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**New look of Hope Shanghai Office in the heart of Xujiahui CBD next to the Cathedral**

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## Inside Hope

### Bonded by Culture, Supported with Care: Hope organize mid-autumn celebration for international students and agents training

To further optimize the service for international students coming to China, Hope has recently launched a series of themed activities, covering mid-autumn celebration, gathering of international students and their guardians in China, museum and ancient town visits, and online training for Hope's partner agents overseas.



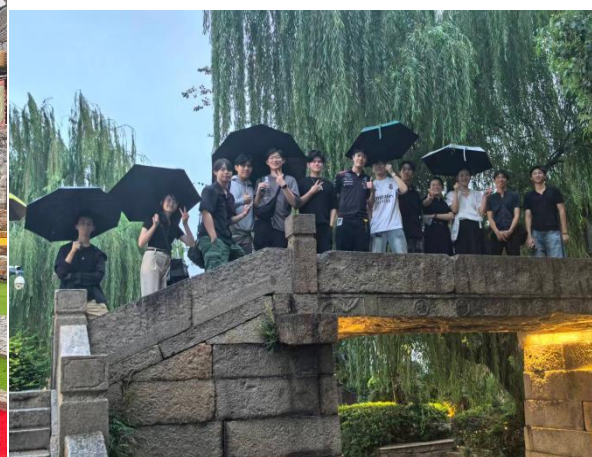
#### **A culture tour in Suzhou for international students to celebrate Mid-autumn Festival**

Currently studying in Shanghai Jiaotong University and Suzhou Xi'an Jiaotong Liverpool University, 17 students from Indonesia, Malaysia and Kazakhstan and their guardians gathered at Six Arts Museum in Suzhou on 27 September to celebrate the Mid-autumn Festival. Focusing on the daily study and life of international students in China, Hope delivered a wealth of practical and tailored life and safety tips for all participating students in the form of panel discussion. Covering daily life management, campus adaptation, social communication, safety precautions and cultural adaptation in China, these practical guidelines effectively helped international students settle down in the new environment.



### **Hope invites guardians to share their thoughts regarding life and employment in China for International students**

Beyond practical life guidance, the activity also integrated immersive traditional Chinese cultural experience, enabling international students to perceive the charm of Chinese culture in an intuitive way. All participants visited the Six Arts Museum founded by an American who collected over 100,000 pieces of Chinese folk art, well-preserved ancient Chinese town of Lili and experienced authentic traditional golf, Chui Wan. Through on-site visits and interactive experience, international students gained a deeper understanding of traditional Chinese architecture, folk traditions and local customs.



### **Playing Chinese traditional Golf, Chui Wan and tour of Lili ancient town**



**Six Arts Museum tour and lucky draw**

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Why Hope? Our Services & Advantages

### Key Partner Universities at a Glance

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, China</li> <li>• 900-1000 new international students per year</li> <li>• 100+ bachelor degree</li> <li>• Established in 2006</li> </ul> | <p><b>East China University of Science and Technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shanghai, China</li> <li>• JMD degree (double degree: oversea+ECUST)</li> <li>• Chemical Engineering, Materials Science and Applied Chemistry feature</li> </ul>                                                                                   |
| <p><b>Donghua University</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shanghai, China</li> <li>• Textile Engineering, Fashion Design and Materials Science enjoy a high reputation.</li> <li>• Public university with <b>low tuition fee</b></li> </ul>  | <p><b>West Lake University</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China</li> <li>• China's first new-model research university founded by overseas-retained scientists</li> <li>• Over 90% of faculty are directly recruited from world-leading institutions.</li> <li>• Direct-entry PhD from bachelor</li> </ul> |

In addition to the mid-autumn culture tour and celebrations, Hope also successfully organized two exclusive online training sessions for our partner agents overseas. Centering on the service flow chart of international students studying in China, the online training introduced the admission policy and student cases. The systematic and professional training content effectively improved the professional capabilities and service level of our global cooperative teams, standardized the service procedure of study in China student enrollment, and built a more professional and standardized service support system for the sustainable development of China study programs. Over 30 agents from Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Malaysia, Philippines and Australia attended the training.

This series of activities fully reflects the diversified layout and multi-dimensional development of Hope's study in China service. Moving forward, Hope will continue to enrich our business scenarios, optimize full-chain services, and continuously expand the depth and breadth of study in China business, empowering more international students to pursue their studies in China and facilitating win-win development with global partners.

## MD's UK visit seeking new partners and opportunities

Rather than visiting the existing partner institutions, Daniel Zheng, Managing Director's recent visit to the UK in September focused more on new partners, new projects and new opportunities. This is to respond to the company's strategy to diversify its business under the background of the declining traditional study abroad market in China.

Invited by London Film School, Daniel's first stop there mainly focused on short study tour programme for 50+. As one of the main business priorities in the years to come, Hope is exploring and designing more study tour programme both at home and abroad. UK certainly has rich resources to offer and LFS is also keen on developing this niche market in China with Hope.

As Minyan Huang, Senior International Partnership Manager, said during the interview with Daniel, "Life long learning is a key part of retired life of 50+, and LFS has a lot to provide in partnership with Hope. This will start from jointly launching some workshops, master classes and seminars in Shanghai on the theme of creative media and film making."

Daniel toured the school, discussed with the school on future collaboration and conduct some interviews with both international office staff and academics.



**Visit to London Film School to explore new opportunities for 50+**

To learn more about the courses and programme available for 50+, Daniel also visited University of 3<sup>rd</sup> Age in Cambridge (U3AC) during his trip. "I was indeed impressed by this university's rich programme and the staff resources! Some of them are even from Cambridge University and they are all volunteers. said Daniel after the visit. "What's more, all these resources are accessible to both UK and international students only at a cost of GBP120 as annual membership fee!"

Daniel's previous visit to Cambridge focused on those to colleges of Cambridge University,

but visit to U3AC provided a good opportunity to learn more about the opportunities and resources in this famous university city not only for young talents but also for senior citizen!



**University of 3<sup>rd</sup> Age in Cambridge**

The visit to Regent University London help Hope find opportunity for collaboration on both executive short programme and study tour for 50+. Located in central London's Regent Park, the University's Business School, School of Hospitality and Luxury Industry and School of English all showed great interest in working with Hope to explore the above niche market.



**Campus of Regent University London**

One of the purposes of Daniel's UK visit was to attend ICEF Higher Education Conference between 14-16 September held in London. During the conference, Hope met more universities from non-English speaking countries such as France, Germany, Spain and Italy. This is also in line with company's strategy of business diversification. Previously, Hope's main focus has been heavily on UK, USA, Australia and Canada, but after Covid-19, Singapore, Malaysia and HK is rising quickly, and now, Hope is to explore some European countries for both UG, PG and short programme to offer students more options.



As a tradition, during his overseas visit, Daniel would always like to meet Hope's students or alumni. On this occasion, Daniel invited some currently PG students from LSE, UCL and those who already work in London after graduation for a dinner. This gathering is to help students to get more information about job market in China and the UK, help students to prepare for their career well in advance.



**Gathering of Hope students to help their career preparation**

The two-week business trip enabled the company to make another important step towards business development and diversification, so that the new year strategy is responded accordingly.

## More Events Held to Promote Lifelong Learning among 50+

With lower birth rate, China now is stepping into an aging society, but many newly retired and educated people are still physically and mentally energetic. Then how to pursue a meaningful life in the 3<sup>rd</sup> age has become a growing interest.

Following this tide, Hope is actively participating in promoting lifelong learning among this group, developing tailor-made study tour products for 50+ people to taste both domestic and overseas culture including France, US and other countries. Recently, Hope held two different events in Anji, Zhejiang province and Shanghai to promote the programme.

On 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2026, Hope gathered students' parents from Anji surrounding areas. Ms. Echo Zhao, Director of 50+ Programme introduced lifelong learning concept and Study Tour to France, which enlightened parents' expectation for future life. Mr. Ma, the health management specialist was invited to give a health talk and led all people to do Chinese traditional Baduanjin exercise.

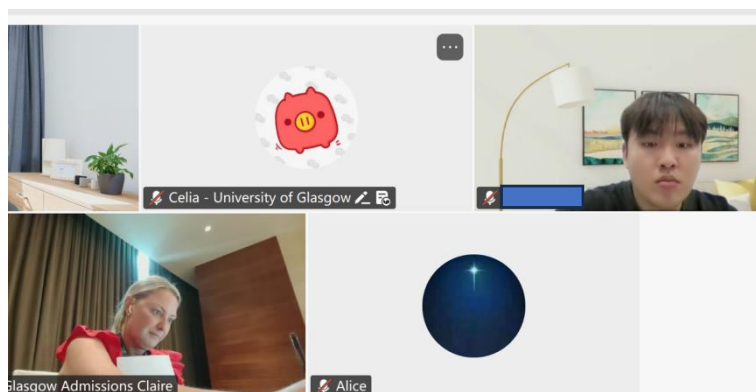


On 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2026, Hope and Jixiang Gourmet Studio jointly held a salon themed “Let the World Meet Oriental Aesthetics – France Stop.” Ms. Echo Zhao also gave an introduction to life long learning concept and the Study Tour to France. The participants who have rich experience expressed that travel abroad gave them many benefits and highly agreed with the tour concept. The invited participants also got chance to listen to a lecture about Neo-Chinese Style fashion by Mr. Song, the owner of the Studio.



# INSIDE HOPE - Photo news of

## September



科博国际教育  
英国格拉斯哥大学  
科博专场线上面试会  
27年QS世界大学排名第80位  
线上面试·发榜录取通知书

学校介绍

- ▶ 格拉斯哥大学建于1451年
- ▶ 是英语世界第四古老学府，罗素集团成员，QS世界排名前百
- ▶ 学术实力强劲，医学、商科、工程等专业全球知名，就业资源丰富，校园古典与现代交融。

面试招生官

| 招生官姓名              | 职位       |
|--------------------|----------|
| Claire McNamara    | 研究生招生副主管 |
| Gilly Ramage       | 录取办招生官   |
| Xuanjue Rose Huang | 录取办招生官   |
| Rae Hyndman        | 录取办招生官   |

On 17 September, the University of Glasgow conducted an online admissions interview session for students from Hope International Education. During this virtual event, Glasgow's admissions team met with our candidates one-to-one to discuss their academic backgrounds, study motivations and programme fit. The interview served as a valuable opportunity for students to clarify questions about degree programmes, entry requirements and campus life, while helping the university assess applicants holistically.



On 22 September, the University of Essex visited the Shanghai Dianji University. The visiting Senior Lecturers of Art History and Philosophy from Essex explored AI language models and AI art history, which enlightened students' deep thinking about AI in human society. Meanwhile, teaching staff of Dianji found chance to work with Essex for future academic cooperation.



Cardiff Sixth Form College and the Institute of Education (IoE), Ireland visited Hope International Education's new Shanghai office and took part in interviews. This marks the first visit from our overseas partner institutions to our newly opened Shanghai office.



Hope Shanghai held a team-building lunch to celebrate the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival and the successful relocation to our brand-new office. The event gathered staff members together, creating a relaxed and joyful atmosphere away from daily busy work. As a dual celebration of traditional festival culture and the company's new development milestone, the lunch not only allowed every employee to experience the festive warmth of reunion, but also marked a brand-new starting point for the team's development.

# News from local media

## Joint program bolsters education cooperation

By WANG XIN in Shanghai | China Daily | Updated: 2026-09-25 07:30



Elijah Van Knowles practices wushu in China. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY  
Wang Yuhui, an 18-year-old freshman from Hefei, Anhui province, recently began his university life on a brand new program jointly launched by Shanghai University of Sport and the University of Wyoming in the United States.

This undergraduate program in kinesiology, the first of its kind in collaboration with a US institution, welcomed its first 75 students in September.

The students will study all four years at the Shanghai university, and receive their bachelor's degrees from the two institutions upon successful completion.

Aimed at cultivating interdisciplinary talents

with a global vision in exercise science, the program integrates Chinese and American expertise, with about 42.5 percent of the courses delivered by the US faculty.

A dedicated fitness enthusiast, Wang has played a myriad of sports since childhood, including basketball, soccer and rugby, and personally experienced the risks associated with improper exercise.

"I want to move beyond the scope of an athlete, and view sports from a broader, scientific perspective. With this program, I'll be able to gain knowledge to help more athletes monitor their performance and improve their results, and also promote the concept of scientific fitness to a wider public. Both of them would be fantastic," Wang said.

That mindset attracted Wang to the program.

Designed to cultivate versatile professionals with a strong focus on practical application, the program features a combined expertise in Chinese and American higher education.

It enables students to master the fundamental theories, knowledge and skills of kinesiology and related fields, including biology, medicine and physical education, while developing the basic abilities required for teaching, research and laboratory work in the sector.

Equipped with essential skills in sports injury prevention, sports health management, scientific and technical services for competitive sports training, as well as scientific guidance for sports and fitness, graduates are expected to have extensive job prospects and broad career paths.

Zheng Xinyan, a professor at Shanghai University of Sport and head of the program, noted that many of the best courses and selected concepts from Wyoming are introduced into the program with complementary strengths.

"We have assembled a team of top-quality faculty members from both sides in the program. Together we are cultivating a pool of applied research talent in sports science, who possess a more international perspective and greater diversity," Zheng said.

The integration of different but combined education approaches is also what drew Wang to the program. "It will allow me to have wider access to international resources, platforms and practices, and provide me with a more open mindset and practical experiences. That's valuable and uniquely competitive," he said.

Arthur Zhu Qin, director of the department of kinesiology at the University of Wyoming's College of Health Sciences, said the program is aimed at equipping students with an "active living lifestyle" that will keep them healthy and drive them to influence others to pursue healthier lifestyles.

"This program provides a scientific lens for students to understand how movement is important in human lives. It is intended to build kinesiologists in both nations who have a global perspective ... We are building the future health providers for the whole world basically," Zhu said.

The joint program came as the result of the long-standing partnership and exchanges between the two institutions since 2018. Over the past few years, students and faculty have been going back and forth to gain a better understanding of one another.

Isadora Helfgott, vice-provost for global engagement at the University of Wyoming, said both China and the US are very committed to education.

"We have shared commitments and interests in education. We have a great tradition now of almost 50 years of cooperation in education, and I just hope for a flourishing future that can continue so that we better understand each other's perspectives," Helfgott said.

Elijah Van Knowles from the US, 25, is in his fifth year studying wushu, or Chinese martial arts, at Shanghai University of Sport. Regardless of different majors, he expressed excitement over the program and the strengthening of China-US education cooperation. "It's such a great thing to have a group of teachers from elsewhere in the world here, as the students can open their minds and learn in a different way."

Having begun his journey with wushu as a teenager and lived in China for seven years, Van Knowles said he was looking forward to seeing more people taking part in traditional Chinese sports at the school.

He said wushu, rooted in Chinese traditions and philosophy, has helped him not only become physically healthy, but also build mental strength.

"One of my goals in life is to become at least a piece of the bridge that connects wushu to the world. It is such a beautiful sport," he said.

## **China's education plan prioritizes students' health and aims to enhance global influence**

By Cheng Si | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2026-09-23



Students' health, both physically and mentally, will remain a priority as China has emphasized the philosophy that "health comes first" in the newly unveiled 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) for education development. The nation also aims to shape itself into a study destination for the world's outstanding youths under the plan.

Figures given by the Ministry of

Education on Wednesday show that the nation has so far established the world's largest education system with high quality, world-class literacy levels and educational fairness. The gross enrollment ratio of preschool has reached 92.9 percent and 92 percent for enrollment in senior high schools. The completion rate of nine-year compulsory education has so far reached 96.1 percent.

Under the 15th Five-Year Plan for education development, which was released in June, students in primary and high schools should have at least two hours for sports activities each day and have 15-minute interclass breaks. Food security and a healthy diet are highlighted in the plan, as well as physical health in case of infectious diseases on campus.

The plan has also stressed the importance of mental health education by urging schools to hire teachers for mental health promotion and optimizing the national monitoring and early warning system of this kind.

"The philosophy of 'health comes first' is turning from a slogan into reality as many local schools have explored effective practices. More students get more outdoor time, enjoy sunshine and have improved bodies," Tian Zuyin, a senior official at the Education Ministry, said at a news conference in Beijing on Wednesday.

He said in the coming years, the ministry will keep urging schools to pay attention to students' health while not replacing or taking up the students' physical education classes and interclass rest time. Schools in the countryside with weaker sports resources, like teachers and equipment, will get assistance from the ministry.

The ministry will also urge schools to enrich PE classes to let students get access to sports events they like and become stronger both physically and mentally through exercise.

"We will organize more school-level or national sports competitions at schools and encourage children to take an active part in them to give stages to the children to show their talent," Tian said.

Also, the ministry will channel more effort into vocational education, produce more skilled talent, and improve China's global influence in education in the coming several years.

According to Wang Guangyan, vice-minister and spokesman of the ministry, the ministry will keep optimizing the teaching resources, including curriculum, books and teachers, and training and internship programs to improve skilled talent cultivation.

He said the ministry will set up about 200 training bases nationwide for the integration of industry and education, and implement highly skilled talent education programs in sectors including logistics, software and data services, international trade and catering to help

improve the nation's services industry.

During the 15th Five-Year Plan period, the nation will keep implementing opening-up policy on education and aim to shape the country into an ideal study destination for the world's young talent. According to the ministry, about 380,000 international students from 191 countries and regions studied in the Chinese mainland during the academic year from 2024 to 2025.

"We encourage the world's high-level technological colleges and universities to set up international schools in China, and we invite youths from around the globe to experience the real China through cultural exchange programs," Guo Peng, director of the ministry's development planning department, said, adding that Chinese students are also encouraged to study overseas.

"We will deepen cooperation in education and science with other countries and regions, as well as international organizations, and make our contributions to the establishment of a more inclusive global education system and a community with a shared future for humanity," Guo said.

## Chinese students lead global rankings in 2025 PISA

By Zou Shuo | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2026-09-10



Students from the Chinese mainland outperformed their peers globally in the 2025 Program for International Student Assessment, topping the science and mathematics rankings while coming second in reading, according to results released by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The Chinese mainland cohort, from Beijing, Shanghai and Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces, scored 597 points in science and 612 points in mathematics, both the highest among the 91 participating countries and economies. In reading, they scored 527 points, behind only Singapore's 535 points.

The assessment, administered every three years since 2000, evaluates the knowledge and skills of 15-year-old students nearing the end of compulsory education. The 2025 edition involved more than 760,000 students, representing about 33 million 15-year-olds worldwide.

While Chinese students excelled, the overall performance of OECD countries declined to the lowest levels ever recorded across all three core domains.

Between 2015 and 2025, average reading scores across OECD countries fell by 28 points — equivalent to about one and a half years of learning — while mathematics scores dropped by 22 points, or just over one year of learning. Science scores declined by seven points over the same period, though they remained relatively stable between 2022 and 2025.

The share of low performers across all three subjects rose to 20 percent in OECD countries,

up from 16 percent in 2022.

"The most successful education systems focus on fewer areas in greater depth, invest in teachers, engage parents and provide targeted support for the students and schools that need it the most," OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann said.

The 2025 assessment also examined the relationship between artificial intelligence use and student performance, yielding nuanced findings.

Students who reported using AI for specific schoolwork tasks — such as summarizing texts, drafting writing or conducting research — scored on average about 20 points lower in science than non-users, equivalent to roughly one year of schooling, the OECD found. Among OECD countries, 46 percent of students said they used AI chatbots weekly or more to help them learn.

However, students who used AI for general purposes — as a learning aid rather than a shortcut for task completion — performed at levels similar to non-users. Those who received school instruction on how to assess the quality of AI-generated information tended to score slightly higher in science.

"Technology and AI can strengthen learning and help prepare young people for the future, but only when used purposefully and not as a substitute for attention, effort and understanding," Cormann said.

The OECD also warned that digital distraction in classrooms remains a concern. More than one in four students said that classmates were distracted by digital devices in most or every science lesson.

## Multiple regions ban cellphones in schools

By ZOU SHUO | China Daily | Updated: 2026-09-10



Multiple regions across China have enacted legislation banning primary and secondary school students from bringing mobile phones onto school campuses, amid growing concerns over classroom disruption and the impact of excessive smartphone use on young people's healthy development.

The latest to join the list is Chongqing, where the municipal legislature issued a regulation that took effect on Sept 1, authorizing schools to prohibit students from carrying smart terminal products, including mobile phones, onto school premises or using them on campus.

Chongqing, however, is not the first region to introduce such restrictions. In 2022, the Fujian Provincial People's Congress passed a regulation prohibiting students from bringing mobile phones and smartwatches into classrooms.

In 2024, the local legislatures of Guangzhou, Guangdong province, and Zhengzhou, the capital of Henan province, both adopted decisions to strictly limit primary and secondary school students from bringing smart terminal products onto school campuses.

At the national level, the Ministry of Education issued a notice in 2021 stating that students should, in principle, not bring personal mobile phones to campus. It also said schools should not use mobile phones to assign homework or require students to complete homework using mobile phones.

In 2025, the ministry further tightened the rules, explicitly stating that "bringing mobile phones and other electronic products into classrooms is strictly prohibited" and encouraging students and parents to jointly participate in "screen-off initiatives".

The restrictions have also won support from teachers and parents.

Yan Yun, a primary school teacher in Wuhan, Hubei province, said her school has completely banned the use of mobile phones, and students do not bring them to school. She said she does not support students using cellphones or smartwatches and believes parents should also regulate their children's use of such devices at home.

Her concerns are echoed by many parents. A survey by the China Youth Daily Social Survey Center in 2025 found that 91.9 percent of parents had conflicts with their children over phone use during the summer break.

The survey also found that 26.1 percent of primary and secondary school students used their phones for more than four hours a day on average during the holidays. Watching short videos ranked first among their phone activities, at 56.7 percent, followed by gaming at 43.7 percent and online chatting at 38.4 percent.

However, the relationship between smartphone use and students' mental health is not simply one of cause and effect. The key lies in how, how much and at what age the devices are used, according to Xu Gaoyang, a psychotherapist at Beijing Anding Hospital of Capital Medical University.

On the risk side, fragmented attention, sleep disruption, online socializing that can lead to offline loneliness and cyberbullying are among the mental health concerns associated with smartphone use, Xu said.

On the other hand, smartphones can also provide relaxation and creative outlets through music, games, short videos and painting platforms, which may support psychological well-being. The crucial question is how the devices are used, he added.

For younger children, the brain is not yet fully mature, and many developmental critical periods are still underway. Excessive phone use may hinder development or cause children to miss important developmental windows, making remediation more difficult and costly later in life, Xu said.

To mitigate these effects, Xu suggested setting screen-free periods, engaging in deep reading and practicing mindfulness meditation. Prevention and protection, he stressed, are equally important.