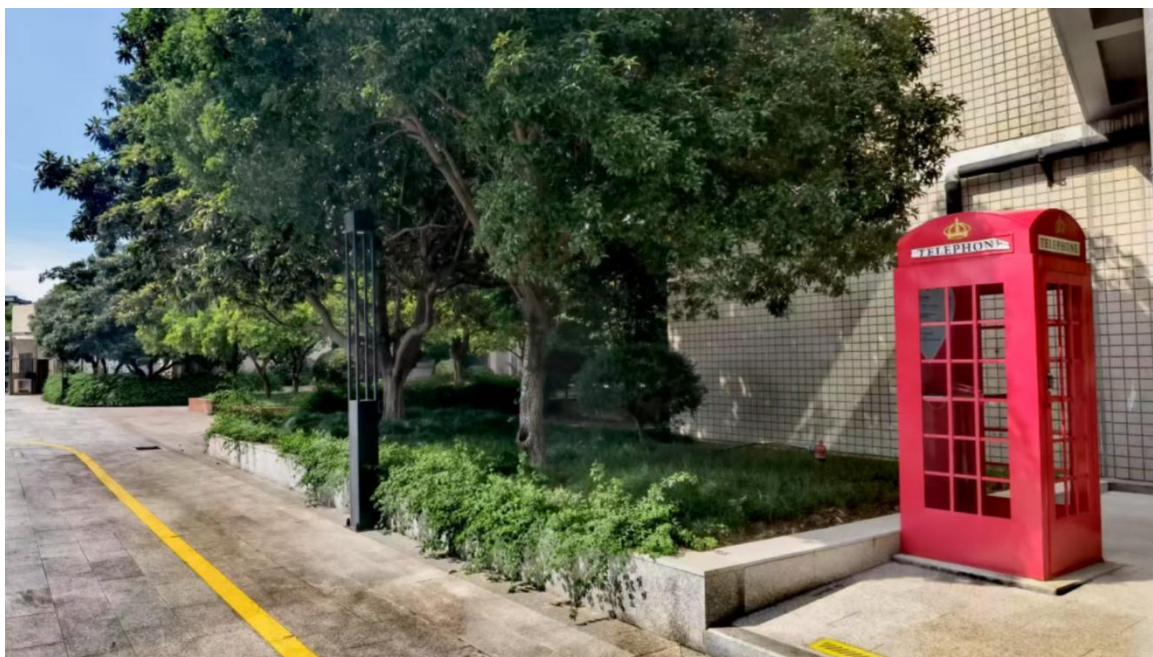


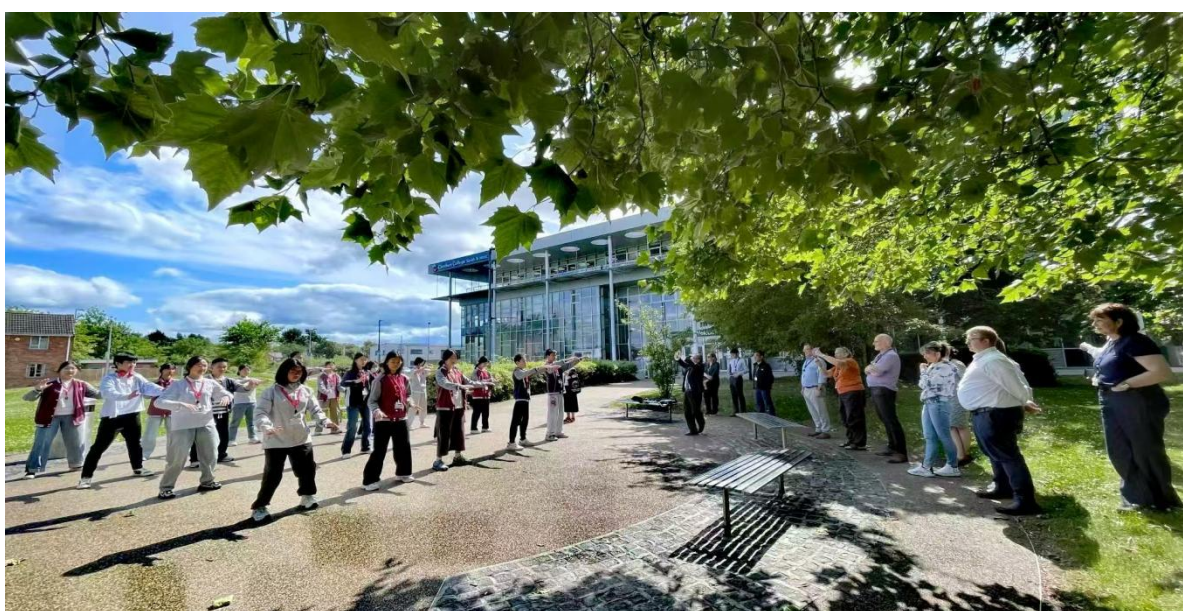


4<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
Editor in chief: Daniel Zheng  
Editor: Jessica XU, Liz Zhou

## Where east meets west!



British telephone box on Chinese school campus



Chinese Taiji performance on UK school campus

## Inside HOPE

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## Inside HOPE

### **School Link Forum 2024 generate business for participating school in 2025**

20 students and 4 teachers from Shanghai Nanhui No. 2 Middle School enjoyed a one-week tour of taster classes and cultural excursions at Cheshire College South & West at Chester and the UK between 21-28 June 2025. This is the outcome of the School Link Forum organized by HOPE in Shanghai in Oct 2024 when Nanhui No.2 Middle School signed MoU with Cheshire College South & West. The Forum was attended by 10 overseas and 30 Chinese schools including 3 pairs having signed the sister school MoUs after the event.

Such tour and link are typical ways and strategy to promote school profile and recruitment in China market recommended by HOPE. By attending the forum, Cheshire College South & West also attracted interest from other Chinese schools for more in-depth collaboration on BETC and vocational programme.



**Nanhui students at Cheshire College South & West**



**Students performing Chinese traditional Taiji**

**Students with lovely host family**

This autumn, HOPE will hold a School Link Forum on 17th Oct, again followed by an International Education Fair on 18th Oct, and the venue will be in Suzhou, a tourism city famous for its gardens 30 minutes away by high speed train from Shanghai. This Forum is the chance for you to meet Chinese schools in Suzhou and surrounding areas. About 30-40 Chinese schools' principals and headmasters will be invited to the event. The Forum will take the form of keynote speech, panel discussions, individual appointment slots, and networking lunch reception. The fair on Saturday afternoon 18<sup>th</sup> October will be a chance to meet 50-80 families.

If any institution is interested in attending, please contact Alice Zhang at [event@hope-studyabroad.com](mailto:event@hope-studyabroad.com) for more details. School Link Forum is for secondary schools only while the fair is for both schools and universities.

## **HOPE Counsellor's UK Visit Strengthens Ties with Partner Universities, Schools, and Students**

From 7<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of June, HOPE consultant and marketing manager Liz Zhou embarked on a 10-day visit to the UK, aiming to consolidate relationships with partner institutions and engage with students as well as schools. The trip underscored HOPE's commitment to fostering strong collaborations with universities and schools while ensuring continuous support for students studying abroad.

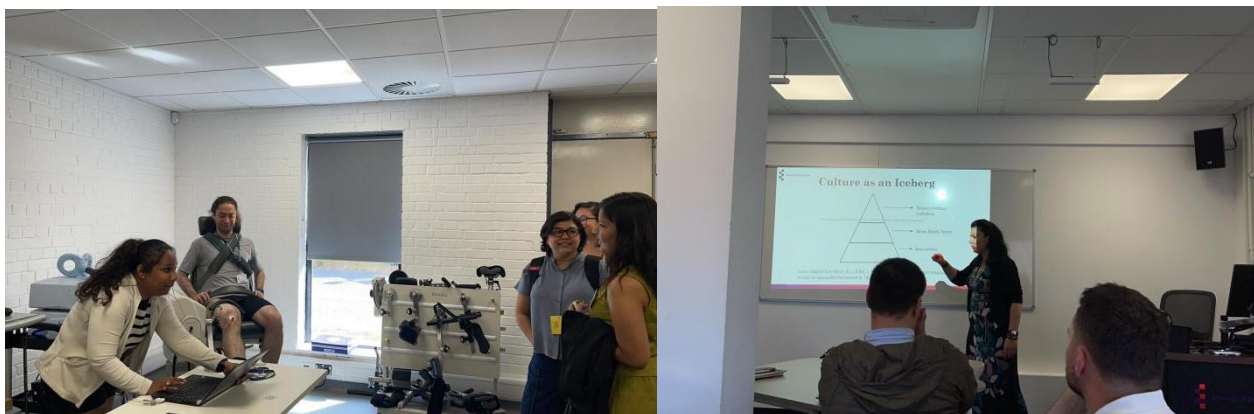
### **Part 1: University of Essex Agent Fam Trip: deepening understanding and partnerships with the University of Essex**



**Group photo of Essex Agent Fam Trip in front of Colchester Castle, Essex, UK**

A highlight of the visit was that HOPE was invited to attend the FAM trip and the agents had the opportunity to tour the campus and attend taster lectures. This immersive experience allowed the agents to gain deeper insights into Essex's academic environment, teaching methods, and student life. By participating in the lecture, they were able to better understand the university's teaching style, enabling them to provide more accurate guidance to prospective students.



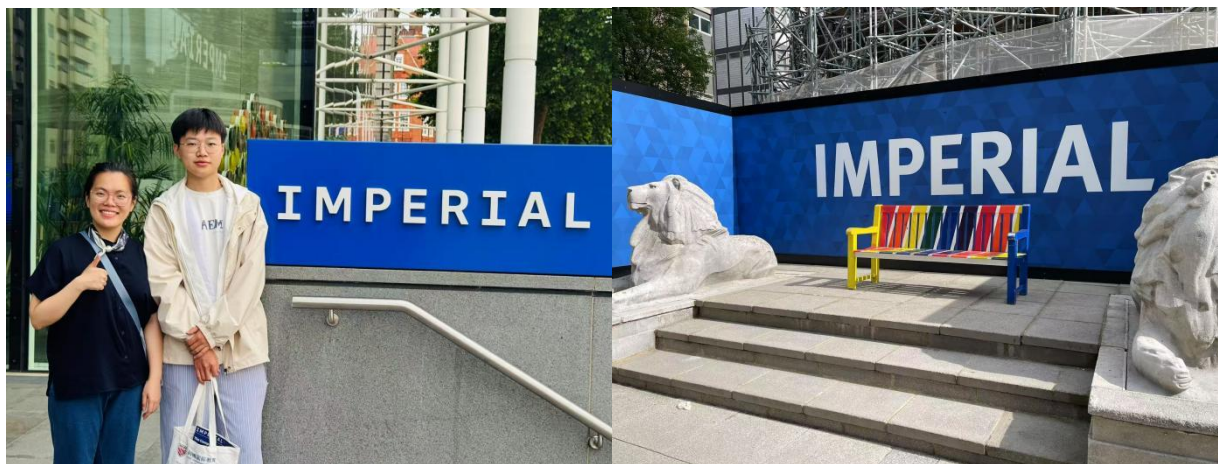


**Agents experiencing taster lectures from different disciplines in the university**

The visit also facilitated meaningful discussions with Essex's admissions and international teams, reinforcing the strong partnership between HOPE and the university. Both sides expressed enthusiasm for future collaborations to support student recruitment, links with Chinese institutions and enhance the overall study-abroad experience of students.

## **Part 2: Reconnecting with Students: Imperial College London visits and Live Broadcasting with HOPE student**

In the past 25 years, HOPE has sent thousands of students to top universities in UK. This time, Liz visited Imperial College London to meet with HOPE student. She asked his academic progress and well-being, demonstrating HOPE's ongoing commitment to student care even after they begin their studies abroad.



**Liz meets with current Imperial student and visits the campus**

To share student's experience with a broader audience, HOPE conducted a live campus tour and interview with the student at Imperial college offering insights into student life at Imperial and answering application questions from prospective students and parents in China via online platform. This interactive format not only provided valuable information but also highlighted HOPE's dedication to student support.



**Live interview with Imperial student which attracts 500 audiences online**

### **Part 3: Strengthening Ties with UK boarding Schools: Ipswich School & St Joseph's College**

In addition to university visits, Liz and Mei from HOPE UK office visited two prestigious UK boarding schools—Ipswich School and St Joseph's College. These meetings allowed HOPE counsellors to discuss student progression pathways, academic offerings, and boarding life with school management team.



**HOPE team visited Ipswich School (left) and St. Joseph's College (right)**

By maintaining close relationships with these institutions, HOPE ensures that students receive professional advice when selecting the right school tailored to their needs. The visits also reinforced HOPE's role as a trusted and professional agency between students and top-tier UK independent schools.

This UK visit reaffirmed HOPE's proactive approach in nurturing partnerships with universities and schools while prioritizing student welfare. Looking ahead, HOPE remains dedicated to fostering meaningful connections between students and leading UK institutions, ensuring a seamless and enriching overseas education experience for students.



## **Recruitment for Chinese universities help synergize HOPE resources for diversified development**

4 students from Indonesia are recruited by HOPE to attend the summer camp at University of Nottingham Ningbo in Ningbo this July; 1 student from the UK school is coming to attend the summer programme at Westlake University in Hangzhou early this month after HOPE and university's joint promotion at the UK school last November. Some of those students are possibly going to do degree programme in China afterwards.

As more and more Chinese universities are going global and the demand for international students is getting high, HOPE is now working with more Chinese universities to recruit students overseas to diversify its institutional services, while at the same time, to synergize its resources to promote links between Chinese universities and overseas institutions leading to recruitment for both sides. Apart from University of Nottingham Ningbo and Westlake University, HOPE is also discussing with Jiaotong University, Donghua University, Shanghai University of Engineering Science, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University for students' recruitment, summer camp, teacher training and TNE programme.

Last November, Daniel Zheng, Managing Director of HOPE International Education, accompanied Admission Manager from Westlake University in Hangzhou to visit two British high schools to conduct recruitment presentations. HOPE is also working with partner agents in Southeast Asia countries, Russia, UK and Canada to recruit local students for its partner institutions in China and overseas. Broadening the recruitment channels can also offer more opportunities for TNE, corporate and teacher training, summer camp and online tutoring.



**Admission Manager of Westlake University (2<sup>nd</sup> left) conducted presentation at Brockenhurst College UK accompanied by Daniel Zheng**

## INSIDE HOPE -- Photo news of June



On 6<sup>th</sup> of June, HOPE organized a pre-departure briefing for students and their parents of Nanhui No. 2 Middle School who are going to visit school's UK partner, Cheshire College South & West. The briefing was delivered by Stelios Yalarakis, International Recruitment Manager, followed by Q and A. A good opportunity to promote the college as well as to train the students before departure.



On 6<sup>th</sup> of June, Daniel, HOPE Managing Director and Alex, HOPE Shanghai Office General Manager visited New Century Shiheng School affiliated to Peking University, Suzhou. They visited the principal in charge of the International Department, as well as Head of the A-level and DSE programme to discuss potential cooperation.





On 12<sup>th</sup> of June, HOPE Hangzhou office organized a personal statement workshop tailored for an international school in Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province. Personal statement is a key part in the UCAS application. With the help of HOPE, students will know more about the way to write a competitive personal statement.



On 21<sup>st</sup> of June, HOPE Shanghai office was invited to attend HSBC Education Fair after Gaokao and Zhongkao (University entrance exams and high school entrance exams).



# News from local media

## **Chinese universities continue upward trend in world rankings**

By Zhao Yimeng | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2025-06-19 19:56

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202506/19/WS6853faf0a310a04af22c7502.html>

Higher education institutions from the Chinese mainland continued their upward trend, with around 45 percent improving their positions compared to last year, according to the 2026 QS World University Rankings released on Thursday by Quacquarelli Symonds.

Peking University held its top spot among Chinese mainland universities and ranked 14th globally, while Tsinghua University rose to 17th, up seven spots. Fudan University climbed nine places to 30th.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has retained its position as the world's leading university for the 14th consecutive year, followed by Imperial College London and Stanford University. The latest rankings include more than 1,500 universities from 106 countries and regions, QS said.

As global competition intensifies, China's continued investment in education, research, and international collaboration will be key to maintaining and expanding its presence on the world academic stage, it added.

The sustained rise of China's universities demonstrates their growing influence in global higher education, said Ben Sowter, QS senior vice president. Peking University's continued excellence and this year's 32 upward movers signal strong national momentum, he said.

Among the key drivers of this success were improvements in faculty research impact and employer reputation. About 71 percent of universities on the Chinese mainland improved in citations per faculty member, while 64 percent advanced in employer reputation.

Nanjing University in Jiangsu province jumped to a personal best of 103rd globally, supported by gains in academic reputation, employer perception and citations per faculty. However, most C9 members saw declines in international student ratio, faculty diversity and graduate employment.

Institutions in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region also achieved a great leap, with the University of Hong Kong climbing to the 11th place globally.

China has firmly established itself as a research powerhouse. The next steps will be to attract more global talent and deepen international partnerships. Zhejiang University, Tongji

University in Shanghai, and Nanjing University are setting examples in global academic collaboration and international faculty recruitment, Sowter said.

In addition, the ranking highlights a shifting center of gravity in higher education towards Asia, which now claims the highest number of ranked universities worldwide.

"We are witnessing a rebalancing of global academic influence. While traditional powerhouses maintain strong positions, the data shows clear momentum in regions investing heavily in research capacity, internationalization, and long-term strategy," Sowter added.

## Shift in student visa stance encouraging

By Denis Simon | China Daily Global | Updated: 2025-06-20 09:08

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202506/20/WS6854b4aba310a04af22c7627.html>

United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio on May 28 announced plans to revoke visas of Chinese students linked to the Communist Party of China or in "critical fields", heightening scrutiny on applications from China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. US President Donald Trump initially supported this move but later softened his stance, stating in a May 30 interview that the visa issue would be resolved.



Students walk on the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, US, May 23, 2025.

[Photo/Agencies]

After a June 5 call with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Trump said, "Chinese students are coming. No problem. It's our honor to have them. We want to have foreign students, but we want them to be checked." On June 11, Trump said on social media that allowing Chinese students to attend US institutions "has always been good", suggesting a commitment to educational exchanges with targeted vetting.

On Wednesday, the US State Department announced it is restarting the stalled process for foreigners applying for student visas, but all applicants will now be required to unlock their social media accounts for government review.

While the current shift is encouraging, Rubio's directive, framed as a national security measure, is not, as it risks escalating US-China educational tensions, which can undermine US leadership in research, including scientific discovery and commercialization of innovation.

The importance of US-China educational exchanges remains undiminished, as these ties have historically driven innovation and cultural bridge-building critical to both nations. Chinese students are among the largest group of international students in the US. In 2023-24, more than 270,000 Chinese students were enrolled at US colleges and universities, comprising about 30 percent of all international students. A large share of Chinese students are in graduate-level STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) programs — fields where the US faces chronic talent shortages.

According to the National Science Foundation, more than 50 percent of doctoral students in engineering and computer sciences in the US are foreign-born, and many are Chinese.

These students play central roles in research teams working on artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, climate tech and biomedicine. Rubio's announcement threatens to dismantle this talent base, with long-term damage to both US academic institutions and the industries that rely on their output.

Many Chinese students are now looking to other countries. The chilling effect is already evident, with university leaders warning of irreversible harm to their academic ecosystems.

Beyond intellectual contributions, Chinese students also bring substantial economic value. The US Department of Commerce estimates that they inject over \$15 billion annually into the US economy through tuition, housing and local spending.

At the University of California, nearly 18,000 Chinese students contribute an estimated \$750 million each year. At the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Chinese nationals account for over 15 percent of total tuition revenue.

Rubio's directive puts such financial flows at risk. But the academic costs may be even higher. Labs at institutions such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Georgia Institute of Technology and Stanford University depend heavily on Chinese graduate students and postdocs. Abrupt removals could derail federally funded projects, disrupt private sector collaborations and cripple scientific productivity. In the short term, there are few viable replacements for this talent pool.



The effects ripple far beyond academia. Chinese-born engineers and scientists are integral to the US tech sector. According to the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, around 25 percent of STEM workers in Silicon Valley are of Chinese origin.

Revoking visas sends an unmistakable message: Chinese nationals, regardless of their contributions or time in the US, are no longer welcome. This could accelerate a "reverse brain drain", as top talent opts for friendlier environments.

China and many other countries such as India, Canada and Germany are investing heavily to attract global researchers and returnees. The US risks isolating itself in a global competition it once dominated.

For over a century, the US has been the top destination for the world's best students. That reputation is now in jeopardy. Rubio's policy signals unpredictability, arbitrary enforcement and suspicion based on nationality rather than evidence.

Legal experts and university counsel have voiced concern that this approach violates principles of due process and opens the door to discriminatory profiling.

Chinese students, understandably, are reconsidering their options. Application figures for the 2025-26 cycle are expected to decline by 20 percent or more. Alternatives such as joint-venture universities within China — such as Duke Kunshan University in Suzhou, Jiangsu province, and NYU Shanghai — are becoming more attractive, offering global curricula without the fear of deportation or policy whiplash. However, even that option may have become tenuous when two weeks ago a select committee strongly suggested that Duke withdraw from its DKU partnership because of national security concerns about Wuhan University, its joint venture partner.

Rubio's announcement evokes uncomfortable echoes of past US overreactions: the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II and Cold War-era purges of foreign-born scientists. In each case, national security concerns were used to justify broad-based discrimination — with deep moral and strategic consequences.

A 2021 survey by the Asian American Scholar Forum found that 42 percent of Chinese or Chinese American scientists in the US feared being racially profiled. This new directive deepens that unease.

Chinese students are being advised to secure legal counsel, avoid international travel and safeguard all visa documentation. Universities are developing legal aid frameworks, lobbying efforts and emergency support systems. But such measures are stopgaps, not solutions.

Some institutions are considering shifting recruitment efforts toward India, Southeast Asia and Latin America. While such efforts are sensible, no region offers a substitute for the scale and quality of Chinese STEM talent — at least not in the short term.

If the objective of Rubio's visa directive is to strengthen US national security, the policy is dangerously counterproductive. It weakens the institutions that drive US innovation. It endangers academic freedom and global collaboration. And it damages the image of the United States as a meritocratic, welcoming hub for the world's best and brightest.

Rather than casting suspicion on thousands of students who have made good-faith contributions to US' life and learning, the US should focus on targeted, evidence-based policies. Blanket suspicion and political theater will only erode the foundations of US' scientific and technological preeminence.

At a time when global leadership in innovation is more critical than ever, the US must recommit to openness, fairness and excellence. Rubio's announcement was a strategic misstep — one the nation can ill afford.

*The author is a nonresident fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, a think tank based in Washington, DC.*

## China, NZ enhance partnership in education

By Wang Xin in Shanghai | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2025-06-19 14:20

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202506/19/WS6853ac14a310a04af22c7438.html>



The Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. [Photo provided to chinadaily.com.cn]

New Zealand is looking to strengthen ties with China through international education collaboration, with the aim to enhance the development of a community with shared understanding and prepare students to thrive in an increasingly connected world, said a top

university executive from New Zealand and member of the Prime Minister of New Zealand's official delegation to China.

Nic Smith, vice-chancellor of the Victoria University of Wellington, made the remarks on Wednesday in Shanghai, reaffirming the university's longstanding commitment to meaningful partnerships with its Chinese counterparts.

Ranking 244 in the QS World University Rankings 2025 with a rare 5+ star rating in the QS Stars rating system, the university's collaboration with Chinese institutions dates back to the 1980s, when it first signed an agreement with Xiamen University. Its Confucius Institute opened in 2010 and it also hosts the pre-eminent New Zealand Contemporary Chinese Research Centre.

"In the last five years, we have collaborated with 259 Chinese institutions across a range of research topics, including the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Peking University, Sichuan University, Zhengzhou University and Tsinghua University," said Smith.

He added that the university's collaboration with its Chinese counterparts will expand further. During his visit to China this week, the university is set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Fudan University in Shanghai to enhance research collaboration in areas including public health, well-being, life sciences, medical research and climate change, as well as three agreements with Chinese universities, namely Communication University of Zhejiang, Yantai University and Zhengzhou University.

"Victoria University of Wellington is proud of our deep and enduring partnerships with China's top institutions. These relationships — built on mutual respect, academic excellence, and shared aspirations — demonstrate our long-term commitment to collaboration, innovation, and student success," he said.

As the university renews and expands its partnerships with Chinese institutions, it will also launch new scholarships, programs and initiatives to support more Chinese students and strengthen bilateral connections.

As of this month, the university is home to 2,702 international students from 120 countries across the world, including 635 Chinese bachelor, master and PhD students in various fields such as commerce, science, communication, design, professional accounting and business, according to Smith.

"International exchange and international students play an incredibly important role. The ability to understand different cultures, to identify opportunities for us to contribute to common problems but from different perspectives and different degrees of expertise is now more important than ever," said Smith.

He explained that common problems, such as how to have healthy societies, educating children to live successful lives and realize sustainable ways for living together, can only be



solved through partnership, which can be built through common interests, diverse expertise as well as enriching exchanges.

"In the current world that we live in, we have a duty to support and nurture a shared understanding. New Zealand has a deserved reputation for being a place of belonging, safety and a place that includes people as part of a community. In a world that sometimes now is lacking tolerance, those are very important features that we value in our country and we'll continue to do so," he added.



Nic Smith, vice-chancellor of the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. [Photo provided to chinadaily.com.cn]

Smith noted that further education cooperation between the two nations are expected in diverse sectors, such as international business, data science, computer science, artificial intelligence, design, architecture and film. Having directly supervised four Chinese PhD students, he was impressed by their talent, passion, hard work and agility.

With New Zealand's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon visiting China from Tuesday to Friday, Smith pointed out the nation's senior political leaders and the university are aligned in developing and deepening the education partnership between the two nations.

"New Zealand deeply values its longstanding relationship with China, and we are proud to welcome Chinese students to our world-class institutions, where they gain not only academic knowledge but also the language and cultural skills to thrive in a global environment. We look forward to continuing to support Chinese learners on their journey and to strengthening the ties between our two countries through education provided by all of New Zealand's universities, including Victoria University of Wellington," said the prime minister.

In the global context of increasing uncertainties, Smith also highlighted the importance for governments and educational institutions to providing staff and students "a kind of certainty" to allow them to thrive and make big, bold and audacious actions.

"In New Zealand, we are very focused on providing that kind of stability and belonging to allow people to move forward. I am here and my Prime Minister is here to assure that young Chinese people will be welcomed and included in New Zealand ... Together, we can prepare students to thrive as global citizens in an increasingly connected world," he said.

## More in region are seeking to learn Chinese

By XU NUO | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2025-06-16 00:18

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202506/16/WS684ef255a310a04af22c6599.html>

Learning Chinese has become very popular in Central Asia, with the number of candidates taking the Chinese Proficiency Test — also known as the HSK — soaring to over 16,700 in 2024, a threefold increase compared with 2020, according to the test organizer.

"The HSK was first introduced in Central Asia in 2007. In recent years, the number of test-takers in the four Central Asian countries where the HSK is held — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan — has been skyrocketing, and the total number of candidates reached 143,000 as of the end of 2024," said Liu Xiaolong, deputy manager of Chinese Testing International Co, the test organizer.

About 50,000 people in the region have taken the exam in the past five years, reflecting a strong enthusiasm for learning the Chinese language, Liu added.

The HSK is a standardized test that assesses Chinese learners' language abilities, involving nine proficiency levels. As the official and most popular Chinese language proficiency test, the HSK is often required for university admissions, scholarships and job opportunities in China.



Students attend a class at the Confucius Institute of Tajik National University in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in June last year. ZHENG KAIJUN / XINHUA

"The HSK is not only a gateway for studying in China, but also a prerequisite for securing jobs at local Chinese-invested companies," Liu said, adding that the popularity of the Chinese language in the region now rivals that of English.

In Kyrgyzstan, which has seen the highest number of HSK candidates, the number of test-takers has risen at an annual rate of 40 percent over the past five years, making it one of the countries with the fastest-growing number of HSK participants, according to Liu.

In 2024, approximately 9,400 people took the HSK test in Kyrgyzstan, with over 30 percent sitting for levels 4 to 6, indicating that more young Kyrgyz people are embracing opportunities with increasingly proficient Chinese language skills, he said.

The Confucius Institute at Kyrgyz National University, a major HSK test center in Kyrgyzstan, hosted 4,370 candidates last year. In the second HSK test this year, held on May 17, the institute accommodated more than 1,700 test-takers, marking a record high since its establishment in 2009, said Chen Zhiguo, director of the university's Confucius Institute.

The increasing numbers come with a more diverse demographic, from university students majoring in Chinese to civil servants, translators and those engaged in the trade sector with China, reflecting the widespread appeal of the Chinese language across all ages and professions, Chen added.

Similarly, at the Confucius Institute at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Kazakhstan, the number of HSK test-takers has more than quadrupled, from 266 in 2013 to 1,148 last



year, according to Deng Hong, director of the institute, which is co-run by Lanzhou University in China.

"Interest in learning Chinese is booming in Kazakhstan for several reasons," she said. "China's higher education has risen to world-class standards, making the country a favored study destination for many students in Kazakhstan. In addition, the Belt and Road Initiative and the mutual visa exemption policy between China and Kazakhstan have boosted political, economic and cultural exchanges between the two countries, driving up demand for local Chinese-speaking talent."

Moreover, Chinese companies offer above-average salaries, making Chinese language skills a valuable asset for career development, said Deng, adding that with the rise of cross-border e-commerce and logistics, many professionals in the industry opt to encourage their children to learn Chinese.

"More and more schools in Kazakhstan are offering Chinese courses. Chinese language training institutions have been springing up rapidly, with over 100 in Almaty, the largest city in Kazakhstan, alone," she added.

Kanapiyauly Doskhan, a freshman at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, has passed the HSK Level 3. "I'm very interested in Chinese culture, especially China's history and films. I find the language beautiful and useful, so I started learning it. The HSK allows me to gauge my Chinese proficiency and motivates me to study harder," he said.

This year, Doskhan won first prize in the "Chinese Bridge" Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students in Kazakhstan.

"In the future, I hope to build more bridges of communication using Chinese. I want to share the message that the world is one big family, and that understanding and respect are the beliefs we all share," Doskhan, who is 18, said in his Chinese speech while participating in the competition at Kazakhstan's L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University in mid-May.

Zou Shuo contributed to this story.