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BRILLIANT MINDS

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AUG 2014



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University Rankings, 2013, The University of Hong Kong (HKU) is ranked 26th in the world, and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) comes in 34th.

Whether on the mainland or in Hong Kong, these universities also support international academic collaboration and student exchange. Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), for example, has 239 partners in 35 countries.

For students considering further education in Hong Kong or on the mainland, Susie makes an important distinction. "Universities here and in Asia are more focused on the academic side, whereas universities in Western countries hold a more holistic view."

Gonen, then, is enrolling either at HKUST or The University of Nottingham Ningbo on the mainland. "I want to become more proficient in Chinese and learn about business in China and Asia, so the best place for me to be is in Hong Kong or China," he says. Gonen is also looking at some overseas study: "I want to go on an exchange programme and meet new people with different perspectives. The internships that are part of the course will also be a good experience, helping me understand the job, and the job market."

Natalie, who is also planning to sign up for an exchange student programme overseas, will start her studies at HKUST in the autumn. "I can't wait to dive underwater and learn about rare species," she says.

Wherever it is, university is a place where students pave the path into their future careers. It is a place for personal development and stimulation, where independent living is truly experienced. Students in Discovery Bay have a wide range of global choices. We wish them a fruitful and enjoyable journey! **B**

Are you applying for university in 2015?

Here are some top tips from Dion Chen, principal of YMCA of Hong Kong Christian College, www.ymcacc.edu.hk.

- 1 There's no doubt you'll get a wider world view by studying overseas. If this is something you would like, and you have your parents' support, look into your options.
- 2 Do you want to study in a country, like the UK, US or Australia, where you will be taught in English? Or do you hope to experience another language, such as Japanese, German, French or Spanish?
- 3 Whether you hope to study in Hong Kong or overseas, it's essential to choose the right course. Consider what your main interest is, and whether you would want to work in this field after graduation.
- 4 Be realistic about your grades. Apply to the highest ranked universities only if your grades are in the top 5 to 10%.
- 5 Always have a Plan B in case your results are not as good as you expected. As a standby, apply to non-government subsidised universities and community colleges, and for some associated degree courses and diploma courses.

DB and Lantau students who are applying to universities in 2015 will also want to head to the University Fair being held on September 26 at Discovery College. Find out more on page 10, or at www.discovery.edu.hk.

Mainland opportunities

Universities around the globe are starting to establish their presence on the mainland. This includes well reputed, full-degree awarding campuses such as The University of Nottingham Ningbo, which, in 2004, was the first Sino-foreign university to open its doors on the mainland.

New York University (NYU) opened a portal campus in Shanghai, NYU Shanghai, in September of last year, offering liberal arts degrees across 13 possible majors to 300 inaugural freshmen. Over the next few years this number will increase to an estimated 2,000 undergraduates.

Technion Guangdong Institute of Technology (TGIT), a Technion University (Israel) campus in Shantou City, Guangdong, is another interesting option. The university will start operating in 2015, initially teaching Chemical, Environmental and Civil Engineering.

In addition, many big-name universities, such as Johns Hopkins University, Manchester Business School and Duke Kunshan University, are opening centres and research institutes on the mainland or already offer limited programmes.

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