

Students to work straight away in Australia

STUDENT VISA holders in Australia now have the right to work as soon as they start their course and no longer have to apply for a separate work permit while in the country. This change to student visa regulations was introduced by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and became effective on 26 April.

Sue Blundell, Executive Director at English Australia, said that she thought students and schools would welcome the new regulations. "For colleges it will remove the additional administrative workload associated with organising the extra work permission," she said. "For students it will mean they can work from the commencement of their course rather than waiting for the permission to work to be granted. Recently, delays of up to eight weeks in the grant of permission to work rights have been an issue."

The changes will also make the cost of a student visa and work permit cheaper as students will pay a one-off fee of AUS\$450 (US\$424) for a combined student visa and permission to work, instead of paying AUS\$430 (US\$405) for a visa application and AU\$60 (US\$56) for permission to work. Conditions attached to working in Australia will not change, however, with students still being able to work up to 20 hours during term time and an unlimited amount during official course breaks.

Jenelle Klintworth, Head of Student Services at RMIT English Worldwide in Melbourne, said that around 50 per cent of their students worked while studying at the school. "The students are very happy about being relieved of the bureaucratic burden of applying for the permission to work," she added.

Since September last year, recent graduates of courses lasting at least two years have been eligible to apply for a skilled graduate visa that enables them to stay and work in Australia for up to 18 months. Under the terms of the visa, graduates can leave and return to the country during the 18 months and will also be awarded 10 points towards their General Skilled Migration after completing a year working as a professional in Australia. ●

Ialc celebrates 25 years

THE INTERNATIONAL Association of Language Centres (Ialc) celebrated its 25th anniversary this year with a special gala evening during its workshop at which prestigious members from the association's history



Borges de Sousa now...

were honoured. Renato Borges de Sousa from Cial in Portugal was made Honorary Life President of the association (above) and founding members Mary Towers, James Swift, Cesar Rennert were in attendance as was loyal delegate Klaus Vetter.

The workshop, in Munich, Germany, welcomed 290 delegates from around the world and was preceded by an AGM, which saw the election of Walter Denz of Liden & Denz Language Centre in Russia as new Ialc President. Jan Capper, Executive Director of Ialc, told *Language Travel Magazine* that Tom Doyle of LCI in Ireland stood down as Vice President for Quality Assurance and "received the longest

standing ovation I have seen at an Ialc AGM" for his work developing the association's accreditation standards.

"There was no blueprint for this kind of association [25 years ago]," related Capper, "so we had to learn as we went along. We have adapted to changing market conditions, but we have always remained a trade association, focused on partnerships with agents."

Renato Silveira from 2001 Travel in Brazil said he was very impressed with the whole event and subsequent fam trip to Muenster and Hamburg, commending walking tours of the cities visited so that agents could get a feel for them. "If I had to rate [the workshop] from one to 10, I would rate it 10!" he said.

Pictures of workshops in the early years were displayed for delegates to look at, one of which is shown below. ●



...and then in the early days

US school owner arrested for visa fraud

A LANGUAGE school operator in Los Angeles, CA, was arrested in April and charged with running a visa factory. Behzad Zaman operated two language schools in Los Angeles, Concord English Language Center and International College for English Studies, and is facing charges of assisting ineligible foreign nationals in fraudulently obtaining F-1 student visas and keeping them enrolled for extended periods when they were not attending classes.

Zaman was indicted with seven counts of fraud and misuse of visa, one count of conspiring to money launder and six counts of concealment of money laundering, which together carry a maximum penalty of 210 years in prison.

Robert Schoch at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office in Los Angeles said, "The scope of crimes alleged in this indictment make it one of the largest student visa fraud schemes ever uncovered here on the West Coast". ●

Currency

1xUS\$ =currency*

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|---------------|-------------|----------|
| Argentinean | Pesos | 3.178 |
| Australian | Dollar | 1.061 |
| Brazilian | Real | 1.688 |
| British | Pound | 0.510 |
| Bulgarian | Leva | 1.268 |
| Canadian | Dollar | 1.012 |
| Chilean | Pesos | 470.41 |
| Chinese (PR) | Yuan RMB | 7.004 |
| Czech | Koruny | 16.29 |
| Danish | Kroner | 4.838 |
| Egyptian | Pound | 5.367 |
| EU | Euro | 0.648 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 7.795 |
| Hungarian | Forint | 173.03 |
| Icelandic | Kronur | 77.12 |
| Indonesian | Rupiah | 9,249.6 |
| Israeli | New Shekels | 3.434 |
| Japanese | Yen | 103.54 |
| Mexican | Peso | 10.551 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 1.297 |
| Norwegian | Kroner | 5.113 |
| Pakistan | Rupees | 67.510 |
| Polish | Zloty | 2.210 |
| Russian | Rubles | 23.81 |
| Singaporean | Dollar | 1.374 |
| Slovakian | Koruny | 20.72 |
| South African | Rand | 7.583 |
| South Korean | Won | 1,044.60 |
| Swedish | Kronor | 6.032 |
| Swiss | Franc | 1.049 |
| Taiwanese | NT Dollar | 30.852 |
| Thai | Baht | 31.924 |
| Turkish | New Lira | 1.266 |
| Venezuelan | Bolivar | 2.144 |

*Rates are subject to change and should be used as indications only. 08/05/08.

WYSTC 2008

Date: September 13-17
Venue: Brooklyn, NY, USA
mailto:mail@wystc.org
www.wystc.org

FPP Edu-Media Expo Latin America Roadshow

Date: September 17 - October 8
Venue: various, Latin America
j.ronchetti@fppmediacorp.com
www.fppmedia.com

The AAIEP Agents Workshop

Date: October 4-5
Venue: Washington DC, USA
info@csglobal.net
www.csglobal.net/
www.bmimedia.net

Foreign Languages Plus

Date: October 6-13
Venue: Moscow, St Petersburg - Russia
abroad@study.ru
http://plus.study.ru

Study Abroad and Language Fair

Date: October 7
Venue: Busan, Korea
kamc@korea.com
www.kamc.com

Scope on the Globe

Date: October 8-11
Venue: Utrecht, Netherlands
s.vdaakster@aromedia.nl
www.scopeontheglobe.com

International Education Fairs of Turkey

Date: October 12-19
Venue: Ankara, Izmir, Bursa, Istanbul - Turkey
info@ieft.net
www.ieft.net

The ICEF China Workshop

Date: October 14-16
Venue: Beijing, China
info@icef.com
www.icef.com

China Education Expo 2008

Date: 18-19 October
Venue: Beijing, China
Lily@fairlink.com.cn

a2 Morocco Fair

Date: October 21-22
Venue: Casablanca, Morocco
info@aafair.com