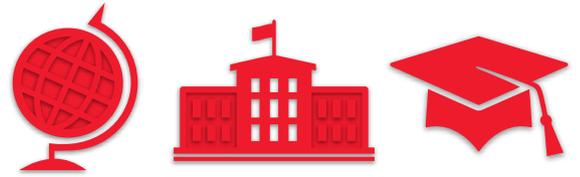


Education & Training



Sector Snapshot

As a result of the government's two-pronged approach of "internationalisation" and "diversification", Hong Kong has proudly evolved into a regional education hub to nurture talents for other industries, attract and retain outstanding people from around the world, create job opportunities, promote and diversify learning experience, as well as foster academic and research collaboration with overseas institutions.

Many local and foreign organisations establish private academic institutes, vocational and learning centres, training companies, and schools targeting different age groups from all walks of life.

Existing courses offering formal education in Hong Kong include qualification-conferring programmes, and other course types that enhance learning for leisure and self-development, language, soft skills, and corporate training, etc.



Hong Kong's Advantages

- "Laissez-faire" economic policy
- Low entry barrier for overseas education and training institutions to offer programmes in Hong Kong
- Education as the largest expenditure item in the financial budget, representing 17.7 percent of total government expenditure or 3.3 percent of total GDP
- \$3.52 billion Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund to enhance quality of self-financing post-secondary education
- Land grant at nominal rent for quality school operators, e.g. the Land Grant Scheme
- Registration exemption for distance learning courses and courses conducted in collaboration with 11 publicly-funded local higher education institutions
- Rising demand for formal education and training to meet rising technology trends and globalised knowledge-based economy needs
- Strong demand for quality international school places
- Market preference for alternative curriculums eg. International Baccalaureate (IB)
- English as popular medium-of-instruction
- Strong demand for continuing professional development (CPD) as Hong Kong professional bodies require members to attend seminars or participate in training workshops to maintain qualifications
- Hong Kong as a gateway to and from Mainland China, and attracts talents internationally
- Added benefit from establishing presence in Hong Kong under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA). For example, for the education services sector, Hong Kong service suppliers are allowed to:
 1. set up international schools on a wholly-owned basis in the Guangdong Province. Their target students may be expanded to cover children of Chinese nationals residing abroad and of returned talents after studying abroad who are working in the province, in addition to children of expatriates with residence permits to stay in the Mainland.
 2. set up non-academic secondary and/or tertiary vocational training institutions on a wholly-owned basis in the Mainland, the scope of admission shall be analogous with that for Mainland vocational training institutions.



InvestHK 投資推廣署

The Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region

Education & Training

Schools in the Private Sector

Overview

In Hong Kong, according to the Education Ordinance, a “school” means an institution which provides formal education for 20 or more persons during any one day OR 8 or more persons at any one time. A school falling within this definition must apply for “School Registration” with the Education Bureau (EDB). There are different school types in the private sector, including but not limited to:

- Nurseries, preschools or kindergartens
- Early education centres
- Primary, secondary or post-secondary education institutions
- Distance learning centres
- Academic schools that offer formal education and grant qualifications at certificate, diploma, and degree levels
- Language schools
- Adult education centres

Notes:

1. Child care centres, which refer to education centres handling very young children, unaccompanied by adults, must be registered with the Social Welfare Department.
2. Non-academic institutions that offer practical, hands-on learning experiences such as cooking, sports-training courses, etc. are not considered “schools”.

International Schools

In the 2017/18 school year, there are 53 international schools in Hong Kong featuring alternative curriculums (see Table 1 below), offering over 42,000 places, mainly to meet the demand for international school places from non-local families living in Hong Kong or coming to Hong Kong for work or investment.

Table 1 Current Curriculum Offered by International Schools

Curriculum	Examples of International Schools
American	American International School, American School Hong Kong, Concordia International School, Hong Kong International School, The Harbour School
Australian	Australian International School Hong Kong
British	Discovery Bay International School, English Schools Foundation (Secondary Schools), French International School (International Stream), German Swiss International School (English Stream), Harrow International School Hong Kong, International College Hong Kong (New Territories), Kellett School, Kiangsu & Chekiang Primary School and Kiangsu-Chekiang College (International Section), Korean International School (International Section), Lantau International School, Nord Anglia International School Hong Kong, Norwegian International School, Saint Too Sear Rogers International School, Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Umah International Primary School, Yew Chung International School
Canadian	Christian Alliance International School, Christian Alliance P.C. Lau Memorial International School, Delia School of Canada
French	French International School (French Stream)
German	German Swiss International School (German Stream)
Japanese	Hong Kong Japanese School, Japanese International School (Japanese Section)
Korean	Korean International School (Korean Section)
Singaporean	Singapore International School (Hong Kong)
Carmel	Carmel School
Montessori	The International Montessori School
International Baccalaureate	Australian International School Hong Kong, Canadian International School, Carmel School, Chinese International School, English Schools Foundation (Primary & Secondary Schools), French International School (International Stream), German Swiss International School (English Stream), Hong Kong Academy, International College Hong Kong (New Territories), International College Hong Kong Hong Lok Yuen (Primary Section), Japanese International School (International Section), Kiangsu & Chekiang Primary School and Kiangsu-Chekiang College (International Section), Kingston International School, Singapore International School (Hong Kong), Think International School

Table 2 International Schools – Status of School Places (2016/17 School Year)

	Primary	Secondary	Total
Provision of school places	22,940	19,268	42,208
Students enrolled	21,093	16,664	37,757
Fill-up rate	91.9%	86.5%	89.5%

Source: EDB

Higher and Continuing Education

Foreign higher education institutions can set up functional operations in Hong Kong without necessarily offering education programmes locally, but attract young or career individuals to apply for foreign accredited programmes to upgrade academic qualifications, improve career prospects and pursue life-long learning.

Courses conferring overseas academic or professional recognition are delivered in Hong Kong by more than 180 overseas institutions (over 460 registered courses) or through collaboration with the 11 publicly-funded local institutions of higher education (exceeding 690 courses).

Courses conducted in Hong Kong leading to the award of non-local higher academic or professional qualifications are required to register or seek exemption from registration with EDB, and may voluntarily seek accreditation locally in Hong Kong under the Qualifications Framework administered by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation for Academic & Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ).

Training

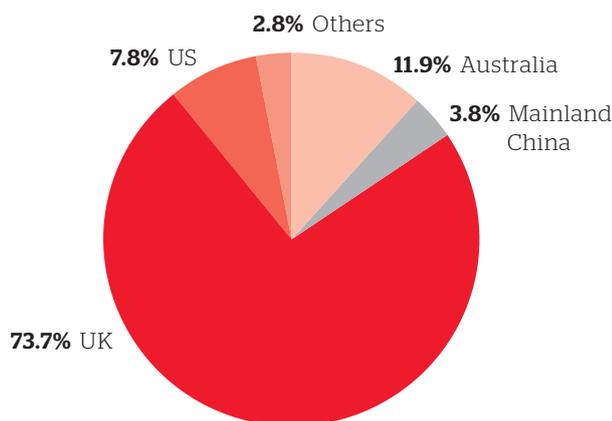
The Hong Kong community holds a strong appetite for new skills and knowledge, and emphasises language proficiency and work-life balance. Demand for training on all fronts, be it corporate, professional, personal or leisure, continue to boom.

Today, local and international enterprises of various sizes are ready to invest in employee training and development to enhance staff loyalty, achieve higher competitiveness, and to equip staff to better adopt and embrace new technologies. Training programmes in leadership development, team building, communication and presentation skills, stress management, etc. are well received. Demand for CPD training is also on the rise for the highly sophisticated professional sectors in Hong Kong, such as legal, medical, financial, accountancy, etc. to maintain and enhance industry expertise and professionalism.

The onslaught of innovative technologies has brought about not only new modules of training (coding, cybersecurity, blockchain, cryptocurrency, entrepreneurship, to name a few) but also new modes of training delivery (online learning, mobile app, bootcamp, or a blend of some of these with the conventional face-to-face training).

Overseas Programmes in Hong Kong

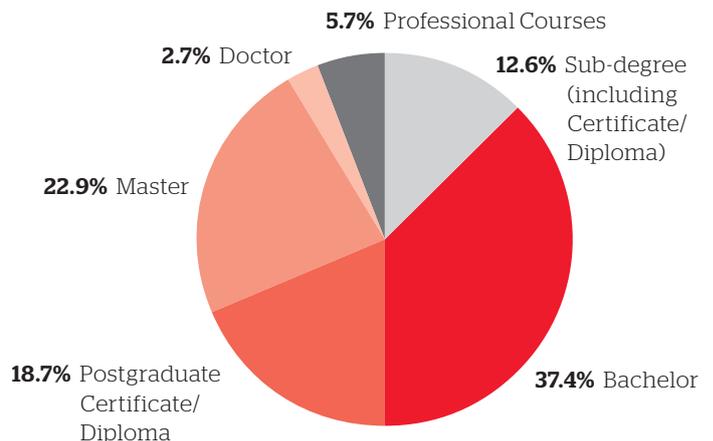
Organised by Country



Source: EDB, as at November 2017

Overseas Programmes in Hong Kong

Organised by Award Level



Source: EDB, as at November 2017

Government Incentives for Learning and Training

The Continuing Education Fund (CEF)

CEF subsidises adults to pursue continuing education, covering financial/ business management, logistics, creative industries, design, tourism, communication skills and languages, etc. Successful applicants are reimbursed 80 percent of fees, subject to a maximum sum of HK\$10,000 (or US\$1,280).

New Technology Training Scheme

The scheme supports staff training in new technologies for commercial applications that will significantly benefit Hong Kong.

Non-means-tested Subsidy Scheme for Self-financing Undergraduate Studies in Hong Kong

The scheme provides a non-means-tested annual subsidy of HK\$30,000 to Hong Kong students pursuing full-time locally-accredited local and non-local self-financing undergraduate (including top-up degree) programmes from 15 institutions for the cohort admitted in the 2017/18 academic year.

Student Finance

Student financial assistance is available to students from pre-primary to post-secondary levels to ensure access to education. 12 schemes are applicable to local students (Hong Kong student visa holders are NOT eligible).

Tax Deduction for Self-education Expenses

Tax payers are entitled to tax savings through deduction of self-education expenses from taxable salary of up to HK\$80,000 and HK\$100,000 for the years of assessment 2016/17 and 2017/18 respectively.

Education & Training

Setting up Your Education Business in Hong Kong

- Open an offshore campus/training centre to capture the growing demand for quality education in Asia
- Establish and strengthen partnerships with key education providers
- Solicit alumni support, marketing and student recruitment
- Commercialise university research and technology
- Establish collaborative research projects with the academic and business community
- Source case studies and education materials for overseas programmes

Examples of overseas education services operators with presence in Hong Kong

Universities

- Edinburgh Napier University (UK)
- Jinan University (China)
- Harvard Business School (US)
- Henley Business School (UK)
- Manchester Business School (UK)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)
- McGill University (Canada)
- Richard Ivey School of Business (Canada)
- Savannah College of Art and Design (US)
- Stephen M. Ross School of Business (US)
- The University of Chicago Booth School of Business (US)
- The University of Queensland (Australia)
- University College of Estate Management (UK)
- University of British Columbia (Canada)
- University of New South Wales (Australia)
- University of Southern California (US)
- University of Sunderland (UK)
- University of Warwick (UK)
- University of West London (UK)
- University of Wollongong (Australia)

- Upper Iowa University (US)
- Zurich University of the Arts, Connecting Space Hong Kong (Switzerland)

School Operators/Consultants

- Asian School Partners (UK)
- Etonhouse International Education Group (Singapore)
- Maple Leaf Educational Systems (China/Canada)
- Nord Anglia Education (UK)
- Reach Education Organisation (Australia)
- Stamford American School Hong Kong (UK)

Private Post-secondary/ Professional Training

- Dale Carnegie Training (US)
- Insight School of Interior Design (France)
- Kaplan Business and Accountancy School (US)
- PROAKTIV® (Germany)
- Quartic Training (UK)
- The Ken Blanchard (US)

Early Education

- British Council International Pre-School (UK)
- Fairchild Kindergarten (Canada)
- Malvern College Pre-School Hong Kong (UK)
- Wilderness International Kindergarten (Australia)

Learning Centres

- Excellence in Languages (Germany/Spain)
- Global Art (Malaysia)
- Heguru Education (Japan)
- I Can Read (Singapore)
- Mathnasium (US)
- The Spanish Academy (Spain)

Leisure Learning

- ABC Cooking Studio (Japan)
- Hong Kong New Oriental Culinary Art (Mainland China)
- NRG Taekwondo (Korea)

Useful Reference and Contacts

Education Bureau (EDB)

Tel: (852) 2891 0088
Email: edbinfo@edb.gov.hk
www.edb.gov.hk

School Information in Hong Kong

www.edb.gov.hk/en/student-parents/sch-info/sch-search/index.html

Continuing Education Fund (CEF)

Tel: (852) 3142 2277
Email: cef_sfo@wfsfaa.gov.hk
www.wfsfaa.gov.hk/cef

Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Qualifications

Tel: (852) 3658 0000
Email: info@hkcaavq.edu.hk
www.hkcaavq.edu.hk

Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (QF) Secretariat

Tel: (852) 2836 1700
Email: hkqf@edb.gov.hk
www.hkqf.gov.hk

Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), Trade & Industry Department

Email: cepa@tid.gov.hk
www.tid.gov.hk/english/cepa/tradeservices/education.html

International Schools in Hong Kong

edb.hkedcity.net/internationalschools



InvestHK's advice and support:

- Regulatory framework for education businesses
- Government requirements on venue use
- Registration of course contents
- Accreditation for qualification-conferring courses
- Teacher registration
- Government funding schemes
- Work visa application
- Marketing support
- ... and more

InvestHK is the department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government responsible for Foreign Direct Investment, supporting overseas and Mainland businesses to set up and expand in Hong Kong. We partner with clients on a long-term basis and are available at any stage of their business development process.

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“Not only is the density of quality universities in Hong Kong as high as that in Boston, it is also easy for organisations to operate here. The city is within the Greater Bay Area with Shenzhen as its immediate neighbour, so startups can do prototyping and scale up physical artefacts. This is something that interests MIT very much.”

**Professor Charles G. Sodini, LeBel Chair of Electrical Engineering
MIT**

MIT Opens Its First Innovation Node in Hong Kong

US top-notch university nurtures future startup founders by connecting MIT and Hong Kong students to develop tech business ideas together

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) recently celebrated the grand opening of the MIT Hong Kong Innovation Node, a collaborative space aiming to connect MIT with the Hong Kong academic, commercial and social community through education and public engagement programmes.

MIT chose Hong Kong for a few reasons. “Not only is the density of quality universities in Hong Kong as high as that in Boston, it is also easy for organisations to operate here,” said Professor Charles G. Sodini, LeBel Chair of Electrical Engineering of MIT, “the city is within the Greater Bay Area with Shenzhen as its immediate neighbour, so startups can easily do prototyping and scale up physical artefacts. This is something that interests MIT very much.”

Situated at the Hong Kong Productivity Council Building in Kowloon Tong, the Innovation Node is a 5,000-square-foot multifunctional space with classroom, co-working space and maker space facilities, featuring advanced prototyping equipment and media centres for teaching purpose.

Brian Yen, Executive Director, sees the Innovation Node as a catalyst to foster innovation. “With the unique programmes that we offer, our aim is to bring some of the MIT teaching concepts and philosophies about innovation, entrepreneurship, and the whole pedagogical method to Hong Kong students and educators,” he said.

As its flagship programme, the MIT Entrepreneurship and Maker Skills Integrator (MEMSI) was launched in January 2017, bringing together 30 students from MIT and local universities through an intense and immersive “tech startup bootcamp”. At the end of the two-week bootcamp, students were required to come up with a viable business plan and a proof of concept prototype for a potential startup business. The programme also included factory tours in Shenzhen and Dongguan, as well as panel discussions and mentorship by MIT lecturers.

Serving as faculty director for the Innovation Node, Sodini said that the programme complements the existing education

system in Hong Kong and MIT by adding the innovation element. “Instead of focusing on grades and lectures, the experience provided by MEMSI is about entrepreneurship and making,” he said, “this is a huge eye-opener for both local and MIT students, leading them to come up with ideas for something that can actually be built.”

On top of MEMSI, more programmes are in the pipeline, including MIT Innovation Academy, a mini version of MEMSI that targets secondary school students, and a maker weekend programme that encourages the public to experiment using the advanced tools in the Innovation Node.

The team is also planning a tech startup bootcamp open for international professionals who need coaching on entrepreneurship for technology business. “I believe this can attract a lot of people from around the world to Hong Kong as this is an ideal place for tech startups,” Yen concluded.

MIT Innovation Node

- MIT Hong Kong Innovation Node launched in Hong Kong in June 2016
- Space officially opened in September 2017
- Currently offers educational and community engagement programmes targeting university and secondary school students.
- Projects in the pipeline include FinTech Entrepreneurship programme and Entrepreneurship for deep-tech startups

hkinnovationnode.mit.edu



“Hong Kong provides a high standard and well-regulated education system with presence of many world-class institutions, this supports and aligns with UOW’s reputation for delivering quality programmes to students across its multiple campus location.”

Marisa Mastroianni
Group Chief Executive Officer
UOW Enterprises

Linking Hong Kong and Australia with Quality Education

The University of Wollongong extends its global network to Hong Kong and partners with local institution to offer world-class degree programmes

The University of Wollongong (UOW) is one of Australia’s top universities with close to 6,000 international students each year studying at its Australian campuses. Ranking among the top two percent of universities in the world, UOW has built an international reputation for providing career-focus degree programmes underpinned by partnership with industry as well as top-notch facilities.

In July 2015, UOW took over stewardship of Community College of City University (CCCU) in Hong Kong, which has been renamed as UOW College Hong Kong and become part of the UOW global network of higher education institutions.

According to Marisa Mastroianni, Group Chief Executive Officer, the education infrastructure in Hong Kong has made an ideal location for UOW to launch quality academic programmes. “Hong Kong provides a high standard and well-regulated education system with presence of many world-class institutions,” she said, “this supports and aligns with UOW’s reputation for delivering quality programmes to students across its multiple campus locations.”

“The legislative framework for the regulation of higher and professional education in Hong Kong is mature and robust, with Education Bureau and the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications assuring high education standards,” she added.

Mastroianni also finds Hong Kong an excellent destination to develop education business. “Quality education in Hong Kong is highly regarded, and globally the city remains an attractive and reputable education destination among other places,” she remarked.

UOW College Hong Kong now offers over 30 Associate Degrees in the disciplines of accountancy and finance, aviation, creative media and design, engineering, information technology and psychology, to name a few. To complement these programmes, the college also offers related UOW top-up degrees for students to complete their Bachelor programmes.

The partnership between UOW and CCCU not only benefits students with a unique Hong Kong-Australian education experience, but also furthers UOW’s strategic goal in establishing presence in Northeast Asia. Mastroianni said, “as we are planning to introduce new programmes in Mainland China and Taiwan, having a footprint in Hong Kong and building on the brand locally will facilitate the future expansion into these locations.”

To continue to deliver quality education, UOW College Hong Kong is now in the process of planning for a new purpose-built campus in Tai Wai with new campus facility to provide students with a sophisticated learning environment.

InvestHK has been facilitating UOW’s set up in Hong Kong at its initial stage, and Mastroianni finds the assistance very useful. “The experience of working with the InvestHK team has been very positive and beneficial for us in establishing close links between Hong Kong and Australia,” she concluded.

UOW Enterprises

- Established in 1975, UOW is an Australian university located in Wollongong, New South Wales
- In 2015, UOW took stewardship and governance of the Community College of City University and established UOW College Hong Kong, offering associate and bachelor degree programmes
- UOW College Hong Kong currently has around 240 academic and 60 administrative staff in Hong Kong with a student population of 6,000

uow.edu.au

STAMFORD AMERICAN SCHOOL HONG KONG



“Hong Kong is a major inward investment hub, which also brings in families who want quality and premium education. It is a natural place for us to be in.”

**Malcom Kay, Superintendent
Stamford American School**

Creating Future Leaders and Innovators in Hong Kong

Stamford American School opened in Hong Kong providing high quality, innovation-focused education with an eye to the future

In September 2017, Stamford American School opened in Ho Man Tin, one of the well-established school networks in the city. A member of the Cognita School group which has 68 international schools around the world, the school offers an inquiry-driven curriculum to students from pre-primary to grade 7, and will eventually grow into a through-train school up to grade 12.

Malcolm Kay, Superintendent, said that while the school has been operating in Singapore for eight years, they saw a rising demand for high quality education in Hong Kong, and want to bring its successful model to the city.

“We have operated in places where overseas companies are incredibly important as they attract along many expatriate employees,” Kay said, “Hong Kong is a major inward investment hub, which also brings in families who want quality and premium education. It is a natural place for us to be in.”

With its vision to develop future leaders with innovative minds, the school is devoted to providing forward-thinking education programmes that focus on children’s growth. The programmes are also combined with strong core standards to ensure the math and literacy skills are developed to a high standard while students create innovative ideas.

“Our teaching is based on what we know children would need in the future,” Kay remarked, “we want every child to achieve more than they believe.”

The school’s STEMinn programmes (science, technology, innovation and math) concentrate on problem-solving skills and innovation which, the school believes, are essential for future leaders that will thrive in this global marketplace. This programme is woven into the curriculum and therefore is a focus of multiple periods a week. Dedicated class sessions in the STEMinn lab focus on critical thinking and building ideas for real-world application, from coding to solving social problems through technology.

“Our goal is to change the dialogue of education, to get people to start question what quality education looks like, and what suits children best in terms of the future,” Kay added.

In its first year of operation, the school now has some 350 students and plans to grow steadily every year. It is expected to reach its full capacity of 1,000 in four years. In addition to the current 72 academic and administrative staff, the school also plans to steadily expand the team as they receive more students.

Stamford American School was connected with InvestHK before its setup in Hong Kong. Kay said that the department has provided helpful support for their preparation work. “InvestHK is a key agency in helping us understand the environment here before we set up. It’s so important to have their assistance,” Kay remarked, “they are also key to bringing in foreign investors together with their families, whom we want to provide education for.”

Stamford American School

- Offers a blend of inquiry based and the academically rigorous American Education Reaches Out (AERO) and Common Core Plus frameworks from five years old
- Will offer the option of the American diploma or International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB) in Grades 11 and 12
- Campus is equipped with facilities such as swimming pool, innovation lab with dedicated STEMinn facilities, and library in every classroom
- Strong world language programme with choice of bilingual (English/Putonghua), or daily Putonghua or Spanish by level

sais.edu.hk



British Council Opens its first International Pre-School in Hong Kong

“There are a lot of qualified and experienced kindergarten teachers here, thanks to the rich talent pool in the city.”

Robert Ness, Director Hong Kong
British Council

The British Council in Hong Kong is launching its first International Pre-School to cater for increasing demand in the city

The British Council opened in Hong Kong back in 1948 with an aim to strengthen cultural relations between Chinese and British people. Over the years, the Council has created strong connections between Hong Kong and the UK's cultural assets, including English, education, arts, and social entrepreneurship. To take one step further, the British Council is going to launch an International Pre-School starting in August 2016.

Built on a solid reputation in English teaching over the years, the British Council sees a steady increase in the number of young children attending their classes and the rising demand from parents, which led to their decision to set up a pre-school in Hong Kong. In 2016-17, the new Pre-School can cater eight classes, with an average of 20 students each, for children from two years eight months to six years old. According to Robert Ness, Director Hong Kong, the Pre-School will focus on creativity and aim to create an enjoyable learning environment for the children to prepare for their next stage. Adopting the UK-based International Primary Curriculum (IPC), classes will be taught in English and Cantonese with integrated Putonghua time. Students will be immersed into a truly bilingual and bicultural learning environment to develop their language ability naturally.

Teachers are required to possess either native level proficiencies in English, Cantonese or Putonghua. “We have no

issues in recruiting teachers for our pre-school. There are a lot of qualified and experienced kindergarten teachers here, thanks to the rich talent pool in the city. Our Head of Pre-School is a Hong Kong professional who has thorough experience in early years education,” Ness commented. Other than locals, Ness also welcomes teachers from overseas as diversity is one of the core values of the British Council and Hong Kong is an attractive place to live and work.

Having lived in Hong Kong for almost four years and first time in Asia, Ness enjoys the professionalism and the energy of this cosmopolitan city. He also finds it easy to communicate and travel around even though he regrets not having made enough progress in learning the local language.

British Council International Pre-School

- In 2016-17, the new Pre-School can cater eight classes for children from two years eight months to six years old

britishcouncil.hk/en/preschool