Global Admissions Profile 2012
The growing international reputation of the University of Hong Kong (HKU) is based upon its human resources – its staff and, in particular, its students. Today, the University admits the best students in Hong Kong, many of the very top students from Mainland China, and increasingly, highly talented students from across Asia and the rest of the world.
HKU finds itself at the nexus of two trends that, together, start to explain its success. First, Asian academic standards are among the highest in the world, and the priority afforded to education by students, parents and governments alike is outstandingly high. The second is that the economy of Asia in general, and Hong Kong in particular, continues to do well, in marked contradiction to many other parts of the world.

This has led to a rising trend amongst students from Asia – in particular, Mainland China and, of course, Hong Kong – to pursue their undergraduate degree in Hong Kong, with a preference for the University that has been variously described as the “Harvard of Asia”, the “Oxbridge of East Asia” and the “Harvard of Hong Kong”. Ranked amongst the top 25 universities in the world, HKU has repeatedly been acclaimed as the best university in Asia.

The result is that HKU graduates, both local and non-local, are in high demand. The University has achieved a virtually 100% employment rate for the past six consecutive years, a statistic that perhaps no other comprehensive university in the world can match, while a recent global graduate salaries survey put the starting salaries of Hong Kong graduates at the highest in the world of those countries surveyed.

Internationalisation, then, is not just to recruit the most talented students from around the world, but perhaps more importantly, raises the reputation and visibility of HKU, at home, in Mainland China and abroad, through engagement with academic and other communities worldwide, as well as other activities. HKU’s global presence as well as its knowledge exchange activities locally and beyond will, in turn, attract the best students to HKU.

Through the work of the Academic Liaison Section (ALS) of the Registry in particular, the University maximises the quality of students admitted to HKU through many activities and processes:

1. Engaging in discussions and collaborations with leading schools whose students are likely to be candidates for admission to HKU;
2. Engaging in discussions and collaborations with governments, universities and other national level bodies as might be relevant to the pursuit of these goals;
3. Producing promotional brochures and internet resources;
4. Disseminating information about HKU;
5. Organising events, programmes and activities for potential students;
6. Selecting students for prioritised attention during the application process;
7. Promoting high-achieving students to the relevant faculty or programme admissions committees;
8. Providing additional support for non-local students on their arrival in Hong Kong and thereafter as necessary;
9. Providing support, assistance and a timely response to requests raised by applicants to HKU;
10. Working collaboratively with faculties to ensure, as far as possible, that the best such students are selected and enrol in HKU;
11. Assisting in developing learning opportunities for undergraduates in HKU, at universities abroad through exchange programmes, and in other ways that may fit the learning goals of the new curriculum;
12. Managing entrance scholarship support for students.
Admission of undergraduate students in 2012

The University had a record 70,946 applications for undergraduate study in 2012. However, the outstanding statistic of 2012 was the 23,852 applications HKU received from students who were not in the Hong Kong schools system. Over 18,000 (18,106) applications came from students, local or non-local, at schools or universities outside Hong Kong, showing the University’s international attraction.

Only 1 in 9 of the overall applicants to HKU was offered a place, and only 1 in 11 actually enrolled in HKU. These are statistics that rank amongst the best worldwide. These applicants represented a grand total of 96 nationalities, some of which are sending students to HKU for the first time ever. Overall, there was a 44% increase in overseas applications for the 2012 entry.

Total students on campus

Altogether, there were 10,795 students on campus at the start of the 2012/13 school year whose stated nationality is not that of Hong Kong. This includes undergraduates, postgraduates and exchange students. Of these, 6,814 required a visa to study in Hong Kong (“non-locals”). 35% of the non-Hong Kong undergraduates on campus were of Chinese nationality but without a HKID card, while 46% were from the rest of the world.

Undergraduate application highlights

- 23,852 applications were received from students who were not in the Hong Kong schools system
- Over 18,000 (18,106) applications came from students, local or non-local, at schools or universities outside Hong Kong
- Over 70,000 (70,946) applications were received altogether for the 2012 entering class
- Over 1,000 (1,157) applicants to HKU undergraduate studies were already studying for, or had completed, a degree at another university

Enrolment highlights

Students admitted in 2012 were exceptionally high achievers. There were:

- 21 Zhuang Yuan students, those who achieved the highest marks in their province or city in the National Joint College Entrance Examination (NJCEE) in China
- Six students who scored full marks in Mathematics in the NJCEE
- Three students from Taiwan who scored 75 out of 75 in their national GSAT exam
- Over ten students who achieved 4A* or above in their GCE Advanced Level Examination
- Students who scored 45 out of 45 in IB
- Students who scored 2400 out of 2400 in SAT2
- All six students with seven 5** grades in HKDSE
- 57 HKALE students with four or more A grades
In 2012 in Hong Kong:
• HKU had the best average score in HKALE
• HKU had the best English language admissions scores
• HKU had the most students with average grade A across Use of English, Chinese Language and Culture, and three HKALE subjects
• HKU admitted 99.65% of its intake from JUPAS Band A
• HKU admitted 70% of the students in Hong Kong with four or more Grade As in HKALE

From 2010 to 2012, the University held Centenary Celebrations to mark its 100th anniversary. In 2012, along with all the other institutions of higher learning in Hong Kong and in accordance with the government’s education policy, the University officially admitted students to its new four-year undergraduate curriculum. This was the result of a number of years of discussion and debate within the University about the goals and expected outcomes of an undergraduate education in the 21st century, and how these can be realised within the constraints and context of HKU.

The results, in terms of the quality of students applying to study at HKU and eventually admitted, were outstanding. The University enrolled, by far, the best-qualified students in Hong Kong. For the 2012/13 school year, HKU enrolled a total of 57 students who obtained four or more A grades in the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) through the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS). Despite having a larger quota of HKALE students in 2012 than in 2011, our new students obtained a significantly higher average HKALE score compared with those admitted to any of the other universities in Hong Kong. For the first HKDSE Examination, HKU enrolled students with the following results:

HKDSE Result | Number of students admitted by HKU | Cumulative Percentage of Total Number of JUPAS Applicants |
---|---|---|
7 subjects with 5** | 6 | 100% |
6 subjects with 5** | 14 | 92% |
5 subjects with 5** | 30 | 71% |
4 subjects with 5** | 68 | 67% |

HKU had the best HKDSE scores in 2012:

- Chinese: 4.9
- Chemistry: 5.26
- Physics: 5.37
- Mathematics: 4.79
- Liberal Studies: 5.06
- 4 core subjects: 5.65
- Best 5 subjects: 5.59
- 4 core + best elective: 5.28
- 4 core + 2 best electives: 5.27

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Senior Secondary 3 (Grade 12) Hong Kong students leaving secondary school this year studied for a new award, the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE), to replace the HKALE. It was of considerable interest to see whether the outstanding academic achievement results of the HKDSE cohort than from the previous HKALE cohorts. Whereas in previous years, many of the top achieving students have joined HKU through the Early Admissions Scheme, this year the top students came to HKU through the JUPAS HKDSE route, adding to the academic excellence of the four-year programme enrolment.

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HKU has admitted 21 Zhuang Yuan (students with the top scores) of the National Joint College Entrance Examination.

HKU in Mainland China

HKU’s international reputation for attracting large numbers of highly qualified students from Mainland China, was further enhanced in 2012. Receiving around 12,000 applications from 31 provinces, cities and areas in Mainland China, this represents a significant increase over the previous year. The University enrolled a record 21 Zhuang Yuan students this year, these being the students with the top NJCEE (Gaokao) examination scores of all the students in their province or city. The Gaokao examination was taken by around 9 million students in 2012. Since the University limits the number of Mainland students in Mainland China to around 300 of each curriculum intake, the overall academic standards of such students continue to be outstandingly high.

For the first time, HKU is collaborating with the University of Cambridge on a joint recruitment scheme in the Mainland. The quality of HKU students is well known internationally, and has attracted attention from around the world. This is the first time that one of the world’s best universities has entered into a partnership like this.

Partner Schools

Each year, HKU pays several visits to schools to introduce its admission schemes, and counsellors and students of the school are invited to HKU for programmes such as Information Day, Taster Day, and summer programmes. Through this long-term relationship, HKU has been able to encourage applications from some of the Mainland’s most academically talented students.

中國人民大學附屬中學

The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China

One of the most renowned high schools in Beijing and Mainland China, in the past three years, five of its students have scored number one (Zhuang Yuan) in the National Joint College Entrance Examination in Beijing in either Arts or Science. Many of its graduates have been admitted to Peking University, Tsinghua University, and many top overseas universities worldwide including Harvard, MIT, Cambridge, and Oxford. HKU has admitted seven top students from them in 2012.

上海中學

Shanghai Middle School

One of the most renowned high schools in Shanghai and Mainland China, in the past three years, four of its students have scored number one (Zhuang Yuan) in the National Joint College Entrance Examination in Shanghai in either Arts or Science. Many of its graduates have been admitted to Peking University, Tsinghua University, Fudan University and many top overseas universities worldwide including Harvard, MIT, Cambridge and Oxford. All of the four Zhuang Yuan from this school have chosen HKU in 2012.

重慶南開中學

Chongqing Nankai High School

One of the most renowned high schools in Chongqing and Mainland China, in the past decade, around 30–60 students have been admitted annually to Peking University and Tsinghua University. Some of its graduates have received offers from Yale and Cambridge. Each year, HKU pays several visits to the school to introduce the admission schemes. It is also one of the destinations for the Meeting Of Minds (MOM) lecture series. Through MOM, several HKU professors have been to Nankai to give academic talks or mini-lectures to show the teaching style at HKU and to develop a more interactive relationship with high school students, with very positive feedback from the students and the school. School counsellors have been invited to HKU for various programmes, such as Information Day and summer programmes. In recent years, between half and two thirds of the students admitted from Chongqing are from Nankai, making it an important school for HKU.

華南師範大學附屬中學

The Affiliated High School of South China Normal University

One of the most renowned high schools in Guangdong and Mainland China, many of its graduates have been admitted to Peking University, Tsinghua University and Shanghai Jiaotong University. Each year, HKU pays several visits to the school to introduce the admission schemes, and counsellors and students of the school are invited to HKU for programmes such as the Bridge Building Competition (BBC), jointly organised by HKU Engineering faculty and IVE, Taster Days as well as other summer programmes.
In 2012, HKU welcomed applications from over 18,000 students from 96 different countries beyond Hong Kong.

Students like the convenience of the University’s main campus, providing easy access to both the vibrancy and activity of the central business district as well as the quiet beaches of Hong Kong Island south.

Undoubtedly, the major draws of Hong Kong are threefold. Its economic position and its place as perhaps Asia’s leading financial centre are major attractions for many students. The vibrant work ethic and the outstanding job market attracts academically talented students looking to further their ambitions in a society that amply rewards such talent. The third reason is, perhaps, that the world, and Asia in particular, is beginning to realise that Hong Kong houses an outstanding number of leading universities – four universities in the top 100 of the rankings (QS-WUR 2012), an outstanding achievement for a population of just over 7 million. The Times Higher Education (2011) ranked Hong Kong as having the best universities in the world when adjusted for population size and GDP. Amongst these, the University of Hong Kong is fortunate to have been ranked as Asia’s leading international university for a number of years, including the most recent World University Rankings survey from QS.

This year, HKU admitted students of 65 nationalities to its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. It also enrolled the highest number of international students ever, across the three-year and four-year curricula. The undergraduate programme alone admitted over 454 non-local students (excluding Mainland Gaokao students). Another 1,100 students joined HKU through various exchange programmes with partner universities around the world.

“We are delighted to have received so many applications from talented students around the world this year. The University continues to receive substantial increases in both the number and quality of applications year on year. This can be attributed partly to the Hong Kong economy, given that HKU graduates have been virtually 100% employed for the last six consecutive years, a fact that perhaps no other comprehensive university in the world can match. We know that being ranked by the QS World University Rankings as the best university in Asia continues to raise the visibility of HKU across the continent and beyond.”

— Professor John Spinks, Chairman of the University Admissions Committee

Students from nations such as Costa Rica, Mauritius, and Morocco are represented in the undergraduate population this year for the first time. In addition to reaching new regions, HKU’s continual outreach efforts have resulted in students from India, Korea, and Malaysia becoming the largest population of international undergraduates on campus.

HKU has admitted students from Armenia to Zambia.
The Worldwide Exchange programme at HKU continues to be very strong and diverse. HKU proudly facilitated almost 2,000 outgoing student exchanges under this programme during the 2011/12 school year. HKU students have over 270 partner schools in 33 countries to choose from when planning a summer, semester or year-long exchange. These partners include those ranked highest worldwide and/or in their respective countries such as UC Berkeley, Cambridge, Harvard, Imperial College, MIT, Oxford, Princeton, UCL and Yale.

In turn, the vibrant HKU campus atmosphere, English medium courses, diverse student population and high academic standards have attracted over 1,000 students from all over the world to study at HKU during 2011/12. Many of these opted for courses in the Faculty of Business and Economics, which are increasingly attractive as Hong Kong’s importance in Asian finance and business increases.

Joint Research Program with Ivy League Universities

HKU is rapidly developing the experiential components of its undergraduate curriculum. The University encourages students to do research at the undergraduate level, an undertaking usually only carried out by postgraduates in many other universities around the world. Summer research exchanges allow HKU students to undertake individual research projects under the supervision of renowned staff at host institutions such as MIT and Harvard. Science faculty students at HKU can opt for research internships in Stanford, CERN, UC Berkeley, UCLA, Cal Tech, UCL, European Organization for Nuclear Research and other prestigious research institutions, an experience that has considerable added value as they move forward on their post-graduation career path.
Yale Visiting International Students Programme (YVISP)

The latest addition to the host of programmes in place is the Yale Visiting International Students Programme (YVISP), with the first batch of participants set to attend Yale as visiting students this fall. The University of Hong Kong is one of only three partners in the world to be affiliated with the YVISP programme, which began in 2010 as a way to bring more international diversity to the Yale campus.

As this is only the second year of the YVISP programme and HKU’s first year of participation, the relationship between Yale and HKU has developed closely this past year. Intense support came not only from HKU staff, but also from Yale. In spring, the YVISP coordinators at Yale visited HKU to host an orientation for the first YVISP-HKU cohort. Saga McFarland, Journalism student chosen for YVISP, says, "I could not be more excited to be part of HKU’s first group of YVISP students. I really appreciate that while we are visiting students, we will be fully integrated into the Yale community, with the same opportunities and advantages as other Yale students, for example, the ability to take any course we want and access to Yale’s internship database.”

Rachel Leung, a student of Chinese Studies, also found the orientation very useful. Rachel says of the gathering, "YVISP is probably one of the best opportunities HKU has to offer. Students can fully integrate due to various kinds of resources, for instance the peer liaisons and advisors arranged at Yale. The support provided by both HKU and Yale is very heart-warming.”

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Rachel Leung, B.A. Chinese Studies, 2013

Oxford

HKU continues to send undergraduates majoring in Psychology to Wadham College, Oxford for a full year of undergraduate study, generously supported by the Dr Serena Yang scholarships. The ever-increasing numbers of such Oxford scholars met over dinner at the Vice-Chancellor’s Lodge where they exchanged views about how valuable this experience had been in their subsequent career development. This year saw the inauguration of the Dr Walter Kwok scholarships, fully supporting HKU graduates who wish to study for the MPA degree at the new Blavatnik School of Government in Oxford.

Cambridge Junior Year Abroad

HKU also sends students to Cambridge University through a visiting students programme with Fitzwilliam College. Students admitted to Cambridge’s Junior Year Abroad Programme, alongside similar students from MIT, spend the year studying at the college as a full-time undergraduate, with access to all of the college’s resources including the tutorial system.

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Student Support

HKU is committed to making the overall student experience one that will enable each student to fulfill their academic potential. The Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS) helps with all aspects of student life, including orientation, helps with managing finances, support for those with disabilities or psychological distress, and advice on psychosocial adjustment for those new to Hong Kong.

International internships
CEDARS-Careers and Placement at HKU is expanding its support for HKU students by also arranging international internships in addition to its more traditional, and very successful, functions of employers and organizers. Students have worked in Mainland China, Singapore, Japan, London, New York, Vancouver, San Francisco, Washington DC and a host of cities worldwide.

International service learning opportunities
HKU’s Centenary celebrations saw the birth of “Service100”, an enhanced commitment to facilitating students’ service learning opportunities around the world. Whether working with AIDS orphans in Ghana or teaching English in rural village communities in northern India, HKU students are engendering change and building capacity around the world. They are perhaps our best ambassadors, representing the true, spirit and values of HKU. Some students have even set up their own charity organisations, during or after their studies, to continue and develop this work.

iMAP
iMAP, an online social networking platform, was launched to enable students to connect with the HKU community in Hong Kong or abroad. Newly admitted students from outside Hong Kong can open an account and start communicating with fellow HKU students worldwide even before they arrive in Hong Kong.

Global Lounge
The Global Lounge serves as an arena for cultural diversity activities that are increasingly part of HKU life. Following HKU’s continued growth in its international student population, providing a venue for all types of interactions, informal gatherings, and multicultural and international activities such as cultural nights, exhibitions and concerts, the Global Lounge offers a unique experience to HKU students, both local and non-local, and has established itself as a hub of students’ social and cultural life at HKU. There are now over 20 similar “Global Lounges” in universities around the world, and, such is the interest in this concept, HKU has been invited to give presentations on its own Global Lounge to international conferences.

Taster Days
Taster Days is a programme that provides students with the chance to see what university life at HKU is like. In 2012, over 100 students from 10 countries participated in Taster Days offered by the Faculties of Arts, Engineering, Social Sciences and the General Education Unit.

Nationalities of students taking part in the Taster Days Programme, 2012

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<td>Singapore</td>
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<td>Korea</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>8%</td>
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HKU hall life is unlike any other! Each residential hall here is basically like a little community with its own culture, traditions and agenda. In Starr Hall, where I live, for example, each floor has its own name and “personality” – we also have just about every possible club, interest group and team possible: from a cooking club to all kinds of sport teams ... even a band! For me, one of the biggest advantages of joining a hall was the fact that I immediately got to meet lots of different people, and some of them have become my closest friends here.

— Varvara Bortsova, from Russia, studying Journalism
In 2012, the Academy for the Talented admitted 375 students from 42 top schools.

Student Ambassador Scheme

Students volunteer for the Student Ambassador (SA) scheme and are selected through interviews as representatives of HKU. SAs are a fundamental part of the University. They represent HKU at many public events and promotional activities throughout the year such as welcoming orientation camps, student interviews, Information Day, the Study Abroad Fair and alumni outreach.

Enthusiasm and commitment are essential to participants in the SA scheme as their role in school liaison activities can influence prospective secondary school students and their parents in their understanding of the University. Briefing and training sessions for activities are held beforehand and SAs are required to attend these and to prepare for their role and duties.

Apart from helping out with events, HKU Student Ambassadors are a unique resource for new and prospective students. They can offer information on technical matters like course selection or insight into intangible matters, like what life is really like as a HKU student.

Being an SA is an excellent way to sharpen one’s social, communication, presentation and people skills, which has contributed to the increasing popularity of the scheme among HKU students. Aside from the benefits, student ambassadors genuinely enjoy their work, participating in fun events such as the Orientation Camp, Super Pass Dinner and Cultural Exchange Trips.

Meeting of Minds lectures and workshops

Through the Meeting of Minds lecture series, speakers from HKU and other prominent and respected individuals have given talks to talented high school students in Mainland China, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. Some of the lectures are followed by workshops offered by the speaker, where students are selected to work with the academic in his or her laboratory in HKU for a few days.

Academy for the Talented

Outstanding students are recommended by their schools to become Academy members. These students are not only academically strong but also demonstrate leadership in various aspects of school and extracurricular activities.

Academy Members

Yeung Ching Mingme
From HKTA Tang Hin Memorial Secondary School, she is now studying BBA (Law) at HKU.

Ma Ho Yin
From Queen’s College, he achieved extraordinary results in all seven HKDSE subjects and is one of the six students with the highest achievement in the HKDSE exam. He is now studying for Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science at HKU.

Yam Pui Woo Angela
From Maryknoll Convent School, she has been enthusiastically involved in various medical and science related events such as Teenage Orthopod, Dentistry and Oral Health, Medical Summer Broadening Programme and the International Academic Symposium on Applied Neuroscience and Neuropsychology. She is now studying for a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree at HKU.

Academy members get special mentoring from current HKU students to help them with everything from social and personal growth to choice of courses.

CSE is a great motivation to study. After joining this programme, I really wanted to join HKU.

— Ken Chiu BED (LibSci), Year 4, CSE Participant (2008), Co-Fellow (2010), Programme Assistant (2011)

Summer Programmes

HKU Summer Programmes offer a wide range of courses for both local and non-local students who are keen to pursue a specific field of study at HKU. Here they can get a taste of world-class university life and experience the unique culture of the University. Courses are run for local and non-local undergraduates as well as high school students in subjects ranging from architecture and economics to engineering and journalism.

There is also the Summer School for Effective Leadership, which aims to enhance leadership skills for a group of bright students. The Crimson Summer Exchange (CSE) is an academic and cultural exchange programme providing a unique platform for high school students to meet and interact with a group of young scholars from world-renowned universities such as Harvard, Yale, Cambridge, Oxford, Princeton, MIT, etc.
The work of the ALS of the Registry – like that of the rest of the University – prioritises developing HKU’s visibility and reputation, rather than directly recruiting students to HKU. Students can, with a better understanding of the University, then decide for themselves whether they wish to apply to HKU. From this perspective, it is not surprising that the outreach activities of HKU, across many units, in various countries, cover a variety of functions and goals. The diversity and quality of the student body is certainly one of these goals and HKU’s staff work on engagement with international communities, outreach activities for special sections of these communities, collaboration with tertiary institutions and secondary schools around the world, particularly in Asia, and international knowledge exchanges. All these activities overlap and help to enhance HKU’s global presence.

In the sections that follow, the recent outreach activities of the ALS are summarised, with, in the case of each country, some specific examples of the collaborations developed or developing there.

HKU’s engagement with Mainland China is long-running and deep and although it is only possible within this publication to highlight some of the more recent and significant events and partnerships, they are in line with the original mission and vision of HKU back in 1912, when the University was founded – “for China, for Hong Kong and for the World”.

The Shenzhen Institute of Research and Innovations and the HKU Zhejiang Institute of Research and Innovations were established in recent years to foster much closer collaboration with the government, industry, education and research communities on the Mainland. They play an important role in transferring science and technology from HKU to the Mainland, promoting high technology, knowledge transfer, industry incubation, through state key laboratories and research centres.

Perhaps the most significant of HKU’s collaborations took place in 2012, when the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital was opened. Situated in the Shenzhen Bay area, this is an integrated public hospital that encompasses health care, education and scientific research. The hospital is financed by the Shenzhen Municipal Government, and managed by the University of Hong Kong. With a total investment of approximately HK$4 billion, the hospital has a total land area of 192,000m² and a construction area of 367,000m², and will host 20 medical centres, including general practice and specialist outpatient clinics.

HKU was particularly pleased in 2012 to initiate the HKU-China 1,000 Exchange Programme. At the University’s Centenary Ceremony, Vice Premier Li Keqiang announced that the central government would set up a dedicated fund to support 1,000 HKU teachers and students to visit the Mainland every year. The fund is aimed at facilitating the development of even deeper collaborations between HKU and Mainland universities, by way of student exchange programmes, research scholarships, experiential learning opportunities and social service practices for HKU students and staff in the Mainland’s educational sectors.
India

HKU expanded its student recruitment activities beyond Mainland China (started in 1999) and East Asia (2006 onwards) to South Asia in 2006. The number of applications from India has been increasing at an average rate of over 75% year-on-year since 2008.

A number of factors make HKU a popular choice for Indian students in particular – there is a severe shortage of tertiary education institutions locally, the increasing per capita GDP allows more students to seek education abroad, Hong Kong is relatively clean and safe, and there is an already well-established Indian business community in Hong Kong. Indeed, HKU was supported in its infancy by a significant donation from a Parsee gentleman, Sir Homrujse Nowrojee Mody.

HKU has adopted a strategy of engagement with carefully chosen leading secondary schools in India. One of its first partner schools was Delhi Public School R.K. Puram, one of the country’s most respected high schools. More recently, HKU has had large numbers of applications from the Doon School, called one of the “Eton’s of the east”, in perhaps the same spirit as HKU has been called the “Harvard of Asia”! Doon School alumni (or “Doscos”, as they are called) abound in Hong Kong’s business and diplomatic communities, amongst others.

In 2010, HKU planned and led a delegation of senior government officials and the other universities to India, paving the way to help the overall development of ties between the two territories. This year, ALS joined hands with the Graduate School to extend HKU’s outreach in India to the highly respected colleges such as Lady Sri Ram, the Sri Ram College of Commerce, and Miranda House of the University of Delhi, the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, the Indian Institute for Science, and colleges of the University of Bangalore, to further enhance the visibility of the University for potential postgraduate recruitment. A similar sharing of intelligence and activities is taking place in Indonesia.

Students from India make up the majority of the new HKU student cricket team, which formed in 2012, and was promoted to the first division of the Hong Kong cricket league in its first season.

Indonesia

HKU’s presence in Indonesia has been steadily growing. The number of students accepted each year has increased exponentially – the University admitted three Indonesian students in 2009 and the number has risen to 18 in 2012. HKU appeals to Indonesian students, offering them an outstanding international education not far from home, at a comparatively low tuition fee with generous scholarships.

HKU has developed its presence in Indonesia by attending school fairs, giving talks and visiting various top schools in cities like Jakarta and Bandung.

In 2011, HKU attended the International Baccalaureate (IB) Theory of Knowledge Conference for the Indonesian IB schools network at the British International School, Jakarta. The conference provided a good opportunity for HKU to extend its school network and raise awareness. Since the conference, HKU’s relationship with schools in Indonesia has been strengthened.

In an exciting collaboration with Indonesian students, the Consultative General of Indonesia in Hong Kong and Garuda Indonesia Airlines (Indonesia’s national airline), HKU’s Global Lounge team organised a successful event titled “Indonesia Culture & Tourism Night” held in April 2012. More than 150 people attended the event, with one lucky audience member receiving a free round-trip ticket to Jakarta.

HKU opens up opportunities that I never thought I could get previously. The standards set by fellow classmates unavoidably push you to new limits in a survival of the fittest. This aspect of University life helps you to mature and become competent professionals in whichever field you wish to pursue after graduation.”

— Felix Leonard Liauw, Alumnus of Bina Bangsa School
HKU can trace back its relationship with the Malay States and Straits Settlements to the early 1900s. One of HKU’s graduates from the 1930s has recently published a book detailing memoirs of his HKU days. Although admission of undergraduate international students lapsed between the 1950s and the end of the last century, new admissions began in 2006, and at present applications and enrolments from Malaysia to HKU are amongst the highest of any country or nationality. There is an extensive programme of school visits and fairs, where potential students are introduced to the educational opportunities of HKU.

Malaysia

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Malaysian Students at HKU: Total–196; UG–124

Breakdown across faculties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Economics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
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<td>Science</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Myanmar

For the last few years, HKU and Thaybay Education Network have collaborated on a programme to enable students from Myanmar to obtain jointly-funded full undergraduate scholarships to obtain a bachelor’s degree at HKU. This programme provides opportunities for high quality undergraduate study in fields relevant to the sustainable and peaceful development of Myanmar, for young scholars who demonstrate both academic and personal excellence and potential to become leaders, decision-makers and agents of change.

Since 2010, most of the students have entered the Faculty of Social Sciences, with one studying in the Faculty of Business and Economics.

Recent world events continue to add to HKU’s growing collaboration with this country. In 2011, HKU chaired a live interview broadcast with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. In 2012, in recognition of her commitment to a non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights, HKU conferred upon Daw Aung San Suu Kyi the degree of Doctor of Laws – honoris causa.

The Migrant Outreach Education Initiative (MOEI), run by the Faculty of Social Sciences and led by Professor Ian Holliday, has helped initiate contact with missions working with students ready for undergraduate studies in Myanmar. MOEI was initially formed to provide intensive English-language education for migrant children and adults from Burma located along the Moei River section of the Thai-Burma border. Additional launch arms were to boost external engagement with Burma and to promote Burma advocacy.

The initial programme has spawned other MOEI programmes in Cambodia, Laos, Mainland China, and Hong Kong. Students teaching on the programme have a commitment to development issues or human rights problems, and devote considerable energy to preparing and delivering classes in settings that are often difficult and always under-resourced. Yet students reflect on the immense rewards that come from MOEI teaching – for some it is a life-changing experience.
HKU began its relationship with Pakistan through school and university visits in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad in 2006. Since then, there have been visits by students returning to their alma maters, and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan has webpages devoted to HKU and its scholarship system on its website, which has encouraged hundreds of applications to HKU.

HKU has worked further to develop close partnerships with top-tier schools, including Karachi Grammar School, Lahore Grammar School, Aitchison College and Beacon House, through email contact with both staff and students. The majority of enrolled students from Pakistan come from these schools, and the number of applications continues to rise – Pakistan is one of the fastest growing countries for HKU student applications and admissions.

In February 2012, HKU signed an MOU with Moscow State University to further greater collaboration and student exchange. Moscow State University is one of the world’s most highly respected universities, with a long history of renowned professors and alumni. This year will see students from the Faculty of Global Studies attend HKU for the first time.

Varvara Bortsova is a HKU Journalism undergraduate from Russia, who was not just academically qualified for admission to HKU, but was a world-class ballerina in Russia. She toured around the world with the Moscow City Ballet, and was the principal ballerina in a number of productions, before turning her talents back to more academic pursuits.

Michael Godin was born in Russia, brought up in Germany and educated in Japan, before arriving at HKU. Before he had graduated from HKU, he had set up his own company bringing Russian, German and/or Chinese businesses together in collaborative ventures. To some extent, his entrepreneurial spirit mirrors that of Hong Kong, while his facilitation of international collaboration encapsulates some of HKU’s internationalisation goals!

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The University of Hong Kong
Global Admissions Profile

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Top Schools

Karachi Grammar School (KGS) is an independent, English-medium school in Karachi. It is a highly selective, coeducational day school (formerly day/boarding school) serving approximately 2,400 students aged between 3–19 years.

Established in 1847 by the Reverend Henry Brereton, the first chaplain of Karachi, as a school for “English and Anglo-Indo children”, KGS is the oldest private school in Pakistan and the second oldest in the Indian Subcontinent and is a member of the Winchester International Symposium. KGS is well known for the academic performance of its students, who have managed to secure places in top universities around the world.

Lahore Grammar School (LGS) is an elite private fee-paying group of academic preparatory institutions. LGS was established in 1979 at its 55 Main Gulberg campus in Lahore. The institution provides education to both boys and girls until A Level. The LGS College for Women offers a degree programme in arts and sciences as well as a bachelor’s degree in computers. LGS has branches in several cities including Islamabad, Karachi and Faisalabad.

LGS provides preschool education, primary education, secondary education and preparation for International General Certificate of Education (IGCSE) examinations. Some branches also provide preparation for local Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations.

Russia

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HKU has seen a rapid growth of the Korean student population since the first visit to Korea in 2009, before which no more than ten students had been admitted to the University. Annual school visits and seminar talks at well-known and exceptional high schools in South Korea have helped increase the number of Korean students admitted to 111 in 2012 alone, making it one of the biggest international student populations on campus.

Typically, Korean students have been very interested in Business and Finance related programmes. In the most recent years, a growing number of applicants to the Faculty of Social Sciences has been observed.

With this rapid expansion in the number of Korean students on campus, a Korean student association has been set up by some enthusiastic students. Regular gatherings have also been organised, including a pre-departure gathering with newly admitted students from Korea in late August 2012.

Partner Schools
Daewon Foreign Language High School (DFLS) has been sending a large number of applications to HKU. In 2012, 12 students were admitted. With the curriculum centred on the specialised education of various European and Asian languages, DFLS graduates achieved remarkably high SAT scores for their application to HKU.

Korean Minjok Leadership Academy (KMLA) is a co-educational, independent boarding high school and is one of the most highly selective and renowned high schools in Korea. Three KMLA graduates were admitted to HKU in 2012. KMLA is, like DFLS, an International Leaders of Tomorrow (ILOT) partner institution.

Hanyoung Foreign Language High School is another ILOT partner school. In 2010, the size of the Overseas Study Programme class was expanded and an increasing number of students are applying to attend HKU. Students and counsellors from ILOT schools have been invited to join Open Day, Taster Days and various programmes, to gain better understanding of the University. Three counsellors and ten students from Korean schools were invited to and welcomed at our Taster Days 2012.

Hankuk Academy of Foreign Studies and Cheongshim International are two more recently established schools with which HKU collaborates, since the academic achievement standards of the students has been shown to be very high.
Since 2009, HKU has visited Sri Lanka and established relationships with many schools and counsellors. In 2011, HKU organised a Meeting of Minds lecture in Sri Lanka to help high school students learn more about HKU’s research laboratories and work. Professor Malik Peiris from the Faculty of Medicine, who is a Sri Lankan and widely known across the world, talked about his research on emerging infectious diseases in Sri Lanka, about Oxford and HKU, and about his role in identifying the SARS virus in 2003. The lecture raised HKU’s visibility in Sri Lanka considerably, with TV coverage by Rupuwahini Corporation and SFP, and print coverage from seven newspapers. Following this success, HKU invited the schools and their students to the Taster Days programme, and they were able to work in the laboratories of Professor Peiris, as well as in other labs in the Institute of Human Performance and the Science faculty.

Examples
Elizabeth Mor School
This school is run by qualified and experienced British and international educators and provides education for girls and boys aged 2–19. Its Principal was a teacher at Diocesan Girls’ School (Hong Kong) before heading to Sri Lanka. The School has numerous students now studying at HKU – one recently won an entrepreneurship award from the South China Morning Post for his work in devising a way of measuring the “hotness” of chillies, a subject clearly linked to the cuisine of his home culture!

Gateway College
Gateway College has recently expanded to four campuses across the country, has achieved remarkable success academically in helping some of its students obtain the top scores in the world in various subjects, and, last but not least, has had considerable success in its students’ applications to HKU.

Taiwan
HKU started to admit students from Taiwan in 2009. The number of applicants has been steadily increasing – in 2012, it was double that of 2011. The University now undertakes regular trips to the territory, visiting 15 schools last year, and giving talks on educational opportunities in HKU to literally thousands of students in total. Applicants are interviewed by HKU faculty members in Taiwan around the time of the release of their high school leaving examination (GSAT - 大學學科能力測驗 – General Scholastic Ability Test) results. In 2011, HKU admitted three of the top scorers (GSAT 75 out of 75) from Taiwan, two of whom were from the same school, the National Changhua Senior High School, and the third from Changhua Girls Senior High School. Two of the three full scorers are now studying in the Faculty of Business and Economics.

Partner Schools
Taipei Municipal Chien Kuo High School (CKHS)
Founded in 1898, CKHS is the first public high school in Taiwanese history. As one of the most prestigious schools in Taiwan, this all-boys school has over a 100-year-old history and is famous for its alumni, including two Nobel Prize winners, as well as the extraordinary academic performance of students in the General Scholastic Ability Test (GSAT). HKU’s collaboration with the school is consolidated by student and school counsellor visits to HKU-initiated programmes such as Information Day and Taster Days.

Taipei First Girls’ High School (TFGHS)
TFGHS is one of the most renowned all-girls high schools in Taiwan. Established in 1904, this school has had more than 60,000 graduates, many of whom have been admitted to top universities in Taiwan such as National Taiwan University as well as top universities overseas. Its alumni have been active in different sectors of society and the world, and have included fellows of United States National Academy of Sciences, Taiwanese local politicians as well as the Chinese novelist San Mao. Like CKHS, this school is a partner school of HKU, and has recommended many of its best students for admission to HKU.
In 2012, a dinner hosted by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London helped to establish links with Principals of selected leading schools in the UK. This was prompted by the increasing number of Hong Kong parents wishing to send their children abroad, with the goal of later applying to overseas universities, and in many cases, HKU. In 2012, there were over 2,000 applications to HKU from students at school or university in the UK, HKU has recently given a number of talks at UK boarding schools, particularly those that recruit students from Hong Kong and Mainland China, including the following.

Examples

Wellington College
This 150-year-old school, where over 91% of candidates achieved A and B grades at A-Level, sent four applications to HKU in 2012. Its renowned Headmaster, author and commentator Dr Anthony Seldon, subsequently made reference in The Telegraph newspaper in the UK to the competition that HKU was providing for UK universities.

Roedean School
Roedean has been one of the UK’s most respected boarding schools for girls since its foundation in the 1800s, with many of its students going on to Oxford and Cambridge. Today over 60% of the school’s students are international, including several from Hong Kong and Mainland China. In 2012, there were 28 applicants to HKU, around 50% of whom received offers of admission, an astoundingly high rate for HKU.