

## TAKE YOUR EDUCATION TO AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

### 2013 BRITISH COUNCIL UK-CHINA STUDENT FORUM

May 5-11

#### BACKGROUND

The inaugural UK-China Student Forum will take place on 7th May 2013. It forms part of the wider Generation UK project that seeks to further promote study and internship opportunities in China to students in the UK. The Forum is co-hosted by the British Council and China Youth Daily.

The importance of China's education and knowledge economy mirrors that of its economic rise. In the last decade alone, China has more than doubled the number of higher education institutions. Despite this, the number of British students who are studying in China remains low. It is vital that students in the UK engage with their counterparts here in China. The continued growth in educational quality in China offers UK students a new arena to cultivate their skills and develop a wider understanding of an important player in today's world. Engaging in the opportunities available in China translates to more globally astute students with internationally transferable skills.

Academic exchanges need to happen at all-levels, from policy level to current students who are in charge of their educational journey. The opinions and outlook of young minds can help form a more sustainable and workable approach to UK-China educational relationship. The UK-China student forum seeks to lay down the foundation for future dialogue and cooperation.

The issue surrounding international education affect students in both countries in equal measure and it is their voices that will determine the future educational relationship between the UK and China.

#### OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the UK-China Student Forum:

- Facilitate an understanding of the benefits and opportunities brought about by international education
- Provide a platform for students to actively engage in the issues surrounding international education and internationalisation
- Raise awareness of the increasing significance of global mobility and the benefits of international experience

#### PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

Date	Beijing
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Arrival Welcome and briefing by British Council
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Breakfast with Joanna Burke, Director British Council China Team building activity: Britain meets China
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Forum Preparation (am) Forum Opens (pm)
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Dialogue with Chinese Political Leader (China Youth Daily)

	to arrange) Talks with Brits in China
Thu 9 <sup>th</sup> May	University Life in China – students experience a class at a Chinese university Visit to Lenovo Evening Reception and Presentation (venue TBC)
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Beijing – Walk and Explore

### FORUM TOPICS

The Forum will have presentations that focus on the following three areas:

- 1) International Education and Internationalisation – what are the barriers to international education and how can they be overcome?
- 2) Is technology changing the approach to internationalisation and what does the future hold for international education?
- 3) How can we remain globally competitive and prepare ourselves to work in an international arena? What do students want from a 21<sup>st</sup> century university experience?

The students will present in groups on these topics and answers questions from the audience.

### STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS

The Forum was promoted by the National Union of Students and also via British Council platforms. Over 300 applications were received in a period of less than a month and between 6 to 10 candidates will be selected to attend the forum in China. Applicants were asked to respond to the following three questions in no more than 250 words –

- 1) Should experience abroad be a compulsory part of our education?
- 2) How can our education prepare ourselves to work in a globalised world?
- 3) How would you promote international experience to UK students?.

The answers will be selected according to the following criteria (apart from overall quality).

- Relevance to UK and China education
- Strength of argument and a broad range of ideas
- Feasibility of suggestions
- Awareness of issues surrounding international education and internationalization

Answers were marked by a panel of judges consisting of individuals in the field of education, including current students based in China and businesses such as the British Chamber of Commerce.