



Education UK

Education UK Exhibition Rome, 26-27-28 November 2014

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1. Introduction

Thank you for your participation at the Education UK exhibition in Rome (Italy) in November 2014.

This report provides a summary of the event, including exhibitor feedback as well as other useful information.

Education UK 2014 was run in partnership with Campus Orienta which runs the student fair *called Salone dello Studente*, the largest education event in Italy dedicated to post-school and university orientation.

Some numbers:

- 50.000 visitors
- 90 exhibitors
- 100 speakers
- Over 10 slots/interviews on TV

The UK area hosted 32 representatives from UK schools, further and higher education institutions to meet Italian students, providing them all the information on education opportunities. The event was featured in the news of the Italian National Television.

We appreciate your support and hope that we can continue to provide valuable marketing services in terms of both our exhibitions and also our range of other targeted activities during the year. We hope to see you again at our next exhibitions.

Regards

Filomena Casamassa | Project Manager, Italy



2. Event fact file

Rome

Venue	Fiera di Roma, Rome 26 - 27 - 28 November 2014
	Wednesday, 26 November 09.00-14.00
Opening hours	Thursday, 27 November 09.00-17.00
	Friday 28 November 09.00-14.00
Stand costs	£1,750.00 plus VAT
Partner	Campus Orienta (Manager of Salone dello Studente student fairs)
	Venue hire and refreshments
The Cost included	Promotional campaign
The Cost included	Market briefing
	Stand assistant free of charge
Unique feature to give added value	 Market Briefing for exhibitors (with up-to-date statistics on Italian Education sector and Italian students' interests in the UK) with introduction by Stephen Benians, Director Programmes, British Council Italy
	2. Brief presentation from UKTI, IALCA (Italian Agent Association) and AISLI (Language Schools Association)
	3. Seminars focused on students' needs.
	4. Dedicated branded Education UK zone for all UK education institutions
Seminars	A series of seminars were held on the three days with topics including the importance of studying in the UK, How to apply to a UK University, IELTS exams, Career Orientation and Foundation Programmes as a Pathway to UK Undergraduate Study

3. Key statistics

Attendance	2014
Total number of visitors	50.000
English Language Schools	1
Secondary Education	9
Further Education	2
Higher Education	20
Total number of exhibitors*	32

3.1 Impact of marketing plan

Secondary, further and higher education institutions were present at the exhibition and therefore the target audience for marketing was male and female in the age range: 14 - 18, in addition to the teachers of these students.

The digital media campaign was carried out mostly by our Partner and it was focused on Facebook, education websites and forums visited by students. The offline promotional campaign started in September when flyers were distributed in our three British Council centres, Milan, Rome and Naples. A communication promoting the event was sent to the Heads of all the secondary schools in the Lazio Region.

Education UK area stood out clearly at the Fair and the space was well branded. Exhibitors from the HE sector were satisfied with the event in terms of numbers of students, which was achieved through the targeted marketing campaign. Unfortunately this was not the case for the ELT sector, or summer schools aiming at mid teens. This was due to the event partner which did not concentrate on marketing to that demographic, instead marketing at the 17 to 18 year olds. This meant students attending were more interested in HE sector than schools. This is clearly a valuable lesson to us about holding the partner to account in the future, to ensure they market to *all audiences that we have agreed on*, not just one part of them. The partner, a valid entity in itself with fairs reaching 150k students annually with endorsement of ministry of education, is fully aware of how to market the events in the future should we partner with them again.



4. Follow up

Key recommendations for institutions

Exhibitors observed that education is a priority for young people in Italy in assisting them creating a competitive edge in challenging job market. There is a lot of interest in studying abroad in order to be more competitive and more acceptance of foundation as a viable route to University.

Key recommendations for the British Council

The venue was not central, being near the airport at the main Trade Fair site of Rome. This can be mitigated in the future by recommending that exhibitors stay in hotels in the centre and arranging transport to reach the fair. This would be easier than the logistics of staying in the direct vicinity of the Trade Fair complex. The duration of the fair need not have been three days; opening from 9-13 for two days is more than enough.

The Exhibitors found the promotion of the education UK brand good, as well as the general awareness of studying in the UK. The seminar sessions were a particular attraction and well attended.

Students from local schools were employed on an unpaid voluntary basis to provide hostess and interpreting services which were much appreciated by the exhibitors. This initiative kept the costs down whilst providing invaluable support for the event and a good work experience opportunity for the students.

Some exhibitors expressed their interest in attending future British Council education events in Italy.



Appendix 1: Exhibitors' feedback

Main compliments:

- Everything was fine, we don't need a huge amount of support
- Promotion of UK brand and higher education was good.
- Well promoted: evident in attendance / footfall.
- The students assisting at the stands were excellent
- BC colleagues were very helpful before the event and during as well

Main complaints:

- Opening hours too long. Two days from 9-13 are more than enough.
- Hotel and transportation need to be improved
- More promotion from BC rather than relying on Salone dello Studente would have helped, or ensuring the Salone partner marketed to boarder age groups.
- The stands were very nice but the layout did not contribute to flow of people to some stands.

Future steps/learning points:

The partner reaches many students across the country and throughout the year, with many newspaper, TV, and institutional marketing channels including directly to schools and parents.

If we partner with them in the future we will ensure the marketing is smarter, directly targeting those audiences that the UK education exhibitors need at their stands.

We will scope out the possibility of offering UK education institutions direct marketing presentations (rather than stands at fairs) in large Salone events, for less cost than an exhibition. Likewise, we will investigate the possibility of having a study tour, to present at a series of different events in the country on successive days. Some of these venues may be with different partners (eg, Expo, Campus Orienta, or individual schools)



Appendix 2: Marketing

Online promotion of the Exhibition:

Social media: large scale social media campaign through British Council website, partner website and Facebook. Reach: 15.000 visitors









Off line promotion:

- TV: Telesia (Broadcasting news for fast moving customers). From 17-28 November 4 screen adverts per day on CLASS TV, 6 on CNBC and 8 on TV Moda
- Publicity on Italia Oggi and Milano Finanza.







Appendix 3: List of participating institutions

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1.	Anglia Ruskin University
2.	Bedford School and Study Centre
3.	Bournemouth University
4.	Box Hill School
5.	BIMM British & Irish Modern Music Institute
6.	Broadway Education
7.	Cambridge Education Group
8.	Cardiff Sixth Form College
9.	City University London
10.	D'Overbroeck's Oxford
11.	Dudley College
12.	Ellesmere College
13.	University of Essex
14.	Goldsmiths, University of London
15.	University of Greenwich, London
16.	University of Kent
17.	The University of Law
18.	London Metropolitan University
19.	London South Bank University
20.	Middlesex University
21.	Moreton Hall School
22.	Padworth College
23.	Regent's University London
24.	Richmond, The American International University in London
25.	SOAS, University of London
26	St Christopher School
27	RVC, University of London
28	TWIN Group – English Course & Work Experience in London
29	University of South Wales
30	University of West London
31	Westbourne School
32	University of Westminster