

Delhi NCR School Mission January 2013 Report

Introduction

A group of twelve UK universities visited five schools offering the CBSE, CIE, IB curriculum in Delhi NCR region comprising Gurgaon and Noida from 28 to 30 January 2013.

The focus of the mission was brand building and building a platform for Undergraduate recruitment for UK Institutions.

The program at each school comprised a generic presentation where all participating institutions gave brief introductory presentations related to their institution and the courses available. Student interactions at each school were in a mini exhibition format wherein students were free to talk to all UK institutions that participated in the mission. There was one 'Table-Chair exhibition' at one of the institution and wherein students from other schools were also invited to attend the exhibition.

Name of the participating UK Institutions:

1. The University of Birmingham
2. University of Exeter
3. The Glasgow School of Art
4. Goldsmiths, University of London
5. Kingston University
6. Leeds Metropolitan University
7. The University of Northampton
8. Northumbria University
9. The University of Nottingham
10. University of Roehampton
11. Royal Holloway, University of London
12. University of Wolverhampton

About the school and key highlights:

(I) Delhi Public School: CBSE curriculum

About the school: Delhi Public School R.K. Puram is one of the most prestigious schools in India. Founded as a Public School in 1972 in New Delhi, it is a private institution run by the Delhi Public School Society. Delhi Public School, R.K. Puram is affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), which is the largest educational board in the country. It is recognized by the Department of Education, Govt. of NCT Delhi and the Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India. The school is also affiliated to the Indian Public Schools' Conference (IPSC), and the National Progressive Schools' Conference (NPSC)

Key highlight of the visit:

- Meeting with the Principal, Headmistresses of middle and senior schools and school counsellor
- Student interactions
- Around 40% of students apply for Undergraduate courses at a foreign University
- US is the primary choice followed by UK, Singapore and Canada
- Top subject choices: Engineering, Computer Science, Medicine, Law
- School counsellors well versed with UCAS process and school is happy to host UK academics for lectures

(II) Springdales School, Delhi: CBSE curriculum

About the school: In 1956 the Kumars set up the Patel Education Society, a registered Charitable and Educational Society to run the school. Ever since the original building at Patel Nagar became non-existent, the name of the Society has been changed to Springdales Education Society

Key highlight of the visit

- Meeting with Principal
- Student interaction in exhibition style set up. Students were from classes X and XI

- School would like a session on UCAS process and is open to academic lectures by UK universities
- Popular subject choices amongst students were Engineering, Science and technology and Medicine
- The top country choices for study abroad are USA, Singapore, UK and Canada at the Undergraduate level but there is increased interest in the UK for Postgraduate courses.

(III) Amity International School, Delhi. CBSE, CIE, IB curriculum

About the school: Amity offers students the unique flexibility of choosing from CBSE, or even international board examinations such as International Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge IGCSE, at the high school level.

Key highlight of the visit

- Introductions with the Principal and School counsellor, followed by interactions with the group of interested students from classes X and XI
- One to one interaction with the students in exhibition style setup
- Generic presentation on Undergraduate courses in the UK by British Council staff
- Students from Amity Global School, Saket and Amity International School, Pushp Vihar also attended these sessions along with their School Counsellor.
- Students wanted to know more about the scholarships available
- Top subject choices are Engineering, Law and Medicine. But there was interest in courses related to architecture, visual arts, sports and psychology.

(IV) Pathways Global School, Gurgaon. CIE, IB curriculum

About the school: The school includes the Primary Years and Diploma Programmes of the International Baccalaureate Organisation of Geneva and the International General Certificate for Secondary Education of the University of Cambridge. Teaching at Pathways is student-centred, project-based, and incorporates the multiple intelligences concept. While the general curriculum is followed by every student, he or she is also encouraged to develop talents and interests in personal areas of academic interest, and in sport, theatre music and dance, for which facilities are outstanding.

Key highlight of the visit:

- Introductions with the Principal and School counsellor followed by a group discussion with a group of students from classes X and XI on the topic- "Cultural globalisation destroys the national identity". Delegates found this interaction very useful as it helped in understanding the students psyche.
- One to one interaction of delegates with the students in an exhibition style setup. Parents of class XII students who have applied to some of UK institutions were present during the interaction
- School counsellor from Shikshantar School, Gurgaon met the delegates.
- UK was one of the key choices as a study destination, however there was high affinity towards studying in the US
- Business and Engineering among top sought after subjects
- Students were keen to know about the summer courses

(V) Amity International School, NOIDA. CBSE, CIE, IB curriculum

About the school: At AIS, the school education has an objective to empower students to make decisions, to find creative solutions and plan effective action strategies. The curriculum is structured in a manner that keeps your child in touch with the ever-changing world trends, right from the junior years to the senior level.

Key highlight of the visit

- Introductions with the Principal and School counsellor, followed by interactions with the group of interested students from classes X and XI
- One to one interaction with the students in exhibition style setup
- Generic presentation on Undergraduate courses in the UK by British Council staff

- Students from Amity Global School, Noida, Amity International School, Mayur Vihar, Nehru World School, Ghaziabad and ASN Senior Secondary School, Mayur Vihar, Delhi were invited to interact with UK Institutions
- Parents from Step-by-Step International School, NOIDA volunteered to meet delegates from UK Institutions
- Duration of the exhibition was three hours and was carried out in two sessions, wherein one session was for Amity group of Institutions and the other for students from invited schools
- Top subject choices were Engineering, Science and technology, Business and Finance, Law and Medicine. Many students showed interest in courses related to Architecture, Visual Arts, Music and Sports

Key statistics:

School	Students	Teachers	Parents
Delhi Public School Delhi	300	5	--
Spring Dales Delhi	350	4	--
Amity International School Delhi	140	3	--
Pathways Global School Gurgaon	40	3	5
Amity School Noida	280	6	4

Feedback by UK Institutions:

- 88% UK institutions mentioned in their feedback that the mission 'met their expectations'.
- 56% UK institutions stated that the Quality of Indian Institutions was 'Excellent' while 44% mentioned that the quality was 'Good'
- 44% UK institutions remarked that Interaction and content of the programme at Indian institutions was 'Excellent' and 33% remarked the same as 'Good'.
- 55% UK Institutions mentioned in their feedback that support provided by the British Council was 'Excellent'

Comments by some UK Institutions:

- 1) If British Council were to organise future events, Goldsmiths would be happy to participate to continue raising our profile in India for undergraduate programmes.
- 2) We have already received applications from two of the schools visited and I hope that this will enable us to forge links between Leeds Metropolitan University and the schools. Alumni from schools is the key to develop an undergraduate profile for UK education with particular reference to students graduating from Leeds Met!
- 3) It was an excellent opportunity to meet top local curriculum schools in Delhi NCR, as previous visits by RHUL have been mostly targeted at IB and International schools. Many of our UG students come from the local high school system and it is important that we consider visits to these institutions also
- 4) Overall all selected institutions were of good quality.
- 5) We got the chance to meet the people who look for International Admissions in the Schools and also the counsellors of the schools and by direct approach we can do some more promotions in these schools and the other branches for Brand visibility.

Suggestions for the British Council for future missions:

- 1) Some delegates suggested holding a school counsellor's forum at the end of the mission, inviting those counsellors that were met during the visit to consolidate the entire visit; recommendation states that this sort of a wind up meeting will eventually help to further strengthen the links with the schools and its counsellors.
- 2) Few delegates have suggested including a parent and student/applicant evening leading to more detailed interaction with parents, as parents are one of the key decision makers and influencers for an undergraduate applicant.
- 3) Certain delegates remarked on introducing a pre event registration allowing the students to provide their details in advance. This will in turn help UK Institutions to counsel students more appropriately.

Photographs taken at visiting institutions:

