

**ADA UNIVERSITY ENGLISH  
PROFICIENCY EXAM**

**STAGE II  
WRITING**

**Time: 60 minutes**

# **PART I: Reading and Writing**

**Read the following text and do the task that follows.**

## **Brain Drain: Old Myths, New Realities**

*By Mario Cervantes*

Large numbers of educated and highly skilled people leave their own country to live and work in another one where the pay is more and conditions are better. This phenomenon is called “brain drain”. The expression “brain drain” was first invented by the British Royal Society to describe the outflow of scientists and technologists to the United States and Canada in the 1950s and early 1960s. Today, there is a stronger demand for highly skilled people, and the outflow is mostly from the developing countries of Asia to the United States, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom.

The United States is the main pole of attraction for foreign skilled workers. Since the early 1990s, some 900,000 highly skilled professionals – mainly information technologies (IT) workers – from India, China, and Russia have migrated to the United States. The United States also takes in 32% of all foreign students studying in developed countries, in general. Indeed, higher education is an important channel for US firms recruiting highly skilled migrants. But the United States is not the only magnet. Canada also attracts talent and is, in fact, a major importer of human capital. Skilled migration to Germany and France has been lower in recent history, but these countries have started implementing policies to attract foreign students, researchers, and IT workers.

The costs and benefits of brain drain and circulation of talent are hotly debated. International mobility of skilled workers can help satisfy the demand for skills in host countries. The contribution of foreign skilled workers to economic growth and achievement in these countries, in particular to research, innovation and entrepreneurship, is increasingly recognized. It might be interesting to know that many US Nobel Prize winners are foreign-born, and so are the creators of global high-tech giants, such as Intel or eBay.

Brain drain seems to be to the advantage of the host countries. However, sending countries might benefit from brain drain provided they manage to attract back their skilled emigrants and create opportunities for them to use their new technological competencies. The highly skilled returnees can bring valuable management experience, entrepreneurial skills, and access to global networks. They may even bring venture capital, i.e. money that can be invested in a new company. In the





