



## Global Tuition Outpaced by Inflation

Toronto, March 22, 2012 – A new global tuition fee index shows that, on average, university tuition fees rose around the world by 2.58% in 2011. However, due to significant inflation in many parts of the world, the global tuition index actually fell by 1.76%.

“In the United States and South Africa, tuition increased by more than five percent over and above inflation,” said Alex Usher, co-author of *2011 Year in Review: Global Changes in Tuition Fee Policies and Student Assistance* and president of Higher Education Strategy Associates (HESA). “In Pakistan, China, Hong Kong, Russia and Turkey, tuition decreased by five percent over and above inflation.”

In addition to tracking trends in tuition fees in the Higher Education G-40, the 40 countries that make up more than 90% of the world’s post-secondary enrolment and research, the report examines trends in student aid. In 2011, student aid increased significantly in Chile, Colombia, Singapore, South Africa, Indonesia and Nigeria.

Taking tuition and student aid trends into account, the report concludes that overall higher education affordability increased in 2011 in Colombia, France, Germany, Sweden and Saudi Arabia. Affordability decreased in the U.S., the Philippines and Spain. In Canada, affordability declined somewhat, as large tuition increases were only partially offset by increases to student aid.

“The data, which is provided by HESA associates in more than 30 countries, reveal that tuition trends are volatile around the world,” said Pamela Marcucci, co-author of the report and Director of Global Policy Studies and Initiatives at HESA. “In 2012, we expect that volatility to increase, as tuition rises substantially in the U.K. and declines significantly in South Korea.”

The report is available for free online at [www.higheredstrategy.com](http://www.higheredstrategy.com).

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