

Report on 'UK in city: Jaipur' - 20- 22 November 2013

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**Introduction:**

'UK in City' was organised in the city of Jaipur from 20- 22 November 2013. Through this event the British Council provided an opportunity and platform to the 6 participating UK institutions to promote their undergraduate and postgraduate courses across 3 schools and 3 HEIs in the city of Jaipur. During the mission UK Institutions got a chance to interact with potential students who were interested in studying abroad along with interactions with Principals, school counsellors, dean faculties and other senior management. The representatives briefed them about the profile of their institution, various courses and discussed potential links

Participating UK Institutions:

- University of Manchester
- Middlesex University
- Nottingham Trent University
- Newcastle University
- University of Sheffield
- Sheffield Hallam University

**About the mission:**

During the event visits were arranged to three prominent schools and three higher education institutions. The day at each institution began with introductions followed by presentations to students. It was a generic presentation on Studying in the UK with focus on UG/PG studies. Each delegate got an opportunity to make one presentation at one of the institutions. After the presentation there was one to one interaction with students in a table - chair setup. The delegates shared university specific information during this one to one interaction with the students. This was followed by a meeting with Principal and/or Counsellors and Senior Teachers to give them a brief background including strengths of each institute and discuss future activities which could be undertaken by the universities and British Council.

**Key highlights****Day One:****1. Maharani Gayatri Devi School: Curriculum: CBSE**

The programme included an interaction with the Principal and school counsellor during which information about school, student profile was shared. This was followed by a generic presentation on 'Studying in the UK' by British Council staff followed by 4-5 minutes of presentation by each delegate on key highlights of their institution, courses alumni etc. This was followed by a workshop on 'How to write a good statement of purpose'.

After the presentation there was one to one interaction with students through a table- chair setup. The delegates shared university specific information during this one to one interaction with the students. This was followed by a school round up to see the various facilities at the school.

### Key highlights

- Maharani Gayatri Devi School is one of the old renowned and prestigious Girls' schools in the city. The Principal, counsellor and school students have keen interest in UK education and attribute great value to it.
- The school emphasis a lot on overall development of the students and have great facilities related to sports, music, art and literary activities.
- The current numbers of students applying at the undergraduate level for studying abroad are limited however the numbers are likely to increase in coming years.
- The student quality is good with good academic records and financial background.
- There were very diverse choices in subject areas ranging from engineering, psychology, journalism, visual arts and sports.
- School is open to academic lectures by UK universities.
- The workshop on 'How to write a good statement of Purpose' was well received by the students. The counsellor and students found it as a very useful session.
- Audiences: Teachers met - 4, Students met - 100

### 2. Amity University, Jaipur

The programme at the institution included an introduction of the delegates followed by generic presentation by British Council staff and university presentations by the delegates. After this the delegates had one to one student interactions. The discussions related to collaborations were held at their board room and was attended by Pro- vice chancellor, registrar, deans and senior staff members. They presented an overview of the university, its key achievements and existing tie-ups and collaborations. Then they discussed the various possibilities of collaborating with the visiting UK universities.

#### Key highlights

- A modern private university with good infrastructure
- Prospective student base for study abroad
- Institution is open to academic lectures and other collaborations with the UK universities. Following areas were identified for further discussions-
  - Delivery of programmes at Amity Global Campuses initiating with Singapore.
  - Advanced entry of Amity Students into programmes conducted by UK Universities.
  - Establishment of Joint Centers of Research & Excellence at AUR, Jaipur in collaboration with UK universities.
  - Students Exchange Programme and Internship on Reciprocal Basis.
  - Joint Research & Publication of Papers by Faculty.

- Conduct of International Conferences at AUR, Jaipur where representatives of UK universities can be included Joint FDPs /MDPs. Joint Writing and Publication of Books.
- Faculty Exchange Programmes and Interaction with Star Faculty Members in respective areas of Specialization.
- Joint Supervision of Ph.D. Research Scholars.
- Audiences: Teachers met: 30, Students met : 120

### **Day Two:**

#### **3. Step by Step International School, Jaipur: Curriculum: CBSE and IB**

The programme included presentations, one to one student interactions and workshop on 'How to write a good statement of Purpose'. This was followed by discussion with the Principal and counsellor.

##### Key highlights

- The school has around 25-30% students applying for undergraduate courses abroad
- US, UK, Singapore are the primary choices
- School counsellor was well versed with UCAS process.
- School is open to academic lectures by UK universities.
- The workshop on 'How to write a good statement of purpose' was found to be useful.
- Audiences: Teachers met: 3, Students : 80

#### **4. Gyan Vihar University, Jaipur**

The programme at the institution included an introduction of the delegates followed by generic presentation by British Council staff and university presentations by the delegates. After this the delegates had one to one interactions with the students. There were brief discussions related to collaborations with the staff members of International office.

##### Key highlights

- The university has potential student base for study abroad but the students need more exposure through similar seminars and visits.
- Institution is open to academic lectures by UK universities.
- The university is comparatively new with good infrastructure and is rated high in the state of Rajasthan. But it has limited international exposure and thus is very keen on international collaborations, joint programmes and collaborative research.
- Audiences: Teachers met: 12, Students : 70

**Day Three:****5. Delhi Public School, Jaipur: Curriculum: CBSE**

The programme included an interaction with the Principal, vice principal and school counsellor during which information about school, student profile was shared. This was followed by a generic presentation on 'Studying in the UK' by British Council staff followed by 4-5 minutes of presentation by each delegate on key highlights of their institution, courses alumni etc. After this two simultaneous workshops were held one on 'How to write a good statement of purpose' and the other on 'How to choose a course and institution'.

After the workshops there was one to one interaction with the students through a table- chair setup. The delegates shared university specific information during this one to one interaction with the students.

**Key highlights**

- There is a potential student base interested to study in the UK.
- They have a number of student alumni who have gone for higher education in the UK universities.
- Their school counsellor has visited a number of UK institutions.
- The popular subject choices were engineering, science and technology and medicine. There was interest in courses related to humanities also.
- The top country choices for study abroad are USA, Singapore, UK and Canada at the undergraduate level but there is increased interest in the UK for postgraduate courses.
- School is open to academic lectures by UK universities
- Audiences: Teachers met: 6, Students : 120

**6. Jaipur National University, Jaipur**

The programme at the institution included an introduction of the delegates followed by generic presentation by British Council staff and university presentations by the delegates. After this the delegates had one to one interactions with the students. Due to exams of various subject streams, students from all schools could not attend the seminar and interactions.

After this there were discussions related to collaborations with the Vice Chancellor and other staff members of International office.

**Key highlights**

- A campus with over 5000 students. The university has good reputation in the region and students from the different cities of the states of Rajasthan come for higher education studies.
- The students have aspirations of studying abroad but have very limited awareness about the process and possibilities thus they need to have more interactions through similar seminars and visits.
- Institution is open to academic lectures by UK universities.
- It was few existing international collaborations and joint programmes with foreign universities and seek more such collaborations.
- The students want to know more about the scholarships available and the process to apply.

- It has 5 foreign University tie-ups which include one with a UK university under which a joint programme is being offered. Keen on various other collaborations related to joint programmes, collaborative research etc.
- Institution is open to academic lectures by UK universities.
- Audiences: Teachers met: 2, students : 70

**Feedback from participating delegates:**

1. 100% participating delegates mentioned that their objectives were met during the missions
2. 100% delegates gave feedback that the quality of institutions and interaction at local institutions was 'Good'.
3. 80% delegates agreed that the mission met their objectives and 100% mentioned that they have acquired knowledge about institutions in Jaipur through this mission.
4. The participants found the Undergraduate (UG) segment to be more focussed compared to postgraduate (PG) students. Thus, would focus on UG recruitment from the city for future.
5. All universities were happy with the visits at three schools and Amity University. According to them these institutions provided good scope for student recruitment for their institutions and also possible collaboration with Amity University.
6. Amongst the PG institutions, GVU and JNU had a mixed response in terms of quality. These institutions did not show much potential for three participants in terms of possible future collaborations. The other three would explore possibilities based on the discussions held during the visits.
7. The inclusion of student workshops on 'How to write a good statement of Purpose' and 'How to choose a course and institution' was appreciated and everyone felt that it was a good way of engaging with the students.
8. The participants felt that British Council should make some changes in the generic presentation and should have some way of capturing latest information from universities so as to include it in their presentation.