

Report: North India Boarding Schools mission

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1. Introduction

The British Council concluded its first ever boarding schools mission visiting prestigious boarding schools located in second/third cities in Northern India. The 4 day mission commenced from 21 September and concluded on 24 September 2015.

These boarding schools located in Sonapat, Dehradun and Mussourie are some of the country's finest schools and are renowned for providing high quality education, encouraging their students to be academically competent and inclined towards an international education. These schools typically have potential students looking for options to study abroad.

Before planning the mission, the British Council had sought market intelligence from its local school contacts about the education market in these cities which showed that students in these schools have been choosing higher studies at international institutions. Therefore foreign study destinations are popular amongst students studying in these boarding schools. To provide a market exploration and recruitment experience to UK institutions, this mission targeting prospective students only at premier boarding schools was organised for the first time.

6 UK institutions participated in this interactive platform where the participating delegation got an opportunity to meet prospective students at each school, where delegates made presentations about their respective institution followed by counselling sessions in a table and chair mini exhibition format. The mission concluded in the city of Dehradun with an 'International School Fair' organised by the Doon School Dehradun on 25 September 2015. This event was organised and managed by the Doon School while the British Council supported the event with a counselling stall to counsel Doon students.

2. List of participating UK Institutions

1. Middlesex University
2. Navitas Ltd
3. Newcastle University
4. University Of Reading
5. University Of Sussex
6. University of Westminster

3. Programme highlights

- 21 September: [Rishikul Vidyapeeth, Sonapat](#) (CBSE curriculum):

Participating delegates met 116 students and 8 faculty members at the school. Popular subjects amongst students at the institution were: Business Studies, Psychology, Engineering and Medicine. The faculty members at the schools were happy to host the delegation and have expressed interest in hosting more such delegations in the future. The school counsellors enquired about entry requirements at each UK institution, scholarships on offer and work options during study time. Additionally a few parents visited during the table/chair counselling session.

- 22 September: [Kasiga International School, Dehradun](#) (CBSE curriculum):

93 students and 6 faculty members were present at the seminar and table/chair event. Most students enquired about courses in subject areas of: Business Studies, Psychology, Politics and International Relations, Music, Sports, Medicine and Law. Students also enquired about entry requirements at various UK institutions, scholarships offered and post study work options.

- 22 September: [Welhams Boys School, Dehradun](#) (CBSE curriculum):

There were 67 students and 1 counselor present during the seminar and table/chair interaction at Welhams Boys School. The faculty members showed keen interest in developing international collaborations and partnerships with the UK. Popular subjects amongst students in the school were: Business Studies, Psychology and Engineering. Students were keen to find out about scholarships and entry requirements at each UK institution.

- 23 September: [Unison World School, Dehradun](#) (residential boarding school for girls offering IGCSE and A levels)

Participating delegates met 174 students and 5 faculty members during the seminar and table/chair interaction. Faculty members were interested in future opportunities for collaborations and were happy to host such delegations in future. There were discussions around hosting webinars for future follow ups and both sides were keen to progress on this. Students at the table/chair interaction mainly enquired about Scholarships and post study work options.

- 23 September: [Wynberg Allen School, Mussourie](#) (ICSE curriculum)

167 students and 12 faculty members were present at the seminar and table/chair interaction at the school. Faculty members highlighted that the students are more focused on applying to the US compared to any other international study destination and hence they were keen to explore partnership opportunities. Students that attended the table/chair interaction enquired about courses in Business Studies, Psychology, Music, Sports, Law, Photography and Design courses.

- 24 September: [Woodstock School, Mussourie](#) (follows IGCSE)

A large cohort of 250 students and 5 faculty members attended the seminar and table/chair event at Woodstock school in Mussourie. 20 parents were also present at the seminar session. Faculty members were interested in taking the partnerships agenda ahead and were happy to have a follow up telecom to discuss the same. Students mainly enquired about courses in subject areas of Business Studies, Psychology, Music, Sports, Medicine, International Relations, Humanities, Architecture and Engineering.

The mission concluded with a counsellor's meet where counsellors of those schools were invited that could not host the mission. 5 school counsellors attended the networking event and all delegates gave a brief presentation about their respective institution to the group of counsellors.

4. Feedback from participating delegates

- 4 out of 6 delegates provided their feedback for the mission
- All 4 delegates felt that the mission met their objectives
- 3 out of 4 delegates mentioned that the quality of institutions visited were 'Good' and the programme at each local institution was as per their expectation
- 50% delegates commented that they have gained new knowledge about the market after their participation in this mission
- 50% delegates remarked that this mission was a 'high quality event'
- All 4 delegates commented that they would like to attend a similar event in future.
- Some comments by participating delegates:
 - 'We will be planning to visit some of these schools in future visits to raise our profile and also to create an awareness for the UK'
 - 'Upon receipt of contact details, I plan to liaise with colleagues and provide to them additional resource materials'
 - 'All schools seem eager to engage with HE partners and it looks like some of our competitors are way ahead of us in terms of cementing these relationships.'
 - 'We discussed during the debriefing having more of a "Why UK" focus in the intro sessions (rather than just individual institutions)'



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