

NEWS & REVIEWS

A PUBLICATION OF  WORLD EDUCATION SERVICES INC.

VOLUME 2 · NUMBER 3 · SUMMER 1989

COUNTRY UPDATE

AUSTRIA

• • • An ever-increasing number of students and a lack of resources have created such serious problems for Austrian universities that the higher education system is no longer considered efficient. More than 50 percent of those who register as students in higher education never complete their chosen study course.

As a result, a Curriculum Reform Council set up by the Minister of Science and Research, Dr. Hans Tuppy, has presented these proposals for change: a vocationally oriented short cycle of three years should be offered, leading to a *kalaureat* degree; traditional degree courses (*Diplomstudium*) should also receive a vocational orientation and be conceived in such a way that students could complete them in five years; only studies leading to a doctorate (*Doktoratsstudium*) would concentrate on research work.

In other changes proposed, courses would be based on a program of not more than 20 hours per week a semester. Students would no longer be permitted to resit an examination more than four times, and examinations would receive a pass/fail grade.

Upper secondary leaving certificates would be based on broad general knowledge in the humanities, the social sciences and the natural/technical sciences, with two modern languages, computer literacy and the ability to work independently or to take part in project-related teamwork also to be required. (*Osterreichische Hochschulzeitung*, Nov/Dec 1988)

CHINA

• • • Li Xin Accounting College in Shanghai, founded in 1928, is the oldest accounting college in China which trains undergraduates as accountants, treasur-

ers, auditors and as other financial professionals. Closed during the Cultural Revolution, the institution reopened in 1980 and registered with the Shanghai Municipal Government as an institution of higher learning under the dual leadership of the Shanghai government and the Ministry of Finance. The College's main function is to train financial specialists for Shanghai's government, businesses and institutions. It offers a three-year program of study for students who have a certificate from a senior middle school (secondary school). Currently 360 students are enrolled in the institution. (Correspondence between Li Xin Accounting College and Cynthia Fish, Ass't. Director of Admissions, Baruch College)

• • • The State Education Commission has merged Xuzhou Teachers School and the Nanjing Energy Engineering Institute in Jiangsu Province with, respectively, Xuzhou Normal College and the Nanjing-based Dongnan (Southeast) University. The two former institutions were rated unqualified as independent schools. The State is undertaking a three-year program of consolidations to weed out 200 recently-established colleges and other institutions considered to be substandard. (*China Daily*, March 16, 1989)

CYPRUS

• • • The government of the Republic of Cyprus is in the process of establishing the University of Cyprus, which will open in September 1990 in temporary quarters. The permanent campus, to be located in the area of Nicosia, will be ready by September 1992 and is preparing for an enrollment of 4,000 students by 1998.

Students who have had 12 years

of schooling or equivalent qualifications will be accepted if they pass entrance exams organized by the University.

The new university will have Schools of Humanities and Social Sciences, Pure and Applied Science, and Economics and Administration. The award of the first final degree will be upon completion of a minimum 120 credits after eight semesters of study.

According to the Ministry of Education, from 1986-87 only about 15 percent of post-secondary students pursued their education in local institutions, with the rest studying abroad, mainly in Greece (30 percent), the United States (22 percent), the United Kingdom (16 percent) and other countries (23 percent).

Cyprus has six public and 17 private institutions of post-secondary education which award diplomas below first university degree level. (C. Yialoucas, Acting Director, Cyprus Ministry of Education)

Continued page 4

INSIDE

6 A profile of the education system of the Republic of Ireland

15 Revolutionary changes in England's non-university sector mean new importance for BTEC.

23 Test your knowledge of international educational minutia.

During a visit to the United Kingdom in the fall of 1989, I collected a great deal of information dealing with educational reform. In the last decade, and more so in the last two years, British education has undergone revolutionary changes. The results of the reforms will not become apparent until students begin applying to our institutions in the mid-nineties, but it is interesting to follow events as they happen. One of the areas that has been changed significantly, and where we have begun to see the results of the new programs, is higher technical education and the national certificates and diplomas administered by the Business and Technician Education Council/BTEC. This issue of WENR introduces the new BTEC, its programs and qualifications. The article makes it obvious that our information on national diplomas and certificates needed updating.

While many Americans claim Irish ancestry, little is known about education in contemporary Ireland. The reason may be because few students from Ireland travel to the U.S. to study, but Irish universities attract many American students. That situation may change as a result of the increasing mobility of European students and the fact that Irish universities can accommodate only a small number of students. In a brief, yet comprehensive, profile of education in the Republic of Ireland, this issue of WENR also provides tips on the interpretation of Irish credentials in the United States.

Three publications on business education in Scandinavia were recently brought to our attention. They are good supplements to the resource library of admissions officers who are increasingly faced with applications from students who have completed business programs abroad and are seeking to continue their studies in the United States.



Mariam Assefa

P
U
B
L
I
S
H
E
R
,
S

C O R N E R

WORLD EDUCATION

NEWS & REVIEWS

published quarterly by
World Education Services, Inc.

MARIAM ASSEFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EDITOR

Marilyn Arko Umehara

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Barbara Cahn

Intersearch Group, Inc.

Joseph Capobianco

City University of New York

Queens College

Cynthia Fish

City University of New York

Bernard M. Baruch College

Michael Holcomb

Rutgers-the State University of New Jersey

Alan Margolis

City University of New York

Queens College

Erika Popovych

World Education Services, Inc.

Circulation Manager: Montroe Headd

The views and opinions expressed in articles and information submissions published in *World Education News & Reviews* are those of the authors and contributors and not necessarily those of World Education Services, Inc.

World Education News & Reviews (ISSN-0897-6724) is a quarterly publication of World Education Services, Inc., a private, not-for-profit organization founded and incorporated in 1974. The annual subscription rate is \$35.00 per year, domestic, and \$45.00 per year for subscriptions outside of the U.S.; all foreign subscriptions must be paid in U.S. dollars. Domestic subscriptions are mailed third-class bulk rate.

Readers are invited to submit materials for publication in *World Education News & Reviews*. Acceptance of material will be at the discretion of the Editorial Advisory Board. Submissions should be addressed to *World Education News & Reviews*, World Education Services, Inc., P.O. Box 745, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10113-0745. Telephone (212) 966-6311. Fax: (212) 966-6395. Editorial guidelines are available to authors upon request.

© 1989 World Education Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

