

UK-China education partnership reaches new heights

Minister for Universities and Science Jo Johnson and China's Minister of Education signed an ambitious framework agreement on education collaboration at the third UK/China People to People Dialogue in London today (17 September).

A total of 23 education agreements were signed at the 8th UK-China Education Summit, part of the People to People dialogue, which will see UK universities and organisations working closely with partners in China to boost joint academic research and student exchange, and to establish new institutions.

Culminating in the signing of a 'UK-China Strategic Framework in Education' both countries announced their commitment to expanding collaboration across higher, vocational and school education, and to work closely together in sports education.

Minister for Universities and Science Jo Johnson said:

"Our relationship with China is entering a new phase of scientific and educational collaboration on an unprecedented scale. Our agreement will bring researchers together to address global challenges, change the lives of young people through better access to sports, and build partnerships across school, vocational and higher education to provide students in both countries with the right skills to become the leaders of the future."

Ministers from both sides witnessed signings that will see the UK working with China in the development of its sports education, with a focus on football. A joint football accreditation system will be developed, opening doors for Chinese football coaches to be trained in the UK, feeding into a national drive by the Chinese government to grow its sports sector.

Agreements were also signed to increase exchanges among researchers in the UK and China and to build their skills to enable further collaborations.

In addition, links will be created between 200 schools in the UK and China to organise exchange visits and work together on policy and curriculum development, in an effort to improve the provision of high-quality basic education in both countries. STEM, language, sports, arts and other creative subjects will be a major focus of this collaboration.

Schools Minister Nick Gibb said:

"Education collaboration between the UK and China is vital if we are to learn from each other's successes and to help us use international evidence of best practice to drive up academic standards in our schools."

"The innovative maths teacher exchange is already improving maths teaching in England's primary schools, but there is still much more both countries can learn from one another."

"These new partnerships will allow us to share as well as helping to develop important language skills to secure stronger links in the future."

The UK-China High-Level People-to-People Dialogue will also act as a springboard for the British Council, Association of Colleges and China Education Association for International Exchange to

further their partnership activity through shared approaches to apprenticeships, employer engagement, curriculum development and leadership training. Over the past years, they have developed strong collaborative links in professional and technical training, which has helped to establish 60 college partnerships and regular leadership exchange opportunities. This has positively impacted on the mutual internationalisation of the UK's and China's respective skills sectors and deepened understanding and mutual respect for each other.

Following the UK-China Education Summit and High-Level People-to-People Dialogue was a day of roundtable discussions hosted in Cardiff. Representatives from both countries' education sectors met to discuss how institutions in the UK and China can work together to improve the provision of higher education and support skills development. Vice-Premier of China Mdm Liu Yandong gave a closing keynote at a Forum on UK-China Innovation and Entrepreneurship jointly organised by British Council, Cardiff University and the China Education Association of International Exchange.

In her speech, Mdm Liu proposed the following 5 points for UK-China collaborations

- *Mutual learning of culture ideology – treat each other as equals, be inclusive and learn from each other*
- *Deepen our joint research in key areas. Focus on common global challenges and major issues affecting sustainable development.*
- *Joint training in talent development and innovation – step up cooperation and exchanges between universities, research and business. Step up cooperation among primary and secondary schools.*
- *Step up open access and sharing of innovation facilities and information. Jointly establish science infrastructures.*
- *Improve coordination mechanism for co-operation – to step up policy coordination and communication between the UK and China .*

END

APPENDIX

Agreements on education signed at UK-China Education Summit and UK-China High-Level People to People Dialogue

UK-China Strategic Framework in Education

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and China's Ministry of Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the 'UK-China Strategic Framework in Education', formalising both countries' commitment to working together in the six key areas of higher education, vocational education, schools, language, sports, and mobility.

Higher Education

1. Cardiff University and Beijing Normal University signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a joint college, **the first of its kind** in the UK, in Cardiff that will offer undergraduate programmes in Chinese language
2. Cardiff University and China's Capital Medical University (CMU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a joint Institute of Medicine and Life Sciences. The Joint Institute will focus on new research medical research, drawing on investment funding of £5.2m funded in equal part by Cardiff and Capital Medical, as well as the exchange of undergraduate in Bio-science.
3. Cardiff University and China Scholarship Council signed an agreement to provide training in the field of Public Administration to an annual cohort of up to 40 Senior Chinese Administration Staff as part of the Chinese Government's University Leadership Development Programme. Training will be provided by Cardiff University Business School.
4. The University of Birmingham Centre for Railway Education and Research and Beijing Jiaotong University signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop a PhD programme on railway-related subjects to support the joint education of PhD students and exchanges between PhD students and visiting researchers.
5. The University of St Andrews and the China Scholarship Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding to offer 200 full scholarships over a period of five years to support Chinese PhD students in studying at the University of St Andrews for up to 48 months.
6. Imperial College and the China Scholarship Council renewed an agreement to offer 75 full scholarships over a period of five years to support Chinese PhD students in studying at Imperial College for a period up to 48 months.
7. The University of Edinburgh and the China Scholarship Council renewed an agreement to offer 100 full scholarships over a period of five years to support Chinese PhD students in studying at the University of Edinburgh for a period up to 48 months.
8. The University of Southampton and the China Scholarship Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding to offer scholarships to support Chinese students in studying at the University of Southampton.
9. Lancaster University and Beijing Foreign Studies University signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop a strategic partnership on all aspects of education, including joint research and exchanges.

10. Lancaster University and Beijing Jiaotong University signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a joint institute in business, computer science and interactive design, which will open in 2016 offering one postgraduate and five undergraduate programmes for up to 1,000 students.
11. Queen Mary University of London and Northwestern Polytechnical University signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish cooperation on all levels, including a range of academic teaching programmes, staff/student exchanges, and research collaboration in materials science, technology and engineering.
12. Queen Mary University of London and Northwestern Polytechnical University signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a joint research centre to foster international research collaboration in materials science, technology, and engineering.
13. Queen Mary University of London and Beijing Foreign Studies University signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a 1+1+1 joint master's degree programme.
14. The University of Nottingham and Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to conduct joint research on the 'One Belt One Road' initiative through the BFSU Silk Road Research Institute, to develop a master's degree programme on English language training, to cooperate on alumni development, and to support exchanges between students and academic staff.
15. The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and Beijing Foreign Studies University signed an Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding on Academic and Research Cooperation
16. The University of Glasgow and the University of Electronic Science and Technology signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a joint institute on engineering in China and expand their current joint programme in engineering.
17. Jesus College, Cambridge University and Peking University - An Mol to establish a China centre in partnership with Peking University focussing on multidisciplinary research on contemporary China

Schools

18. The British Council and the China Education Association for International Exchange signed a Memorandum of Understanding to link 200 schools in the UK and China with a view to boosting exchanges, policy dialogue and joint curriculum development, focusing on STEM subjects, language, sports, arts and other creative subjects.

Sports Education

19. The British Council and the Federation of University Sports China and the China Scholarship Council signed an agreement to bring football coaches from China to the UK on 3-month overseas study trips.
20. The British Council and the Federation of University Sports China signed a Memorandum of Understanding to boost joint football training and develop a UK-China joint accreditation system for football PE Coaches in China.

Mobility

21. The British Council and the China Education Association for International Exchange signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch a joint academic-internship programme in China to form part of the Generation UK-China programme which would be piloted in Beijing, Shanghai and Qingdao.

Other Education

22. The British Council and the China Scholarship Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch a UK-China PhD placement programme as part of the UK-China Joint Research and Innovation Partnership Fund (Newton Fund), which will support PhD students and their supervisors from both countries in undertaking placements of up to 12 months in each other's countries.
23. The National Centre for Entrepreneurship Education (National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship) and the China Service Centre for Scholarship Exchange signed a Memorandum of Understanding on jointly organising a Sino-UK Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Forum and undertaking joint training together, on jointly organising a Sino-UK Young Maker Competition, and on developing for China curriculums on innovation and entrepreneurship.

Announcements on education made at UK-China Education Summit

Higher Education

- A new Joint College, (CQC), has been established by Queen's University Belfast in Shenyang, Liaoning Province through a long-standing friendship with the China Medical University (CMU). Queen's University degrees in Pharmaceutical Sciences are taught in English and 150 students are now enrolled. CQC is expected to grow to 1,000 students over several years
- Coventry University and Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics announced they will work together on developing a Confucius Institute focusing on business language and law.
- Coventry University and Shanghai Jiaotong Education Group have announced plans to offer foundation level programmes at the International College of Shanghai Jiaotong University Education Group. The collaboration will also see Coventry jointly developing and delivering vocational education programmes as well as the participate in the development of the education park of SHJTUEG.
- The Open University announced a new agreement with the Open University of China, the lead institution in the Open University network in China, which plays a key role in co-ordinating activity in a network supporting millions of student across China. This new agreement is an important milestone and represents a renewed focus on working together to develop open and distance education for the benefit of both institutions.

Schools

- UK education charity AQA and the Chinese Society of Education (CSE) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding formalising their collaboration around the development of a major teacher training programme. The aim is to share best practice in the assessment of science and mathematics that encourages teaching of critical thinking, problem solving and creativity. The programme will initially be delivered to some 50 schools in Beijing and Shanghai, with potential to expand eventually to other Chinese provinces. Trainers from the UK will travel to both cities, and Chinese teachers will travel to the UK and experience teaching methods first hand.
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Other Education

- The British Council and the National Science Research Foundation announced the launch of a 'Research Links' programme as part of the UK-China Joint Research and Innovation Partnership Fund which will support early-career researchers from the UK and China in building links for future collaboration, developing their professional capacity, and enhancing their career opportunities.