality and regulation.
11. [Spread HECS loans more widely, says new Mitchell Institute report.](#) Federal and state governments should co-operate in a joint system to fund and regulate all levels of tertiary education and clean up today's piecemeal system, says a [new report](#) from the Mitchell Institute. The study, a new system for financing tertiary education, also calls for HECS-type loans to be offered to all

Higher Education Funding

subsidised post-school courses, whether in higher education or at the vocational level.

12. [HEPPP: National Priorities Pool 2016](#). The National Priorities Pool component of HEPPP provides funding for projects that support the more effective implementation of HEPPP nationally and at the institutional level. \$4.26 million of 2016 National Priorities Pool funding has been awarded to 23 projects from universities across Australia, for projects that aim to improve the policy basis and on the ground delivery of the HEPPP. These projects also focus on reducing barriers to higher education for students from low socio-economic status (SES) backgrounds from regional and remote Australia.

Sector News and Views

13. [Being an Australian university president is a sweet gig](#). In the first chart, I take the top-ten highest-paid university Presidents in each country and average their salaries. As is plainly evident, the highest-earners Canadian Presidents are nowhere near as well paid as their foreign counterparts - in fact they receive less than half what top brass are paid in Australia (it's difficult to be definitive given the different ways of converting currencies, but essentially, the worst-paid President in Australia is better-compensated than the top-earning President in Canada).
14. [Creative skills more important than STEM: Deloitte's John Hagel](#). The creation of artificial intelligence means schools, universities and workplaces should focus on creative skills, rather than emphasising science, technology, engineering and maths, Deloitte's Centre for the Edge managing director and co-chairman John Hagel says. Many argue that universities, overseas and in [Australia, are not producing enough STEM graduates](#), but Mr Hagel believes AI can take care of a lot of tasks in the STEM category.
15. [Deakin cuts courses to keep Warrnambool campus open](#). Deakin University has said it will cop \$5 million a year in annual losses to keep its troubled Warrnambool campus afloat but will shut down 16 small-enrolment programs among its current offering of 22 degrees in a compromise that will result in job losses. Professor den Hollander told students, staff and the local community on Monday that

significant change would have to be embraced to keep the remote campus afloat, including increased online learning and the closure of 12 undergraduate degrees, three associate degrees and a graduate diploma, resulting in unspecified job losses.

Big Data, Analytics & Technology

16. [William Massy criticises university decision-makers' data use](#). William Massy's book *Reengineering the University* is not for the faint-hearted. After decades on the frontline of university decision-making and finances, he is convinced there is much more that can be done to develop evidence-based and transparent processes — such as using the available data that university departments routinely have at their disposal to plan and budget according to their mission. "I'm always surprised that more universities don't use big data to make evidence-based decisions.

Graduate Outcomes

17. [Has the graduate job market been swamped?](#) In Australia, the proportion of new graduates in full-time employment has declined every year over the period 2009-2014 according to the Graduate Destination Survey (GDS). While it may be the case that poor labour market conditions, together with the size of the cohort, will impact on the proportion of new graduates getting a full-time job, our interest is in whether there has been a structural shift in the graduate labour market, such that new graduates are experiencing labour market conditions more severe than those expected on the basis of earlier experience.

International Education

18. [New Council for International Education](#). The Turnbull Government has charged a council of experts to strengthen and expand the role of Australia's international education sector as a global leader in training and research. Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham announced the membership of the Council for International Education to oversee Australia's first National Strategy for International Education 2025 which is

being supported by \$12 million from the Turnbull Government.

Online Learning

19. [Australian start-up OpenLearning underpins Malaysian universities' push into online learning](#). Australian start-up OpenLearning is the backbone for the Malaysian higher education system's ambitious push into online courses with its platform being used to teach nearly 200,000 students in public universities. OpenLearning CEO and co-founder Adam Brimo said Malaysia's 20 public universities were rapidly increasing the number of courses they offered online using his company's platform. This year 300 courses are either running or under development, compared to 64 courses in 2015.

Research

20. [R&D Tax Incentive Review report: important step](#). University Australia welcomes the [R&D Tax Incentive Review report](#) released this month as an important step towards lifting university-industry research collaboration. The report makes six recommendations to improve the effectiveness and integrity of the research and development tax incentive including introducing a premium to encourage university-industry collaboration.

[New arrangements for research block grants for 2017](#). As part of the National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA), new funding arrangements will replace the existing six research block grants with two streamlined programs: Research Support Program (RSP) replaces the Research Infrastructure Block Grants, Joint Research Engagement and the Sustainable Research Excellence. Research Training Program (RTP) replaces the Australian Postgraduate Awards, International Postgraduate Research Scholarships and the Research Training Scheme.

Student Recruitment & Mobility

21. [Continued international enrolment growth for Australia through mid-2016](#). A new report from Australia's Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) provides some interesting insights on international

student enrolment in Australia as well as the country's student visa system. "[Student visa and temporary graduate visa programme trends: 2009-10 to 2015-16](#)" builds on early reports of [continued enrolment growth for 2016](#) with updated statistics through June 2016.

[Australia's top-ranked global university moves to lower share of Chinese students.](#) Australia's top-ranked global university is moving to lower its proportion of Chinese international students, a group it describes as "dominating" international student numbers. Documents unearthed in a freedom of information request reveal the Australian National University has since 2015 quietly implemented a "diversification strategy" in an attempt to lower its share of Chinese enrolments. ANU has the largest proportion of Chinese students in the Group of Eight universities.

Who's on the Move (or not)?

22. [Turnbull given adjunct role at UNSW.](#) Lucy Turnbull has been appointed an adjunct professorship at the University of NSW which will tap into her interests in cities and technological and social innovation. Mrs Turnbull was the first female Lord Mayor of Sydney between 2003-04. The role will run concurrently with her position as chief commissioner of the Greater Sydney Commission, an independent body set up by the state government to deliver more cohesive and effective citywide planning.

Tips and Tricks

23. [Get Your Internet Connection's Speed from Google.](#) From time to time in everyone's life, it can be useful to know just how fast your connection to the internet is. Maybe you're trying to decide whether to prep for class by reviewing a video, or to download a data set from a colleague, or anything else. Sometimes you just want to figure out why it's taking so long to get your email. There are plenty of internet speed test apps and websites out there, but today I learned [from Addictive Tips's Fatima Wahab](#) that if you Google "speed test," the search engine will offer to check your connection:

Institutional Researcher's Corner

24. [IPEDS Tutorials Fall collection update.](#) The 2016-2017 Fall IPEDS Data Collection Cycle is now open. AIR is pleased to announce 16 updated video tutorials (as of September 7) related to survey components. Funded and approved by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the tutorials are free of charge.
25. [The REAL Data Revolution.](#) There's a coming data revolution in higher education, but it's not the "big data" revolution that many have been hyping. This revolution will be more about the right data than bigger data. And it's not data on traditional education metrics, but rather data that have been largely—indeed, embarrassingly—missing from higher education.
26. UK: Higher Education Facts and Figures. Universities UK's annual [Higher education in facts and figures](#) booklet has been published and, as ever, is full of useful stats, charts and infographics. It covers a range of areas – from university admissions and qualifications, to data on staff, research funding and international students.
27. [The Chronicle: Data that puts the focus on student success.](#) Trying to make sense of how big data can help you focus on student success? Our report, Big Data Has Arrived, can help. Based on a 2016 survey of senior academic officers at both two- and four-year institutions, the report provides key insights into: How institutions are driving student learning leveraging big data; How investments in new technologies are being implemented and who the key decision makers are on campus. Download our report today to read more about how big data could propel student success at your institution.

Frivolous Favourites

28. [At last, a ranking system to sort wheat from chaff.](#) The National University of Typing, Tiling and Yodelling, or NUTTY, was crowned Best University in the World last night at the Frump Resort and Casino in Vladivostok. NUTTY triumphed over 30,000 universities to win the coveted title. The Best University in the World pageant consists of talent and academic robe

competitions plus points for alumni achievements, catchy slogans and inspirational mission statements.

Birds of Academia A spotters guide

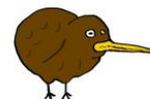


Professorial Turkey

Likes beer and will often dunk its entire head in a pint to drown out any work-based conversation

Stressed Kiwi of deadlines

Stands perfectly still in terror if you mention the words 'submission date'



The Zen chick

Is immune to the stress of grant deadlines – provided it has chocolate

Blue Bird of celebration

Can be identified by its call of "To the pub!" after the end of any deadline



The Hungover Student Robin

Can be found the day after a visit from the Blue Bird of Celebration, scavenging for paracetamol

Laser Eagle Reviewer

Can spot minor typos from 4 miles away, and once identified it will obliterate the author with scathing comments



Blind Mallard Reviewer

Will not read any paper presented to it, and gives comments back based on random thoughts

Lecturer Penguin

Likes Powerpoint but if you ask a question it will stare impassively until you go away



Post-Doc Pigeon

Can be found fighting with other Post-Doc pigeons for research projects, and sleeping on desks

Technician Owl

Knows how everything works, secretly keeps most research projects running – has a perpetual look of weary acceptance



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.

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.

[3rd Annual International Student Recruitment and Marketing Conference](#)

29-30 November, 2016

Novotel, Sydney Central

The conference will bring together more than 30+ confirmed attendees from ANU, HECG, Tafe QLD, Charles Darwin University, University of Adelaide, Oz Study Group, University of Canberra, Hobsons APAC, Hotcourses, RMIT, Box Hill Institute, Scope Global and more.

[Registrations now open](#)

[The Effects of the Dawkins Revolution on Higher Education in Australia.](#)

Fri 11 November 2016

University House, The University of Melbourne

Parkville, VIC 3010

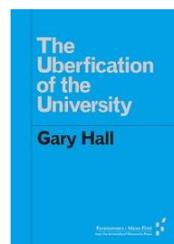
A symposium on 'The Effects of the Dawkins Revolution on Higher Education in Australia' will be held on Friday, 11 November 2016 at the University of Melbourne. It brings together senior current and former academics, politicians, and public servants to reflect on the origins and effects of the Unified National System of higher education in Australia. The reforms undertaken between 1988 and 1996 were a watershed, bringing new ways of funding, directing and organising universities, expanding their size, and reorienting their activities. They set in train a far-reaching transformation of the entire higher education sector.

[Registrations \(Free\) Now Open](#)

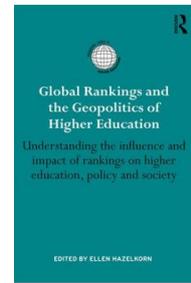
Enjoy Reading?



Here are a few recent releases:

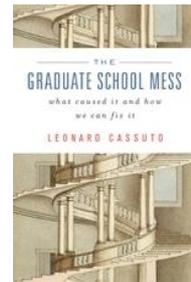


[The Uberfication of the University](#) by Gary Hall analyzes the emergence of the sharing economy and the companies behind it: LinkedIn, Uber, and Airbnb. The book considers the contemporary university, itself subject to such entrepreneurial practices, as one polemical site for the affirmative disruption of this model.



[Global Rankings and the Geopolitics of Higher Education.](#) Edited by Ellen Hazelkorn.

Global rankings and the Geopolitics of Higher Education is an examination of the impact and influence that university rankings have had on higher education, policy and public opinion in recent years. Bringing together some of the most informed authorities on this very complex issue, this edited collection of specially commissioned chapters examines the changes affecting higher education and the implications for society and the economy.



[The Graduate School Mess](#) – What caused it and how we can fix it by Leonard Cassuto.

It is no secret that American graduate education is in disarray. Graduate students take too long to complete their studies and face a dismal academic job market if they succeed. *The Graduate School Mess* gets to the root of these problems and offers concrete solutions for revitalizing graduate education in the humanities. Leonard Cassuto, professor and graduate education columnist for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, argues that universities' heavy emphasis on research comes at the expense of teaching. But teaching is where reforming graduate school must begin.

Higher Education Abroad

by Louise Hargreaves

Global News & Views

1. [LinkedIn's New Learning Platform to Recommend Lynda Courses for Professionals](#). LinkedIn loves to learn. The social media site for professionals has announced an online learning portal with thousands of courses aimed at helping individuals pivot or pick up new skills for their careers. If that offering sounds like what one might find on Lynda.com, which LinkedIn acquired 18 months ago for \$1.5 billion, that's because it is. The new product, LinkedIn Learning, includes all 5,000 courses published on Lynda.com, and any new courses created will be published on both platforms.
2. [Gates Foundation Refocuses Higher-Ed Priorities](#). The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have [released an updated list of priorities](#) that it will double down on in higher education. Improving data infrastructure, simplifying federal financial aid and supporting student-centered pathways are among the foundation's areas of focus for the upcoming year.
3. [Five Ways to View the ROI of Student Support Services](#). Student support services can be notoriously difficult to defend when facing budget shortfalls and competing priorities. In reality, the positive impact of well-executed student services can not only pay for themselves but generate additional revenue to protect an institution's long-term financial health. What's the litmus test for determining if a student services initiative is worth the investment?
4. [Which country really has the cleverest students?](#) Higher education has a strong sense of hierarchy. And high-profile international league tables are a very public form of this pecking order. While these might measure a whole range of factors - from reputation and staff ratios to research output - what they do not compare is the ability of students who have been taught in these universities. But the OECD has now published test results comparing the ability of graduates in different countries.

5. [Number of International Branch Campuses Hits 250](#).

About 180,000 students worldwide are enrolled in international branch campuses, according to highlights released from a forthcoming report by the Observatory on Borderless Education and the Cross-Border Education Research Team (C-BERT) at the State University of New York at Albany. Steady growth in new campuses has continued: a total of 66 international branch campuses were founded from 2011 to 2015, compared to 67 between 2006 and 2010.

6. [Universities Are Churning Out the Next Generation of Higher Ed Bureaucrats](#).

The number of non-academic administrators at colleges and universities has more than doubled in the last 25 years, far outpacing the growth in students and faculty. According to [a report](#) from the American Institutes for Research, between 2000 and 2012 the average ratio of full-time faculty and staff per administrator declined 40 percent, to around 2.5 to 1.

7. [Are traditional college campuses going the way of Blockbuster and Circuit City?](#)

A [recent column I wrote about the growing legitimacy of online education](#), particularly for graduate degrees, had some readers questioning whether college campuses would follow the demise of big box retailers, such as Blockbuster or Borders. One day, instead of passing by empty Circuit City stores that now litter our landscape, might we see abandoned college campuses?

8. [Technology Will Replace Many Doctors, Lawyers, and Other Professionals](#).

Faced with the claim that AI and robots are poised to replace most of today's workforce, most mainstream professionals — doctors, lawyers, accountants, and so on — believe they will emerge largely unscathed. During our consulting work and at conferences, we regularly hear practitioners concede that routine work can be taken on by machines, but they maintain that human experts will always be needed for the tricky stuff that calls for



judgment, creativity, and empathy. Our research and analysis challenges the idea that these professionals will be spared.

9. [New Zealand: Universities seek millions in donations](#). Universities say fundraising is becoming increasingly important for their work and they are receiving millions of dollars a year in donations. But they say that there is not yet a strong culture of philanthropy in New Zealand and the government could do more to encourage donations to universities.
10. [NZ takes first step towards national international education strategy](#). The development of New Zealand's new international education strategy is underway after [Education New Zealand](#) announced the initial consultation period would [commence](#) this month. The government has called for input from sector players as well as students themselves before releasing a draft strategy in mid-December.
11. [Examining Obama's higher education legacy](#). An emphasis on empowering the middle class translated to a zeroing in on accountability and access, with mixed results. President Barack Obama arrived in Washington in 2008 in the midst of one of the nation's worst financial recessions, with a message of hope and change as an empowering element of advancement for the middle class. Part of that message was an emphasis on higher education reform, with a platform of growing the industry to help the nation reclaim its position as the world's most prolific in the production of college graduates.

12. [US Public universities are under threat – not just by outside reformers.](#) A new documentary, "[Starving the Beast,](#)" recently examined the state of public higher education. Directed by [Austin-based award-winning documentarian Steve Mims,](#) the film argues that a network of right-wing think tanks and educational reformers [are undermining public universities.](#) It suggests that America's great public universities may die from a thousand cuts unless policymakers change course.
13. [Higher education continues Zika preparation as virus spreads.](#) Zika virus preparation efforts in higher ed are still primarily focused in Florida, but experts are developing strategies on campuses nationwide for students and partnering municipalities, Inside Higher Ed reports. Most institutions are instituting awareness campaigns for students to wear longer clothing and to use mosquito repellent, in addition to treating potential problem areas around campus.
14. [Power of perception: How the US presidential race could impact student recruitment.](#) Popular perceptions of the attractiveness of study destinations have been shown to have important effects on student mobility, particularly around widely covered events reflecting the political climate of a destination or issues of student safety or security. Recent surveys demonstrate that the US presidential election has now become such an event, and that the political climate in the US is already shaping student perceptions around the world. In particular, significant percentages of survey respondents indicate that they would be less likely to study in the US if Donald Trump wins the presidential election this November
15. [Canada: Why universities need to reinforce their recognition of prior learning.](#) In a recent discussion about the intended uses of The Manual on Quality Assurance for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in Canada, published last year by the Canadian Association for Prior Learning Assessment, a colleague asked if I thought the manual would lead to more RPL activity at Canadian universities. I quickly flashed back over the past 20 years that I've been involved with prior learning assessment and recognition, and answered that the time will never be better.
16. [EAIE: more action, coordination needed to meet refugee HE needs.](#) The number of initiatives to support refugee students is multiplying rapidly at universities across Europe, but the vast majority of refugees still face insurmountable barriers to higher education. More collaboration and action are now needed, UN and HE leaders urged at the EAIE conference in Liverpool this month.
17. [Public Funding Observatory: EUA releases new data on university funding.](#) UA presented the findings of the 2016 Public Funding Observatory on 6 October 2016 on the occasion of the 3rd Funding Forum at the University of Porto in Portugal. The data captures the very latest funding trends in Europe and offers the most up-to-date information on 30 different higher education systems.
18. [The Incredible Machine Mark III: Our visual guide to the TEF.](#) The Incredible Machine is back. The government has published its plans for Year 2 of the Teaching Excellence Framework, following a technical consultation. And so it's time to refresh our visual guide. The headlines are all about the new Gold, Silver and Bronze ratings now available. But we've also been given far more detail about which inputs will be assessed, and how the whole process will work. So this new diagram inevitably looks more complex to previous versions.
19. [French government calls for new strategy for transnational education.](#) A new report from a central planning agency of the French government details the country's current transnational education (TNE) programme base. The report concludes that France has fallen behind its international competitors with respect to TNE provision. It argues that there is a national and institutional interest in expanding France's TNE base, and recommends the development of a national strategy in support of this goal.
20. [The troubles with French universities laid bare.](#) As university students in France are heading back to class, they're arriving to a system that's still making headlines for all the wrong reasons. On Thursday, the satisfaction ratings from international students were low enough to land French universities [as the worst in Europe.](#) And after a massive influx of students last year, the government was forced to invest €100m to try to prop up the creaking higher education system. But does the problem run deeper?
21. [OECD: Germany's publicly funded, no-fees system 'unsustainable'.](#) But others say shifting the problem back to students would simply be the 'easy way out' instead of prioritising HE in state budgets.
22. [Norway scores highest for international student satisfaction.](#) Norway has claimed the top spot in this year's international student satisfaction awards from [StudyPortals,](#) overtaking Ireland which came out on top last year. Based on 15,965 online reviews from international students who studied abroad in Europe on StudyPortals' STeXX.eu in 2015-2016, Norway scored 9.26 out of 10, regaining the lead for the Nordic countries.
23. [Poland Looks to Turn Elite Universities Into Local Startup Incubators.](#) Universities are a great place for innovative ideas to take a more solid form. Plenty of students have an idea of what changes they would like to see, and some of them may even try to do something about it. Over in Poland there is a plan on the table to turn universities into startup incubators, which would certainly shake things up quite a bit.
24. [Fury at plans that 'threaten the IB's survival' in Sweden.](#) Students of the elite International Baccalaureate programme fear that they will find it almost impossible to get into many top Swedish universities when a proposed new system for converting their grades is introduced. Now IB schools say they fear for the programme's future in Sweden. Under the new system, which has been proposed by the country's higher education authority, UHR, students who previously needed 40 points to receive the full Swedish score of 20 will need a full IB score of 45 points.
25. [Can China become the world's education leader?](#) The rise in China of the foreign student, or liuxuesheng, has paralleled the expansion of the Middle Kingdom's homegrown student body. While higher education is shrinking in neighboring Japan and South Korea, it is expanding rapidly in China, with the number of college graduates mushrooming from 805,000 to 7.65 million over the past decade.
26. [Creativity \(or Lack Thereof\) at Chinese Universities.](#) Chinese students at top-ranking universities are less creative than those at less prestigious institutions, a new study has found, with the authors blaming China's exam-

dominated education culture and intense university workload. The research sheds further light on the long-running debate over whether Chinese graduates lack creativity and critical-thinking skills or if it is simply a comforting Western stereotype about a rising rival economic power.

27. [The dangers in Asia's quest for world-class universities.](#) Asian governments are making serious efforts to boost their universities' global competitiveness and ensure high rankings in global university league tables. The massification of higher education in Asia has also generated growing concern for graduates confronting underemployment and, indeed, unemployment. Within this policy context, there are major challenges for higher education in Asia. Such challenges call into question the purpose of higher education itself.
28. [North Korean leader says university must be 'world class.'](#) North Korea's top higher education institution, Kim Il-sung University in the capital Pyongyang, must advance to become a "world-class institution", North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has said in a letter to students, staff and professors of Pyongyang's institution. According to the letter dated 26 September, on the occasion of the university's 70th anniversary and made public by North Korea's official media in early October, Kim said the university, which was founded by his grandfather, should hold regular international academic seminars, and expand joint research with prestigious universities and research organisations in other countries.
29. [India to set up 20 world-class institutes.](#) In a bid to promote international quality education, the HRD Ministry has embarked on a project that will set up 20 world-class institutions (WCI). The decision comes after Prime Minister's Office (PMO) suggestion. It is acknowledged that the NITI Aayog has also urged the HRD Ministry for the same and for the freedom of world-class institution from regulating councils.
30. [Venezuela: Public universities are facing a time of crisis.](#) Venezuela is rapidly losing key science talent. It is estimated that since 2000 at least 1,820 researchers have left the country. These researchers were responsible for about 33% of the country's scientific publications. Between 1960 and 2000 emigration was rare and the numbers

joining the higher education system were greater than those leaving.

31. [Russia: Minister suspends mergers, casts doubt on Project 5-100.](#) Olga Vasilyeva, the recently appointed Minister of Education and Science, has suspended the process of consolidation of domestic universities initiated by Dmitry Livanov, her predecessor, who was fired from his post in August. Vasilyeva, a conservative, has also cast doubt on the future of Project 5-100, the special government programme to develop major Russian universities that can compete with the world's best and get five universities into the top 100 in international rankings by 2020.
32. [Virtual Institute for Higher Education in Africa reopens.](#) In January 2017, the Virtual Institute for Higher Education in Africa will reopen its digital doors with a new set of free courses to help African university lecturers face the challenges they meet in their everyday work.

Big Data, Analytics & Technology

33. [Stanford explores case for code of ethics to tackle big data's deluge in higher ed.](#) As college students click, swipe and tap through their daily lives – both in the classroom and outside of it – they're creating a digital footprint of how they think, learn and behave that boggles the mind. "We're standing under a waterfall, feasting on information that's never existed before," said Mitchell Stevens, a sociologist and associate professor at Stanford Graduate School of Education (GSE). "All of this data has the power to redefine higher education."
34. [7 Tech Trends & How Universities Can Wire Into Them.](#) 2016 has seen the rise of the chatbots. Chatbots are another step into the AI world and enable brands (and universities) to strike up an automated chat with you. Higher Education marketers and recruiters should take note and consider what their slice of the action could be. The chance to run chats, host tours and share open days all spring to mind. But surely the ultimate is to ask a prospective student (or their parent) what they want to know, and have an engaging conversation on the plate and ready to go.

Brexit

35. [Brexit fears may see 15% of UK university staff leave, group warns.](#) The government must maintain free movement for EU academics or risk losing up to 15% of staff at British universities, a leading German academics' body has warned. It comes as evidence mounts that European researchers and lecturers are leaving or rejecting UK higher education posts because of Brexit fears.
36. [Britain's universities depend on open borders – Brexit has us all worried.](#) British universities are some of the best in the world. Their combination of academic rigour and creativity are admired across the globe. The world-class research they produce has, over decades, provided the basis for innovation and thus guaranteed the success of a whole nation. But to assume that the wonderful success story of Britain's universities is one entirely of their own making would be a mistake: the UK's academic system has thrived because, not in spite of, the openness it has shown to foreign researchers in the past.
37. [UK inquiry to look at impact on HE post-Brexit.](#) The UK's parliamentary education committee has announced it is launching an inquiry into the impact of Brexit on higher education. The inquiry will look at the implications of the UK leaving the European Union for EU students and staff studying and working at universities in England. "The committee also aims to examine the effect of Brexit on the reputation of England's universities and ask how they can remain competitive," according to the government website. It will also look at the future of Erasmus+.

Competency Based Education

38. [CORE Higher Education Group launches competency based education blueprints.](#) CORE Higher Education Group has launched its Competency Based Education (CBE) Blueprint series. CBE Blueprints aid colleges and universities across the country with planning, executing, measuring, and scaling student competency assessment infrastructures.
39. [Costs of Competency-Based Programs Come Into Focus.](#) Competency-based education programs may be inexpensive to run, but they can also take longer than expected to turn a

profit, according to a study released and supported by the Lumina Foundation. Advocates for the approach believe that it can improve on the traditional model of education by making college more accessible to students, particularly adults, providing [clearer measures of learning](#), and reducing costs. At last count, about 600 higher-education institutions were looking seriously at starting such programs.

40. [Is CBE the future of higher education? Study says too early to tell.](#) A new study from the American Institutes for Research outlines the profile of students in competency-based education programs and how they are engaged to participate in the curriculum. But researchers say it is too early to determine the efficacy of such programs on postgraduate success. .

Credentialing

41. [New Lumina-Backed Registry Aims to Bring Transparency to the Credentialing Marketplace.](#) A new effort to make the credential marketplace more transparent is taking shape. This week the Lumina Foundation-funded Credential Transparency Initiative [introduced its Credential Registry](#)—a tool to document and compare credentials like certificates, licenses and badges “similar to the way travel apps are used to compare flights, rental cars and hotels.”
42. [Unbundling and Rebundling: The Lasting Impact of Alternative Credentialing on Higher Ed.](#) Alternative credentials are changing the face of the higher education space. New, unaccredited providers are appearing on the scene and succeeding. More questions than ever are being asked about the value of the traditional degree, and fingers are being pointed at the cost of acquiring one. Colleges and universities are in a position of having to reflect upon their core product, and how that offering might evolve over time.
43. [Alternative Credentials and the Pathway to an Unbundled Higher Ed Environment.](#) Over the past few years, the number of providers of alternative credentials—both inside and outside the accredited higher education space—has skyrocketed. Increasing numbers of students are pursuing these alternative approaches to higher education and more and more institutions are looking

for ways to capitalize on this trend. In this interview, Michelle R. Weise shares her thoughts on some of the reasons the postsecondary space is moving in this direction and reflects on the long-term impacts the trend could have on the industry.

44. [Stackable credential pathways Stepping-Stone or Off-Ramp?](#) The idea behind stackable credentials is that seamless academic programs -- ranging potentially from six-credit certificates to terminal degrees -- allow students to leave higher education for a job and then [return later](#), with their credits counting toward the next certificate or degree. However, some worry that stackable pathways could shunt students, particularly those from underserved populations, away from degrees and toward short-term credentials of questionable value.
45. [Digital Badges and the Career Pathway: Assessing the Obstacles.](#) Digital badges have the capacity to transform the way students share their academic accomplishments. Right now, students rely upon paper degrees, transcripts and certificates to prove to employers that they have the skills and abilities they need to succeed in a given job. These are challenging to understand, challenging to verify and, ultimately, don't do much to communicate the work a student has put into their education.
46. [How Credential Diversification Can Save the Soul of Higher Education.](#) As we debate the future of higher education, the role of emerging credentials and much more, it is time for colleges and universities to reclaim and proclaim their role as institutions of learning and not just places of earning. Advocates from top research universities, government agencies, research institutes, think tanks, education startups and more are arguing that we must make it a priority to graduate more students.
47. [Two Projects That Promote Alternative Credentials Reach Key Milestones.](#) Two projects aimed to expand the use and usefulness of badges and other alternative credentials, to help people communicate their skills to potential employers, marked key milestones on Monday. The bigger of the two is the “credentials registry,” an effort to create an open, searchable, online system that categorizes and organizes the current maze of credentials, certificates, degrees, and licenses that students and workers now obtain. Announced more

than a year ago, the registry is intended to be a tool for students, job seekers, and employers to determine what skills and credentials are needed for particular jobs and careers.

48. [Moving from “Alternative Credentials” to an Integrated Credential Ecosystem.](#) Today's employers want insights beyond the traditional degree and transcript, and prospective employees are looking for new ways to share those insights. From this demand has come a movement sweeping across today's postsecondary marketplace to find new ways for individuals to gain and share the knowledge, skills, competencies and achievements they need to stand out in the labor market. As a result, we have alternative credentials.
49. [Microcredentials Transforming MOOC Positioning and Higher Education Models.](#) Alternative higher education providers have been making huge waves in the postsecondary space in recent years, and none more so than Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) providers. Though there are a number of MOOC providers in the space, few have been as visible as Coursera, with its massive reach and huge number of institutional partners.

Graduate Outcomes

50. [Going Global: Are graduates prepared for a global workforce?](#) Higher education institutions play multiple roles, providing an educational foundation that enables students to gain exposure to new ideas and approaches, become good citizens, and perhaps most importantly, prepare for the competitive world of employment. In an increasingly global workplace, post-secondary institutions are facing more pressure than ever to produce graduates who are not just educated, but capable of forging multi-cultural relationships and working effectively across borders.
51. [Singapore: Survey raises questions about TNE employment outcomes.](#) Singaporeans graduating from degree programmes at private higher education institutions, including some providing degrees from British and Australian universities, are finding it harder to land graduate jobs compared to graduates of Singapore's high-ranking public institutions, a survey by Singapore's Council for Private Education has found.

Online Learning

52. [MOOCWatch September 2016: More Mini-Degrees from Coursera, edX, and Udacity](#). The pool of MOOC credentials grew rapidly this month: Coursera launched over [40 new Specializations](#), edX launched [new 19 MicroMasters](#), and Udacity launches [2 new Nanodegrees](#). Coursera also launched a new [MOOC service for businesses](#). [The New York Times and a number of other non-education-focused organizations are now offering MOOCs](#).
53. [Education publisher Pearson bets on online degrees](#). Natalie Hilton travels past her central London university every day, listening to lectures on the bus, studying towards a masters degree without ever setting foot on campus. Hilton, a 24-year-old with a full-time job in advertising, is part of the first intake at King's College London to study a fully online course to enable her to work in mental health. The scheme is produced by Pearson, the world's largest education publisher, which is looking to online higher education courses to help revive its fortunes after a downturn in its traditional textbooks and marking businesses.
54. [New Zealand: Victoria University joins edX platform to take online learning global](#). Victoria University is about to take higher education around the globe in partnership with the world's top academic institutions. The University will be joining edX, a non-profit and open source technology platform founded by Harvard University and MIT.
55. [An Online Education Breakthrough? A Master's Degree for a Mere \\$7,000](#). The master's degree business is booming. College graduates looking for a leg up in the job market are flocking to one- and two-year programs that promise entry to lucrative careers. Top colleges are more than willing to provide them — for a price. Tuition for a 30-credit master's in computer science from the University of Southern California runs \$57,000.
56. [After gaining legitimacy, can online higher education replace traditional college?](#) For much of their modern existence, distance-education courses have suffered from an image problem. In the 1970s and 1980s, they were seen as cheap knockoffs of on-campus offerings, [hawked on late-night television](#) by the likes of Sally Struthers, who asked viewers, "Do you want to

make more money? Sure, we all do," in commercials for the International Correspondence School.

57. [Online Education Is Now a Global Market](#). Back when colleges first started experimenting with teaching online, pundits mused that competition for college students would one day be global. A student would be able to sit down at a computer and take a course literally from anywhere. It seemed like possibly a crazy thing to predict, considering that these early internet courses involved reading lectures that were typed out, doing some online discussion, and sending in assignments via email
58. [The future of online higher education and global engagement](#). How likely it is that by 2020 "degrees will be disaggregated into smaller credential units... with the possibility that the credentialing entity may be different from the institution that offers the course"? The majority (68%) of the webinar participants responding to a poll question based on MIT's Future of Education report expect it to be a "likely" or "very likely" scenario of higher education.

Rankings, Ratings and Benchmarking

59. [Where the College Scorecard Has Gained Traction So Far — and Where It Hasn't](#) [subscription required]. The Department of Education's [College Scorecard](#) is, at its core, a simple college-search tool that highlights key data points with a few clicks. The most-talked-about piece: the average salary of students who attended a college, [10 years after they first enrolled](#). Each college's profile also features its average annual cost, academic offerings, and graduation and retention rates, among other things.
60. [Forbes ranks best US colleges for international students](#). Forbes, an American business news magazine, has waded further into the crowded rankings pool by creating its first list of the best US colleges for international students. Babson College in Massachusetts has been named the top college in the US for international students, in the inaugural ranking.
61. [Could HE rankings be socially transformative?](#) That global rankings have made an indelible mark on higher education is incontrovertible. Their

arrival at the millennium coincided with the acceleration of this phase of globalisation and signalled the transformation of higher education from a local institution into a global actor of geopolitical significance.

62. [Who's No. 1? As college rankings proliferate, it depends](#). When looking for a ranking of the top colleges in America, many parents, students and alumni have relied mainly on one source for the past three decades: [U.S. News and World Report](#). Now, college ranking is all the rage. There are numbered lists for every taste, each with a unique data-crunching formula.
63. [English universities to be ranked gold, silver and bronze](#). Students in England will take their pick from gold, silver and bronze universities after the government said it would create new league tables based on teaching quality. But unlike at the Olympics, bronze will be a booby prize, awarded to universities found to be "significantly below" benchmark standards in some areas — a decision unlikely to be popular with vice-chancellors.
64. [Reuters: Top 100 most innovative universities](#). Stanford University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University top the second annual Reuters Top 100 ranking of the world's most innovative universities. The Reuters Top 100 ranking aims to identify the institutions doing the most to advance science, invent new technologies and help drive the global economy.
65. [Ranking identifies the 50 best online colleges for 2016](#). [AffordableCollegesOnline.org](#), a site for higher education information and resources, has released its ranking of the Best Online Colleges for 2016. The site analyzed more than a dozen unique data points to identify the colleges and universities providing students with the highest quality and most affordable online learning options today.

Student Recruitment and Mobility

66. [MBA applicants driven by entrepreneurship; ROI still top priority](#). The desire to set up a business is now the top motivating factor for one in five students to pursue an MBA, according to a survey by [CarringtonCrisp](#). The research also shows the value students put on career outcomes and ROI, and that savvy business schools would be

- wise to take note of men and women's differing priorities when it comes to career services.
67. [Agent Alert: 8 Indian education agents involved in NZ visa fraud.](#) I recently posted on the visa fraud in New Zealand involving Indian education agents. Indian paper, the Deccan Chronicle is now reporting that Immigration New Zealand has confirmed that eight education agents were allegedly involved in the visa fraud. If one or more of these institutions acts for your institution you should consider getting in touch with them to obtain more information on the allegations.
68. [UK: HE, schools comparison site launched.](#) An independent website allowing international students to search and compare the UK's top universities, pathway programmes and boarding schools has been launched this month. [UK Education Guide](#) offers international students filtered search options based on metrics including tuition price, accommodation price, percentage of international students in the total student body and employability statistics.
69. [UK preferred, but Indians seriously exploring EU study destinations.](#) With almost 50,000 Indian students in the European Union (EU) right now, Europe is the second preferred destination of Indian students wishing to study abroad. Tomasz Kozlowski, European Union ambassador to India, talks about funding programmes for Indians and EU's plan to collaborate with the Indian government and other agencies. Excerpts from an interview.
70. [Ireland plan to attract 37,000 foreign students and generate an extra €520m a year.](#) With Brexit now set to be finalised by early 2019, Education Minister Richard Bruton will launch a new international education strategy in which a target of almost 11,000 extra third-level students has been set for the end of the 2019/2020 academic year. The target for the English-language training (ELT) sector is set even higher, with plans to increase numbers from 106,000 to 132,500, a 25% increase.
71. [Scotland: EU student funding pledged for 2017.](#) EU students beginning their university studies in Scotland in 2017 will not have to pay student fees for the duration of their course and will have access to student loan funding, the Scottish government has confirmed. This means the current funding and fees arrangements for EU students will stay in place, regardless of whether the UK leaves the union before students finish their studies. At the moment, Scottish and EU students don't pay tuition fees at public higher education institutions.
72. [Agent Tip: A simple trick to find the best education agents.](#) Research shows that the use of education agents is on the rise. In the key international education markets around the world more and more institutions are focusing on their agent network as an important source of new international students. This is particularly true in the US market where the number of institutions using agents has increased significantly in recent years, and the percentage of international students in US colleges recruited by agents doubled between 2012 and 2016.
73. [NACAC amends code of ethics to improve transparency in agent use.](#) The National Association for College Admission Counseling has once again amended its influential Statement of Principles of Good Practice to provide more guidance on the use of third party education agents. Education institutions in the US that use agents to recruit international students should be more transparent about the partners they work with, according to the updated statement.
74. [OECD report highlights internationally mobile students in advanced higher education.](#) Roughly one in four internationally mobile students enrolled in OECD countries is studying at the master's or doctoral levels. Those students are highly concentrated in European and North American destinations.
75. [Is Canada turning a blind eye to corrupt education agents?](#) Earlier today I read this very good post by Mel Broitman on the Inside Higher Ed blog. Mel Broitman is Director of Higher-Edge, which operates the Canadian University Application Centre. Since 1997 Higher-Edge and the CUAC have recruited more than 8,000 students to Canada. In summary the post notes that Canadian universities and colleges are increasingly focussed on recruiting international students, and raises serious concerns about the compromises being made to increase international student enrolments.
76. [Vietnam's Higher Education Reforms Target 10,000 PhDs in Six Years.](#) Vietnam has announced a bold new higher education reform agenda. The government of Vietnam will offer up to 10,000 government scholarships for overseas doctoral study between 2014 and 2020 (or 1,300–1,500 per year) to tertiary and research institute staff. The so-called 911 Project will also offer scholarships to qualified non-academic professionals committed to tertiary teaching careers.
77. [The Fractured Chinese Higher Education Market.](#) We often casually refer to China as being a single higher education market, but that's really not true. It's probably more accurate to say that it is 32 different markets (34 if you want to include Macau and Hong Kong), one for each of the 23 provinces, 5 autonomous regions, and 4 major municipalities (Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing and Tianjin). That's not just because most higher education funding is local rather than national; it's also because student mobility is significantly restricted, especially among top universities.

AAIR Newsletter Issue 11, November

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 November**. Please send your contributions to the editor@aaair.org.au by **Wednesday November 16**.



Louise Hargreaves
AAIR eNewsletter Editor