

Go8 signs high level agreement with leading Chinese universities

The Go8 has signed an historic memorandum of understanding with the China 9 research universities. The China 9 includes some of China's leading research-intensive universities, which have been selected by the Chinese Government to receive intensive funding for investment in world class research infrastructure and staff, and they are the first choice for the very best Chinese school leavers.

The Chinese Government is investing in universities on a massive scale to bring China to the forefront of global research, innovation and knowledge. The China 9 will play an important role in the emergence of a world leading higher education system, but their efforts are only a part of a bigger funding and development push. Recent government investment has seen the China 9 develop research infrastructure to match any country or university in the world. They are also using new government money to invest in academic talent—both developing 'home grown' potential, and recruiting leading expatriate researchers back to China.

At the undergraduate level, the Go8's MoU effectively extends the China 9's student exchange program to Go8 universities. Australian students will be able to spend a semester at an elite Chinese university and receive full credit towards their degrees. Likewise, some of China's



Go8 representatives including Professor Fred Hilmer (UNSW), Professor John Taplin (Adelaide) and Professor John Hearn (Sydney) with Presidents of China's leading research universities in Fudan, October 2010

best students will come to Go8 universities in Australia on exchange, bringing their formidable talents and new perspectives on China–Australia engagement. At the doctoral and post-doctoral level, the MoU creates exciting new opportunities for exchange, collaboration and linkages. It builds on the cooperative efforts of the China 9/Go8 Deans of Graduate Studies signed in 2009.

Senior Go8 representatives will accompany Tertiary Education Minister, Senator Chris Evans, on his visit to some of the China 9 universities in Beijing and Shanghai this week.

British Higher Education Funding Review

A review of higher education funding in England—chaired by Lord Browne—reported to the UK Parliament last month.

It recommended uncapping tuition fees (currently capped at GBP3,290 per year). Institutions which choose to charge more than GBP6000 per year in future will have to pay a proportion of total fee income per student as a 'levy' to the Government. They levy would increase in proportion with fees—to cover the costs of underwriting loans.

The income threshold at which students begin to repay their loans would be raised from GBP15,000 to GBP21,000. Graduates on higher incomes would pay a 2.2 per cent

interest rate while others would pay no interest. Outstanding debts would be written off after 30 years.

A Higher Education Council would monitor universities' performance against equity targets, paying special attention to institutions charging more than GBP7,000 per year. Fee deregulation is linked to policy settings to encourage growth in private provision and franchising arrangements with colleges of further education. A more open market is designed to discourage all universities from charging maximum fees, and to broaden the choices available to students.

For detailed information visit:

<http://hereview.independent.gov.uk/hereview/report/>

Go8–France Student Internship Program

The Go8 has formed a new partnership with the French Embassy in Canberra, providing access to internships in French companies for students of Go8 universities.

“The Go8 is delighted to be forming this partnership with the French Embassy. The MoU supports a program of internships to promote cross-cultural understanding between France and Australia,” said Go8 Chair, Professor Alan Robson.



Professor Alan Robson, Go8 Chair, and His Excellency Michel Filhol, French Ambassador to Australia, sign the agreement at an event hosted by the French Embassy in Canberra, September 2010

“The French Company Internship Program will provide Go8 students with the opportunity to work in French business environments in Australia and France.

“Go8 students selected for this program will be internationalising their degree in the most powerful way, gaining business, language and in country experience all at the same time.”

For more information visit: go8.edu.au/university-staff/international-collaboration/225-french-company-internships-program

New policy papers on Go8 website

The Go8 has added a number of major publications to its website in recent weeks.

A major policy paper on accountability for quality in higher education draws on international developments in the UK and America. It calls for open discussion ahead of the TEQSA legislation being introduced to the Parliament.
www.go8.edu.au/government-a-business/go8-policy-a-analysis/2010/238-the-accountability-for-quality-agenda-in-higher-education

A number of new Go8 Backgrounders have been added on key issues such as research, the AQF and higher education financing. Backgrounders on equity, international and structural diversity will soon follow.

Visit www.go8.edu.au/government-a-business/go8-policy-a-analysis

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Go8 Advancement Directors meet in Canberra on 5 November
- Go8 Data Sharing Network meets in Melbourne on 9 November
- Go8 Deans of Graduate Studies meet in Sydney on 10 November
- Go8 Vice-Chancellors meet in Canberra on 18 November
- Go8 Facilities Directors meet in Brisbane on 22 November
- Go8 Deans of Medicine meet in Melbourne on 23 November
- Go8 Human Resources Directors meet in Melbourne on 25 November
- Go8 Equity Directors meet in Melbourne 25 November
- Go8 International Directors meet in Sydney on 1 December
- Go8 Chief Financial Officers meet in Adelaide on 3 December

International Dialogue on Education, Berlin

The seventh International Dialogue on Education (ID-E) workshop took place in Berlin on 11 October with five senior education experts from the UK, USA, Canada, Germany and Australia and over 100 participants from German higher education.

The theme was Postdoctoral Careers in Global Academia. The conference compared examples of postdoctoral career paths from the five host countries including discussions about access, eligibility criteria, recruitment and mobility.

The Australian Embassy’s Deputy Ambassador, Damien Miller, opened the conference and Dr Karen Hussey, the ANU’s representative in Europe, spoke on behalf of the Go8.

The ID-E series is a joint initiative of the Go8, the British Council, the German Academic Exchange Service, the German-American Fulbright Commission and the Canadian Bureau for International Education in Berlin.

The series aims to enrich the debate on science, research and higher education policy in Germany.

Further information about ID-E is available at: www.daad.de/ID-E_Berlin and in German:

www.daad-magazin.de/15365/index.html



Speakers from Australia, Canada, Germany, US and UK at the International Dialogue on Education event in Berlin, October 2010

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The *Go8 Update* is published online to keep the Go8 network of committees and staff at Go8 universities informed about the organisation’s activities.