

# A Profile of ESF and its Schools



The English Schools Foundation (ESF) is the largest provider of English-medium international education in Hong Kong. Our 22 schools and comprehensive programme of extra-curricular activities bring out the best in every student through a personalised approach to learning and by inspiring curious minds.

Our strategic intent is to be the key driver of best practice in teaching and learning. Our model of education is on the cutting-edge of global innovation producing excellent outcomes for our students.

There are 17,000 students from more than 60 different nationalities in all ESF schools. About 70% of our students have parents who are permanent residents of Hong Kong. ESF is proud of the high academic and wider achievements of our students; more than 95% go on to leading universities worldwide.

To educate these students in an holistic manner, ESF recruits high quality teachers in the world with experience of international school systems. International Baccalaureate core values and approaches underpin the curricula in our schools, with an emphasis on internationalism, skills and aptitude development and a strong sense of community action. School facilities provide high quality learning environments. All schools offer a broad range of out-of-school activities in Hong Kong and overseas. ESF schools are strongly supported by thriving and dynamic parent-teacher associations.

## Our Vision and Mission

Our vision is for every student to be the best that they can be. Our mission is to inspire creativity and nurture global citizens and leaders of the future. We do this by creating joyful learning environments, led by a community of exceptional teachers who bring out the best in every child through a personalised approach to learning and by inspiring curious minds.

## Pathways for ages 16-19

Around 2,200 Year 12 and 13 students (ages 16-19) study for qualifications in a number of pathways. These are the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, the Applied Learning Pathway or the Work and Lifeskills Pathway

## Personalisation

Students study in the pathway most appropriate to their learning styles and academic abilities. Increasingly, a number of students will be working across the pathways, building portfolios that show their expertise and further support entrance to higher education. Our most recent partnership is with the Hong Kong Sports Institute, where elite athletes are accommodated to study their chosen pathway with greater flexibility and out-of-hours support when training or competition is important.

## The International Baccalaureate Diploma

Students taking the IB Diploma choose six subjects, three at Higher Level and three at Standard Level. The maximum score for the IB Diploma is 45 points. Each subject is awarded a maximum of 7 points, and there are 3 further points available depending on the student's performance in Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and Extended Essay (EE). Students also complete a Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) component. A score of 24 points or above leads to the award of an IB Diploma. ESF has consistently performed above world average since 2009.

	ESF 2015	ESF2014	ESF 2013	ESF 2012	World 2014
Awarded the Diploma	98.3%	98.0%	98.4%	97.7%	79.3%
Average points score for those entered for the Diploma (max 45)	35.7	35.0	34.7	35.2	30.1
Candidates achieving 40 points or more	25.2%	22.1%	18.9%	25.4%	6.8%
Candidates achieving 35 points or more	61.5%	55.4%	53.1%	55.3%	24.9%
Candidates achieving 30 points or more	88.5%	84.9%	83.8%	84.6%	53.2%
Average points score in subjects at both Higher and Standard Levels (max 7)	5.61	5.54	5.49	5.55	4.7

Note: World averages are for 2014 – the latest year for which data is currently available.

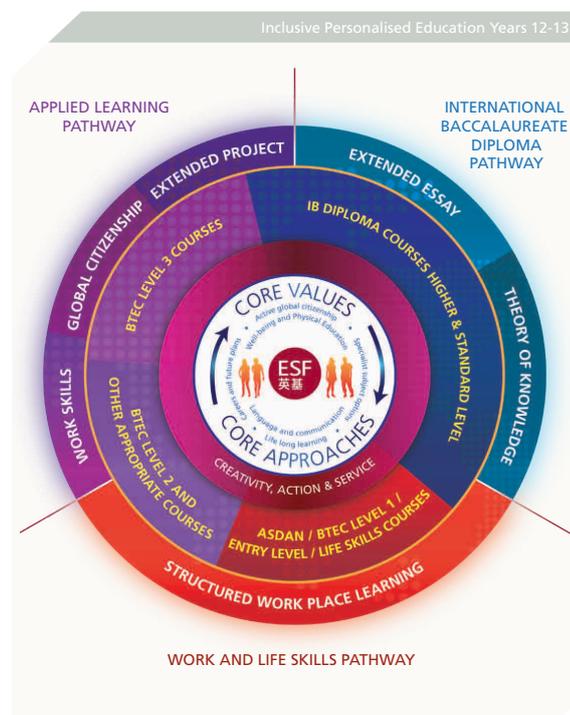
## The ESF Applied Learning Pathway

Students taking the Applied Learning Pathway follow a pre-university career-oriented pathway. Individual schools offer different options in this pathway. They all follow the internationally recognised qualifications of the Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) which is delivered by the Edexcel Examination Board (Edexcel). BTEC qualifications are provided at different levels and our post-16 students take the BTEC Level 3 which is equivalent to General Certificate of Education (GCE) A levels, and carry the same Universities and Colleges Admissions System (UCAS) points for students applying to UK universities. In addition, students can opt to broaden their learning by studying IB Courses, and often add GCE AS Levels. The AS Level Extended Project is particularly valuable to add to a students' portfolio. The most recent cohorts of students have been very successful in achieving places in further/higher education institutions, in full Bachelor degrees as well as in Foundation and Associate degrees across the world.

BTEC (Level 3) Subsidiary Diploma	2015	2014
Distinction or above	52%	58%
Merit or above	74%	86%
Pass or above	97%	100%

BTEC (Level 3) Diploma	2015	2014
Double Distinction or above	60%	65%
Distinction/Merit or above	81%	91%
Pass or above	100%	100%

A small number of students also took the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in 2015. 90% of students achieved a triple merit or above.



## ESF Secondary Schools

### Discovery College

Established in 2008, Discovery College (DC) is an IB World School. Through its vision statement, Discovery College encourages a community where people are passionate about being the best they can be, find wonder in the world around them and dare to make a difference for themselves, humanity, and the planet. DC works to achieve this by promoting a shared spirit of respect that prizes a diversity of experiences and perspectives, reaches into traditions as well as into the future, excites a passion for ongoing inquiry and strives to help all learners reach for enduring excellence.

Discovery College is a Private Independent School (PIS) with a maximum roll of 1,560 students from Years 1 to 13 (K-12). In Years 12 and 13, most of the 200 students undertake the full IB Diploma programme, with some students studying IB courses at Standard and Higher Level. Students have access to the Applied Learning Pathway through other ESF schools as appropriate. The student body represents over 50 nationalities and almost as many mother tongues. The medium of instruction is English, with the vast majority of students studying Chinese as a Second Language from Year 1, and carrying this through to the Diploma level.

**School website:** [www.discovery.edu.hk](http://www.discovery.edu.hk)

**Higher Education Counsellor:**

Susie Blomfield: [susie.blomfield@discovery.edu.hk](mailto:susie.blomfield@discovery.edu.hk)

### Island School

Island School (IS) has been at the forefront of English-language education in Hong Kong since 1967. There are 1,200 students and over 40 nationalities from all corners of the globe studying above the central business district of Hong Kong. Therefore, the school's outlook stresses humanitarian and environmental ideals as well as academic excellence. Island School students take full advantage of the opportunity to express their individuality and embrace their responsibility in all aspects of the arts and sports in a broad co-curricular programme.

The majority of the 160 Island School graduates are awarded the IB Diploma in which there is a wide range of subjects on offer. Some students opt for the ESF Applied Learning Pathway with BTEC courses in business, hospitality, performing arts, creative media (television and film), and sport. Students on the Applied Learning Pathway also complete a core programme that includes the AS Extended Project, work experience and career planning. Students are able to complement their BTEC courses by adding one or two IB subjects.

**School website:** [www.island.edu.hk](http://www.island.edu.hk)

**Higher Education Counsellors:**

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### King George V School

King George V School (KGV) is ambitious in developing its fine traditions of high achievement and creativity in an engaging, enjoyable and sustainable learning environment. Its aim is to celebrate diversity in an inclusive and supportive international community with students of a variety of nationalities. KGV is over 100 years old and has an international student body of approximately 1,750 students with 230 students graduating from Year 13. It is open to young people of all backgrounds who are resident in Hong Kong; the only entry requirement is that they are able to be educated in English.

The majority of students follow the IB Diploma programme studying a full range of subjects. Students taking the ESF Applied Learning Pathway study for BTEC Extended Diploma or the BTEC Diploma combined with BTEC Subsidiary Diploma. KGV is offering the following courses: art and design; media; business with ICT (information and communications technology); performing arts; and sports and exercise. Students may also study the AS Extended Project and other qualifications to complement their BTEC courses.

**School website:** [www.kgv.edu.hk](http://www.kgv.edu.hk)

**Higher Education Counsellors:**

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### South Island School

South Island School (SIS) was established in 1977. It is an international school of approximately 1,500 students from over 30 nationalities, of whom 350 are in the Senior School (Years 12 and 13). South Island School is comprehensive, admitting students without regard to ability, race or religion: English is the language of instruction and competence in English is the sole criterion for admission.

In Years 12 and 13, most students embark upon the full International Baccalaureate Diploma programme. A number of students may pursue the ESF Applied Learning Diploma. Subjects offered are creative media, sport, fashion and business, public services supplemented by an AS Extended Project and other AS level courses. In addition all students follow a programme in Creativity, Action, Service and a course in sport and leisure.

**School website:** [www.sis.edu.hk](http://www.sis.edu.hk)

**Higher Education Counsellors:**

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## Sha Tin College

Sha Tin College (STC) is a school of 1,200 students which is committed to providing the best possible teaching and learning experiences for every individual through the medium of English. The school has 33 years of this commitment to this goal, and, the education provided today leads to a variety of internationally-recognised examination courses and student access to tertiary education and career opportunities worldwide.

Everyone is encouraged to value the attitudes inherent in a diverse international and multicultural environment, to become well-balanced, tolerant, understanding, cooperative and caring individuals with a respect for others and their different beliefs. There is strong commitment to community, action and service, enabling young people to serve others or excel in a sport.

Sha Tin College offers the IB Diploma to students in Years 12-13. Students have access to the Applied Learning Pathway through King George V School and other ESF schools as appropriate.

**School website:** [www.shatincollege.edu.hk](http://www.shatincollege.edu.hk)

### Higher Education Counsellors:

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## West Island School

West Island School (WIS) was established in 1991. The School's vision is to create an inclusive, dynamic and challenging curriculum which encourages students to become internationally aware citizens of the future.

WIS comprises approximately 1,225 students from age 11 to 18 in Years 7 to 13, which includes over 40 nationalities: the largest population is Eurasian with strong representation from Indian, Japanese, Chinese, European and Australian origin.

WIS offers a range of pathways for students in their final two years at the school. The first is the International Baccalaureate Diploma which was started in the school in 2007. The second programme is the Applied Learning Pathway. WIS offers art and design, performing arts, sport, engineering, hospitality and business as its specialist subjects. This is complemented by an AS Extended Project where students conduct an in-depth project on a subject of their choice. Students may also opt for some IB courses in this pathway. This adds to their portfolio for application to university. Students in both pathways follow a sports programme and are expected to complete the Creativity, Action, Service component of the IB pathway.

**School website:** [www.wis.edu.hk](http://www.wis.edu.hk)

### Higher Education Counsellors:

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## Renaissance College

Renaissance College (RCHK) is an all-age co-educational school and an IB World School with nearly 2,000 students studying all four IB programmes. RCHK was established in 2006, as a Private Independent School (PIS) to serve the needs of the local and international expatriate community in Hong Kong. RCHK is a student-focused school, which strives to build a culture that promotes peace and democracy, values diversity and works toward a sustainable future for all.

In Years 12 and 13 around 300 students undertake the full IB Diploma programme. A strong feature of Renaissance College is that it has consistently and successfully educated students in the medium of English whilst sustaining high levels of Chinese with a good proportion achieving a IB Bilingual Diploma every year.

Students opting for ESF Applied Learning Pathway have the option to study the IB Career-related Programme [IBCP] or study IB courses at higher or standard level with a core of Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) and an Extended Project. Students have access to the Applied Learning Pathway through King George V School and other ESF schools as appropriate.

The IBCP option is 60% studying for IB Courses and 40% Foundation Art and Design Courses at Savannah College of Art and Design [SCAD]. This allows them to gain university and college credits whilst still at school.

**School website:** [www.renaissance.edu.hk](http://www.renaissance.edu.hk)

### Higher Education Counsellors:

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## Pre-16: the Middle Years

Students in our five secondary schools follow a two-year course in Years 10 to 11 (ages 14 to 16), preparing them for British General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and IGCSE (International GCSE) examinations. Students typically take a broad and balanced education of six to ten different subjects.

ESF's two Private Independent Schools (PIS), Renaissance College (RCHK) and Discovery College (DC) are IB World Schools for students aged 11-16 the Middle Years Programme (MYP).

## Language development

English is the medium in which our students are taught. Almost all students study English language and literature at first language level. In addition, Chinese is a very valuable part of the curriculum within ESF schools. A large proportion of students study this at a native or near native level, or as a second language or as a foreign language. The study of two or more languages is vital to their employment prospects beyond university. In addition, students with a variety of language backgrounds may study their own native tongue. For example, Japanese, Korean, French, Spanish and German students study both English and another language and literature course at the IB Diploma level. ESF is particularly interested in universities recognising the importance of IB Bilingual Diploma for the benefit of those students' futures.

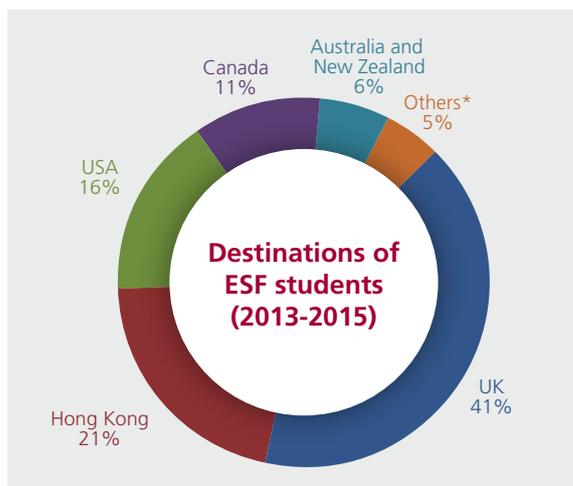


## Where our students go

Typically, around 90-95% of ESF graduates go on to higher education in roughly 20 countries worldwide. A number of our students take a gap year to conduct extended community service, undertake internships, or enlist in military service before progressing on with their studies. We value all our students and counsel them to go on to study courses appropriate for their aspirations and aptitudes.

In the last three years, 41% of our students went on to study in the UK with 21% remaining in Hong Kong, 16% went on to study in the USA and 11% of students went to Canada.

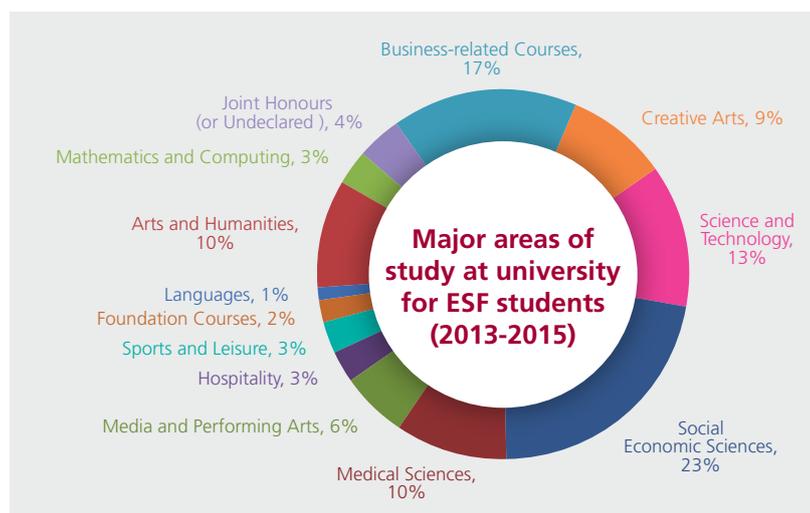
Students also attend universities in a range of other countries according to their nationality. Roughly 30% of students are attending one of the top 50 universities in the world (as ranked by the Times Higher Education Supplement). Around 50% gain places at the top 100 universities worldwide. Our approach is always to support students in choosing the 'best fit' university, regardless of its ranking or prestige.



\* We support students to apply to over 20 countries. These also include South Korea, Japan, China, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, India, South Africa, Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Spain, France, Ireland and Bahrain.

## What our students study

ESF values all learners and those who have aptitude in a variety of domains. ESF's higher education counsellors encourage appropriate and personalised applications for courses from each student. This leads to a full range of subjects each year for the last several years.





Secondary schools have full accreditation from the Council of International Schools (CIS) and Western Association for School and Colleges. Our schools reflect and evaluate on the quality of education they offer. Continuous school improvement is fundamental to the philosophy and practice in ESF schools.

ESF values universities and colleges that care for students of diverse backgrounds and challenges them to perform to their full potential.

Our team of highly qualified and experienced higher education counsellors work together to support our students. They have organised:

- networking and counsellor events for university admissions officers;
- ESF-wide and school-based university fairs and events; and
- visits to universities and conferences.

If you are interested in knowing more about the ESF and our schools, please contact:

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You will find a list of all our counsellors at our website:

[http://www.esf.edu.hk/higher\\_education\\_counsellors](http://www.esf.edu.hk/higher_education_counsellors)



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