

## **Schools Mission - Gujarat - February 2013 Report**

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### **Introduction**

Seven UK universities visited seven schools across the cities of Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Rajkot from 11-15 February 2013.

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

The programme at each school comprised a generic presentation made to the students on undergraduate study by a UK delegate followed by a table chair exhibition, a campus tour; and a faculty discussion.

In most of the schools the delegation met up with students studying in the grade XI and a few from grade XII.

The local schools were represented by school principals and senior faculty.

### **Name of the participating UK Institutions:**

1. University of East Anglia
2. The Glasgow School of Art
3. University of Greenwich
4. Kingston University
5. Leeds Metropolitan University
6. University of Northampton
7. Plymouth University

### **About the school and key highlights:**

#### **Day one:**

##### **(I) Ahmedabad International School: IB/CIE/GSHSEB Affiliation**

About the school: Ahmedabad International school was launched in December 2000 is Gujarat State Education Board (GSEB) approved school following the GSEB curriculum, using NCERT books. The International Baccalaureate program conducted by the school runs the Primary Years Program (PYP) and the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP). The school also offers Cambridge International Examination and In addition to the IB & CIE program, the school is affiliated with Trinity College of London, which offers exams in communication skills, drama and music.

#### Key highlight of the visit:

- Undergraduate study in the UK presentation
- Students from the schools mostly choose to study at Imperial, KCL, LSE, UCL
- Some percent of students also look at Summer schools
- Popular Subject Enquiries – Business Economics, IT, Social Sciences and Engineering
- Discussion were around: Scholarships offered by each UK institution, Entry requirements of each UK institution, Staff Visits, School links

##### **(II) Mahatma Gandhi International School: IB Affiliation**

Mahatma Gandhi International School is authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organisation to offer the Middle Years Programme as well as the Diploma Programme. MGIS is Gujarat's first MYP and DP school. We are also the most senior IB school in the state. The school also offers courses in BTEC in Creative Media Production, and has an affiliation with Ed excel.

#### Key highlight of the visit

- Presentation by Undergraduate courses in the UK
- The School supports education for underprivileged students
- UKIERI funding - Looking at vocational partnerships
- Popular subjects enquiries – Business Studies, Environmental Studies, IT, Arts, Media Studies and Engineering

- Discussions around: Employment Schemes – Internships, Scholarships offered by each UK institution, Entry requirements of each UK institution, Staff training, Portfolio Guidance, ISA Re Application

### **Day 2:**

#### **(III) New Era Senior Secondary School, Vadodara: CBSE Affiliation**

New Era Senior Secondary School was formed in 1991 under the banner of The Gujarat New Era Education Trust. It is a well established school for age group from 3+ to 17+. NESSS has been at the heart of Vadodara for more than 15 years, and has had a wonderful reputation for excellence since its foundation in 1991. The school offers three streams for standard XI and XII Science, Commerce, Humanities.

#### Key highlight of the visit

- Undergraduate study in the UK presentation
- School offers Biotechnology at 10+2 level
- Focus on carbon footprints (Environment club run by parents)
- Popular subjects enquiries – Social Sciences, Accounts, IT and Engineering
- Discussions around: Entry Requirements, BC School Ambassador, UCAS Presentation, Scholarships offered by each UK institution

#### **(IV) Navrachana International School, Vadodara: IB/CIE/CBSE Affiliation**

Navrachana International School is administered by the 40-year old Navrachana Education Society (NES) and offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme, Cambridge's International General Certificate in Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the CBSE Curriculum

#### Key highlight of the visit:

- Undergraduate Study in the UK presentation
- Running a university (Navrachana University)
- Boarding facility available
- Popular Subject Enquiries – Architecture, Fashion Design, Economics, Politics, Business Studies, IT and Engineering
- Discussions were around: Portfolio Guidance, Internships, Acceptance of Certificate Students, Tie up at HE level, Training for Counsellors

### **Day 3:**

#### **(V) Anand Niketan School, Ahmedabad: CIE/GSHSEB Affiliation**

Anand Niketan Group of Schools offer a rich array of extra curricular & co-curricular activities including sports, dance, music, drama, art, pottery & photography, parallel to the academic curriculum. The school is affiliated to CBSE, CISCE and IGCSE & AS/A boards and curriculum.

#### Key highlight of the visit

- Undergraduate Study in the UK presentation
- Popular Subjects enquiries – Architecture, psychology, Journalism, Engineering, IT and Business
- Discussions took place around topics like: Scholarships offered by each UK institution, Entry Requirements, Portfolio Guidance, Summer Schools, ISA Application, School Links

#### **(VI) The Calorx School, Ahmedabad: IB programmes, CIE programmes**

The Calorx School, an IBO world school in Ahmedabad, fosters respect for self, peers and community. It is a secular and co-educational school. The school offers the three academic programmes by the IBO. The school is also accredited to the CIE to offer and assess the IGCSE and the Checkpoint.

#### Key highlights of the visit:

- Support to dyslexic students through their sister arm
- Undergraduate Study in the UK presentation
- Teacher Training University

- Popular Subjects – Cookery, Psychology, Medicine, Engineering, IT and Business
- Discussions were around: Scholarships offered by each UK institution, Portfolio Guidance, Summer Schools, ISA Application, School Links, Venue Availability for British Council events

**Day 4:**

(VII) **The Rajkumar College, Rajkot:** Affiliated to CBSE board

The college is a co-educational boarding and day school catering for children between the ages of five to eighteen. We are affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education [CBSE], New Delhi.

Key highlights of the visit:

- Undergraduate Study in the UK presentation
- Heritage school for the royal lineage
- Boarding Facility
- Partnership with French University
- Popular Subjects – Engineering, IT, Political Science, psychology, Architecture and Business Studies
- Parents should be involved in missions and Faculty Discussions as they are the decision makers
- Discussions were around: Scholarships offered by each UK institution, Entry Requirements, Portfolio Guidance, Training in writing an SOP, Summer Schools, Counsellor/Staff Visits

**Day 5:**

A workshop was organised with academics from 5 schools of Ahmedabad at the British Library. The programme of the day involved presentations from the local schools and reverse presentations from the UK Universities followed by discussion to discuss recruitment.

**The participating schools were:**

- J G International School
- H B Kapadia High School
- New Tulip International School
- St Kabir School
- Swayam Cambridge International School

Excerpts of the faculty discussion:

- Summer schools offer (2 weeks exchange)
- Scholarships offered – need and Merit based
- Portfolio guidance
- Applications – UCAS + direct
- Acceptance of certificate candidates
- Twinning programs
- Guidance for Portfolio Making/Writing an SOP
- Accepting Students with slightly lesser grades
- Summer Schools to give an idea to the student about how his UK experience is going to be

Media personnel took quick updates on the education scenario in the UK with the delegates and spoke to a couple of delegates on the objectives and intended outcomes of the mission. Press Coverage has appeared in media.

**Details of scholarships offered by Universities at UG level (GBP):**

- University of Greenwich: Nationality scholarship: 1000 GBP
- Leeds Metropolitan University: 10% waiver on upfront full payment
- Kingston University: 3300 GBP for merit based for international students
- University of East Anglia: 50 % of first year tuition fee (marking 50th anniversary)
- Plymouth University: 1500 GBP for science and technology department
- University of Northampton: Up to 25 % waiver in tuition for duration of course, merit based

**Key statistics:**

School	Students	Faculty (including teachers/principals)	Parents
Ahmedabad International School	120	19	--
Mahatma Gandhi International School	60	10	--
New Era Senior Secondary School	160	9	--
Navrachana International School	70	8	1
Anand Niketan School	120	10	--
The Calorx School	35	6	--
The Rajkumar College	120	18	1

The faculty discussions at all schools mainly revolved around exploring avenues for summer schools, direct recruitment and waiver arrangement as per twinning programmes.

**Feedback by UK Institutions:**

- 100% delegates remarked that the mission 'met' their objectives
- 60% mentioned that the quality of institutions captured during the mission was 'Excellent'.
- 60% delegates gave feedback that the Interaction and content of the programme at institutions was 'Good'
- 100% delegates found the support provided by the British Council 'Excellent'
- 60% delegates 'agreed' that the mission met and their expectations and that the event was a 'high quality event'.

**Comments by some UK Institutions:**

- Overall the event was very fruitful. Selection of institutions was very good and the British Council team had done all the necessary groundwork. Very satisfied with the event and we should be able to build some strong contacts especially with our reasonable tuition fee and 25% scholarship scheme.
- There was interesting discussion at most of the institutions about pedagogical issues, staff training and what contribution could be made by UK institutions.
- All of the institutions were very welcoming and the students all very polite and were asking good questions (what subjects they should study, entry requirements, accommodation etc.)
- The schools showed great interest in understanding about studying in the UK and there was a good opportunity for us to build relationship with the school authorities / counsellors. Further visits to meet student, parents and one to one sessions with the school counsellors is the way forward for us.
- It was clearly evident from the seamless flow of events, that the mission was well planned and organised and a lot of effort had gone in to confirming and re-confirming the visits at the various schools
- Pre-conceptions about IB vs CBSE schools are now ended – some of the most open to options of studying at Art School were from the CBSE schools.

**Suggestions for the British Council for future missions:**

- The British Council could organise an exclusive school fair in the future, inviting students studying in the years 11 and 12 of these schools, something similar to the Education UK exhibitions.
- The events were well planned, but it would have been more fruitful to have students from class 12 present during the event. The fairs / event should be planned sometime in August / September to capture current school students (class 12).
- It will be a good idea to plan and see if all these institutes along with the students were invited to a central venue. This would have pulled together a lot of prospective students who share a common interest of studying in the UK.
- I think that the mission would prove more successful if the schools were advised that the students we are targeting are those in the penultimate year of studies or at the very earliest, those who are currently sitting their IGCSE and grade 10 exams and wanting advice on what subjects to choose for their IB/A-Levels/Standard XII

Press coverage about the mission in the local news papers:

**Cityભાસ્કર**  
અમદાવાદ, SATURDAY, 16 ફેબ્રુઆરી, 2013

## શિક્ષણને ગ્લોબલ ટચ આપશે 'સ્કૂલ્સ મિશન'

**ટીચર્સને પણ ટ્રેનિંગ આપવામાં આવશે**

**સિટી રિપોર્ટર. અમદાવાદ**

બ્રિટિશ કાઉન્સિલ એજ્યુકેશન દ્વારા ગુજરાતમાં 11 થી 15 ફેબ્રુઆરી સુધી સ્કૂલ્સ મિશનનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. જેમાં ભારત અને યુકેના શૈક્ષિક સંબંધોને નવો આયામ આપવા માટે આ પ્રયાસ કરાયો છે. આ મિશન દ્વારા યુ.કે. યુનિવર્સિટીમાં ચાલતા અનંતર એજ્યુએટ પ્રોગ્રામ્સને પ્રમોટ કરવાનો છે. આ ઉપરાંત ભારતના વિદ્યાર્થીઓ યુ.કે.ના ઈન્સ્ટિટ્યૂટની વિકાસ કરવાનો ચાન્સ મળશે, અને તેમના કલ્ચર વિશે વધુ નવું જાણી શકશે. તેમજ ટીચર્સની ટ્રેનિંગ પ્રોગ્રામ્સ થાય તેના વિશે પણ ચર્ચા વિચારણા કરવામાં આવી છે. યુ.કે. યુનિવર્સિટીના પ્રતિનિધિઓ ગુજરાતની સાત સ્કૂલ અને અમદાવાદની ચાર સ્કૂલમાં આ પ્રતિનિધિઓ વિક્રિટ કરી. દરેક સ્કૂલમાં સ્ટુડન્ટ પ્રેઝન્ટેશન અને ડેકલેરી ડિસ્કશન પણ થયું હતું.



**અમદાવાદની ચાર શાળાની મુલાકાત**

- » અમદાવાદ ઈન્ટરનેશનલ સ્કૂલ
- » આનંદનિકેતન (સેટેલાઈટ)
- » ઇ કલોરેટસ સ્કૂલ
- » મહાત્મા ગાંધી ઈન્ટરનેશનલ સ્કૂલ

**શું નવું છે ?**

- » આ વર્ષે આ મિશનમાં બે બાબત નવી છે.
- » સ્કૂલથી સ્કૂલનું નહીં, પણ સ્કૂલથી યુનિવર્સિટીનું કનેક્શન સ્થાપવામાં આવશે.
- » ટીચર્સના પ્રોવ્લેમ્સનાં સોલ્યુશન મળે માટે તેમના માટે પણ ટ્રેનિંગ સ્થાપવામાં આવશે.

**સુનિવ કોલી** | ઈડ એન્યુકેશનલ ગુર્ક (વેબ ઇન્સ્ટિટ્યૂટ), રિવિંધા કલિમ્બીયો

**વિદ્યાર્થીઓને માર્ગદર્શન મળશે**  
સારું એન્યુકેશન, સ્ટડી ઓફાન, કલ્ચરમાં સારો ઓફાન મળી રહે તે હેતુથી આ મિશનનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું છે. સ્ટુડન્ટ વિવિધ કોર્સ વિશે જાણવા એકસાઈટ્સ હોય છે. અને તેમની કન્સુલ્ટેન્સિટી પૂરતું માર્ગદર્શન મળી રહે તે સમારો મુખ્ય હેતુ છે.

**ડૉ.સત્યા શાહ** | રિવિંધા ટેકવર, યુનિ.એન્ડ ગોવર્ધન

**પૂરતી માહિતી આપશે...**  
સ્ટુડન્ટ ઘણા એકસાઈટ્સ હોય છે નવું-નવું જીવવા માટે. આઈ. ટી.એન્વિનિચરિંગ વિશે સ્ટુડન્ટની ઘણી પૂછવણી આવતી હોય છે, પણ આ વખતે સ્કૂલના સ્ટુડન્ટ ફેશન, ડેકલેરીટલ વિશે જાણવા, આ ક્ષેત્રમાં જવા ઘણા એકસાઈટ્સ હોય છે. તેમને ગમવા સખરેકટ વિશે પૂરતી માહિતી આપવાનો પુરો પ્રયાસ રહેશે.



**AHMEDABAD**  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2013

## Offbeat courses in UK attract Guj students

**Niyati Rana**

Looks like students in Gujarat are enthusiastic about studying offbeat courses abroad. Going beyond conventional courses like engineering, medicine and management, delegates from UK universities received queries about courses in funeral management, animal psychology and golf management!

Delegates from seven universities in UK were in Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Rajkot to interact with different schools to inform students about courses being offered in their country. They are University of East Anglia, Glasgow School of Art, University of Greenwich, Kingston University, Leeds Metropolitan University, University of Northampton and Plymouth University.



Greenwich said some of the other interesting courses offered by varsities in UK are sports branding, animal psychology and golf management. "This time we also received queries for courses in design and fashion technology," he added.

UK delegates' visit to Gujarat is part of 'Schools Mission' where the former inform schools about undergraduate courses offered in UK. But this time, the delegates and Gujarat schools have taken a step forward to consider different collaborations.

Starting a cultural exchange programme for Gujarat's schoolchildren and providing teachers training in UK universities were discussed. Joanna Davis from Plymouth University said the delegates would discuss the proposals with seniors in UK.

"Traditionally, parents and students want to know about courses in management, medicine and engineering. This time, queries were received about courses in funeral management, as funerals are big events in UK. "Students willing to settle overseas or NRI students wanting to go back to these countries are keen to take up such courses," said assistant librarian, Education UK at British Library in the city, Huta Rawal. Dr Satya Shah from University of

**Photographs taken at visiting institutions:**

