

University counselling perspectives: Hong Kong and Shanghai



VICTORIA SHANGHAI ACADEMY 滬江維多利亞學校

Rebecca Lucas-Timpany and Emily Benoit









Rebecca Lucas-Timpany Secondary Deputy Principal (Student Support) & University Guidance Counselor at VSA



Emily Benoit
Head of University and Careers
Guidance at VSA
Formerly Director of University &
Careers Counseling at YK Pao
School, Shanghai



VSA

IB World School

Day school

K-12 school curriculum:

- PYP
- MYP
- IB Diploma / VSA High School Diploma

100% pass rates for IB Diploma

Key destinations for students: UK, HK, USA, Australia, Canada, Other

YK Pao

Predominantly boarding High school curriculum:

- IGCSE
- IB Diploma

100% pass rates for IB Bilingual Diploma

Key destinations for students: USA, UK, HK, Canada, Europe, Other



HONG KONG

- Observations from counsellors in Hong Kong in 2022
 - Student and family responses to the pandemic affected university choices
- Now
 - Visits are back
 - Increase in visits from US and Canadian universities
 - University fairs are back
- What works best:
 - Targeted resources such as academic talks, materials for teachers
 - Information on scholarships
 - Visa information sessions
 - More on the student experience



SHANGHAI

- Experience during the pandemic:
 - Universities in the UK added as an alternative or second option
 - Often UK was an option for students if they could not get a visa for the USA
- Next steps:
 - Increase connections with individual high schools
 - Counsellor groups
 - Student and family information
 - 'paint a picture' of life at the university
 - help them understand more about safety, travel and working in the UK after studying



Any questions?

