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UK Education Counselling Service

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13th June

Dear All

Please find below the update 23 from HOPE.

News from HOPE

- HOPE is to hold an online pre-departure briefing on 25th July for all our students going to the UK this autumn. The topics will cover visa application, preparation before departure, UK institutions' covid-19 policy, survival skills of studying and living in the UK. For institutions who will host our students this year, we are inviting you to send us a short 2-minute video clip to welcome our students, and we will show this at the event.
- Hosted by HOPE, 3 webinars on institutions' latest policies on Covid-19 were held on 9th, 10th and 12th. 8 UK universities and 4 schools were invited to talk to over 45 families each session. June is probably the key month for conversion as well as for students to make the final decision on their study plan this year!



科博国际教育
HOPE International Education
20周年庆典
20th Anniversary

直播英国名校
入学申请答疑会



英国名校入学申请答疑及政策更新直播安排		
日期	时间	嘉宾院校
6月9日	19:30-20:00	University of Glasgow (格拉斯哥大学)
	20:00-20:30	Newcastle University (纽卡斯尔大学)
	20:30-21:00	University of Southampton (南安普顿大学)
	21:00-21:30	University of Leicester (莱斯特大学)
6月10日	20:00-20:30	The University of Sheffield (谢菲尔德大学)
	20:30-21:00	Loughborough University (拉夫堡大学)
	21:00-21:30	The University of Edinburgh (爱丁堡大学)
	21:30-22:00	University of York (约克大学)
6月12日	19:30-20:00	Berkhamsted School (伯克姆斯特德学校)
	20:00-20:30	John Leggott College (约翰雷格学院)
	20:30-21:00	Brockenhurst College (布洛赫斯特学院)
	21:00-21:30	Rossall School (罗素学校)

- > 疫情之下, 英国院校开学时间和授课方式是否确定?
- > 开学后, 学校如何保障学生安全?
- > 明年申请入学是否竞争更加激烈?
- > 名校申请现在要做哪些准备?
- > 现在美国转英国大学还来得及吗?



扫描二维码注册预约

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3. Apart from Wuhan and Xi'an, all the other visa application centres will reopen on 22 June, after Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou and Chongqing opened on 2 June. As pre-session English course moves to online and almost all on campus summer camps are cancelled, the peak season for visa application will postpone to August. HOPE is reminding all our students to prepare for the visa as earlier as possible to avoid the peak in August.

Some UK Visa Application Centres in China re-opening

From 22 June, UK Visas and Immigration is beginning a phased resumption of services. Our Visa Application Centres in China, aside from Xi'an and Wuhan, will be open from the same date.

Customers who were unable to attend an earlier appointment, will be able to log into their account to book a new appointment. Customers who have completed their application on GOV.UK, but didn't previously book an appointment at the Visa Application Centre, can do so from today.

Your safety is our priority, so customers visiting our Visa Application Centres may be asked to observe social distancing, undergo temperature checks or be required to wear facemasks/gloves, subject to local authority guidelines.

Customers exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, including fever (higher than 38 degrees Celsius), cough or difficulty breathing will be helped to reschedule their application submission for another day and will be advised to seek medical attention at the nearest healthcare facility of their choice.

Kind regards

Daniel Zheng

Daniel Zheng
Managing Director
HOPE Study Abroad Service/HOPE International Education

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Chinese universities rise in global rankings

By Zou Shuo | China Daily | Updated: 2020-06-13 07:35



Tsinghua University [Photo/Xinhua]

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Fifty-one universities on the Chinese mainland have been included in the global top 1,000 universities, compared with 42 in its last rankings, according to the latest QS World University Rankings.

Tsinghua University is China's highest-ranked university, rising from 16th place last year to 15th, and achieving its best ranking since the list was first published in 2004, according to the rankings released on Wednesday by London-based higher education analyst QS Quacquarelli Symonds.

Peking University slipped one place to 23rd. Fudan University rose six places to 34th and Shanghai Jiao Tong University rose 13 places to 47th. Both universities achieved their best rankings.

QS ranked 1,000 universities from 80 countries and regions. Six indicators were used in compiling the annual rankings, including academic and employer reputation, citations per faculty, student-to-faculty ratio, as well as international student and faculty ratios.

Six mainland universities made it into the Top 100 universities globally. Hong Kong has five Top 100 universities and Taiwan has one.

Twenty-six Asian universities place among the global Top 100 — the highest number ever.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology was ranked the world's leading university for the ninth consecutive year, while Asia's top university was the National University of Singapore, ranked 11th place.

MIT, Stanford University and Harvard University are still the top three, while the University of Oxford continues to be the best university in the United Kingdom, slipping one place to fifth. Its compatriot competitor, the University of Cambridge, remains 7th.

The majority of universities from the US have fallen in rank this year, with 112 of US' 153 ranked universities falling and only 34 recording improvements. This is primarily due to their collective relative decline in QS's measures of academic standing and research impact.

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Ben Sowter, QS Director of Research, said: "The American higher education hegemony continues to diminish in the face of increasing competitiveness across the world: a competitiveness driven by strategic funding, internationalization efforts, and strong links between education and industry."

There is no question that Chinese universities have continued to perform well in academic research as education authorities have realized that strategic investment in the country's top universities is helpful to build a world-class higher education system, he said.

According to a separate ranking issued on June 3, universities from the Chinese mainland have for the first time secured the top two spots among Asian universities.

Tsinghua University, the first Chinese university to achieve top place in last year's rankings, maintains its top position this year, while Peking University rose from 5th to 2nd, according to the latest Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings.

This year's rankings also saw Chinese mainland universities claiming three of the Top 10 positions for the first time, with the University of Science and Technology of China and South Korea's Sungkyunkwan University tied for 10th.

China opposes US restrictions on Chinese students

A Chinese government spokesperson on Friday denounced the US restrictions on Chinese students, saying that China "firmly opposes politicizing and stigmatizing the normal exchanges of international students."

The spokesperson for the Ministry of Education said the restrictive measures taken by the United States contradicted what its leaders had said on many public occasions that Chinese students are welcomed in the United States.

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China urges the United States to return to rational thinking, respect public opinions and do things that are conducive to mutual exchanges and understanding between the two peoples, said the spokesperson.

"We will continue to support exchange of students between China and the United States and welcome students from other countries, the United States included, to study in China," the spokesperson said.

Source: Xinhua Editor: Wang Qingchu

Beijing suspends class resumption after new COVID-19 cases



Fourth-graders attend a class at Yangfangdian central primary school in Haidian District of Beijing, capital of China on June 8, 2020.

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Beijing on Friday suspended the class resumption for primary schools' lower graders after three new confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported in the capital city over the past two days.

The Beijing Municipal Education Commission also asked off-campus training institutions to suspend resuming offline courses and group activities.

The decision was made in line with the changing situation of the city's epidemic prevention and control, said the commission.

The commission said on Tuesday that around 520,000 students in the first, second and third grades in Beijing's primary schools were scheduled to return to campus on June 15.

Two new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Beijing on Friday, one day after one case was reported.

Higher-grade students who have returned to school will continue classes, and teaching arrangements will be adjusted according to the epidemic prevention and control situation in Beijing.

Examination arrangements will be carried out as planned on the basis of strict epidemic prevention and control work, the education commission said Friday.

Source: Xinhua Editor: Chen Xiaoli

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City focuses on finding jobs for graduates

Helping local college graduates find jobs is an important part of Shanghai's latest 26 measures to promote employment.

The city will explore more jobs in government departments, state-owned enterprises, grassroots programs and communities for graduates.

It will also encourage the Lingang New Area, the Yangtze River Delta Ecology and Greenery Integration Demonstration Zone and other industrial zones to provide jobs targeting graduates.

The city will also offer subsidies for graduates from Hubei Province and for employers that hire local residents who graduated from local colleges but failed to find jobs within two years.

The Shanghai Education Commission said it has cooperated with other government departments to guide colleges and human resources and social security authorities in districts to organize online job fairs and fairs exclusively for graduates. In previous months, they have organized events offering 5,800 jobs in local schools and kindergartens and 2,000 jobs in the culture and sport industries.

Since March, the city has organized more than 10 online job fairs for local college graduates with about 23,000 enterprises offering over 230,000 jobs. It has also joined the Ministry of Education's online recruitment platform where graduates can search for jobs around the clock.

It has launched a platform for students to go through the employment process from submitting resumes to signing contracts by scanning employers' QR codes.

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Some government departments have also offered jobs. For example, the Shanghai Civil Affairs Bureau offered 1,000 community jobs and the Shanghai Administration of Civil Service has also decided to give priority to graduates.

Local colleges have expanded their admission plans for postgraduate programs by 15 percent, including 3,250 places in masters programs. Meanwhile, 2,032 places have been added to the admission plans by programs for junior college students to continue studies and seek bachelor's degrees. Some universities have also launched programs to enable students to pursue a second bachelor's degree and offer posts such as research assistants.

Programs for graduates to work at villages and other grassroots units have also doubled their recruitment scales.

State-owned enterprises are also required to offer 50 percent of their new jobs to graduates. By now, the city's commission of economy and informatization, state-owned assets supervision and administration commission and commerce commission have organized more than 3,000 enterprises to offer 65,000 jobs.

Chen Dong, chief economist of the city's state-owned assets supervision and administration commission, said that by the end of May the enterprises under its supervision had made 14,656 offers, up 7 percent from last year. Among them, 52 percent have signed employment contracts while the others' interviews and internships have been affected by the pandemic.

Chen said 80 percent of the enterprises listed larger recruitment plans than last year. For example, Shanghai Pudong Development Bank offered more than 1,200 jobs in Shanghai but is expected to hire more as over 2,000 had passed interviews.

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Ni Minjing, deputy director of the education commission, said more efforts will be made to explore new jobs for graduates and help those from families seriously affected by the pandemic. But he also suggested students and parents to be rational with remaining confident in the current situation.

“There are a lot of jobs in Shanghai, but please hold reasonable expectations and cherish the opportunities made available due to our joint efforts,” he said. “I also hope you can update your concepts on grassroots jobs, which are actually more helpful for you to learn about society and achieve personal development.”

Bringing the fight to the night

By Xing Yi | CHINA DAILY | Updated: 2020-06-12 07:19



Time-honored local restaurants draw visitors to Shanghai's Yu Garden shopping arcade. [Photo provided to China Daily]

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With the novel coronavirus outbreak reined in across China, cities have been taking measures to boost consumption. Shanghai, for instance, has turned to leveraging its nighttime economy.

Following Shanghai's Double Five Shopping Festival, an event that focused on promoting e-commerce through livestreams and virtual coupons, the city unveiled the Double Six Nightlife Festival on June 6, offering night owls a bevy of retail, dining and lifestyle options.

On the Bund

That day, the 150-meter-long Fengjing Road which leads to the southern part of the Bund was transformed into a market in the evening. The three rows of white tents housing around 100 vendors selling snacks, beers and novelties were packed with people.

"We are a weekend pop-up fair with a beautiful skyline of the Bund," says Yang Bokai, who is in charge of the market.

"You can quaff pints of Tsingtao beer or sip Rio cocktails at our eight bars, taste a variety of delicacies at the 30 food carts here, play games and watch the live concerts."

Flanked by the Fosun Art Center and the Bund Finance Center, the market also features activities held on the rooftop terraces of the BFC and the art center, where people can enjoy the view of the Bund and the skyscrapers on the other side of the Huangpu River.

"The fair will be held every weekend through the rest of the year," Yang says. "In case of rain, we've also prepared special fluorescent raincoats for the public."

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Shanghai residents visit the weekend night market at the Bund Financial Center on June 6. GAO ERQIANG/CHINA DAILY

Downtown areas

Another nightlife-festival site is the Anyi Road Night Market, a 250-meter lane located just a block away from the city's bustling West Nanjing Road.

Like the site on the Bund, this market was teeming with visitors.

"I knew there would be crowds, but I didn't expect so many people," says Tian Suyuan, who works at an IT company.

"But I found it to be a great place to hang out with friends and family as some indoor entertainment, such as movie theaters, haven't reopened yet."

The Anyi Road Night Market was launched by the Kerry Center with the support of Jing'an district in October. It also serves as a weekend market, with traffic through the site closed from Friday evening through Sunday.

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Cai Junyi, a community manager of the Jing'an Kerry Center, says the market was upgraded when it reopened after the outbreak.

"During this summer month, we want to make the market a big garden and bring back the old flower market to the modern city," Cai says.

"The current theme is Green Escape, and we will change the theme of the night market every two months."



People wander near the gate of the weekend night market on Fengjing Road.
GAO ERQIANG/CHINA DAILY

Around the city

The festival has also singled out several commercial areas as the city's nightlife landmarks. Among them are Xintiandi and Julu Road, both of which are famous for their wide offerings of watering holes set in traditional shikumen-style buildings; Wujia Road, which is known for its traditional local-snack shops; Xujiahui and Hengshan Road, another popular bar-and-cafe stretch; and College Road, which is

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located near Fudan University and is frequented by hordes of students and nearby residents.

In Hongkou district, the 15th Shanghai Wine & Liquor Festival was held at the 1933 Old Millfun, a former abattoir transformed into a modern complex comprising restaurants, shops and studios, last weekend. Hongkou says it'll also host wine-and liquor-tasting events on the third week of every month.

In Huangpu district, Li Shiyi, a young Shanghai paper-cutting artist, joined the evening art fair held at Sinan Mansions, whose 1920s-era Western European buildings have often been used for book launches, art exhibitions and cultural salons.

"I've attended many art fairs before and this time I'm bringing not only my paper-cutting works, but also peripheral products with Shanghai art designs, such as phone cases and yellow liquors," Li says.

The venue for the China International Import Expo has also been turned into a market. Here, visitors can shop for imported products that were previously sold during the expo, such as coffee from New Zealand, rice from Japan and wines from Italy.

Tang Guifa, general manager of the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), says the venue will hold two night-market events during weekends in June and resume exhibitions in July.

Malls play their part

Eighteen big shopping malls owned by Shanghai's Bailian Group stayed open until 11 pm on the opening day of the nightlife festival on June 6.

A traditional Chinese music concert was held in the open-air area of Bailian Xijiao Shopping Mall while a techno disco event was held on Huaihai Road in the newly opened Bailian TX from 9 pm on June 6 until 2 am on June 7.

Many of the shopping malls have also launched small markets within their premises and are offering 500 million yuan (\$71 million) worth of discount coupons on Alipay to Shanghai residents.

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In light of the festival, the city has extended the operating hours of metro lines 1, 2, 9 and 10. Starting from June 6, these lines will operate until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

"I used to go to the old Pengpu night market on Linfen Road, but after it was shut down in 2017, there just wasn't another night market that was convenient enough for me to get to," Yangpu resident Xu Jin says.

"I think this new initiative of having a nightlife festival is good. The night market has always been part of the urban culture, and many people long for a place to relax after work. I've often had meals with friends at the sidewalk food stalls at night in the past, and I really hope to rediscover that feeling at the new night markets."

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