

2016

GLOBAL UNIVERSITY COUNSELLOR CONNECT

SJI INTERNATIONAL



Introduction

We are thrilled to welcome you to Global University Counsellor Connect 2016 and to what promise to be two very busy and productive days.

We never expected to be here. When we organised GUCC 2015 we expected it would be a one-time event. However, the feedback we got convinced us that there was a need for such a gathering in our region and hence, here we are again. We now have a website, which you used to register for GUCC 2016 and we are honoured to have been awarded an Imagine Grant through NACAC in the US to develop our website.

We are very proud that many of our presenters this year are first time presenters. All were participants last year. Part of our mission is to provide an opportunity to present and lead sessions and we hope that in future years you will take this professional development opportunity. We have paired first time presenters with more experienced ones, thus allowing us another avenue through which we can work together.

Our programme is put together keeping one question in mind: what do we as school based university counsellors need to do our job better? We have an exciting line up of sessions and unfortunately it is not possible to attend all. It will have been a successful workshop if you leave after the two days feeling better informed and more confident, better prepared to work with your students.

Another focus of our mission is to build a supportive community of colleagues. Many of us are sole practitioners in our schools and do not have ready access to professional development or training. Use these two days at GUCC to start to build your own professional support network. We encourage you to sit next to different people every time, sit at a different end of the room, have as many conversations with the other participants as you can. It's quite simple!

And finally take full advantage of the close interaction you have these two days with the university representatives. Make use of them and their expertise. Most have flown in just for these two days. We are very grateful for their time and participation.

We look forward to working with you over these two days and to continuing to build our learning community together.

Warm regards

GUCC 2016 Organising Committee

Lisa Ball

Tannaz Daver

Anne Green

Elisabeth Lavin-Peter

Sean McAuley

Anne Ussher

Rhonda Vink

Programme Overview

FRIDAY, 1 APRIL

Session	Time	Workshop
1	8.00 - 8.30	Registration
2	8.30 - 9.00	Welcome Message
3	9.00 - 10.00	Rethinking the College Process Through Strengths
4	10.00 - 10.30	Break
5a	10.30 - 11.30	University Landscape in Singapore: An Overview of Options available
5b	10.30 - 11.30	Preparing students for Admissions Interviews
6a	11.40 - 12.40	Higher Education in Canada
6b	11.40 - 12.40	Presenting the Same Student Either Side of the Pond! - Effective Recommendation Writing for Teachers
7	12.40 - 13.40	Lunch With Interest Tables
8	13.40 - 15.10	Mock Admissions: US
9	15.10 - 15.30	Break
10a	15.30 - 16.30	A Hitch Hikers Guide to Korean University Applications
10b	15.30 - 16.30	Post Secondary Options for Differently Abled Students
11a	16.40 - 17.40	Higher Education in Europe
11b	16.40 - 17.40	How To Get Hired: Do I really need to be on LinkedIn?
12	17.40 - 19.00	Reception

SATURDAY, 2 APRIL

Session	Time	Workshop
13	8.30 - 10.00	How UK applications are assessed
14	10.00 - 10.30	Break
15a	10.30 - 11.30	Guiding students towards Australia
15b	10.30 - 11.30	How to support students toward success in their senior year
16a	11.40 - 12.40	Introduction to Naviance
16b	11.40 - 12.40	Community Colleges/Foundation Studies
17	12.40 - 13.40	Lunch with Interest Tables
18a	13.40 - 14.40	School Profile
18b	13.40 - 14.40	Study Options for the Average Academic and Middle Income Student
19a	14.50 - 15.50	Setting Up Shop: The Basics of a University Advising Programme
19b	14.50 - 15.50	An introduction to careers profiling surveys
20	15.50 - 16.10	Break
21	16.10 - 17.15	What works for you? / Closing

* subject to changes

Programme Details

FRIDAY, 1 APRIL

<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Workshop</u>
8.00 - 8.30	Foyer	Registration
8.30 - 9.00	Glass Hall	Welcome Message
9.00 - 10.00	Glass Hall	Rethinking the College Process Through Strengths <i>Chair: Aleka Bilan</i> Aleka will share her stories of two large Asian international schools as their Counselors worked to reframe the university admissions process to be based on students' character strengths. This work is based on Martin Seligman's research and initiatives coming out of the University of California Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center, as well as regional presentations by Shaun McElroy, Head of Counseling at Shanghai American School - Puxi. In this session, we will have an opportunity to reflect on our journey, our own school context (including expectations from parents and administrators) and whether focusing on strengths can reframe expectations about university outcomes.
10.00 - 10.30	Verandah	Break
10.30 - 11.30	Glass Hall	Preparing students for Admissions Interviews <i>Chair: Mallika Ramdas</i> Admissions representatives from universities in the Netherlands, Singapore, Switzerland, and the UK will outline the very different types of interviews involved in their respective admissions processes. A high school counselor from an international school will share how this school helps to prepare its students for various kinds of interviews, including Oxbridge, Medicine, Hospitality/ Tourism, and US alumni interviews. Audience members are encouraged to share other interview preparation strategies and tips and to participate in Q&A and discussion following the presentation.
	Senior School Lounge	University Landscape in Singapore: An Overview of Options available <i>Chairs: Junita Devi Sockalingam and Sng Sock Hwee</i> Singapore is a popular study destination for students from Singapore and around the world. There are increasingly more tertiary options available for students and a wide variety of courses to choose from. This session will introduce you to the university landscape in Singapore and an overview of the options available.

11.40 - 12.40	Senior School Lounge	<p>Higher Education in Canada <i>Chair: Ann Green</i> Canada provides a high quality of tertiary education that welcomes students from around the world. This session will introduce you to the various options available across Canada and will help you to navigate the application process.</p>
-	Glass Hall	<p>Presenting the Same Student Either Side of the Pond! Effective Recommendation Writing for Teachers <i>Chairs: Aidan Crowley and Aleka Bilan</i> Many of our students express a sincere interest in applying to and attending a university in the UK and the USA. However, the style of writing and recommendation support is vastly different. How a student is presented in their application is critical to success in gaining admission. The information presented to the reader must make sense and appeal to what they are looking for. The workshop will examine how a student's application is presented and the training steps to help teachers in adapting their writing for multiple destinations without creating additional work for busy colleagues.</p>
12.40 - 13.40	Assembly Hall	<p>Lunch With Interest Tables</p>
13.40 - 15.10	Glass Hall	<p>Mock Admissions: US <i>Chair: Trevor Sturgeon</i> While many universities around the world base admissions solely on credentials (school grades and test scores), many US universities practice holistic admissions, where each application is read in context and a committee decides which students to accept. In this workshop, you will serve as a committee member - reading an application and then advocating for a student to be admitted to the class of 2020 at Parker University.</p>
15.10 - 15.30	Verandah	<p>Break</p>
15.30 - 16.30	Glass Hall	<p>A Hitch Hikers Guide to Korean University Applications <i>Chairs: Diana Abukazam and Aidan Crowley</i> Korean university applications are complex, not least due to the language barrier, but also knowing what each university requires in terms of supporting material. Application systems open in early June each year and both the application and supporting documents need to be submitted usually over three days in the first week of July for Round 1 applications. This workshop will look at the different application timelines for students in different residential categories as overseas Korean students. We will also show the supporting documents we have developed that appear to support all applications to the most popular universities.</p>

Senior School
Lounge

Post Secondary Options for Differently Abled Students

Chair: Sudarshana Shukla

What makes a college good for students with learning differences? What is the specific preparation and planning required? The process of identifying colleges that have the best programs in place to support specific learning needs is important to ensure success throughout the college years. What are some of the support services, programs and procedures? What are some expectations upon arrival at the campus?

16.40 - 17.40

Glass Hall

Higher Education in Europe

Chairs: Melissa Gygax

Western European countries are amongst the most popular study destinations in the world. Beyond the Eiffel Tower and the Colosseum or tapas and cheese fondue, what are the advantages, benefits and obstacles of studying in the Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Spain or Switzerland? Some essentials before applying to universities in Europe!

Senior School
Lounge

How To Get Hired: Do I really need to be on LinkedIn?

Chair: Rhonda Vink

Most people are aware that LinkedIn is a business-oriented social networking service which is mainly used for professional networking; however, many people question the need to set up their own profile. This session will present reasons why you should set up a LinkedIn profile and offer tips for creating your own profile.

17.40 - 19.00

Assembly Hall

Reception

Programme Details

SATURDAY, 2 APRIL

Time	Location	Workshop
8.30 - 10.00	Glass Hall	How UK applications are assessed <i>Chair: Amanda Harvey</i> The session will look at how UK universities assess a students' UCAS application in terms of grades, personal statements and academic references; and how we, as University Guidance Counsellors can support them in producing their strongest application.
10.00 - 10.30	Verandah	Break
10.30 - 11.30	Glass Hall	Guiding students towards Australia <i>Chair: Rhonda Vink</i> Australia is a great study option for a variety of reasons: it has great lifestyle opportunities, provides world-class tertiary education, has programs that allow students flexibility of choice and is a financially viable option. This session will provide information about the types of universities that can be accessed, the process for applications (both Domestic and International), the costs and relevant scholarship information.
	Senior School Lounge	How to support students toward success in their senior year <i>Chair: Tresa C. Virankabuttra and Aleka Bilan</i> This workshop will explore and highlight some concerns and possible solutions to help seniors have a successful year and balance the various demands on their time. It will take into consideration the emotional stress of making decisions about their future and moving on to the next phase in their lives. Participants are encouraged to share their own experiences and insights in working with students.

11.40 - 12.40

Glass Hall

Community Colleges/Foundation Studies

Chair: Rita Kaur

Community Colleges and foundation courses offer great opportunities for international students in terms of experiencing overseas education at the cheaper entry point with easier transitions and adjustments apart from improving English language skills.

Senior School Lounge

Introduction to Naviance

Chair: Rachel Duce

Naviance is a college and career-readiness platform, supporting counsellors, students and parents with planning for post-secondary goals and university applications. The workshop will present an overview of the main features of the platform, including Student and Family Engagement, Success Planning, Careers Planning, and College Planning.

12.40 - 13.40

Assembly Hall

Lunch With Interest Tables

13.40 - 14.40

Senior School Lounge

School Profile

Chair: Sudarshana Shukla

What should be included in a School Profile? We will examine the purpose of preparing a concise School Profile and look at some samples of School Profiles

Glass Hall

Study Options for the Average Academic and Middle Income Student

Chair: Melissa Gygax

American colleges and universities are known for their generous scholarships. However financial aid is generally awarded to the low-income, top academic or/and unusually talented students. How can 'ordinary' students –the ones from middle-income families with B / C averages, or IB points in the high 20s / low 30s– expand their options beyond their country? Where are the affordable programs that accept the 'average' international students? A look at the financial aid mechanism in the US and study choices in North America and Europe.

14.50 - 15.50	Glass Hall	<p>Setting Up Shop: The Basics of a University Advising Programme <i>Chairs: Alan Cheung and Maryann Lee</i> Have you been asked to implement a university advising programme from scratch? Are you the only advisor at your school? Are you concerned how you will balance advising and teaching at the same time? If you answered ‘yes’ to any of these questions, then this session may be suitable for you. The session is intended for new advisors with 0 to 1 year of experience, but all are welcome to contribute their tips and tricks. Come discover how to efficiently survive the school year with the top essentials you should have to support your students entering higher education. We will provide suggestions on how to stay communicated with your students, parents, and university representatives, determine invaluable resources, identify who can answer your questions, and lots more. Come get your ducks in a row. You will walk away better prepared and organised.</p>
	Senior School Lounge	<p>An introduction to careers profiling surveys <i>Chairs: Rachel Duce and Rhonda Vink</i> For counsellors who wish to explore a range of interest inventories and profiling surveys - Naviance and beyond! This session aims to provide information on how to use assessments and psychometric tests with students, parents and teachers to help students with their career planning. The session will focus not only on the different surveys available but offers ideas on how they can be incorporated into a careers-based advisory programme from Year 9 upwards.</p>
15.50 - 16.10	Verandah	<p>Break</p>
16.10 - 17.15	Glass Hall	<p>What works for you? <i>Chairs: Elisabeth Lavin-Peter and Anne Ussher</i> This is your chance to discuss issues and best practices with other counselors from around the world. Tables will be organized according to issues suggested by you at the beginning of the conference. Some topics that may come up include “How do you handle predicted grades?” “How do you handle high pressure parents?” or “How do you handle students who apply to multiple countries?” At the end of this session, each table will feed back to the larger group so we all can benefit from each other’s expertise.</p>

Presenters

DIANA ABUKAZAM

Diana has been in Korea for 3 years starting at the KIS Pangyo Campus and she is currently at the sister campus on Jeju Island. She has supported students and parents in decision making, planning, and preparing for college, careers, undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools. Diana holds a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction Design with a specialization in computer education, and a MA in Counseling with a PPS credential to work with school-aged children. Diana received special training from UCLA's Career counseling center, Didi Hirsch's Crisis Counseling Center and is in the fifth year of being an Undergraduate Admissions Reader for UCLA.

BEAU BENSON

Beau has been at New York University since his freshman year when he arrived on Washington Square as a first-year in the College of Arts & Science. After receiving his B.A. (Journalism and History) and M.A. (French Medieval/Renaissance History), he chose to remain at NYU, working in Undergraduate Admissions. In addition to managing the outreach and evaluation of all applications to NYU from Southeast Asia and Oceania, he is also the Admissions Director for the Tisch School of the Arts.

ALEKA BILAN

Aleka has been working as a college and personal/social counselor in international schools for over 10 years, including Serbia and six years at the Western Academy of Beijing in China. Before becoming a school counselor, Aleka taught AP and IB History in the US and overseas. She is an active member of NACAC, International ACAC and ASCA. The part of her work that she enjoys most is watching adolescents develop their individual identity while helping them forge a future path.

JIM BOCK

Jim Bock currently serves as Vice President and Dean of Admissions at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. He has over 25 years of experience in highly selective admissions. Prior to joining Swarthmore as Assistant Dean of Admissions in 1995, he worked for the University of Virginia's Darden Graduate School of Business and Connecticut College. He has served as a member of the College Board Regional Council and the College and University Resource Committee of the International Baccalaureate Organization. Jim received his B.A. in Religion from Swarthmore College and his M.Ed. in Social Foundations of Education from the University of Virginia.

JEREMY BURGESS

Jeremy is Associate Director (International Student Recruitment & Marketing) at the University of Nottingham and also serves on the BUILA Executive Committee. He was previously Head of International Student Recruitment at the University of Warwick for four years and has served on the UCAS International Advisory Group. He has delivered presentations to hundreds of teachers and advisors from around the world, including well-received collaborative sessions in 2015 with the University of Oxford at CIS-EARCOS, Thailand, and Study Overseas, Australia. Jeremy is an alumnus of the University of East Anglia, Liverpool John Moores University, and the University of Warwick.

ALAN CHEUNG

Alan teaches IBDP Economics and TOK at Chatsworth International School. Originally from the UK, he has taught internationally in six different countries over the last 16 years. Aside from teaching, he is completing his first year as a university advisor supporting diverse students who apply to universities around the world.

AIDAN CROWLEY

Aidan has worked in international education for 14 years and is the Head of Guidance at the British International School Ho Chi Minh City. Prior to joining BISHCMC Aidan was Head of IB Welfare & Guidance at the British School Manila. In both schools Aidan has implemented the guidance programmes and has helped to guide students to their preferred choice of university throughout the world including the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Korea. Aidan frequently attends international conferences and this year is a planning committee member of the IC3 Conference in Mumbai.

TANNAZ DAVER

Tannaz joined SJI International in October 2008 to launch and develop the University Counselling Programme. Her initial responsibilities included creating an awareness of SJI International, a new school with its first graduating class in November 2009, and the IBDP with universities in Singapore, North America, Europe, Australia and Asia. Prior to this, Tannaz worked in IB Diploma schools for 19 years in Japan, Belgium and Singapore as a Mathematics teacher, Head of Mathematics, Head of Grade and Vice Principal (Pastoral). Tannaz grew up in India and Japan, completed her university studies in the US and has now been based in Singapore for the last 17 years.

RACHEL DUCE

Rachel qualified in the UK as a teacher of Geography and History and her international experience began in 1998 in Brunei. Working at both Jerudong International School and International School Brunei, she spent 11 years in the country, not only as a subject teacher but as a Head of Year, Pastoral Manager and Careers Counsellor. She then moved to work at British School Phuket for 4 years and is currently at British School Jakarta, where she is a full time Academic Advisor - University and Careers.

JAKE DUFFIN

Jake Duffin is Regional Manager for South East Asia at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). In addition to his role at QMUL, Jake is Vice Chair of the British Universities in Brunei Association (BUBA) and manages QMUL's overseas representatives. Prior to his current role, Jake was responsible for European recruitment at QMUL.

CORINNE FRANCKEN

Corinne is the International Recruitment Manager for the University of Queensland (UQ) in Brisbane, Australia. Born and educated in Belgium, Corinne has extensive experience in the international education sector having represented UQ for the past 10 years in a variety of business development, marketing and recruitment roles. Fluent in English, French, Dutch and Bahasa Indonesia, Corinne has lived and worked in Indonesia and Malaysia and worked extensively across portfolios focused on Australia, North Asia and South East Asia. Motivated by her passion for education and international experiences, Corinne maintains a unique perspective toward the needs of international students.

ANN GREEN

Ann has been involved in international education for 30 years and has been an Academic Counsellor at the Canadian International School in Singapore for the past 11. She completed secondary school and university in Canada.

MELISSA GYGAX

Melissa has held roles in the International Baccalaureate coordination, service-learning, youth leadership programs, and in university, career and guidance counseling, both at international schools in Switzerland and Italy, and independently. Her advising experience is with US high school diploma, AP and IB students, as well as with students attending public and private schools delivering their national curriculum in the local language in Western Europe. In July 2015 she started Transitions Without Borders, an NGO assisting underserved students and schools with no university counselors, and providing summer programs in French Polynesia, her native islands.

AMANDA HARVEY

Amanda is a UK trained Secondary School Economics teacher, who has been teaching for 20 years; she has been a University Guidance Counsellor for last 8 years. She has worked in international schools in Singapore and Hong Kong, and has extensive experience in helping students matriculate to UK universities. She has particular expertise in UK Medical and Oxbridge applications.

RITA KAUR

Rita Kaur joined ACS (International) in 2008, a few months before the first IB Diploma cohort graduated. She graduated from the US with a BA and started her career in Singapore with the British Council Singapore before making the switch to university counselling at ACS. Rita set up the Careers and University Counselling programme at ACS while studying for her Masters in Guidance and Counselling at James Cook University, Singapore to better equip herself in understanding and advising both the international and local students in terms of their future choices and pathways.

JEFF KIYOOKA

Jeff grew up near Vancouver but really grew up when he attended the University of British Columbia (UBC) where he majored in Geography. Before becoming an international student recruiter, he spent time working as a teacher in Japan and as an international education organizer in Canada. He has now been back at his alma mater for seven years, currently working on student recruitment initiatives for UBC throughout Asia. These include assisting students with their application, visiting schools, and liaising with counsellors in the region. It's a role which he truly enjoys although the jet lag still gets him on every trip.

DAVID KO

A full time coffee addict and freelance desktop dreamer, David Ko believes in stories. He believes that the first step in any form of branding is to tell a great story and he's doing just that at work. Now, ask yourself what are you doing for your brand? With over 5 years of experience in digital marketing, David oversees and manages the entire digital and social media marketing of the organisation. David is a hands-on digital marketing practitioner with experience in display advertising and social media advertising; specialising in digital marketing strategies, social media advertising and social media advocacy. He also works with SMEs on online branding in his spare time. He is a frequent speaker at annual partner conferences, presenting topics on digital marketing strategies. David works as the Digital Marketing Manager at James Cook Australia Institute of Higher Learning (JCU Singapore) in Singapore. He holds a Bachelor of Business (Marketing) from RMIT University and is a Google Analytics Certified Professional. <https://sg.linkedin.com/in/davidkoweitong>

ELISABETH LAVIN-PETER

In her role as Academic Advisor at the Overseas Family School, Elisabeth supports students from when they arrive in the high school in Grade 9 until they graduate in Grade 12. OFS students come from diverse backgrounds and apply to schools around the world so the role requires knowledge about school systems from Europe to the Americas to Australia to Asia. Prior to taking on this position Elisabeth taught English Literature at OFS and prior to that at Wheaton College in Massachusetts.

MARYANN LEE

Maryann started her careers counseling just over 3 years ago. She has a background in special education and grievance counseling.

SEAN McAULEY

Sean is a teacher and university advisor at United World College of South East Asia, Dover Campus. Originally from the US, he has taught in high schools in five different countries, and worked with international students in the USA as well. For the past ten years he has worked as a university advisor as well as an IB Diploma History and TOK teacher.

NIKKI PADGET

Nikki became Head of International Student Recruitment at the University of Exeter in 2006 - the perfect fit for a Geography graduate. She has personal experience of recruitment from the UK, Europe, SE Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent and now manages a team of sixteen UK based staff plus two staff in Bangalore. Her team works closely with colleagues in the University's academic Colleges, other parts of the Professional Services and the joint venture INTO University of Exeter to support international applicants and deliver the University's international recruitment targets. Nikki has previously served on the UCAS International Board and UKCISA committees and has also been the University's Key Contact for Tier 4 visas.

ALPHONSA PAKIAM

Alphonsa has more than 15 years strategic marketing and recruitment experience in the education sector. She has market knowledge in a number of South East Asian markets including the Indian subcontinent. Alphonsa is currently responsible for developing recruitment opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa with Monash University.

MALLIKA RAMDAS

Mallika heads the University Advising team of 6 high school counselors at the United World College of South East Asia's Dover Campus in Singapore. She has enjoyed teaching and advising highly diverse and globally mobile UWC students for close to 19 years, first at the UWC in India from 1997-2003, and at UWCSEA-Dover since 2003. Mallika considers herself a 'cross-cultural kid' and adult, having spent substantial periods of her life in India, Germany, the US, and Singapore. She greatly enjoys the ever-challenging task of counseling global nomad students and their families.

NINA SEPPEY

Nina is an Admissions Officer for Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne, responsible for recruitment and admissions for South East Asia and the Pacific. She is based in Singapore in EHL's Asia-Pacific Office. As a graduate of EHL, she enjoys talking to high school students about her experiences and the exciting industry that is international hospitality.

LAURA SEVERIN

Laura has worked in international admissions for over 10 years. She started her career at Lehigh University and worked at Swarthmore College before moving to Singapore to join Yale-NUS College. In addition to her work in admissions, she serves on the CIS Committee on Europe, the Middle East and Africa and the International ACAC Inclusion & Access Committee.

SUDARSHANA SHUKLA

Sudarshana has been a faculty member of the Cathedral and John Connon School, Mumbai since 2002. As a full time Career Guidance Counselor since 2004, she has guided students with their overseas applications to the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong, along with Universities within India. Her school offers the Advanced Placement program, of which she is the coordinator. They also offer the Indian School Certificate Examinations (National Board) along with the IBDP. Their first batch of IBDP students will graduate in 2017. As Head of Learning Resource Centre of her school, Sudarshana supports students with different abilities to achieve their potential.

JUNITA DEVI SOCKALINGAM

Junita Devi is a Higher Education Counsellor and Assistant Manager of the Higher Education Unit at Hwa Chong Institution. She has been a counsellor for five years and started off her counselling career by providing advice on studying in Australia. Junita now counsels and guides students on studying in the US, the UK, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Germany, France and other popular options.

SOCK HWEE SNG

Sok Hwee is the Higher Education Counsellor at Anglo-Chinese School (Independent). Growing up in Singapore, she spent her undergraduate years in Paris where she earned her BA in French and Comparative Literature at the Sorbonne. She also has a Masters in Counselling from Monash University. She has worked in various sectors before finding her passion in the educational field. As a guidance counsellor for the past 14 years, her experience includes promoting French education at the French Embassy in Singapore and providing guidance to students in international and Singapore schools.

TREVOR STURGEON

Trevor has counseled international school students for the past 16 years. He was formerly Head of Counseling at the International School Manila and joined the Singapore American School in 2008. Trevor has been actively involved with the National Association of College Admissions Counseling and with the Overseas Association of College Admission Counseling where he has served terms as VP for Communications and Technology, and most recently, VP for Finance. He enjoys working with all types of students, helping them find colleges that are the right fit, and guiding them through the application process.

JENNY THACKER

Jenny has spent all her career working in higher education, and has been with the University of Edinburgh for almost 10 years, initially as an Undergraduate Admissions Officer in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. During her 5 years in this role Jenny was responsible for admissions to a range of subject areas, including Architecture, Divinity, Economics, History of Art and Law. She moved to the Recruitment & Development team within the International Office in 2011 and has responsibility for South East Asia and Australasia.

STEVE THOMAS

Steve has 41 years working in education; 30 on the university side and 11 on the high school side. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in speech communications from North Carolina State University and a Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University. He began working in university international admissions at Bates College (1987-1989) and continued at College of Atlantic (Director of Admissions and Student Services (1989-1998), moving on to Colby College (Director of Admissions 1998-2014), and currently serving at Director of International Admissions at Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee. Steve first recruited in Asia, for Bates, in 1988!

ANNE USSHER

Anne has been an Academic Advisor at Overseas Family School for eight years. Prior to coming to Singapore, she worked in careers advising positions in a secondary school and a government agency in New Zealand. In her current role she works with students from diverse backgrounds who apply to universities all over the world. She also advises students and parents on the curriculum offered at OFS and helps students make informed choices when choosing their subjects.

RHONDA VINK

Rhonda is the Careers Counsellor at the Australian International School Singapore. She has extensive experience as a Career Counsellor, Head of Year, and Lead Teacher with 36 years of practice in Singapore and New Zealand. She has a strong belief in the importance of facilitating strong relationships and providing people with ideas and informed choices. Rhonda has continued to teach in both Secondary and Primary Schools throughout her time in education as well as grow her skills in the career counselling and guidance areas. A New Zealander, Rhonda is married and has lived in Singapore with her husband for over 13 years. She is a very proud self-coined 'boy specialist', the mother of four wonderful and successful sons, and two fast growing grandsons. Her sons live on three different continents which has made the moments when everyone gets together very precious. Rhonda has always been involved in sport and fitness, currently practicing yoga regularly; she runs, loves trekking and has recently taken up golf.

TRESA C. VIRANKABUTRA, PhD

Tresa has over 16 years of experience working as a counselor. Before that she worked in a variety of jobs, mostly teaching, from nursery to college level students. The majority of her work experience has been in Thailand where she has lived for over 32 years. As a firm believer in education for all children, she finds the greatest reward is when young people are able to accomplish, recognizing the potential inside themselves and believing in their capabilities to reach their highest dreams!

ISABEL WU

After graduating from a local high school in Shanghai, Isabel pursued her university studies at IE University in Spain and majored in Business Administration. Currently she is working in the International Development Department of the university, based in Singapore. She is in charge of student recruitment activities in South East Asia.

DWAYNE ZAMORA

Dwayne Zamora is the Assistant Director of Admission - International Outreach at Loyola Marymount University, and has worked in international admissions for nearly 8 years. His recruitment territory covers the regions of Asia and Canada primarily, and all other markets around the globe. Dwayne graduated from LMU with a Bachelors in Communication Studies and he is currently pursuing his Masters in Guidance & Counseling.

KIM ZWITSERLOOT

Kim is the Director of International Recruitment, a lecturer in Economics and a tutor (academic advisor/pastoral care) at University College Utrecht, the Netherlands. She graduated in Economics from Maastricht University in 2004, after which she spent some time teaching in Maastricht and Venezuela. Though her job can be quite busy and chaotic she very much enjoys working with both current students and prospective students and would not have it any other way.

Participating Institutions

ACS (International) Singapore

ACS (International) is an independent, not-for-profit, co-educational International school offering International Secondary Education for students from Year 1 (post-primary) to Year 6 (pre-university). Students take the Cambridge IGCSE examinations in Year 4 and then progress to the IB Diploma in Years 5 and 6. ACS (International) is one of the three Singaporean International schools able to enrol both local and international students. The students' roll of approximately 1000 includes 50% of students who come from Singapore, and the rest from 30 different countries around the world. ACS (International) is described as a 'Singaporean International School' offering a blend of local and international education providing Asian rigour within an international context.

Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)

Founded in 1886, Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) is a school under the Singapore Ministry of Education and is an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. ACS (Independent) is distinctive for its quest for excellence and focus on all-round-values-centric development, anchored in a school environment of family and community. The school has consistently produced excellent results in all areas. Its performance in the IB Diploma Programme continues to set world standards with its graduates pursuing further studies in different countries including Singapore, UK, US, Australia, Canada and Hong Kong.

British International School Ho Chi Minh City

The British International School (BIS) Ho Chi Minh City is a selective, independent, co-educational day school. It provides a British style education for an international student body. With over 1800 students BIS students represent 52 nationalities. BIS is an IB World School authorised to deliver the IB Diploma programme as well as the Cambridge International Examinations IGCSE. BIS is registered with the Department for Education (DfE) in the UK as an overseas school and is a member of both the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the Federation of British International Schools in Asia (FOBISIA).

British School Jakarta

The British School Jakarta (formerly BIS) is a truly international school with over 45 nationalities in attendance, from Foundation Stage to Year 13 (3–18 years old). The school is set in a fourteen hectare campus in the south of the city and is recognized as having teaching and sporting facilities of the highest quality. We are members of CIS, FOBISIA and the IBO. The curriculum in the Secondary School is based on the KS3 National Curriculum for Years 7-9; I/IGCSE exams in Year 10 and 11; and the IB in Year 12 and 13.

Canadian International School

The Canadian International School is currently in its 26th year of operation. CIS is an IB World School offering the PYP, MYP and DP. Today, the Canadian International School has two campuses – the Lakeside campus in Singapore's West (pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12), and the Tanjong Katong campus in the East (pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6). Over 3,000 students from over 70 nations are currently studying at the school.

The Cathedral and John Connon School

Founded in the year 1860 by the Anglo Scottish Education Society, the Cathedral and John Connon School is ranked among the top schools in India. Once the bastion of British Public School values, today Cathedral reflects the multi-culturalism that is India. Known to mould traditional values into a contemporary, real-world context, the institution prepares students to embark on a journey of academic as well as personal excellence. The motto of the school is “Clarum Efficiunt Studia” which translates to “Studies Maketh Famous” The school is accredited by the Indian Council for Secondary School Examination Board, New Delhi and by the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (starting Class of 2017).

Chatsworth International School

Chatsworth International School is a full IB World School offering the PYP, MYP, and DP. Opened in 1995, Chatsworth is a private, coeducational, college-preparatory day school serving international students in Singapore from ages 3 to 18.

Concordian International School

Concordian International School is an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School offering all three IB programs: Primary Years, Middle Years and the Diploma Program from Nursery to Grade 12. Nursery to Grade 4 students are immersed in English, Chinese and Thai. From grade 5 onwards the medium of instruction is English with Mandarin and Thai taught as modern world languages. The school was founded in 2001 and graduated its first cohort of students in 2010.

Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne – EHL

Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne is a leading hospitality management school located in Switzerland. Founded in 1893, it was the first hotel school in the world. Today, it trains and develops students to become the future leaders and managers of the international hospitality industry. Our graduates find careers directly within the hotel, leisure and tourism industry or related fields that require hospitality expertise such as banking, consulting and real estate. The diverse campus comprises of 2300 students from 90 different nationalities.

Hwa Chong Institution

Hwa Chong Institution is a premier independent school in Singapore with a rich history of 95 years. Hwa Chong Institution has produced 56 President’s Scholars to date. We offer the Integrated Programme which is a broad based 6-year curriculum leading to the Singapore-Cambridge GCE A Levels. The mission of the school is to develop leaders for the nation. Hwa Chong Institution is more than a school that produces top scholars. We also want to empower our high ability students to achieve their potential and live their aspirations, while embracing the values of hard work, integrity, passion, and compassion.

IE University

Being one of the most international universities in the world, we have students from over 100 different nationalities, and 80% of them come from outside Spain. We strongly believe in learning by doing, and appreciate students’ individuality, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. Programs offered: Architecture, Business Administration, Communication, International Relations, Psychology, International Law, Management in Information System, and dual degree options.

Jakarta Intercultural School (JIS)

JIS is an independent, coeducational institution offering university preparation primarily for expatriate students. JIS is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) as well as the East Asia Regional Council of Schools (EARCOS). Instruction is in English and all students earn a U.S. High School Diploma. Students may elect to enroll in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma during grades 11 and 12 or enroll in individual IB and / or Advanced Placement (AP®) courses.

Kellett School - British School in HK

Kellett School, the British International School in Hong Kong, was founded in 1976. The parent founders sought a high-quality, British-style education, rich in the Arts and in Sport. Our Secondary division was established in 2007, with full Senior school provision (up to Year 13, 18 years of age) in order to offer GCE A level qualifications.

Korea International School Jeju

An Innovative American Boarding School The Korea International School Jeju, a sister boarding school of KIS Pangyo, opened on Jeju island in 2011. KIS Jeju offers a comprehensive university preparatory curriculum, serving over 700 students in Grades PreK-12. KIS Jeju is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), as well as the South Korean Ministry of Education. Korean passport holders will receive both a Korean and a US diploma upon meeting graduation requirements.

Loyola Marymount University

Located in Los Angeles, California, Loyola Marymount University is a dynamic, student-centered university. We are a medium-sized campus with nearly 6,000 undergraduates, an 11:1 student to teacher ratio and class average of 21 students. 8 percent of our students come from overseas, representing over seventy countries. Our well-rounded educational experience inspires LMU students to learn, lead and serve, enabling them to build the successful futures they have come to expect.

Monash University

Monash University is a top ranking international university. We bring together students from more than 100 countries. We also have an extensive network of students studying Monash courses at our overseas campuses and study abroad partner locations across Australia, Europe, Asia and Africa. Monash has an alumni network of more than 300,000 graduates worldwide, and rich links with industry and government. We have 10 faculties offering courses at undergraduate Masters right up to PhD level. We also have a college, Monash College, offering Diploma and foundation programs as a pathway option into the university.

New York University

New York University is the largest private research university in the United States, with 10 schools and colleges, and over 230 academic departments in New York City, as well as degree-granting liberal arts colleges in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai. Considered to be a leader in global education, NYU hosts more international students than any other U.S. university, with over 11,100 students from over 150 countries. As NYU strives to enable all to be global citizens, the University also ranks number 1 in students studying abroad, with 4,200 students studying away each year, on all six habitable continents.

Overseas Family School

Overseas Family School (OFS) is a private, coeducational, college-preparatory day school serving the international community of Singapore. OFS is a pre-K to Grade 12 school; there are approximately 3,000 students from 75 different countries at OFS. OFS offers IGCSEs in Grades 9 and 10. It is accredited by WASC and offers a High School Diploma, as well as the International Baccalaureate Diploma. Around 80% of the graduating class of 226 students this year are taking the full IB Diploma.

Queen Mary University of London

Queen Mary University of London is one of the UK's leading universities, with world-class academics, high-quality teaching, and a great track record for student employability. QMUL has around 20,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in over 15 academic schools covering business and economics, science and engineering, law, medicine and dentistry, the arts, humanities and social sciences. QMUL is one of the largest colleges of the University of London and one of the few in London with a fully integrated teaching, research and residential campus. Our unique setting gives you the benefits both of a large campus environment and access to the countless academic and social opportunities of London - one of the great world cities.

Rhodes College

Rhodes' Collegiate-Gothic campus sits on a 110-acre, wooded site in the heart of historic Midtown Memphis. In this beautiful, supportive environment, our students and faculty comprise a global community unmatched in its dedication to lifelong liberal arts learning and traditions through a life of honor. Memphis, and our connections to it, are central to the Rhodes experience. Home to many Fortune 500 companies and a major hub for research, distribution and industry, the city offers prestigious internships and research opportunities. As a college with more than 165 years' worth of history, Rhodes continues to evolve into its right place as an international destination for liberal arts learning. And with each new generation of students from around the world passing through our halls and joining our community, new traditions are established and embraced.

Singapore American School

Singapore American School offers a comprehensive liberal arts education that actively engages students and challenges them to reach their full potential. SAS has the largest Advanced Placement program outside the United States and a curriculum similar to that of U.S. college preparatory schools. The school offers extensive service opportunities and extra-curricular activities for students of all ages, and is committed to providing global and real-world experiences for students so that they are optimally prepared for a dynamic and rapidly changing future.

SJI International School, Singapore

SJI International is one of only three schools in Singapore able to admit both Singaporean and international students and, as such, we offer an international education firmly rooted within the larger community of Singapore. Our Elementary School provides education for international students only and is currently attended by 670 pupils while the High School has a role of 1030 and offers the IGCSE and IB Diploma programmes. Outside the academic programme all students are involved in service activities along with a multitude of co-curricular activities.

Swarthmore College

Swarthmore College is a private, coeducational, non-sectarian liberal arts college with engineering, founded in 1864 by members of the Society of Friends (Quakers). The campus is 425 acres and comprises the Scott arboretum, featuring rolling lawns, a creek, wooded hills, and hiking trails. The campus is residential and is located 18 kilometers southwest of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the fifth largest city in the United States. There are 1542 students and Swarthmore is known for its rigorous external examination program based on the Oxford tutorial system. Students compete in Division III Athletics, and the school offers need-based aid for international students.

Tanglin Trust School

Tanglin Trust is a non-selective British curriculum international school serving the expatriate community in Singapore. Sixth Form students have the choice of studying A Levels or the IB Diploma Programme.

Transitions Without Borders

Transitions Without Borders is a not for profit organization working internationally with schools and students to facilitate transitions to post-secondary education, assist student self-actualization, enrich their academic experience and increase equity and access to international higher education. Our counselors are professional, passionate and experienced volunteers who are dedicated to supporting students in their growth from secondary school to university in North America, Europe, and beyond. We offer a palette of student services & support, academic enrichment, as well as unique summer programs in the beautiful South Pacific islands of Polynesia.

United World College of South East Asia – Dover

UWC South East Asia has been a member of the UWC movement since 1975. For over 40 years, it has been offering a mission-driven, values-based international education to students from more than 70 nationalities. UWCSEA is a K–12 school with two campuses and nearly 5,390 students. High School students study the IGCSE or school-based Foundation IB curriculum followed by the IB Diploma curriculum. Recent graduating classes at UWCSEA-Dover have comprised around 330 students; the last 3 cohorts have enrolled at universities in more than 15 different countries, with the four most popular destinations being the US, UK, Canada, and Australia.

University College Utrecht

University College Utrecht (UCU) is one of the international honours colleges of Utrecht University (THE #62, Shanghai Ranking #56, National Taiwan University Ranking #35). UCU offers a liberal arts and sciences undergraduate education. Students compose an individual curriculum, choosing from classes in humanities, science and social science. Classes are small, participation is actively encouraged and all students have their own tutor. All 760 students, 40% international, live on an American-style, residential campus in the historic city of Utrecht. The admissions process is highly selective: students are admitted on the basis of academic excellence, an international focus, social engagement and extracurricular pursuits.

University of British Columbia

The University of British Columbia (UBC) is a global centre for research and teaching, consistently ranked among the 40 best universities in the world. Home to nearly 60,000 students, including over 11,000 international students from 151 countries, its entrepreneurial perspective encourages students, staff and faculty to challenge convention, lead discovery and explore new ways of learning. At both the vibrant Vancouver campus and the scenic Okanagan campus, bold thinking, openness and an international outlook fosters scholars with ideas that can change the world.

The University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh is one the UK's oldest and most prestigious universities, globally recognised for our research, development and high-quality teaching. Founded in 1583 and located in the heart of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city, the university is one of the largest in the UK with over 34,000 students, and over 150 nationalities. The QS World Rankings 2015/16 rated the University of Edinburgh 21st in the world, 5th in the UK and 6th in Europe. The University has around 500 undergraduate degree programmes, more than 300 taught masters courses and 135 research areas covering a wide range of academic disciplines.

The University of Exeter, UK

The University of Exeter is consistently in the UK Top 10 and now also in the THE Global 100. With a significant investment in campus facilities and a commitment to student engagement, it is perhaps no surprise that we lead the Russell Group for student satisfaction. 85% of undergraduates obtain a first or 2.1 degree and 93% are in employment or further study six months after graduation. Our degrees range from science to social studies and include Study Abroad and work experience opportunities along with flexible subject combinations. Our size (20,000 students of whom 5000 are from 140 countries outside the UK) and edge of city campus environment, ensure a safe and welcoming lifestyle outside the classroom.

The University of Nottingham

The University of Nottingham is Britain's truly global university. It is ranked in the world's top 1% and is a member of the Russell Group and Universitas 21. Its world-class research has yielded major scientific breakthroughs, such as Nobel-Prize-winning Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) techniques. Its portfolio spans the arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences subjects. Nottingham's graduates are consistently amongst those most highly sought after by leading employers, as per success High Fliers surveys, and The Mines ParisTech: Professional Ranking of World Universities ranked Nottingham second best in the UK (after the University of Oxford) and joint 13th in the world, according to the number of alumni holding CEO positions in the Fortune Global 500.

The University of Queensland

For more than a century, The University of Queensland (UQ) has educated and worked with outstanding people to deliver knowledge leadership for a better world. We are a leading Australian university ranked in the top 50 by the QS World University Rankings and the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities. The University also ranks 52 in the US News Best Global Universities Rankings, 60 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings and 77 in the Academic Ranking of World Universities. UQ is a founding member of the Group of Eight (Go8) universities and a member of the global Universitas 21 and Universities Australia.

Yale-NUS College

Established in 2011, Yale-NUS College is Singapore's first liberal arts college with a full residential programme that integrates living and learning. Drawing on the resources and traditions of Yale University and the National University of Singapore, Yale-NUS aims to redefine liberal arts and science education for a complex, interconnected world. A Yale-NUS College education emphasises broad-based multi-disciplinary learning across the natural and social sciences, humanities and the arts. Our curriculum and pedagogy, built from scratch by the inaugural faculty, seeks to draw on the strengths of established liberal arts traditions, while introducing our students to the diverse intellectual traditions and cultures of Asia and the world. We are nurturing young minds and equipping the next generation with the means to appreciate and understand the breadth and complexity of issues, the capacity to think critically and solve problems, and the skills to effectively communicate and lead. Our inaugural class will graduate in 2017.

Emergency Contacts

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