

Study Group UK Opens World's Largest Education Facility Exclusively for International Students - Overlooked by UK Investors, UK's Great Hidden Export Benefits Foreigners

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Study Group officially opened the Brighton Study Centre today, a new £30 million facility purpose-built exclusively for international students, in a move which emphasises the UK's position as global leader in international education.

Executive Chairman of Study Group, Arvid Petersen, said that by opening this new facility, which will attract students from over 120 countries, Study Group is proving it is the leading player in this industry, which is worth more than £12 billion annually to the UK economy.*

In 2006, Mr Petersen's company, the Australian-based Petersen Investments, in partnership with CHAMP Private Equity, the largest independent Australian buyout funds management company, invested AU\$176.4 million in Study Group.

"UK education is considered gold standard worldwide and given the value of this great hidden export, we need to continue raising the standard and ensure that the UK remains a welcoming destination for international students. Study Group is keen to preserve the credibility of the industry and stamp out the criticism it receives over immigration issues," Mr Petersen said.

Lord John Tomlinson, who is Chairman of the Association of Independent Higher Education Providers (AIHEP), supported this view. "Through its active membership of AIHEP, Study Group, along with the other high quality private education providers, is leading the way in influencing the Government to tighten procedures for enrolment and the monitoring of international students, and to crack down on bogus colleges. Once these new measures are introduced in January 2009, hundreds of these colleges, which until now have been easy vehicles for illegal immigration, will not pass the necessary accreditation. They will therefore not be able to act as sponsoring colleges and will close immediately. This will be a huge step forward in reinforcing the internationally renowned standard of UK education," he said.

The Brighton Study Centre is the world's largest purpose-built facility for international students. The centre houses Study Group UK Headquarters, Embassy CES language school and Bellerbys College.

The eco-friendly, 1000-student capacity centre, set over four storeys, occupies a prime city location and features 74 classrooms with science, art and IT facilities; a comprehensive library, bookshop and medical room; 375 en suite single study bedrooms, a restaurant and a central atrium where students can meet and socialise.

Along with the high quality of education, student accommodation buildings and on-site social and restaurant facilities, the centre sets a new standard within the international education industry.

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Notes to Editors:

CHAMP Private Equity, in partnership with Petersen Investments, took ownership of Study Group International Limited for AU\$176.4 million in 2006. Arvid Petersen, of Petersen Investments, is the company's Executive Chairman.

Spanning five continents, Study Group is a global leader in international education, providing the highest quality educational opportunities for students from over 120 countries. Beginning in 1994 with 7000 students per year, Study Group now has an enrolment base of 40,000 around the world.

Through Study Group's leading set of partnerships with top universities, it is able to provide on and off-campus preparation courses for international students that ensure academic success and entry into some of the most prestigious educational institutions in the world. The quality of its teaching is confirmed by independent accreditation bodies worldwide including: English UK, Ofsted, British Council, NEAS, Accet, English Australia and New Zealand Qualification Authority.

Through the Bellerbys brand in the UK, Study Group provides academic preparation for international students wanting to study at English-speaking universities. Courses include GCSEs, A-Levels, specifically designed Foundation courses to gain entry into universities, a degree course and pre-masters qualifications.

Study Group offers English language courses for international students in 18 locations in all of the main Anglophone destinations through its Embassy CES brand. Courses include short-term general English, one-year academic programmes and specialist English preparation for public English language qualifications, or for degree programmes at English-speaking universities. Study Group also runs youth summer vacation courses in the UK, Ireland and the USA, combining English language training with both academic and extra-curricular activities.

The biggest intake of international students into Study Group's UK programmes is from countries with emerging economies such as China, and South East Asian economies, and in particular from oil rich nations like Russia and the Middle East.

*Source:

British Council, Global Value – The Value of UK Education and Training Exports Report, 2007