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One of the top Chinese Science and Technology universities, Westlake University in Hangzhou – also a partner university of HOPE for international students recruitment and education exchange with overseas universities.

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Inside HOPE

HOPE Counsellors' annual training to build a professional team

This year marks the 25th anniversary of HOPE International Education. As a company focusing on overseas education and international exchanges, HOPE has always been prioritizing the staff's professionalism in servicing our clients. As an annual recurring arrangement, this year's counsellors' internal training was held in Yixing City on August 21-22.



Group Photo for HOPE Consultants

Due to the overall economic downturn and complexity of international affairs, the study abroad demand in China market is changing. In particular, multi-country application is becoming a trend among students. In response to this market shift, HOPE provides training on study-abroad applications for multiple countries including knowledge and counselling skills on popular destination countries and regions such as Malaysia, Singapore, HK as well as UK, US, Australia and Canada.

HOPE is also developing a variety of new services and products to meet the needs of different clients. For example, universities tour in UK, Malaysia and HK during summer and winter vacation, expanded online tutoring for current students overseas, more career and internship opportunities, and even 50+ short programme for adults. The training session briefed

counsellors on all those plans and programme so that they are able to offer to the potential clients.



Heated Discussions among the Consultants

Besides, HOPE counsellors will be more involved in marketing activities to be more exposed to the market and increase the conversion. The training also provided counsellors with marketing and counselling skills as well as how to jointly work with company's marketing team to adapt to the changing market.

Interview with HOPE top students: Our long-term commitments to HOPE parents and students

In the evening of 28th of August, HOPE Shanghai office conducted a live broadcast interview with two top students watched by over 500 audience online! Felix and Alex, who are admitted by Oxbridge this year, became HOPE's clients 3 years ago when HOPE help them to apply UK boarding schools. They have shared their reflections, choices and achievements along the path of growth with HOPE. Their stories are a testament to HOPE years of dedication to the international education sector and our commitment to providing deep and long-term support for every family.

HOPE 科博国际教育
HOPE International Education
Since 2000

科博家长荟客厅-直播间

在梦想彼岸，他们如何摘取牛剑桂冠？

Felix同学

A-level
数学A*, 高数A*, 化学A*, 生物A

录取学校
牛津大学生物化学（分子与细胞）

Alex同学

A-level
数学A*, 高数A*, 物理A*, 计算机A*, 中文A*

录取学校
剑桥大学自然科学（物理方向）

These two students represent the very group HOPE has always lead to success. They are not merely chasing prestigious university labels, but truly developing into future leaders with exceptional academic strength, independent thinking, global perspective and a sense of social responsibility through the refinement of the UK's top independent schools. Their success is the natural outcome of their own talents and efforts, their families' nurturing, and the high-quality educational environment of British private schools. HOPE counsellors are deeply honored to have witnessed and facilitated the blossoming of such excellence through planning.

Long-Term Planning and Steadfast Support Are the Foundation of HOPE's service

HOPE's connection with countless outstanding students began long before they entered university. For instance, parents of Felix and Alex chose HOPE as their partner on their journey to UK top universities when their children planned to study in the UK. HOPE counsellors understand that the path to excellence requires precise planning and continuous adjustment. From course selection and background enhancement to outlining personal strengths, HOPE counsellor, their UK schools and guardians maintain close communication with families, providing forward-looking advice and practical support.

The deep trust and understanding built over time allow HOPE to better appreciate each student's unique strengths and aspirations, offering critical guidance at key stages. The two students in live interview are exemplary of HOPE's long-term service system.

Lasting Bonds: Building a Community for parents and students

HOPE cherishes the deep relationships with every student and family. Our connections have long transcended simple service contracts, resembling more of an extended community growing together. Many students who have graduated and their parents, continue to maintain close ties with HOPE. They willingly share their university experiences, future plans, and often offer advice and assistance to younger students following in their footsteps.





Past events of HOPE's student and parents community

This enduring relationship and positive cycle form HOPE's most valuable asset and unique culture. It allows HOPE to continually learn from experience, refine its services, and more accurately grasp the pulse of top-tier education, thereby providing better and more sustained support for more families choosing the path of international education.

This session of the live interview was not only a showcase of outstanding students' achievements but also a vivid demonstration of HOPS International Education's long term service philosophy and 'whole-process' service capability.

Final Call--School Link Forum and Fair Autumn 2025

This autumn, HOPE will hold a School Link Forum on 17th Oct, again followed by an International Education Fair on 18th Oct, and the venue will be in Suzhou, a tourism city famous for its gardens 30 minutes away by high speed train from Shanghai. This Forum is the chance for overseas schools to meet Chinese schools in Suzhou and surrounding areas to form school links for recruitment and profile-raising purpose. About 30-40 Chinese schools' principals and headmasters will be invited to the event. The Forum will take the form of keynote speech, panel discussions, individual appointment slots, and networking lunch reception. The fair on Saturday afternoon 18th October will be a chance to meet 50-80 families.

So far, we have received some application forms from schools and universities. For any institution is interested in attending, please contact Alice Zhang at event@hope-studyabroad.com for more details.

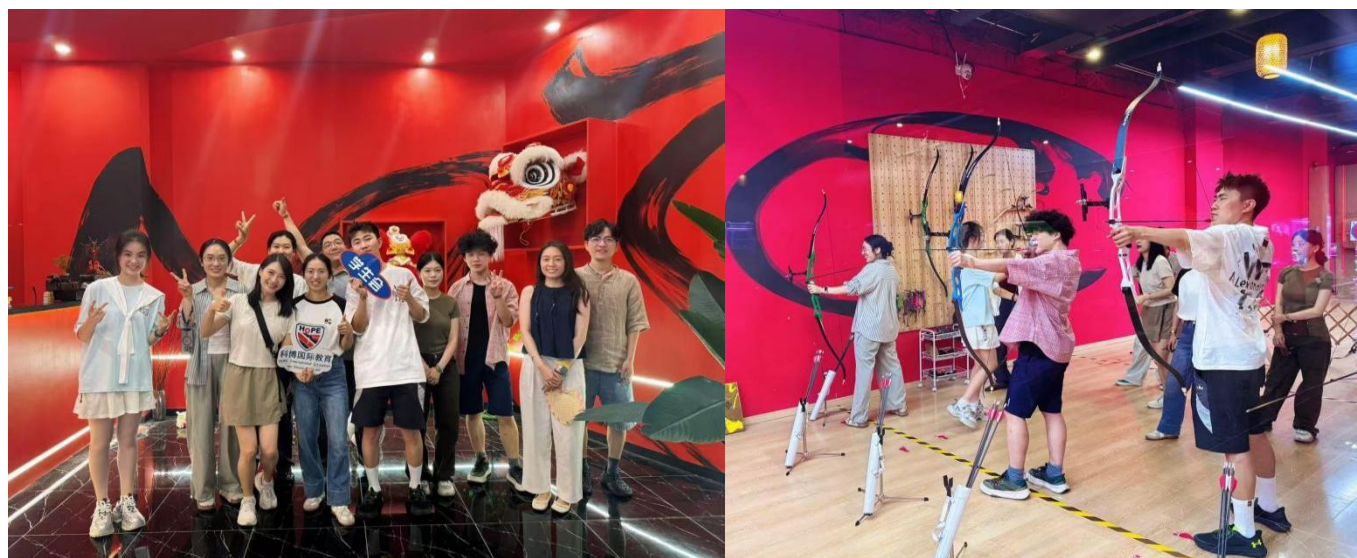


School Link Forum in 2024

INSIDE HOPE – Photo news of August



HOPE's volunteers' training programme was launched in July and end in August. Student volunteers did 20 hours of practice to finalize their training. They commented that they have achieved and learned a lot in this time's autism volunteer training. This programme is jointly designed and delivered by HOPE and its partner, Shanghai Xuhui Clover Autism Rehabilitation Centre to train professional volunteers to care after autism children.



HOPE Hangzhou office organized Friends Gathering. The event was successfully held, featuring three activities: bowling, archery, and table football. Students were divided into five teams for group competitions and teams were required to reorganize after completing each activity. With constant reshuffling of teams, students had the opportunity to get to know each other. The event ended amidst laughter and joy.



Alice Zhang, HOPE University Partnership Manager, attended an event organized by Kuala Lumpur University of Technology in Anhui Province, China. Some of the new products presented at the conference were highly practical, and the launch of these products and service has drawn significant attention. This highlights the need for us to focus on expanding our business in third and fourth-tier cities, including services such as Sino-foreign cooperative education, study abroad service and etc.

News from local media

UK a favorite place for China's summer students

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202508/22/WS68a892bba310851ffdb4fa92.html>

By Wang Mingjie in London | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2025-08-22 23:54

Parents sending their offspring to Europe again after COVID hiatus, looking for safety, academic outcomes, and future value



Students create a star shape with their hands to symbolize unity across different cultural backgrounds. [Photo provided to China Daily]

Chinese students are once again filling the halls of British boarding schools and university campuses this summer, as families across China re-embrace UK summer camps — but with a mindset that's markedly different from before the pandemic.

Once seen as a cultural "bonus" or language immersion experiment, these short-term overseas programs are now carefully selected, strategic investments. Parents are prioritizing safety, academic outcomes, and future value, reflecting a broader shift in how Chinese families

approach international education. While the United States once dominated the summer camp landscape, concerns over visa restrictions and rising geopolitical tensions have driven many families to turn toward Britain — a destination increasingly viewed as stable, prestigious, and practical.

"Last year, a parent asked me 'if participating in a UK study abroad program would be helpful for applying to foreign schools in the future'," said Liu Deqiang, founder of Ardmoor Education Technology in Shanghai. "In the past, students were more concerned about cultural experiences and language environments, but now academic depth has become the primary goal."

Since 2017, Liu's company has been bringing Chinese students to the UK for summer programs, working with public and private schools in Shanghai. "The school will set goals for the summer camp program and what they hope students can gain from it," Liu explained. "They propose learning objectives, we design and deliver customized summer camp programs."

Following a pandemic-induced hiatus, Liu expects strong growths ahead. "I foresee a significant increase in Chinese students choosing UK summer programs in the coming years," he said.

"Family decision-making is more cautious, shifting from 'worth trying' to 'must be effective', with traditional tourism projects giving way to hardcore content such as financial simulations and scientific research practices," Liu added. "It is worth noting that the demand for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) projects has surged by 120 percent year-on-year."

The broader trend is also evident at UK-based institutions. "We've seen a marked increase in summer camp groups from China after the pandemic," said Michelle Mi, managing director of UK Education Insight, a Leicester-based educational consultancy. "It's driven by pent-up demand, rising household spending power, and a growing recognition among Chinese parents that these camps help build global competencies."

Her organization continues to recruit students through Chinese partners, schools, and education agencies — and demand has not only recovered, but evolved. This year, her team is running two camps — a LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art)-themed public speaking program and a group organized in collaboration with Qingdao Yinhai School, in Shandong province.

"UK camps now blend safety, prestige, and measurable outcomes — transitioning from 'fun experiences' to 'strategic stepping stones' for long-term UK education," she said. "Our camps offer measurable value, like speech competition seeding or portfolio enhancement for UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) applications. They're no longer just fun — they're functional."

Darrell Barnes, brand development director at Malvern College International, shared a similar observation. "Language and leadership are definite draws, especially programs like our Harvard Learn with Leaders initiative," he said. "Cultural exposure is less of a priority — the Chinese students tend to mix less than some other nationalities — but academic-based activities keep them motivated."

Chinese students have long looked to both the UK and the US for short-term and long-term study opportunities, but the post-pandemic landscape has shifted.

"The summer camps in the UK and the US have always been favored by Chinese families," said Liu. "But visa restrictions and broader geopolitical tensions have directly prompted families who originally planned to go to the US to turn to the UK."

The UK's "moderate diplomatic stance" and historical ties with China have helped reassure families, Liu explained. "It's seen as a 'safer, zero political interference' alternative."

Mi noted that short-term UK programs have gained traction "due to visa stability, perceived safety, and reciprocal cultural initiatives". She added that while some demand may return to the US if restrictions ease, the UK currently enjoys a clear advantage.

For some families, the decision is driven by personal criteria. "When making this decision, safety and the local political environment were my top priorities, as they are directly related to my child's well-being. This must come first," said Xiang Siqu, a parent from Changsha, Hunan province. "For this reason, I tend to choose programs in developed countries and regions, which are generally more secure in these aspects."

She said: "The main reason to send my child to a summer program in the UK is to encourage them to step out of their familiar environment and experience different cultures and lifestyles. This will help broaden their international perspective and gradually develop independence through interacting with peers from other countries and handling daily matters on their own."

A different kind of summer

For students, the experience often leaves a lasting impression. Huang Bingjingyi, a high schooler from Changsha, said she joined a UK summer program out of a passion for English — and Sherlock Holmes. "I wanted to see where Sherlock Holmes came from," she said. "But I also knew English in England is the purest."

In class, Huang was placed with international peers and encouraged to speak and collaborate. "At first, I didn't understand everything. But by watching people's expressions and using context, I figured it out," she said.

Huang added the teaching style — involving demonstration, discussion, and creative output — was very different from her Chinese school, and something she thoroughly enjoyed. "Compared with schools in China, there were fewer textbook classes and more hands-on activities. It made me more confident, and I even made foreign friends."

Though she struggled with homesickness and physical discomfort in the early days, she described the overall experience as transformative. "It planted a seed for me to study abroad," she added.

Susan Fang, founder of educational consultancy OxBridge Holdings, noted that multiple factors are behind the UK's appeal. "Many UK schools now let international students join just before term ends, sitting in actual lessons and joining in with British pupils. For Chinese parents, this feels more 'authentic'."

While the US once held a strong lead in tech- and sport-heavy camps, Fang said UK programs tend to appeal through structure, safety, and a focus on arts and humanities. "There's also a much stronger emphasis on structure. The UK takes safeguarding minors seriously... which suits the Chinese preference for linear, structured education."

Julian Fisher, senior partner at Venture Education in Beijing, echoed this trend: "Now that students aren't studying English after school in China, many families see the summer as a golden opportunity to get full immersion. And, generally, the best place to do that is overseas in an English-speaking country."

"China is going global," he said. "Operating comfortably overseas in future is going to be a huge advantage for employability."

He added that the UK's diplomatic tone is helping, too. "David Lammy (foreign secretary) and Rachel Reeves (the chancellor) have visited China ... Combined this with a long history of Chinese students travelling to the UK, this makes parents feel very confident in their decision."

Liu offered a measured forecast. "Currently, the interest of UK summer camps among Chinese families will continue. But the increase of interest in UK summer camps after COVID is primarily a short-term reaction to US policy and geopolitical risks," he said. "However, it has the potential to evolve into a long-term preference if the UK capitalizes on its cultural and academic strengths."

For Mi, the numbers already speak volumes. "According to the BCG 2024 Education Consumption Report, Chinese families' trust in UK education has surpassed Canada. And 83 percent of them said they'd choose the UK again."

As Chinese families become more discerning about how and where their children learn abroad, the UK's blend of prestige, structure, and safety may just make it not only the right choice for today — but the preferred destination for years to come.

Admission challenge: too many dreams, few places

<https://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202508/29/WS68b0f135a310bb2da0973962.html>
By Manoj Dhar | HK EDITION | Updated: 2025-08-29 00:00

Hong Kong faces a growing challenge from an aging population, driven by a longer life expectancy and declining birth rates, thus testing our social fabric and stretching its financial resources. This demographic shift raises the dependency ratio, placing pressure on a shrinking workforce to support a rising number of older adults needing healthcare and social care. Consequently, the next generations must be suitably skilled to meet the changing needs in the workplace and thus become productive taxpayers. In the future, we should tailor our tertiary education and vocational training to reflect the needs of the workplace. Only then can we ensure continued economic vibrancy and social stability.

However, there are significant bottlenecks ahead in the critical transition from schools to tertiary or higher education. This year, 55,489 candidates took the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) examination, up 10 percent over last year. In addition, in the May session, 2,628 Hong Kong students took the International Baccalaureate (IB) exams, a nearly 20 percent increase over the past five years.

Typically, Hong Kong's eight University Grants Committee-funded universities offer a total of about 15,000 first-year degree places, 80 percent of which are allocated through the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS). The remaining 3,000 places are offered to those with non-JUPAS qualifications, including those taking the IB program. To put this into context, for this academic year (2024-25), 15,808 applicants were offered spots in local universities or a subsidized diploma course through JUPAS, a slight increase from the 15,776 last year. From among the entire HKDSE-exam-candidate cohort, only 16,393 students attained the minimum entrance requirements for the eight public universities, up from 38.4 percent, or 15,629, last year.

Trump Says He Welcomes Chinese Students, as His Administration Blocks Them

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/26/us/politics/trump-chinese-students.html>

The Trump administration has not been very welcoming toward international students, and particularly those from China. So it was striking when President Trump declared that the United States not only wanted but needed Chinese students, and would let 600,000 of them into American universities.

“It’s very insulting to say students can’t come here,” he said during a cabinet meeting at the White House on Tuesday. “I like that their students come here. I like that other countries’ students come here.”

He added: “And you know what would happen if they didn’t? Our college system would go to hell very quickly.”

It is a little late to be beckoning international students to enroll. The fall semester is beginning at many schools and the message seemed to contradict steps the administration has taken to make it more difficult for students, including those from China, to enter and study in the United States.

Earlier this year, for example, the Trump administration promised to put international students through a more intensive vetting process. Since then, there have been reports that visa appointments for students in China, as well as India, Nigeria and Japan, have been hard if not impossible to get. The visa problems could cause new international student enrollment in American colleges to drop by 30 to 40 percent this fall, according to one analysis.

The Trump administration has also moved to revoke visas from thousands of students, although it has not provided information about the nationalities of those it has targeted. And Trump officials have called out Chinese students in particular as potential national security threats.

But Mr. Trump has recently been sounding a very different note. While meeting with the South Korean president in the Oval Office on Monday, he said it was very important that China and the United States get along.

“I hear so many stories about we’re not going to allow their students — we’re going to allow their students to come in,” he said. “We’re going to allow, it’s very important, 600,000 students. It’s very important.”

For years, China has been one of the top two senders of students to American campuses, along with India. China sent more than 277,000 students to the United States in 2023-24, according to the Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange, including undergraduate and graduate students. It was the top-sending country for undergraduates.



The Trump administration has moved to stop Harvard from enrolling international students, a move that was blocked in court.Credit...Sophie Park for The New York Times

Chinese undergraduates, in particular, often pay full tuition for their education, and many universities rely on them for financial support — a fact Mr. Trump acknowledged in his remarks.

Chinese doctoral students carry out sophisticated research in science and technology fields that would founder without them. But they have often been portrayed as spies. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in May that the State Department would revoke visas for students associated with the Chinese Communist Party, along with the visas of those who were studying in certain sensitive fields.

In the past, Mr. Trump has not been as hospitable. He has said that while he welcomed international students, some might be involved in academic espionage and pose security risks. His administration moved to stop Harvard from enrolling international students, a move that was blocked in court. In June, the president signed a proclamation that sought to cut off the institution's international students, and accused Harvard of educating members of China's Communist Party.

"Our adversaries, including the People's Republic of China, try to take advantage of American higher education by exploiting the student visa program for improper purposes and by using visiting students to collect information at elite universities in the United States," Mr. Trump's proclamation said.

On Tuesday, Mr. Trump said that he had told China's president, Xi Jinping, that "we're honored to have the students here." They would be vetted, he said, but "we have a tremendous college system, the best in the world, nobody even close. That's why China sends them here. And you can call it an industry if you want, but you're talking about millions of people. And I'm honored to have the students from China come here."

Universities adjust majors for strategy

Higher education reforms emphasize emerging fields, curriculum updates

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202508/29/WS68b0fbf7a3108622abc9dbd5.html>

By ZOU SHUO | China Daily | Updated: 2025-08-29 09:01

China has unveiled a three-year action plan to optimize the layout and structure of academic disciplines in higher education institutions, aiming to better support the country's high-quality development and strategic needs.

The plan, covering the period from 2025 to 2027, was issued by the Communist Party of China Central Committee's leading group for education. It calls for the rapid establishment of disciplines targeting strategic emerging industries and future industries.

It also highlights the creation of a national big data platform to align talent supply and demand. The management of discipline catalogs will be overhauled with shorter adjustment cycles and better coordination among postgraduate, undergraduate and vocational disciplines.

The plan supports the development of basic, applied and strategic disciplines; reforms evaluation mechanisms to strengthen the central role of talent cultivation; and improves

incentive measures to continuously optimize discipline structures. It stresses enhancing fundamental disciplines and incubating emerging and interdisciplinary disciplines.

Existing disciplines will be adjusted through warnings and corrective measures for those with insufficient social demand, declining education quality or inadequate resources. Teaching content will also be updated, and artificial intelligence will be applied to empower education and teaching.

A guideline issued by the Ministry of Education and four other departments in 2023 set a target to optimize and adjust 20 percent of university majors by 2025 to cultivate new majors aligned with new technologies, industries and models.

In its latest round of changes announced in April, universities nationwide added 1,839 new undergraduate programs for 2025 while suspending enrollment in 2,220 programs and phasing out 1,428 others. By contrast, only 57 majors were adjusted in 2014, underscoring the acceleration of change in recent years.

An official with the ministry's department of higher education said a "green channel" mechanism has been created to allow immediate approval of disciplines linked to the nation's latest strategic priorities, bypassing the usual application requirements. Universities with adequate capacity and resources are guided to conduct feasibility studies and prepare for the establishment of such new majors, the official said.

In September 2024, for example, six universities, including Beihang University, were guided by the ministry outside the normal application period to establish a low-altitude technology and engineering major to meet the rapid development needs of the low-altitude economy, he said.

A total of 120 universities are preparing to add the low-altitude technology and engineering major in 2026, and it is expected to be one of the most popular academic subjects when launched, according to the ministry's application list.

The Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications has introduced more than 10 interdisciplinary majors in recent years, including artificial intelligence, spatial information and digital technology, intelligent interaction design and intelligent medical engineering, according to Huang Zhitong, deputy director of the academic affairs office of the university.

In 2024, the university reorganized and established the School of Intelligent Engineering and Automation, adding an undergraduate program in robotics engineering. Earlier this year, it added the low-altitude technology and engineering major and launched six micro-majors, including 6G mobile communications, intelligent robotics and advanced electronics, Huang said.

The university has also explored integrated development paths for liberal arts through "information +", "digital+" and "artificial intelligence +" educational programs, promoting the construction of new liberal arts specialties under the concept of interdisciplinary integration, he added.

Since 2023, it has collaborated with Beijing Film Academy, the University of International Business and Economics, and China University of Political Science and Law to launch five joint bachelor's degree programs, including "digital media technology + digital media art", "artificial intelligence+ financial technology", and "computer science and technology + accounting". Through such cooperation, Huang said, the university aims to cultivate interdisciplinary and top-tier innovative talent.