

## New school in South Africa

A NEW English language school in Cape Town, South Africa, opened in September, offering a unique product of English and cultural integration, according to Aaliya Bulbulia, Director of Studies at the new venture.

Kurus English will offer teacher-guided language excursions three times a week in addition to classroom-based lessons. "Our goal is to combine learning English with building meaningful awareness of cultural diversity," said Bulbulia, who was previously Director of Studies at Cape Studies.

The school was set up by Johannes Kraus, who was himself an English language student in Cape Town. He said that while he was very satisfied with the teaching he received, there was no link between the teaching and Africa.

He has teamed up with Coffee Beans Routes (Language Excursions) to provide the regular trips for students that embrace the local community. For example, students may attend a Teba Xhosa cooking session as part of a food & cuisine module. Or, as part of a module on media & expression, they can visit TV newsrooms and radio stations,

## English UK makes headway in Russia

FOLLOWING a difficult year for UK language schools working in Russia – when new biometric testing requirements but a lack of biometric testing units across Russia meant a freefall in visa applicants (see LTM, May 2008, page 7) – there is good news on the horizon.

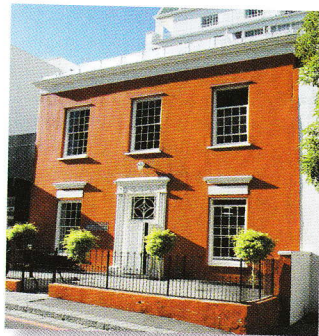
English UK has worked with the UK Border Agency to secure two new visa application

centres next year with a possible third also to open. Novosibirsk and Rostov on Don will host visa application centres that can undertake the biometric testing required for all visa applicants. This is in addition to the current visa centres in Moscow, St Petersburg or Ekaterinburg.

Tony Millns, Chief Executive of English UK, said, "Evidence from English UK members

was very helpful to UKBA in supporting the business case for this. Obviously it will help reduce travel time [for many] so will make UK visas cheaper and easier for Russians to obtain."

This year, applicants outside of the three major cities had to make costly travel plans to attend an interview in person at a visa centre and have their photo taken and fingerprints scanned. ●



Kurus English in Cape Town

and have the chance to interview a radio presenter.

"Our concept is to use authentic texts about South Africa and Africa," commented Kraus, "and to offer the students real-life context; a holistic cultural experience." ●

## Saudis can access legal aid overseas

THE SAUDI Arabian government has announced that it will provide assistance to any of its citizens overseas should they require legal counsel. The decision comes as many Saudi citizens continue to benefit from the King Abdullah Scholarship Program, which pays for certain undergraduate programmes overseas and preliminary English language tuition if required. This year, 17,628 scholarships have been issued for students going to the USA and Asian countries, in the main.

*Al Madinah* newspaper reported that from now on, measures will be put in place so that Saudi diplomatic mis-

sions appoint Saudi lawyers to defend citizens on any charges brought and pay bail conditions, if they cannot meet legal costs themselves. ●

## Currency

	1xUS\$ = currency*
Argentinean	Pesos 3.035
Australian	Dollar 1.075
Brazilian	Real 1.565
British	Pound 0.509
Bulgarian	Leva 1.248
Canadian	Dollar 1.034
Chilean	Pesos 510.10
Chinese (PR)	Yuan RMB 6.858
Czech	Koruny 15.38
Danish	Kroner 4.789
Egyptian	Pound 5.301
EU	Euro 0.642
Hong Kong	Dollar 7.804
Hungarian	Forint 149.96
Icelandic	Kronur 79.58
Indonesian	Rupiah 9,119.6
Israeli	New Shekels 3.543
Japanese	Yen 108.17
Mexican	Peso 9.933
New Zealand	Dollar 1.369
Norwegian	Kroner 5.138
Pakistan	Rupees 71.550
Polish	Zloty 2.057
Russian	Rubles 23.42
Singaporean	Dollar 1.372
Slovakian	Koruny 19.483
South African	Rand 7.229
South Korean	Won 1,016.90
Swedish	Kronor 6.073
Swiss	Franc 1.048
Taiwanese	NT Dollar 30.721
Thai	Baht 33.613
Turkish	New Lira 1.150
Venezuelan	Bolivar 2.147

\*Rates are subject to change and should be used as indications only. 04/08/08.

## Bell International's new teacher focus

BELL International, based in the UK, is launching a new Teacher Campus next year as a centre for professional development courses for English language teachers worldwide.

Participants on the professional programmes will live on-site at Homerton College at Cambridge University and be able to attend conference-style workshops as well as standard lessons on language and methodology. Bruce Milne, Product Development Manager at Bell, said that guest speakers would also deliver some of the afternoon sessions.

The aim is to create a campus of non-native English teachers from around the world. Milne commented, "A single campus location will create a lot of synergy, give lots of opportunity for



Homerton College, Cambridge

professional exchange and the chance to forge international friendships." He added, "The conference-style sessions are an exciting new departure and will give teachers the chance to dip their toes in new areas they will not have considered before."

For English teachers living within the European Union, funding is available to attend such courses under the Comenius and Grundtvig schemes. Language travel agencies may be able to help applicants apply for such grants ahead of enrolment on a course. ●

### MEI-Relsa Tokyo & Osaka Workshop

Date: September 12  
Venue: tbc  
info@mei.ie  
www.mei.ie

### International Education Fairs of Turkey

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

### Foreign Languages Plus

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

### The ICEF China Workshop

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

### Fedele Annual Meeting

Date: October 16-19  
Venue: Madrid, Spain  
info@fedele.org  
www.fedele.org

### MEI-Relsa Turkey Workshop

Date: October 17  
Venue: Istanbul, Turkey  
adrian.cummins@mei.ie  
www.mei.ie

### China Education Expo 2008

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

### Najah Education & Training Careers Exhibition

Date: October 19-21  
Venue: Abu Dhabi, UAE  
christine.weaver@irme.com  
www.najah-online.com

### Expos2 Morocco Fair

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

### MEI-Relsa Agent Fair Moscow

Date: October 22  
Venue: TBC  
info@mei.ie  
www.mei.ie