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Learn China from china in Jingdezhen, China's capital of ceramics

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Inside HOPE

Hope's Annual Pre-departure Briefing Pave Way for Students' overseas journey

To help students better prepared for overseas studies in 2026, resolve students and parents doubts concerning travel, study and daily life abroad, and enable them to embark on their overseas study journey with full preparation, Hope successfully held the Online Pre-departure Preparation Meeting for the 2026 Overseas Study Program on 9th of May. The online meeting was open to all students from Hope's offices in Chin and the UK who are scheduled to study abroad in 2026.



Hope's student study destination

Tailored to the actual needs of international students studying overseas, the meeting focused on core scenarios students will encounter abroad and delivered comprehensive and detailed guidance and Q&A arrangements.

Online pre-departure covered three key dimensions: overseas travel, study and daily life. It elaborated on a full range of essential information, including document preparation, overseas teaching modes, learning as well as daily living management, safety, emergency response skills in foreign countries.

科博国际教育 HOPE International Education Since 2000

特邀嘉宾介绍

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可说这才是我对我自己内心的一个主要的压力吧

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你好，好，其实我在这今天也是今年第100个到场的

three current students invited to share their own life, study and internship hunting experience

In order to bring more authentic and practical references for students, Hope invited three students to share real-life experiences. With their experience of studying in UK, Australia, Hong Kong and US, they offered valuable insights into overseas academic learning, daily adaptation, as well as overseas internship and job-hunting practices, helping students gain a vivid and intuitive understanding of overseas study and development.

This meeting was highly practical and informative. It effectively addressed students' major concerns and eliminated their confusion and worries about studying abroad. All participating students listened attentively and learned relevant guidelines actively. They spoke highly of the meeting for its practical value. Through this systematic pre-departure training, students have fully mastered essential outbound knowledge and practical skills for overseas study and life, gained a clearer and more comprehensive understanding of their upcoming overseas experience, and reached abundant rewards from the session.

Moving forward, Hope will continue to provide continuous and all-round follow-up services for students during their overseas study periods, fully supporting them in embracing a wonderful overseas study experience.

Hope's in-country study tour for 50+ launched in Suzhou and Jingdezhen

Guided by the Hope's philosophy that focuses on cultural inheritance, aesthetic cultivation and youth empowerment, Hope has launched a series of in-country cultural study tours recently for 50+ adults, with Suzhou and Jingdezhen as first two stops in May.

Centering on the Hope's core objective of promoting its 50+ high-quality traditional culture promotion projects, the activities integrate on-site exploration, expert dialogue and aesthetic experience. The Suzhou tour features master salons, in-depth visits to the Six Arts Museum and immersive tours of Lili Ancient Town, while the Jingdezhen journey includes elegant porcelain tea banquets, exchanges with ceramic experts, and field studies at Jingdezhen China Ceramics Museum and Imperial Kiln Museum guided by experts.

I. Suzhou Tour : Master Salon in Six Arts Museum



Group photo of Suzhou tour at the entrance of Six Arts Museum

As an important part of Hope's 50+ activities, the Suzhou tour takes folk craft inheritance and Sino=US culture exchanges as the core, combines master salon and ancient town cultural tour, and practices Hope's educational concept of "perceiving tradition in practice and spreading culture through experience", helping 20 guests build solid aesthetic and cultural cognition of Jiangnan folk art and American diversified culture.



Ms Liu (Left) and Ms Francie Chemnick made keynote speeches in Master Salon

On the first day of the activity, all audiences gathered at the Six Arts Museum in Lili Ancient Town to launch a master salon tailor-made for the Hope 50+ cultural immersion tour. Ms. Francie Chemnick, Director of International Programs, Professional and Continuing Education, University of San Diego, a partner university for Hope's 50+ projects, was invited to introduce the university, the city and the local culture. She also briefed audience on the connotation, philosophy and practical implementation of Hope's future US 50+ Study Tour. She illustrated how the U.S. 50+ program empowers youth cross-cultural cognition, aesthetic cultivation and global vision building through diversified offline immersion experiences, and shared mature operational models and innovative promotion concepts.

Meanwhile, Co-founder of Six Arts Museum Ms. Liu was invited to deliver keynote speeches to introduce the museum. Based on the museum's collection of over 40,000 folk antiques and its founder's American origin, Ms. Liu interpreted the aesthetic connotation and craftsmanship essence of Ming and Qing furniture, traditional embroidery, ancient folk ornaments and other intangible cultural heritage works.



Audiences appreciated exhibits in Six Arts Museum

Subsequently, all participants visited the exhibition halls of the Six Arts Museum. As a high-quality practical base for Hope's cultural education and 50+ project implementation, the museum gathers centuries-old Jiangnan folk art treasures. Under the guidance of professionals, members appreciated ancient wooden doors and windows, traditional clay sculptures, hand-woven bamboo articles and other fine works up close, deeply feeling the down-to-earth humanistic charm of folk craftsmanship, and accumulating rich material support for the subsequent implementation and popularization of Hope's study tour program both at home and abroad..



The Suzhou tour ended with a walking tour in Lili Ancient Town. Bluestone lanes, riverside ancient dwellings and ancient stone bridges interpret the unique charm of Jiangnan water town culture. Members integrated the folk artifact knowledge learned from the museum and salon with the living ancient town culture.

II. Jingdezhen tour: Tea-Porcelain Aesthetics & Expert Dialogue Boosting Hope's 50+ Cultural Brand Building

Following the Suzhou folk craft study tour, a group of Hope's clients moved to Jingdezhen, the millennium porcelain capital, to carry out another domestic study tour for 50+. Centering on the core of Chinese porcelain culture inheritance, the 3-day journey adopts the innovative form of "tea banquet aesthetic experience + expert in-depth dialogue + museum professional research".



Jingdezhen's tea banquet aesthetic experience

The activity kicked off with an exclusive customized porcelain tea banquet, a characteristic aesthetic experience privately developed for Hope's clients. With fine teas matched with handmade porcelain tea sets of different glaze colors and shapes, members experienced the integrated aesthetic charm of tea and porcelain in an elegant artistic atmosphere. This

unique immersive experience is an innovative practice of Hope's 50+ cultural study tour program.



Jingdezhen tour also involves porcelain painting and lecture

In the interactive session, audiences actively put forward questions around ceramic culture inheritance and project innovation. The experts gave targeted answers, helping the team optimize the promotion ideas of traditional ceramic culture as well as introduced how to appreciate the beauty and value of the ceramic products. This has enhanced the importance of travelling with somebody who has similar taste and hobby.

With solid theoretical accumulation, the group successively visited two core ceramic museums to carry out project-based research. The first stop was Jingdezhen China Ceramics Museum, a key practical research base of Hope's cultural projects. The museum's complete chronological exhibition of pottery and porcelain from the Neolithic Age to modern times allows members to comprehensively sort out the evolution of Chinese ceramic craftsmanship, appreciate the artistic value of Yuan blue-and-white porcelain, Ming and Qing famille rose and five-color porcelain.



Museum visits in Imperial Kiln Museum and Jingdezhen China Ceramics Museum

The second stop was Jingdezhen Imperial Kiln Museum, built on the ruins of the ancient royal kiln factory. Through viewing unearthed imperial porcelain fragments, restored royal fine wares and real kiln site relics, members deeply understood the craftsmanship and production system of ancient official kilns. The in-depth study of royal porcelain culture has completed the supplement of high-end traditional craft content for the tour.

III. Summary

Both tours laid a good foundation of what type of study tour Hope is organizing for 50+ adults and help to build an attractive community of people with similar interests and hobbies who may travel together in the future to both domestic and overseas destinations.

Hope's Study in China Project Gain Good

Momentum

Against the backdrop of study abroad market for Chinese students, studying in China for overseas students has grown into a popular international education option, renowned for its high-quality academic resources, fast growing technology, diversified culture and promising development prospects. In response to the rising market demand and integrating its rich domestic institutional resources, Hope launched its" study in China "project about two years ago, and has now seen a substantial interest and demand from Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Middle East and Russia, for both short term and long term programme in China.

Hope has now been working with a good number of Chinese universities, international and bilingual schools, culture and language centres to offer both international students and overseas agents a more comprehensive package of services including institution placement, visa support, summer and bespoke short programme, guardianship service and other landing services.

Among its service portfolio, the minor student guardianship service serves as one of the Hope's core competitive package. International students will sometimes face challenges in daily life and emergency, while most universities cannot provide professional and individualized service. To fill this market gap, Hope has built a standardized guardianship system that covers students' academic life, daily affairs, personal safety and emergency response, effectively relieving concerns of both partner universities and overseas students. A number of Chinese institutions have officially appointed Hope as their authorized guardianship service provider for international students.

While improving localized services, Hope is actively expanding its global influence. In the past 3 years, Hope has been organizing Chinese universities giving promotion seminars in UK state and independent schools, representing Chinese universities to attend the college fair in the UK, visiting out partner agents in Southeast Asia, giving pre-departure briefing to students in Indonesia. To promote partner universities, Hope will also represent Chinese educational institutions to participate in the ICEF Vietnam event in June. As a leading global education platform, ICEF connects worldwide educators and qualified agents, offering an ideal channel to promote Chinese education and expand overseas markets.

From building systematic supporting services and gaining institutional recognition to expanding global publicity, Hope's study in China project has maintained a stable and promising development momentum. Amid frequent global educational communication, Hope continues to optimize its inbound education service ecosystem, safeguard overseas students' study experience, and support the internationalization of Chinese universities.

INSIDE HOPE - Photo news of May

Hope was honored to attend Newcastle University Chinese Partner Appreciation Dinner and awarded Strategic Partner on 15th May 2026. Mr. Daniel Zheng, Managing Director, and Ms. Alice Zhang, International Partnership Manager attended. Congratulations to PVC Global Dr. Li Li who is another Chinese PVC in overseas universities.



On 7th May 2026, Hope International Education was invited to attend the official inauguration ceremony of St. Bees Sixth Form College Hong Kong, which can be considered UK St. Bees School HK campus. Congratulations to St. Bees' expansion. Mr. Daniel Zheng, Managing Director of Hope, and Ms. Chanel Zhang, Director of Counseling, witnessed the launch ceremony. They were also invited to visit Zhongshan Whampoa Academy HK Campus to find more resources to meet Chinese students' diversified needs.





On 19th May 2026, Mr. Gregory Jackson, Lead Teacher of English Language School of Downside School, UK, visited Hope International Education and discussed the China market tendency and opportunity with Ms. Judy Zhu, Chief Counsellor for School Applications of Hope.

As one of the projects of Hope's 50+ Programme, the first Book Club gathering was held on 8th May 2026. Six people joined in and talked about some points generated from the book *Why Greatness Cannot Be Planned* led by Ms. Echo Zhao, Director of 50+ Programme. The participants were from different industries, including higher education, language training, comprehensive health, advertisement, and arts, etc. Everyone had their own opinion on the topics with their personal experience and thoughts and made this gathering more meaningful and vivid.



To plan the next activity for 50+ France programme, Hope visited the Center of Innovative & Entrepreneurial Culinary Arts + Service, Shanghai, and discussed cooperation for our clients. We are excited to have the wonderful place for our clients to have a taste of making and enjoy French style food in June.



News from local media

UK still No 1 pick for mainland students, US slips to third spot Policy environment, cost of overseas education are major considerations

By ZOU SHUO | China Daily | Updated: 2026-03-18 08:56  

The United Kingdom and Hong Kong have emerged as the top two overseas study destinations for students from the Chinese mainland in 2026, according to a report released on Tuesday.

This marks the first time Hong Kong has ranked second in 12 years, while the United States has slipped to third place amid policy uncertainties, according to the 2026 Report on Chinese Students' Overseas Study by the New Oriental Education and Technology Group.

Based on an online survey of 6,904 students and parents, the report shows a significant reordering of preferred destinations. The UK has held the top position for seven consecutive years, supported by stable education quality, flexible visa policies and a mature international student ecosystem.

Hong Kong's rise to second place is particularly notable. Over the past 12 years, the city has steadily gained popularity, with its proximity to the Chinese mainland, safe environment and linguistic familiarity cited as key advantages.

The US, long seen as a top destination, has fallen to third position for the first time. The report attributes the decline to an unstable policy environment that has made prospective students and their parents more cautious. The US ranked first from 2015 to 2019 and second from 2020 to 2025.

Australia, Japan and Singapore ranked fourth through sixth, respectively, in 2026.

One of the report's most notable findings is the growing significance of cost considerations. Tuition has become the second most important factor in university selection, while scholarship policies are also playing a larger role.

The average study-abroad total budget for Chinese students reached a 12-year high of 605,000 yuan (\$87,800) in 2026, driven by global inflation and rising tuition and living costs. Despite the higher financial burden, demand for overseas education remains strong, underscoring its perceived value as a long-term investment.

This more pragmatic approach is also reflected in application strategies. More than half of prospective students plan to apply to universities in two or three countries or regions simultaneously to hedge against policy changes or admission uncertainties in any single destination.

In terms of academic preferences, engineering remains the most popular field for the 10th consecutive year, accounting for 22 percent of applications in 2026. Its strong employability and global recognition have reinforced its appeal, the report said.

Guo Yuqi, 24, from Taiyuan in Shanxi province, chose to study at Lingnan University in Hong Kong after failing China's postgraduate entrance exam three times. She graduated in November with a one-year master's degree in artificial intelligence and the future.

Despite challenges — only three out of 40 students in her program have secured work visas so far — Guo said she feels fortunate to have found a job in Hong Kong.

She said obtaining permanent residency could give her future children access to better educational resources. She added that job prospects in the UK and the US are nearly impossible due to strict work visa policies.

"I once considered the UK but decided against it, feeling that spending 500,000 yuan on tuition would not yield a worthwhile return," she said.

Zhao Mengyuan, 23, is pursuing a master's degree in corporate economics at Goethe University Frankfurt in Germany. She said she chose Germany partly based on a family recommendation and largely for its affordability.

Her university charges no tuition fees, requiring only a semester fee of several hundred euros, bringing her total annual living costs to about 100,000 yuan — significantly lower than in English-speaking countries.

Zhao, who is from Henan province, said she plans to return to China after graduation, believing a foreign degree will improve her job prospects. She said she does not yet have clear salary expectations or specific career plans but is confident that studying abroad has given her a competitive edge in the job market.

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Middle East families turn to China for educational travel

By HOU CHENCHEN | CHINA DAILY | Updated: 2026-05-26 09:55 



Students from China and Middle East at the Jinhua University of Vocational Technology in East China's Zhejiang province visit the aviation model base and have an immersive VR experience of rocket launch in April 2025. CHEN YE/FOR CHINA DAILY

Flights had been canceled, itineraries mostly postponed. Regional conflict in the Middle East made their journey uncertain. Yet in March, a family from the United Arab Emirates — four adults and three children — stepped off a plane at Shanghai Pudong International Airport, ready to begin the educational tour they had long planned.

"I was honestly worried they might cancel," said Lilian Hu, general manager of Ufox Travel, who led the team receiving the family. "But they were resolute; nothing was going to stop them from coming."

During their seven-day stay in Shanghai and Hangzhou, the family explored China's educational landscape with an eye toward their children's future studies. Visits included Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the New York University Shanghai Campus.

The parents, who run a supermarket chain in the UAE, also met with representatives of local food export companies in Hangzhou in East China's Zhejiang province, arranged by Hu's team.

The journey was a high-end, tailor-made experience. Comfort and exclusivity were priorities: business-class flights, premium hotels, and VIP access at Shanghai Disneyland. The seven-day itinerary, which covered accommodations, flights, and customized activities, cost roughly 300,000 yuan (\$41,000), Hu said.

Before this family visit, Ufox had also been commissioned by officials from Abu Dhabi's education authority to organize one of the region's few privately funded educational tours to China, hosting 41 students from Al Yasat Private School.

New choice

Industry observers said that Middle Eastern families traditionally chose the United Kingdom and the United States for overseas study tours.

But in recent years, China has emerged as a new destination of interest, with families

seeking to explore schools, technology, and business opportunities firsthand.

"Greater exposure to Chinese products and the promotion of Chinese-language education have heightened local parents' interest in China," said Scarlett Yin, founder of Abu Dhabi-based DT House. "This could lead more UAE students to consider studying in China."

China's educational influence in the region is not new. Since 2019, the UAE's "Hundred Schools Project" has expanded Chinese language education to 171 schools and 71,000 students, according to the People's Daily. Saudi Arabia has also recognized Mandarin as a third language in its school system, alongside Arabic and English.

China has also started a visa-free trial in 2025 for Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain. Combined with earlier reciprocal visa agreements with the UAE and Qatar, China now effectively allows visa-free access to all six Gulf Cooperation Council nations.

Economic ties are strengthening alongside educational exchanges. GCC countries' investment in China is projected to reach \$20 billion to \$25 billion in 2025, accounting for roughly 10 percent of their total annual overseas investment.

Zhu Zhaoyi, executive director of the Institute of Middle East Studies at Peking University's HSBC Business School, told Securities Times that Gulf capital is emerging as a long-term growth source for Chinese markets and a key component in the region's post-oil economic strategy.

Reflecting on her experiences living in Dubai, Hu said: "After the outbreak of conflicts in the Middle East, many of her friends immediately pivoted to business in China. Some opened restaurants in Guangzhou or started ventures in Yiwu and Beijing."

"China's rapid development has changed perceptions — Middle Eastern families no longer see it as distant or mysterious but as a place worth learning from, investing in, and visiting," Hu said.

College entrance exam scores helping students gain admission to Australian universities

By Zou Shuo | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2026-05-25 17:25    

The share of Chinese mainland students using scores from China's national college entrance exam, known as the gaokao, for direct admission to undergraduate studies at Australian universities increased from 61.7 percent in 2023 to 73.7 percent in 2025. Seven of Australia's prestigious Group of Eight universities, excluding the University of Melbourne, now accept China's gaokao scores for direct admission.

A recent Australia study report, released by EIC Education, found it is now the mainstream pathway for undergraduate admission. Beyond the gaokao route, students can also enter through foundation programs or first-year diplomas, the report said.

Among undergraduate applicants, general business was the most popular major with 19.57 percent, followed by computer science at 8.91 percent. Many Australian degrees allow students to take one major and one to two minors, fostering cross-disciplinary skills, it said.

Tuition fees vary significantly by university ranking and discipline. For undergraduate

studies at group of eight universities, annual fees range from 200,000 to 290,000 yuan (\$29,000-\$43,000), while other universities charge between 160,000 and 250,000 yuan. Business and engineering programs tend to cost more than humanities, the report noted.

More than 72 percent of Chinese mainland students applying to Australia consider switching majors, with better job prospects the top motivation at 85.7 percent, the report showed. Pursuing genuine interests (51.4 percent) and choosing easier majors (28.6 percent) follow. The report noted that many Australian master's programs in business, humanities, and some IT fields accept applicants without relevant backgrounds, making cross-disciplinary applications a mainstream trend.

Australia has set its 2026 international student enrollment quota at 295,000 — an increase of 25,000 places, or 9 percent, from 2025. Nearly 200,000 of these are for higher education.

Chinese mainland students remain the largest source of international students in Australia. Data from Australia's Department of Education shows that from January to December 2025, 195,535 Chinese mainland students were enrolled, accounting for 23.1 percent of the total and representing a year-on-year increase of 3.4 percent. Higher education programs dominate, making up 74 percent of Chinese enrollments, up 6.3 percent from 2024.

Postgraduate admissions have also become more accessible. The Australian National University has lowered its average score requirement for non-"211" (top-level Chinese university) graduates applying for most coursework master's programs from 85 to 80.

Among Australia-bound applicants, 62.5 percent also apply to the United Kingdom and 14.8 percent to New Zealand, thanks to similar education systems, academic structures, and language environments, the report states.

Prestigious Australian universities offer clear admission requirements, simple processes, stable policies, and ample admission opportunities — a level of certainty that appeals to students aiming for top-tier schools, it said.

Language testing flexibility has improved as well. IELTS One Skill Retake is now widely accepted, helping Chinese students retake only the section in which they fall short.

The report advises students to focus on fields with strong local labor demand — health, education, engineering, and social work — and to prepare visa applications that demonstrate genuine study intentions and clear career plans, as Australia now prioritizes well-prepared applicants under its visa policy.

Chinese booking foreign holidays earlier than usual as travel becomes more affordable

By Li Jing | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2026-05-25 19:48 

Chinese families are booking overseas summer holidays earlier than usual this year as cheaper international airfares, expanding visa-free access and recovering flight capacity

make outbound travel more affordable, online travel platform Qunar said on Monday.

Bookings for outbound trips during the upcoming summer holiday in July and August have risen by more than 30 percent year-on-year, with family trips accounting for about 40 percent of all bookings, according to data from the travel platform.

The trend reflects a broader recovery in China's outbound tourism market and growing demand from households seeking cheaper alternatives to domestic peak-season travel.

For departures in mid-July from Beijing, one-way flights to domestic tourist hotspots generally cost more than 1,000 yuan (\$139), while flights to Yining, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, exceeded 3,000 yuan.

By comparison, direct flights from Beijing to Seoul in South Korea were priced at around 800 yuan, including taxes, while fares to Bangkok in Thailand and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia were slightly above 1,000 yuan. Direct flights to Tashkent in Uzbekistan were available for less than 1,500 yuan.

Qunar said some short-haul international routes were up to 60 percent cheaper than flights to China's most popular domestic summer destinations.

The trend was particularly evident in smaller cities. International hotel bookings for the summer holiday period from cities, including Luzhou in Sichuan province and Tongling in Anhui province, jumped by more than 50 percent year-on-year, while bookings from Lianyungang in Jiangsu province, Zhanjiang in Guangdong province and Neijiang in Sichuan province rose by more than 20 percent, Qunar said.

The lower prices, together with recovering international flight supply and an expanding visa-free access for Chinese travelers, are helping to attract residents from smaller cities.

Qunar said international hotel bookings for the summer holiday period from Luzhou in Sichuan province and Tongling in Anhui province jumped by more than 50 percent year-on-year. Bookings from Lianyungang in Jiangsu province, Zhanjiang in Guangdong province and Neijiang in Sichuan province rose by more than 20 percent.

Residents from China's third-tier cities and below were also increasingly booking what Qunar described as their "first outbound flight ticket", with bookings rising nearly 20 percent year-on-year.

The platform said many Chinese parents were also combining overseas travel with educational activities for children during the summer break rather than focusing solely on leisure tourism.

Thailand remained the most popular destination for "study camp" summer program that combine sightseeing with English-language, sports and nature-focused program, while searches for museums and art galleries in European and US destinations outpaced interest in theme parks.