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UK Education Counselling Service

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12th July 2020

Dear All

Please find below the update 25 from HOPE.

News from HOPE

1. **Study abroad enquiries and business income gradually return to normal level at HOPE.** HOPE's own statistics of June show that both numbers of study abroad enquiries and volume of business income almost equals the figures of same month last year, a 20% increase over May, and 90% over January to April in total. The increase is more for the UK institutions and sector wise, UG and PG for 2021 entry.
2. **Enquiries from students of local international schools/bilingual schools for UG study are increasing substantially in the past two months.** This is the result of HOPE's strategy to cooperate with more international schools in China for students counselling/university application, teacher recruitment and teacher training. We are planning more students recruitment events in local international schools/bilingual schools in autumn both online and face to face. Please let us know if you are interested in participating, and we will contact you near the time.
3. **HOPE is to organize the Teach in China Webinar on 15th July Wednesday.** This is part of our campaign to recruit both foreign teachers and bilingual Chinese teachers for local international schools in China, particularly those in east China. Grateful if you could pass on the information below and the poster to your students at school of education, particularly your PGCE students this time. We think this is a Win-Win project to help with university's students employability as well as high demand from international schools for qualified A level/GCSE/IB teachers:

Webinar time: 13:00-14:30 UK time, 15th July Wednesday
Topic: Teach in China at international schools – New Culture, New Experience, New Career
Join instruction: register by using Zoom ID 62572406507, or contact: teachinchina@hope-studyabroad.com
Guest speaker: David Ranson, British principal of an international school in China
Gordon Zhang, HR Director of an international school in China

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Kind regards

Daniel Zheng

Daniel Zheng

Managing Director

HOPE Study Abroad Service/HOPE International Education



Teach In China at International Schools

Webinar Time: Time (BST) 13:00
15 July Wednesday



Guest speaker
David Ranson
British Principal in
China



Guest speaker
Gordon Zhang
HR Director,
international school
in China



Host
Alexandra Wen
Project Director,
HOPE International
Education



Register the Webinar: using Zoom ID 625 7240 6507

Enquiries and CV: teachinchina@hope-studyabroad.com

More Job Vacancies/about HOPE: Facebook page **teachinchina**
and join the group **Non Chinese Teachers**

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News on local media

Index

- **Grounded! International students face hard choices after US policy change**
- **Intl students studying online outside US can keep student status: ICE**
- **Opportunity knocks for students in Shanghai**
- **Most Chinese citizens positive on income prospects: report**
- **Ambassador warns UK on Huawei review**

Grounded! International students face hard choices after US policy change

Kiera Yu changed her mind about returning to her campus in the US three times in two days. The junior at the University of Chicago, who is now in Shanghai, had decided not to return to the US for the fall term and to attend online classes instead.

Suddenly, the choice was taken away from her.

Earlier this week, the Trump administration announced that students studying in the US on F-1 or M-1 visas would not be permitted to stay or reenter the country if they take only online classes. In other words, if they aren't studying in classrooms at all, they are out.

"I'm left with the choice of facing the difficulties and stress of physically attending school during a pandemic, or the uncertainties of an unknown academic future," Yu said. "But how would I get to the US? Where would I live? What precautions against the virus would I need to take? When would I be able to come home again?"

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Yu, who had previously canceled campus housing, was anxious until she read about widespread protests against the new policy and some lawsuits against the change by many US colleges.

To her relief, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement very recently announced some modifications regarding student visas. Although the latest rules state that international students outside the US, whose schools are only offering online classes, may remain their status if they are taking remote classes and “are able to meet the normal full course of study requirements or the requirements for a reduced course of study,” Yu is still facing a hard choice as her school is practicing a hybrid mode which doesn’t fit into the new regulations.

But she became hopeful that the decision might be reversed again and she could stick to her original plan of staying in Shanghai to continue studies online.

Many international students face the same dilemma as Yu. The visa policy change poses uncertainty and difficult choices for them.

Earlier in the year, they had to choose between returning home amid a reduced number of flights and travel bans, or staying in the host country amid campus closures and lockdowns. Now, they face the choice of staying at home or returning to campus.

“It is the uncertainty that drives parents and students crazy because that makes it impossible to plan for anything,” said Felix Guan, a Shanghai-based counselor for students applying to study abroad. “For months, my colleagues and I were bombarded with questions we can’t answer with any certainty. Nobody can. Nobody knows how long these uncertainties will last.”

He added, “Technically, those who stayed in the US and wanted to do online classes may be deported. Many first-year students are not sure about their visas yet. I have had a few online sessions with parents thinking about US colleges for their children. Now they are inquiring about other countries. We just have to wait and see how this situation pans out in the next few weeks.”

There were more than 1 million international students in the US for 2018-19 academic year, about 30 percent from China. Some of them don’t have the luxury of time in deciding what to do next.



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High school sophomore Maggie Xu just received another update from her school suggesting that international students planning to study in the US wait before booking plane tickets until the new rules are clarified.

She really can't wait.

Her school starts on August 29, but she needs to leave at least 28 days in advance. The US travel ban means she needs to have a 14-day quarantine, and the state of Massachusetts where she planned to study is now requiring an in-state quarantine of another 14 days. Now she is looking at third-country possibilities.

Xu may still be counted among the more fortunate. Many foreign schools have not announced their resumption dates or plans for fall semesters. Among those that have made announcements, many are setting different return dates for different grades and providing a hybrid of online and in-person classes.

The remote-lessons concept isn't popular with all students, such as junior Linda Zhuo, who decided to take a gap year upon hearing that the majority of her classes would be held online.

"I don't see much value in remote learning," she said. "There are things outside of academia that I would like to explore, and the current situation provides the perfect opportunity for me to take a leave of absence and pursue other interests."

For seniors like Ivy Liu, concern about online classes extends to job-hunting.

"It's a serious drawback if we can't meet with company recruiters in person," she said. "Online interviews just can't make up for in-person sessions."

(Yu Shanyuan also contributed to this article.)

Grappling with a dilemma not of my own making



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Maggie Xu

When novel coronavirus arrived in the US, most of the East Coast schools were on spring break. In early March, I read news of a case in Cape Cod, and then another article about a case in the gas station just five minutes from our school. I called my mother that night and she sent me two boxes of face masks.

In the middle of March, most of the schools in Massachusetts postponed school and required international students to return home. My friends in other schools had already bought their plane tickets, but I still hadn't had an announcement from our school. Meanwhile, our school committee was making decisions and the campus was isolated from the outside. Our weekend activities were canceled. Domestic students could not come to campus. The gym and the sports center were closed. Food in the dining hall was contained in plastic bowls to avoid touching.

No longer than a week later, our school wrote us a letter telling us to buy a plane ticket as soon as possible. However, things didn't go as we had hoped. Many countries enforced travel bans, which made my journey back to China much more of a problem. Finally, I transferred twice to Newark and Singapore and then back to Shanghai in late March.

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I started taking virtual classes after my 14 days in quarantine. Although I lived under the same roof as my family, we were living in different time zones. I had classes from 9pm to 3am, went to sleep at 4am and woke up at around 11am. I had lunch as breakfast at the weekend and made my breakfast on weekdays. That period was a nightmare for me, so since then I've been looking forward to going back to campus.

As the saying goes, "The road to happiness is strewn with setbacks." The US requires Chinese citizens to spend 14 days in quarantine in a third country before entering the country. It was a bolt of lightning for someone like me who didn't have a visa for a third country.

The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Monday released new information — "Nonimmigrant F-1 and M-1 students attending schools operating entirely online may not take a full online course load and remain in the United States" and "active students currently in the United States enrolled in such programs must depart the country or take other measures."

I couldn't stay at home and have virtual classes for a whole year, or my I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status) would be out of date.

Now I'm just going to wait for our next school meeting for international families to provide more support on visas and I-20 status and the school's reaction to the ICE announcements. And there's nothing more I can do but prepare for the next policy announced by the US government.

Intl students studying online outside US can keep student status: ICE

International students holding F and M visas studying online outside of the US can keep their status in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, said US Immigration and Customs Enforcement in a recent statement released on its official website.

"Students will not be permitted to enter or remain in the United States to attend such schools, but they are not barred from continuing to attend all classes at these schools

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from abroad," ICE said in response to the question "are students attending schools that are entirely online barred from attending that school?"

ICE also noted that this approach "balances students' ability to continue their studies while minimizing the risk of spread of COVID-19 in our communities by ensuring that individuals who do not need to be present in the United States are not physically here."

Earlier, Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have jointly filed a lawsuit against President Donald Trump's administration over new rules barring international students from staying in the US while taking online courses.

The lawsuit seeks a temporary restraining order and preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to bar the US Department of Homeland Security and the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement from enforcing the new regulations on foreign students in the country amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Source: CGTN Editor: Chen Xiaoli

Opportunity knocks for students in Shanghai

SHINE 16:40 UTC+8, 2020-06-30

It has been an incredibly successful year of university admissions for Shanghai international schools. A large number of students received offers from universities ranked inside the world's top 10. Some of the students were eager to reflect on their university applications experiences and share some advice.



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Sometimes the numbers don't add up

In the process of college admissions, people resort to statistics far too often — whether it is college rankings, average SAT, ACT and IB scores, or the number of extracurriculars that someone “must have” to get in. But in reality, this collection of numbers is far too simplistic and superficial. To me, Stanford is more than a bag of data points — it is a living, breathing place, one with its own unique culture, traditions and personality.

I discovered Stanford when I attended Stanford Summer Session in 2018. I was exposed to the intellectual rigor of university-level courses, as well as its unique culture of innovation. It was this vibrancy that drew me in — a sense of idealism combined with can-do pragmatism that transcended the confines of admission statistics.

Throughout my time at Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong, the school has prepared me not only for such a spirit of disruptive innovation, to have the audacity to see, but also the ability to plan. I feel incredibly privileged to have fantastic teachers guide me as mentors, both inside the classroom and out. In two years studying the IB curriculum, I have learnt academic content and the skills necessary to turn ideas into action. Whether it is organizing Model United Nations' conferences or hosting Hackathons,

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IB's emphasis on interdisciplinary thinking in its subjects and its CAS extracurricular program has allowed me to put abstract ideas into reality and attain valuable managerial skills.

Often, the IBDP has a reputation of being stressful, pressuring and seemingly draconian in its demands. True, the daunting amount of work in an IB Diploma is not for everyone. But I think if you view the requirements of the IB as opportunities to explore topics you're genuinely interested in, you can really enjoy these tasks. For example, for my Extended Essay, I analyzed the rhetoric and political satire in standup comedy, something that is a great personal interest to me.

Ultimately, the IBDP is a great opportunity to explore your passions, a chance for you to learn, grow and thrive in unexpected ways. After all, you're more than just a number.

(This article is contributed by Jay, Year 13 student at Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong.)



Jay is a Year 13 student at Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong.

Big-name university not a ticket to success

I want to take this opportunity to share my experience from the university selection process. I hope my message will benefit prospective art school students in particular.

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Surrounded by a high-achieving educational environment, the pressure to get into a prestigious art university such as Rhode Island School of Design, CalArts and Parsons, is pretty big. Many students believe getting into a big-name university equates with career success.

Attending a summer residency course at a less well-known art school, Maryland Institute College of Art, brought about a change in my perception and university research process. During that course, classes were taught by accomplished alumni from a range of different art schools, lesser-known schools were not on my radar until then. But I discovered they offered the same, if not better, education and even more work-related opportunities than “big-name” schools. Furthermore, many of them had their finger on the pulse of the latest industry developments, trends and technology.

College names are not a ticket to career success. A highly competitive and constantly evolving industry in any field looks for people who demonstrate they can be a master of advanced technical abilities, display good communication and collaboration skills, the ability to think, experiment and create independently.

Otis caught my attention after I reached out to several of their students, checked out their faculty, student artwork and graduates’ career paths.

Their student environment struck me as highly supportive, encouraging strong collaboration among students of different majors to replicate the work process of industry-level products and output.

Students curate their own curriculum to manage classes and compulsory internships. I found this to be the school most capable of preparing me for the career that I aspire to. I am very excited to begin my dual-degree program in digital media and entrepreneurship at Otis College of Art and Design.

(This article is contributed by Elizabeth, Year 13 student at Dulwich Pudong.)



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Elizabeth is a Year 13 student at Dulwich Pudong.

Manage your uni application time well

The guidance department of Wellington College International Shanghai has given me so much support during this application process.

Whether I needed the latest information from the admission officers, or had questions about my applications, I was always able to pop into their office and find the answers.

My biggest piece of advice is to manage your time wisely, especially if you are applying to US universities. The pressure from both the US-standardised university tests and IB can be really stressful, so always talk to your teachers if you think you cannot handle the workload.

Reflecting on Wellington's pupils and their offers, Steve Tippen, director of Higher Education and Careers for Wellington, said:

"The university offers that our Year 13 pupils have received represent an outstanding achievement. Gaining a range of offers as impressive as these is not easy. They are the product of years of preparation, forensic research and input from a wide variety of people on a range of topics related to university admissions.

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“The fact that our pupils have been recognized by the most selective of global universities, from Oxbridge to the Ivy League, is a real testament to the hard work and ambition of our pupils, as well as the dedication of all those people involved in supporting their applications.”

(This article is contributed by Daniel, Year 13 student at WCIS.)



Daniel is a Year 13 student at WCIS.

Put trust in yourselves

The essay writing part of the application process was particularly rewarding.

While the UK one is more academically leaning and the US one is much more personal, I have benefited from both, as they have been a process of self-exploration.

Throughout the whole process, our university counselors, teachers and others have given invaluable advice regarding every aspect of our preparations.

For future Year 13s: Trust the process and listen to your university counsellors. They know what they are talking about!

(This article is contributed by Seann, Year 13 student at WCIS.)

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Seann is a Year 13 student at WCIS.

Most Chinese citizens positive on income prospects: report

Xinhua | Updated: 2020-07-12 11:49

BEIJING - The majority of Chinese citizens are positive about future income growth despite short-term pressure from the COVID-19 epidemic, a newly-released survey report has shown.

Up to 80.6 percent of the survey respondents are either optimistic or neutral about the likelihood of increased income in the next one or two years, according to a report released by Licaitong, tech giant Tencent's wealth-management platform, on the post-epidemic financial status and investment tendencies of Chinese citizens.

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In seeking to counter the economic impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, some said they would increase their savings, while 52.9 percent of respondents said they would find ways to expand their income, and 41.3 percent said they would consider investment and wealth management.

However, 71.7 percent of respondents said they feel inclined to be conservative in making future investments, as the appetite for risks has faltered in the wake of the epidemic, according to the report.

Wu Chaoming, vice head of Chasing International Economic Institute, said the trend for China's long-term stable and sound development remains unchanged, and the positive sentiment is in line with the ongoing gradual improvement in economic fundamentals.

But he also warned that the epidemic would significantly affect consumer sentiment, which could, in turn, result in a stronger willingness to save money, with a certain impact on consumption.



Two men promote sales of fried dough twist via livestreaming in Shangqiu, Central China's Henan province, on July 8, 2020. [Photo/Xinhua]

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Ambassador warns UK on Huawei review

By ANGUS McNEICE in London | China Daily Global | Updated: 2020-07-07 16:43



Chinese Ambassador to Britain Liu Xiaoming. [Photo/Agencies]

China's ambassador to the United Kingdom has cautioned London about problems that could arise from any reversal of the decision to allow the Chinese telecom company Huawei to participate in British networks.

Liu Xiaoming said the UK would sacrifice quality if it phased out Huawei components.

"It's up to the UK to make the final decision," he said. "I think Huawei have done their best to address concerns over security."

Liu said Huawei could help the UK achieve its "ambitious plan" of ensuring 95 percent of the nation is served by 5G technology by 2025.

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He spoke after the UK said it would again review Huawei's role, this time in light of United States sanctions introduced in May.

Oliver Dowden, the UK's secretary of state for digital, culture, media, and sport, said the nation's security agencies were concerned that the US sanctions could impact the reliability of Huawei equipment, which was set to play a significant role in the expansion of UK 5G networks.

"We've had these US sanctions that were imposed a couple of months ago," Dowden said on the radio station LBC. "I've asked the National Cyber Security Centre to analyze the impact of them."

The reappraisal followed Prime Minister Boris Johnson announcing in January, that, after years of US lobbying for London to boycott the Chinese company over alleged security breaches, Huawei would not be banned from British networks.

The UK government said at the time Huawei would be allowed to continue to participate, but that it would be limited to a maximum market share of 35 percent and be blocked from core network infrastructure.

But the US sanctions have thrown that decision into doubt because they compel foreign semiconductor makers to obtain a license if they plan to use US equipment in any chipsets sold to Huawei. If such licenses are denied, it would be much harder for many of the world's main chipmakers to sell to Huawei.

"It seems likely (the sanctions) are going to have a significant impact on the reliability of Huawei, I've just received that advice, I will be discussing that with the prime minister and if there's any change of policy arising from it I will make an announcement," Dowden said.

The Daily Telegraph had reported that the National Cyber Security Centre will recommend to Johnson that Huawei products be removed from UK networks by 2029.

Huawei Senior Vice-President Victor Zhang said Huawei is "open to discussions with the government" on the issue.

"We are working closely with our customers to find ways of managing the proposed US restrictions so the UK can maintain its current lead in 5G," Zhang said in a statement. "We believe it is too early to determine the impact of the proposed restrictions, which

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are not about security, but about market position. All our world-leading products and solutions use technology and components over which the UK government has strict oversight."

Paul Harrison, head of international media at Huawei UK, said the US sanctions were designed to weaken Huawei's position as a global leader on 5G.

"This isn't about security, it's about money," Harrison wrote on Twitter on Sunday. "Given the US has consistently failed to provide evidence to back up endless spurious allegations — which clearly few, including the UK were prepared to listen to — they've resorted to threatening to cut off Huawei's supply chain."

He said Johnson was right to have earlier approved Huawei's continued participation because "having three major players in the market is better than two".

He said the US "fell asleep at the 5G wheel years ago" and is now "fighting to claw back market position".

"Shouldn't the US respect a United Kingdom in the post-Brexit era being in a position to choose its own telecommunication strategy?" he wrote. "On Huawei right now, the Trump administration wants to call the shots."

Han Baoyi in London contributed to this story