

# Newsletter

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## Introduction

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Educational Services (TAG-Educa) is licensed by the Ministry of Higher Education as a certified agency for student services in Jordan. TAG-Educa continues to widen its geographic scope to include a growing number of recognized educational institutions in Europe, Asia & North America.

By offering specialized academic services, we have already started counseling students to secure enrolment in universities, colleges and language institutes around the globe. International student mobility is where our main focus resides and the services we provide equip our students with all that they need to pursue higher learning abroad, wherever they may be.

## Chinese Universities Break into Top Global Rankings for the First Time

- China's Tsinghua University became the first-ever Chinese institution to crack the top 20 in the Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings this year
- In total, China placed a record-high nine institutions in the global reputation ranking for 2016
- In another notable first, two Chinese institutions, Tsinghua and Peking University, also broke into the top 100 in this year's Shanghai Ranking.

The growing strength of China's higher education system has been on full display of late, most recently with the country's strong showing in major global rankings.

In May, Tsinghua University became the first-ever Chinese institution to crack the top 20 in the Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings 2016. Peking University followed close behind at number 21 in the table, which is based entirely on an invitation-only survey of 10,000 academics worldwide. In total, China placed a record nine universities in the top 100 of the THE ranking including first-time entrants Fudan University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and Zhejiang University.

"There is a really positive story for China," said THE rankings editor Phil Baty. "We have been watching China since the 1990s and the investment they have made in higher education and the reforms they have put in place to become more competitive on the world stage. [This year's] data really does show that China has arrived among the world's elite."

This emerging position was further reinforced this month with the annual release of the Shanghai Ranking (formally, the Academic Ranking of World Universities 2016, or ARWU). This year's table sees China, along with Singapore, breaking into the top 100 - again for the first time - with Tsinghua University and Peking University coming in at the 58th and 71st positions respectively.

The US continues to dominate the top of the Shanghai table again this year. It owns 50 of the top 100 spots, and Harvard University remains the top-ranked institution for the 14th year running. But China stands second only to the US within the broader field of the top 500 institutions ranked in the 2016 ARWU. The US places 137 institutions in the top 500, but China is a notable second with 54 (well outpacing Germany's 38 entrants and the 37 ranked institutions from the UK).

*Source: <http://monitor.icef.com/>*

## Germany's International Enrollment Grew Again in 2015

- Germany's international student enrolment increased by 7% year-over-year to reach 321,569 in 2015
- China remains Germany's largest sending market but India was the big gainer in 2015, growing nearly 25% to become the second-largest source market for German institutions
- Some forecasts anticipate that Germany may overtake the UK as the leading international study destination in Europe
- Germany's attractiveness as a study destination has had a boost in recent years from its low tuition rates, ready availability of English-taught master's programmes, and improved post-study work rights for foreign students

The number of international students in Germany increased by nearly 7% between 2014 and 2015. This marks a sixth straight year of growth, a third year in which enrolment grew by more than 6%, and overall growth of 32% over the past decade. In *Wissenschaft weltoffen kompakt 2016* ("Facts and Figures on the International Nature of Studies and Research in Germany") the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW) highlight that the number of foreign students increased from 301,350 in 2014 to 321,569 last year. As always, the two agencies are reporting on two distinct categories of students within that overall count: *Bildungsinländer* (students of other nationalities who completed secondary school in Germany) and *Bildungsausländer* (those that completed their secondary studies outside Germany).

Interestingly, nearly nine of ten foreign students who completed their qualifying studies outside the country are studying towards a degree at a German institution. These topline numbers for 2015 put Germany comfortably on pace toward its longer-term goal to host 350,000 foreign students by 2020. They also secure its position among the top six study destinations worldwide, after only the US, UK, Australia, China, and Canada. In fact, another recent trends study from India's M.M Advisory Services forecasts that Germany may soon overtake the UK as the leading study destination in Europe. "Last year, [Germany] attracted a lot of attention globally when it announced an initiative to waive off tuition fees for international students," says M.M. Advisory. "That's made many students, especially in high-cost countries including the US, to start evaluating Germany as a serious option for international education. Based on the past three years' momentum, and the smart initiatives being rolled out to attract students, we are projecting that Germany will overtake UK and become the international education leader in Europe in the next five years."

The report refers broadly to a number of factors that have boosted Germany's attractiveness in recent years, including the increasing number of English-taught programmes at the master's level, low (or even no) tuition fees, and strengthened post-study work rights for international students.

Source: <http://monitor.icef.com/>

## TAG-Educa and Cardiff Metropolitan University Launch their Educational Network Platform



AMMAN - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Educational Services (TAG-Educa) and Cardiff Metropolitan University launched their student mobility platform named “Global Mobility Network (GAIN)” at the “Erasmus Mundus Action2 Partnership - Joint Dissemination Event”, which was held recently at the Association of Arab Universities (AARU).

The framework for the two-day event comes in the context of a continued cooperation aimed at Strengthening European Partnerships & International Cooperation (EPIC) - between the EU and the MENA region. The event featured a number of European and Arab Universities in addition to representatives from the Erasmus Mundus Office in Jordan.

TAG-EDUCA, chaired by HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, announced its plans to provide a host of services that range from educational consultancy and guidance for scholars to study abroad and to enhance the student exchange programs between countries.

The Platform will provide information about registered universities, a blog to enable prospective, current and alumni scholars as well as faculty staff members to exchange information, ideas and experiences.

The event was attended by over 30 university delegation representatives, where they had the chance to discuss challenges pertaining to autonomy, integrity, internationalization, educational reforms, and continuous institutional improvement. Challenges in providing Education to Syrian refugees residing in camps was also among the main topics of discussion.

The event concluded with a final session by the Magna Charter Universitatum Observatory; an independent entity for enhancing Higher Education on a global scale. A thorough glimpse of their work was given and the opportunity to encourage both local private and public universities to be part of its network, indicating that there is no payment fee for membership.