

University Admission Events

IE University, Spain

On September 2nd, together with approximately 20 grades 10 and 11 students, we welcomed Ms. Yu from IE University to give a presentation about her school.

IE University, located in Segovia and Madrid, is a private university in Spain. At undergraduate level, IE offers Business and Economy, Architecture and Design, Communications and Social Media, Computer Science and Artificial Engineering, Data Analytics, Law and International Relations, and a few dual-degree programs.

Ms. Yu introduced a special high school program- the Junior Advisory Board to our students. Each year, IE University will select a small group of junior year high school students from all over the world and invite them to spend 5 days in April at IE campus, studying with top senior research professors on how higher education will help tackle problems in climate change. Selected candidates will be granted an 80% scholarship to study at IE University.



Amherst College and Williams College, USA

On September 6, we took 6 grade 11 students to Shanghai to meet the admission representatives from two liberal arts colleges- Amherst College and Williams College. Some common features of liberal arts colleges include small community and class size, rural location, small student-to-faculty ratio, undergraduate focused, no/few profession-oriented majors, undergraduate research opportunities, more interaction with teachers, etc. Liberal arts education aims at providing a dynamic, rigorous and inclusive learning environment where students can explore their academic interests both in width and depth and help build a strong community with openness to people, ideas and differences.



Michigan State University

On Sept. 16th, Michigan State University (MSU) held an information session at OCAC for grades 10 and 11 students. The MSU admission officer Mr. Liu introduced the basic information of MSU, such as, school environment and facilities, academic reputation, admission requirements and university selection.

MSU is one of the reputable public US universities, which located in East Lansing city, MI. The campus is about 5,500 acres, has approximately 40,000 students (80% are undergraduate students). The top majors are engineering, education, communication and media, hospitality and logistics etc. MSU has 17 faculties, more than 200 majors, 14 canteens and 27 dormitories. To ensure the academic quality, MSU offers the advisor system to undergraduate students, and students have chances to do researches with professors at the undergraduate level.

Additionally, Mr. Liu advised students how to choose universities in the States. He suggested that ranking should not be the only criteria, however, location and climate, research and job opportunities, housing and food, retention rate are also important. Mr. Liu emphasized that international students do not need to submit SAT/ACT scores, unless students want to apply for the competitive Honor College at MSU.

OCAC Suzhou Secondary- College Counseling Newsletter

University of British Columbia, Canada

On September 17, about 30 grades 10 and 11 students joined the admission presentation given by Ms. Dayna Li from University of British Columbia, Canada.

As one of the top research public universities, UBC accommodates over 60,000 students on both its Vancouver and Okanagan campuses. UBC offers almost all the programs a student wants to study at the undergraduate level, such as Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts and Design, Architecture, Music, Business, Engineering, Communications and Social Media, etc.

If you are interested in UBC, joining their Future Global Leaders summer program will be a good chance for you learn more about the campus, the teaching environment, the facilities and the diverse culture, etc. You can choose to study 1 -3 subjects for 2 -6 weeks during summer from June to August. There are over 40 different subjects you can choose from.



California State University, Chico campus, USA

We were very pleased to host Ms. Sun Yuzhuo, International Admission Specialist from California State University Chico on our campus on September 25 and our college counselors had a great conversation with her learning about information of the university, her studying, working and living experience at Chico.

CSU Chico is located in Chico, a beautiful and welcoming college town 280km away from San Francisco. As one of the many campuses of California State University, CSU Chico is highly ranked for its educational quality, affordability and alumni career earnings. The total cost for international undergraduate students is about \$33,000 per year, and there are a few scholarships available for international students.

Its College of Engineering is ranked 3rd in the US for best value. Several of its programs claim 100% job placement rates. They are Accounting, Business Information Systems, School Psychology, Agriculture Science and Education, Concrete Industry Management, Sustainable Manufacturing and Communication Sciences and Disorders.



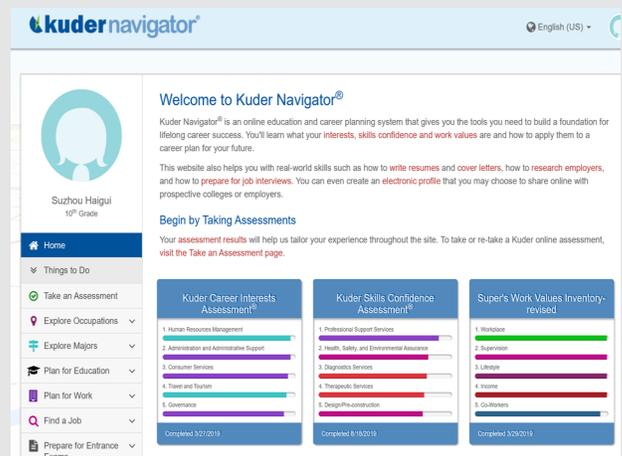
School-based College Counseling

Counselling Class

In early September, counsellors had the first counselling class with Grade 10 students. In order to encourage students to be engaged in the class and to create the friendly class atmosphere, the first class was started by an interesting game "introduce my peers". After, counsellors explained the responsibilities of counselling department, how to make an appointment with a counsellor, and the three years' plan for grade 10 students. Students explored what was IB curriculum and expressed expectations of their high school life by watching video, participating group works and filling worksheets.

The second class started with a fun quiz on Kahoot. Two or Three students pored up as a team to compete with other teams by answering the online questions, e.g. what are responsibilities of counsellors? How many courses dose IBDP require? Afterwards, students log-on Kuder system for the career assessments.

The counselling class is a 80 minutes class which will be offered every two weeks. Grade 10 counselling class started in September and grade 11 counselling class will start in October.



Counselling Workshop

Counselling workshop aims at providing detailed information of overseas universities and majors/programs. Generally, an hour workshop will be held on Monday after school at 3:15. Due to different topics, a student can choose a workshop to attend according to his/her interest. The topics of upcoming workshop is on the end of this letter.

On 24th Sept, counselling department held a first counselling workshop – “How Do US Selective Universities Choose Candidates” to grades 10 and 11 students. The aim of this workshop is to introduce the basic information of US universities, types of universities, application requirements and process. Students learnt how to differ various kinds of US universities, how to prepare application materials, how to use the ranking wisely and what types of candidate competitive universities seek for. By using samples, e.g. Brown University, Vanderbilt University and Duke University etc., to explain how universities review applicants holistically - English proficiency, standardized tests, letter of recommendation, extra-curricular, application essays and interviews etc.



Activities with Students and Parents

Starting from Aug. 30th, grades 10 and 11 students have made appointments on Calendly system under counsellors' guidance. Until today, 99% of grade 10 students and 100% of grade 11 students have had an individual meeting with a counsellor. Individual meeting notes will be emailed to parents after the National Holidays.

On 19th and 20th, counselling department held Parent Coffee Mornings for grades 10 and 11 parents. For grade 10 parents, counsellors introduced the responsibilities of counselling department, how to make an appointment with a counsellor, the three-years high school plan and the G10 first semester plan; for grade 11 parents, counsellors introduced the G11 first semester plan, OCAC counselling resources and PSAT arrangement. Additionally, counsellor Ms. Xie also explained the function of Kuder system and shared her experience of attending International Association for College Admission Counselling (IACAC) conference in Canada last summer.



Upcoming Counseling Events

Event	Time	Audience
College Fair at Dulwich College Suzhou	3:30 pm-5:30 pm , Oct. 14	Students/ Parents
Admission Talk- EHL from Switzerland	3:15pm- 4:15pm, Oct. 17	Student/Parents
Workshop 2: How Oxford/Cambridge and other UK universities select students	3pm- 4pm 10/21/2019	Students
University Admission Talk: six US universities will meet our students	1:40pm- 3pm 10/24/2019	Students
Workshop 3: Introduction of higher education and application process in Singapore and Hong Kong	3pm- 4pm 11/4/2019	Students
Workshop 4: Introduction of higher education and application process in Australia and Canada	3pm- 4pm 11/18/2019	Students