

RISKRADAR MONTHLY INSIGHTS

June 2024

*Taking risk intelligence to the next level.
Enabling the University stay ahead.*



Recent Global Developments in IHLs



Financial Sustainability

- For the first time in over 20 years, Hong Kong's universities will increase tuition fees to address rising costs. Starting in the 2025-26 academic year, fees at the eight public universities will rise by an average of 5.5% annually for three years ([Time Higher Education](#)).
- West Virginia University (WVU) is increasing tuition by nearly 5% per semester and cutting several majors to address enrollment declines and a budget deficit. The university's 2025 fiscal plan states that these are necessary due to inflation and to maintain the institution's core academic mission ([AP News](#)).
- Universities in Yorkshire have expressed concerns that reduced international student enrollments amid UK government policies aiming to lower immigration could push more institutions into debt. It was revealed that ten major universities in the region have collectively lost nearly £160 million over the past three years ([BBC News](#)).



Admissions

- Proposals for "managed growth" in Australian higher education include setting yearly enrolment limits and adjusting funding based on institutional performance and student demand, as institutions face progressively lower enrolment limits from 2026. Institutions failing to meet enrollment quotas may receive smaller targets the following year, and the "funding floor" safety net will decrease for institutions consistently under-enrolling. Proposed caps discourage universities from exceeding enrolment quotas or accepting tuition fees for excess students ([Times Higher Education](#)).
- Pro-Palestinian protests on campuses have further eroded public trust in higher education, affecting reputations and enrollments. The protests focused on demands to divest from Israel and companies profiting from its conflict with Hamas ([Inside Higher Ed](#)).



Research Development

- Researchers from the University of Oxford have developed a novel method to detect when Large Language Models (LLMs) are likely to "hallucinate", inventing plausible yet false information. This advancement, published in *Nature*, could improve the reliability of LLMs in critical applications such as legal or medical fields ([University of Oxford](#)).
- WS Audiology (WSA) announced the opening of a new audiological research lab in Singapore, ORCA Asia, and will focus on improving hearing aids and hearing care quality for the Asian population. This facility will enhance WSA's R&D capabilities, creating high-skilled jobs and addressing regional issues such as improving hearing aid technology for Asian languages ([Asia Research News](#)).



Cybersecurity

- The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), the third educational institute to fall victim to a data breach this year, experienced a significant data leak when a server of its School of Continuing and Professional Studies (CUSCS) was hacked. The breach affected over 20,000 individuals, including staff, part-time teachers, students, graduates, and visitors, with their names and email addresses stolen. However, cybersecurity investigations confirmed that the data had not been leaked online or to the dark web ([HongKong Free Press](#)).
- The National Security Agency's (NSA) Science of Security initiative collaborates with universities via Virtual Institutes to enhance cybersecurity in Trusted Systems, AI, and Defensive Mechanisms, fostering industry-academic projects on Neural Networks, IoT privacy, and Autonomous Agents ([National Security Agency/Central Security Service](#)).



EdTech

- Many universities in China introduced rules to regulate the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in students' work to maintain academic integrity. A November 2023 survey by China Youth Daily showed that nearly 85 per cent of the 7,000-plus respondents have used AI tools. Concerns over the widespread use of AI tools have prompted institutions to implement checks for AI-generated content in theses. Fuzhou University, for instance, announced that all undergraduate theses would undergo AI content checks before and after review ([CNA](#)).
- Two recent surveys reveal a significant gap between students and faculty in using generative artificial intelligence (AI). Over half of college students (51%) reported that AI helped them achieve better grades. Conversely, while 40% of faculty are familiar with AI, only 14% feel confident using it in teaching. Concerns about academic integrity, ethics, and effectiveness contribute to their hesitation ([Inside Higher Ed](#)).



Graduate Employability

- Many new college graduates struggle to find jobs, potentially impacting their careers and earnings for years. Since January 2021, the unemployment rate for recent graduates aged 22-27 has been higher than the overall U.S. rate. Hiring slowdowns in key industries like tech, finance, and consulting, along with general hiring declines, have worsened the situation ([Business Insider](#)).

Employment Dispute

- The New Zealand Employment Court has ordered the University of Auckland to pay prominent microbiologist Dr. Siouxsie Wiles \$20,000 for failing to protect her from severe threats following her Covid-19 commentary. The Court found the University had breached the health and safety, and contractual obligations and did not act in good faith although it did not breach academic freedom. ([The New Zealand Herald](#)).

About RiskRadar

RiskRadar is the Office of Risk Management and Compliance (ORMC)'s cutting-edge risk intelligence and sense-making capability. Launched in March 2023, RiskRadar serves as a cornerstone for horizon scanning that enables us to identify mega and macro trends by integrating media monitoring and social listening tools. It transforms conventional risk management at the National University of Singapore, providing expert insights and intelligence to allow for holistic decision-making amidst a fast-evolving landscape.