

All information collected by the British Council in China/British Council Education through our consultancy unit, monthly market monitoring and scoping visits. This is not a conclusive list of all UK activities in China.

April 2015

UK-China Specific

- Northern Consortium UK and China's New Oriental Group, a private education provider, have signed an agreement to increase cooperation on pathway programmes.
- The British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) has announced it will extend a scholarship programme to China in 2016 for students from the UK and China to encourage creative collaboration.
- The University of Sussex has announced a £750,000 scheme to send 300 students to China for internships.
- A second group of maths teachers has arrived in the UK to share their expertise as part of an exchange programme with Shanghai, which topped the 2014 PISA rankings. Furthermore, a maths textbook popular in Shanghai is being adapted to the UK curriculum.
- Beijing Education Commission has launched a new 'Overseas Development' initiative to foster top talents in partnership with prestigious overseas institutions. 300 students will be recruited to study abroad for two years with the UK as a target partner.

Other Countries

- In 2014, the UK ranked 15th among sending countries to China, with 5,920 students. Nearly 380,000 international students from 200 countries studied in China last year.
- The US is the most popular tertiary study destination among wealthy Chinese, followed by the UK and Australia, China's Hurun Report has found. Nearly 274,000 Chinese students studied in the US last year, accounting for 30 per cent of all international students in the country. The UK is the most popular destination at secondary level.
- Australia is becoming an increasingly popular secondary study destination for Chinese students, with enrolments up almost 20 per cent in 2014. China accounted for 26 per cent of all international students in Australia last year.

Wider Education Environment

UK related

- 12 UK institutions are featured in the Top 100 of the 2015 Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings, with two in the Top 3 behind Harvard University.
- Amid a sharp decline in the overall number of university students studying modern foreign languages, Chinese has seen a 30 per cent increase in enrolments, according to data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

China related

- China sent 460,000 students to study abroad in 2014, an increase of 11 per cent, according to the Ministry of Education. Nearly 365,000 students returned in 2014.
- Speaking at the 12th National People's Congress, Premier Li Keqiang called for efforts to promote education quality and equality, including heightened supervision of transnational education programmes. There are currently more than 250 approved joint programmes between the UK and China at degree level and above.
- China's State Council has announced an inspection of vocational education, aimed at improving the quality of teaching and optimising resources. There are expected to be more than 38 million students in vocational education by 2020. The Ministry of Education is drafting policies to encourage more cooperation with the private sector in delivering vocational education.
- China has announced plans to boost the development of football, with ambitions to increase the number of schools specialising in football from 5,000 to 20,000, and training 50,000 football coaches by 2020. Furthermore, Shanghai has announced a football coaching programme across 1,500 schools with the aim of placing a football coach in every school in the city.
- The Ministry of Education has issued new guidance on student recruitment, which calls for improved independent recruitment and increased admission of students from disadvantaged areas into top universities.
- Minister of Education Yuan Guiren has called for more extra-curricular arts activities to be offered by schools to cultivate students' interest in the field.
- The Ministry of Education has established an information management system for China-foreign education cooperation programmes, which offers online application, assessment and publication services.
- Beijing Education Commission has announced its priorities for this year, which include promoting greater collaboration between Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei province in research and resource sharing, and encouraging institutions to relocate into suburban areas.