



# MISSION

## 明志

### Issue 1

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Career and Life Planning Team

## 刊物內容簡介



此刊物由學校生涯規劃組負責編制，主要讓德信中學同學可以通過文字了解多一點生涯規劃的概念，以及升學、就業資訊。是書與坊間林林總總的升學書刊不同之處，在於內容、資料及觀點均與德信中學的師生關係密切。期望當中親切感能幫助大家帶來更真摯、切身的升學就業觀點。

以本創刊號內容為例，題為「海外升學」。我希望同學接觸的並非只是冷冰冰的升學資料、數字，或是陌生人的升學感受，而是大家認識的德信師兄的真實情感。當中包括他們在海外學習的獲益與得著，也有他們需要面對和克服的困難。字裡行間可見師兄毫不吝嗇地分享到海外升學的準備方法，值得所有同學一看。

以我觀察，海外升學最重要的考慮點是訂立目標，即負笈海外可以為大家帶來獲得甚麼正面影響。也許是擴闊視野、體驗外國文化，也許是訓練外語能力，也許是考取專業資格。無論如何，目

標的本質必須是正面而積極的，同學才可以更認真學習和探索。

相反，有些同學選擇海外升學的原因，可能只為逃避本地的考試壓力，或單純認為外地的學習必定較容易、簡單。我不禁懷疑抱著這種心態的同學能夠成功適應海外環境。

當然海外升學同時間也要考慮學制、院校排名、學費、收生要求、學術水平、以至課程認受性、師生比例及設施等種種因素，但更重要的是同學認識自己的能力、性格、興趣及工作夢想。所謂知己知彼（院校及課程資訊），然後再找出最適合的選擇。過程中亦要細心聆聽及分析不同人士的意見。

一般做法是按照升學目標，先選國家及城市，然後再根據自己意願，選擇適合的科目，再尋找能力上可以入讀的院校及課程。如當中有任何困難，可隨時尋求生涯規劃組老師的意見。

海外升學只是升學及就業的其中一個範疇。在生涯規劃中，同學還會遇上很多不同的議題，期望日後有機會在本刊物中與大家分享。

生涯規劃組

吳寶城老師

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## Studying in Switzerland

### --- Michael Cheung



Through studying abroad, we have the opportunity to study in a foreign country and take in the culture of a new place. And I think it is the best way to challenge ourselves.

I graduated from Tak Sun Secondary School in 2013. I am a second year student. I am now studying my bachelor degree in hospitality management in Swiss Hotel Management School located at Caux, Switzerland.

Studying hospitality management in Switzerland brings me unforgettable experience. Living in a place that is well known for chocolate, clocks, mountains and fondue, located at the heart of Europe, sandwiched between Austria, France, Germany and Italy. I can

make a list about how great Switzerland is.

### *The most beneficial part of my overseas study*

The most beneficial experience would be having a chance of language learning -

not only improving my English, but also studying a foreign language. Studying abroad grants me the opportunity to completely immerse myself in a new language environment. And there is no better way than to dive right in. In my case, my university offers different



language courses to go beyond a purely academic experience as Switzerland has four national languages, which are German, French, Italian and Romansh. And I chose French. In addition, I find that there is nothing better than learning



language with the native speakers. I just get it in day-to-day life and it is very useful to polish up my language.

### **Experience in Internship**

Besides, we are required to do two 5-6 months internship programs within our three-year course. And I chose to work as a bartender during my last internship in Scotland. I am glad to be able to experience the international business



**My friends and I are having dinner at the French restaurant in our school.**

### **What to consider**

To be well-prepared for studying abroad, you should do some research on your destination's local customs, culture, and people. By knowing even briefly your soon-to-be home's culture, geography, policies, your overseas experience will be much enriched and your time spent far more meaningfully.

Moreover, the most important thing to do is to be psychologically and mentally prepared. While studying abroad, you will definitely encounter people with different concepts of time and personal space. Be ready to learn and observe these differences instead of being



**We were the volunteers in the second year banquet and the couple in front of us was the banquet manager.**

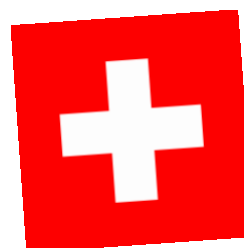
world and know more about the hotel industry. I have also made a lot of new friends. I am sure that this exposure will definitely be advantageous to my career path.

judgmental. Take this opportunity to learn about new cultures.

**The earlier, the better**

As students, we are young and fairly unattached. When weighing the costs against the benefits, consider whether you'll have a similar opportunity to travel abroad in the future. Now is the ideal time to go.

In spite of the many reasons to consider studying abroad, keep in mind the possible challenges and expenses, and carefully weigh your options before making a final decision.



## **Studying in the UK**

### **--- Wu Pokki**

Studying in the UK is unimaginably fantastic! Together with the learning experience in universities, students enjoy a fruitful social life with their counterparts around the world. Having said that, some students may encounter difficulties during their stay, such as cultural shock and feeling home sick.

### **Preparation work**

Before you leave Hong Kong, there are a couple of things to prepare. The most important thing should be the student VISA. Your university should offer help for your visa application. However, you will have to make your own way to British Council to get your application done. This should be done as soon as the university offer is out as it takes quite a while. Most universities in the UK have their own Hong Kong student societies. They are quite likely to hold a ‘meet and greet’ during summer in the UK. That will offer you a good opportunity to know some friends before you head to the UK.

## **Language barrier**

For the first few weeks upon your arrival, you may encounter language barrier. Although you are from an English speaking secondary school, it is hard to communicate properly with local students due to their accents and talking speed. My advice is: Talk to them anyway! No matter how difficult it is, try to express yourself. You will get rid of the language barrier after a few weeks’ practice.

Good communication is essential to your university life. And most importantly, it will get you through your coursework. Universities in the UK tend to give students quite a lot of group projects. And you just cannot escape from working with local students. Therefore, you must have a good command of the English language.

### **Engage into social life!**

To make the most of your overseas studies, my advice is to engage into social life.



Universities offer you a wide range of student societies. There is no harm to participate in it and try something new. If you are living in dormitory, there will be probably quite a lot of house parties and night-out events. It is up to you to engage in it or not, but it is definitely a precious opportunity to improve your English with fun and make some new friends, so why not?

### **Procrastination can be fatal!**

Universities in the UK usually have two semesters, basically from September to December and January to End of March. In the first few weeks of each semester, there is not much work to do and usually no coursework to be due. Students tend

to be laid-back during these periods. However, when it comes towards the end of semesters, it is quite likely that the workload will suddenly increase by quite a lot while you also have to revise for your mid-term and final exam. It is a good practice to manage your time well. Try to balance your work-play time. Avoid doing your coursework or writing up your essay in the last minute!





## **Studying in Australia**

### **--- Atticus Ma**

Hey! Tak Sun boys! My name is Atticus, a 2010-TSSS graduate. Shortly after my high school graduation, I moved to Sydney to pursue my veterinary career. I am currently in my fourth year study of the Bachelor of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney. Thanks to the invitation from my former class tutor, Mr. John Chi. It is my honour to write this letter sharing my overseas experience with you all.

### **My life in veterinary school**

Believe me or not, I am writing this letter before my classes begin this morning.

The life in veterinary school is full of challenges. It is both physically and mentally demanding. You have to be disciplined and dedicated to get through it. Unlike normal university students, a hectic schedule and an immense amount of workload here would bury you completely sometimes. For example, a typical BA student has 12 contact hours per week, but a veterinary student has about 32 contact hours per week. Besides, you have to work in a dirty environment

frequently, such as performing pregnancy diagnostic tests in cows (which simply means you are covered in manure!). I have a responsibility to advise anyone who are interested in becoming a veterinarian, think twice before you



decide to get into this career path.

Despite the tough life in the school, studying veterinary medicine is really



fascinating. It is a meaningful profession as you learn how to treat animals and save their lives. You may see different kinds of animals, ranging from

domestic animals like dogs and cats to wildlife animals such as koalas and giraffes! Also, you would never forget the first time you deliver a calf and complete a solo surgery successfully. These experiences are memorable and making the effort all worthwhile.

### **Getting mentally prepared**

Living away from home has its pros and cons. The most obvious advantage is freedom. You may make your own decision and no one would say a word to you (unless you make trouble and you tell someone afterwards). However, freedom also means independence. You have to look after yourself no matter what happens. It is your responsibility to deal with your OWN accommodation, meals, laundry, transportation, and tons of things you could imagine. No one would help you out. If you do not know how to take care of yourself properly, you'd better learn it and be prepared before you go overseas.

Also, studying overseas means a huge expense. It is a good idea to start managing your own finance and keep track of what you have spent on. "Do not waste your parents' money!" is one thing you should always keep in mind as well.

Sometimes it is easy to overspend as there are some unexpected expenses. So, planning your budget is something important to learn. Trust me, you do not want to be starved at the end of the month because you are broke.

### **Mute or talkative?**



Language barrier is a hindrance to most international students. It stops you from assimilating into a different culture. Usually, there are two types of international students. They are either mute or talkative. Being mute does not mean you are literally speechless, but speak in your mother tongue only. It is totally understandable that international students do miss home and tend to group together to gain a bit of security and a sense of home. There is nothing wrong with it. You can meet really good friends from the same hometown, share a good time together and help each other when

someone is in trouble. However, if you want to improve your English (or the second language you have to use overseas), you need to step out from this comfort zone once you have settled down. Feeling hesitant to speak in your second language and remaining speechless would not help you at all. This is not a good sign as you may feel isolated easily and have a higher risk of poor academic performance.

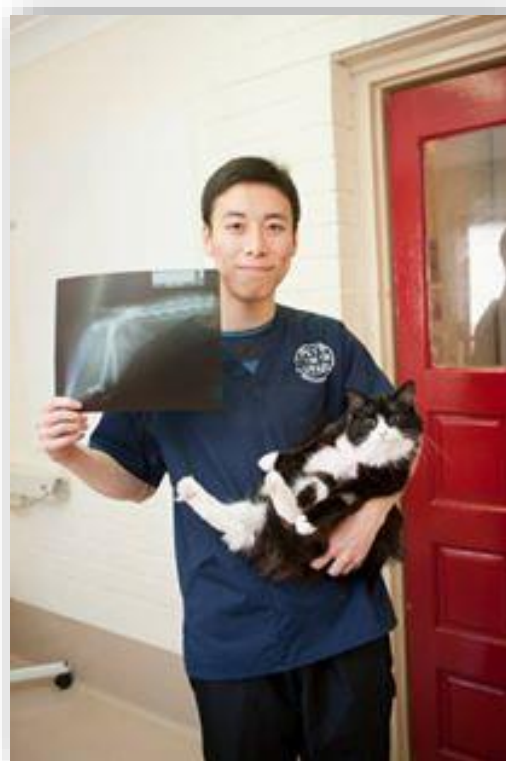
Communication is extremely important in university life, especially if you study a professional degree (for example, occupational therapy, law and veterinary medicine). A high proportion of assessments require group work. And it is essential that you are able to communicate fluently with your clients and supervisors. Without fluent communication skills, it is difficult to survive.

### **Reach out!**

Practice makes perfect. Do not be afraid and just talk to someone whenever you can. You may get a part time job. For example, volunteer for some non-profit organizations or join some social events organized by university societies. Any of them would enrich your social life and

enhance your communication skills. One of the goals as an international student is to experience different cultures. If you do not communicate with locals or people from other countries, you would possibly just remain unchanged even if you have spent a few years overseas. So, what is the point to study abroad, right?

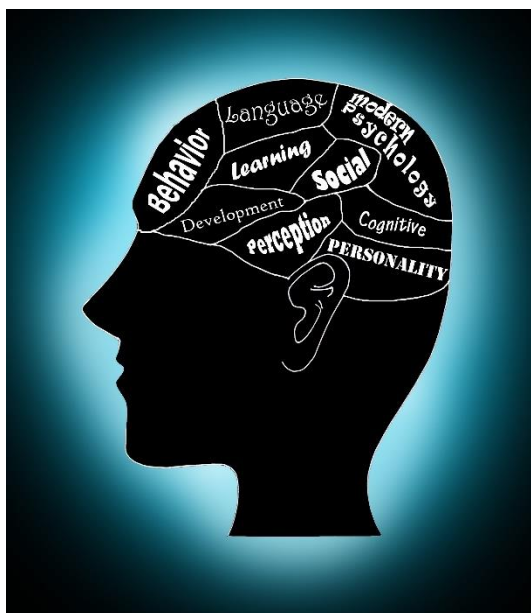
Lastly, keep your mind wide open and learn as much as you can. This helps you to overcome the cultural shock and make you a better person. I hope my experience gives you a glimpse of what life might be like as an international student. Good luck and study hard!



## My Campus Life in Wales

### --- Horace Tong

I am currently studying in Bangor University in Wales, UK. I am a year-two psychology undergraduate right now and going for the last year in the coming

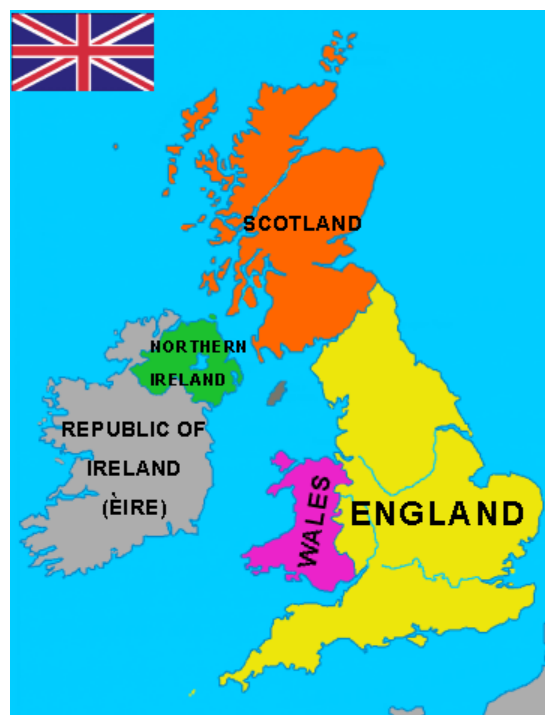


September. Life is quite boring in this little town, to be honest. However, it does some good to my studies due to the lack of entertainment. There are not many Hong Kong students studying here, consequently, forcing me to communicate and interact more with the locals, which is good in a way. School is a bit more interesting instead. Since I am studying psychology, it is very fun to participate and design some experiments,

especially those which aim at tricking human minds.

### What do you need to prepare?

Actually a lot. First, you need to sit the HKDSE (attain a good one result, I mean), and the IELTS. Besides, you also need to do a lot of researches and prepare a budget. There are tons of universities in the UK, and it is very important that you



find the right one. Obviously, many people would look at the ranking of a university and make decisions on that. (Try search The Complete University Guide/The Guardian Uni Guide (for UK) or Times Uni Guide). As a matter of fact, it is much more than that. Different universities will have different



expectations on their students. For instance, the school of psychology in Bangor University is research-based teaching, meaning that the school is aiming to educate academic researchers.

After you have done your research, it is a good start to sit the IELTS, as it provides a good indication for the university on your English level (and I think it is easier than HKDSE English). Different Universities have different requirements, but typically an overall 6.5 will suffice. Let's say a uni has accepted you for admission. You will need to get your student visa done and also prepare yourself both mentally and physically. Go pack your things, get your parents ready for the money and say goodbye to your comfort zone.

**What have I gained after spending some years in the UK?**

First of all, my English has improved a bit. After staying in an environment that I have no choice but to communicate in English, I am forced to improve your use of English. Besides, I am trained to conduct research, to design and

administer experiments. Furthermore, living by myself means that I have to learn how to take care of myself. Getting into a completely new environment also enhances my social skills and expands my social network. Working and communicating with people from different countries and backgrounds also let me know more about foreign cultures.



“A Christian Gentlemen with a global outlook” seems to make sense, finally.

## **My Campus Life in Bristol**

### **--- Edwin Fung**

I feel very privileged to share my experience from studying in the UK with my fellow schoolmates as an alumnus. I am studying physiological science at the University of Bristol. Time flies like a space shuttle. I graduated from Tak Sun in 2013. It is now my second year in the UK.

#### **A new opportunity, a new horizon**

Looking back, I had been keen on studying human biology since Form 4 and I wanted to pick a career related to human biology. Biomedical science used to be the only subject that I was interested in. Biomedical science is known as the advanced level of human biology, which covers anatomy, physiology, neuroscience as well as pharmacology.

However, the harsh reality is that only HKU offers this course at the undergraduate level. And my HKDSE results were not competitive enough. I ended up with no offers for any life science courses in JUPAS. Then, I decided to have my tertiary education in

the UK. Surprisingly, there were two Tak Sun boys admitted to the same school in Sheffield. We completed the foundation course together and progressed to tertiary education a year after. We are now studying at three different universities.

#### **A faster track to graduation?**

All roads lead to Rome. Tertiary education in Hong Kong is not always the way out for DSE students. Studying overseas seems to be a good alternative. You can either get straight into university or through a year of foundation course if the result is not competitive enough.

Some people are intrigued to know why I picked Great Britain instead of other countries for study. There are a few reasons why I chose the UK. HKDSE results got a world-wide recognition. Its qualification is even higher than the UK A-levels. Moreover, the duration of an honour undergraduate's degree is three years. In contrast, those in Hong Kong and other foreign countries normally take four years. Studying in the UK provides a faster track to graduation. The UK owns a wide variety of top-notch universities in the world. Many of them

were established before the First World War. They have a solid reputation and world-class research facilities. In addition, most foundation courses in the UK have a high progression rate after successful completion. Foundation courses can be described as ‘Pre-University’, which is quite similar to a Higher Diploma or Associate Degree in Hong Kong. The duration of a foundation course will usually be 2-3 semesters. Students will acquire a wide variety of academic skills as well as fundamental knowledge about their desired subjects.



### **Learning takes place**

Studying in the UK not only improves my English, but also broadens my horizons. For science subjects, students are normally taught through lectures, practicals and tutorials. In tutorials, students are divided into small groups. This enables us to interact with our coursemates. It is the

best time to practise our English. Tutorials also offer the best chances to consolidate what we have learnt in the lectures. Language barrier may hinder a freshman from fully understanding what the British are saying. They are quite chatty though. Try to hang out with them beyond lesson time. Don't just act like an introvert, staying in your room for the rest

of the time.

Otherwise, you can't meet some friends and practise your English. British and other European students are

*Celebrating the Lunar New Year with my flatmates, we ordered some Chinese foods. Literally, they know a couple of Chinese cuisine such as 'Ho fan' and 'Chow min'.*

approachable and not ostentatious, they are pleased to chat with you. Be confident! Just speak as much as you can.

**What should you prepare?**

You need to prepare a lot before commencing your study in the UK. First, it is vital to do some ‘research’ for your desired universities and subjects you are passionate about. Otherwise, you will be unfamiliar with your subjects and you will definitely find the following three years at the university excruciating. Educational agents play a key role in managing your applications as well as giving you some professional advice on your choices. In order to show that your English level meets the collegial standard, it is crucial to take the IELTS and get your results ready before you hand in your application.

**Success means dedication**

Where there is a will, there is a way. I hope you find my sharing useful while considering tertiary education in the UK. Finally, I wish all candidates the best of luck in the HKDSE exam with results of flying colours.



## **Studying in Canada**

### **---Chris Kum**



Campus life in Canada is terrific! In universities, students can use electronic devices in class. Besides, the class sizes are also different. The first lecture that I had in my university was remarkable. I can still remember that the first class I had in University of Toronto was a class size of 1,500 students in the convocation hall. The lecture hall was full of students!

### **Leadership training**

Hong Kong students rarely have chances to develop their leadership skills. However, in Canada, universities programs furnish leadership skills training. Not only students can organize

clubs and activities, there are also courses which introduce students to work in companies as trainees. For instance, in University of Toronto, there is a course called Entrepreneur and Innovation. At the end of the course, every group of students have to come up with a business idea and present it to the other groups. If the course instructor finds the idea feasible and that it deserves a chance of further development, the university might let the group try it out and provide them with financial support.



### **Specific academic entry requirements**

Universities in Canada have their specific academic admission requirements, especially in English proficiency tests. Most of the top-notched universities in Canada have extremely high entrance qualifications. For example, University

of Toronto requires high scores in the HKDSE and IELTS. In other words, direct entry is not easy. Therefore, I now present you an alternative pathway.

### **Transferring Between Universities in Canada**

No matter which university a student has entered, as long as the Grade Point Average (GPA) attained satisfies the desired university's requirement, the student can still be transferred to the desired university, which can be of a higher ranking. Taking my case as an example, after graduating from secondary school, I did not reach the entry requirements for any top-ranking universities in Canada. As a result, I chose a non-top ranking university in a small town in order to get a good GPA. After attaining a high GPA, I applied for various top ranking universities that I preferred. I, fortunately, got accepted by all of them. Finally, I chose University of Toronto because the program they offered me was what I preferred most.

### **TOEFL and IELTS**

Similar to other overseas institutions, most of the Canadian institutions also require an English placement test.

TOFEL and IELTS are generally acceptable. Most of the Canadian



institutions generally require IELTS score with no less than 6.5 overall, and all components must be higher than a 6.0. However, this is the minimum entry requirement, and it is better to obtain 7.0 for top ranking universities.

### **What should you prepare?**

Apart from meeting the general entry requirements, study permit is also a must. It can be applied from the Canadian General Consulate Office in Hong Kong. Students should start to apply their study permits as soon as there is an offer from a university and the tuition fee has been paid. Please note that the processing time of application for study permit may take 2 months.

### **Social skills and self-management skills**

Studying in Canada is unforgettable! First of all, I have made a lot friends

coming from many different countries. The culture in Toronto is diversified. I, therefore, have learnt other cultures by interacting with different people. Moreover, I have gained much exposure to various voluntary services through which I have understood more about how scientific research should be conducted. It would be beneficial to my future graduate study. Furthermore, living alone challenges me on how to be independent and self-behaving even though it was hard for me at the beginning.

To round up, my advice for all of you is “Study hard and play hard”.



## 參考網頁：

澳洲駐香港總領事館

<http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/hongkong>

英國文化協會

<http://www.britishcouncil.org.hk/>

Education USA 留美諮詢中心

<http://educationusa.hk/>

加拿大駐香港總領事館

<http://www.hongkong.gc.ca/>

學友社學生輔導中心 - 留學篇

<http://www.student.hk/overseas>

## 生涯規劃組活動介紹

### - 個人輔導服務

本年起，生涯規劃組主任會與中五及中六同學作進行個人面談。內容圍繞個人升學計劃、考試壓力、職業選擇，亦會探討到個人價值觀。

個人輔導面談主要於班主任課或自修堂進行。

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