



THE HONG KONG
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
香港理工大學

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OFFICE
環球事務處

Global Aspirations Flourish at PolyU



GEO Yearbook 2023

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Summary

PolyU aspires to be an innovative world-class university and strives for excellence in education, research, innovation and knowledge transfer with the goal of playing a more important role in the global higher education landscape.

In 2023, the **Global Engagement Office (GEO)** proactively reached out to prospective students in various countries and regions to promote **PolyU's** unique offerings and its undergraduate (UG) programmes. We also hosted numerous wide-ranging learning activities and programmes for **PolyU** students, prospective students and other stakeholders, who experienced **PolyU's** inspiring learning environment and benefited greatly from these enriching experiences.



16,270+
UG students



from **59** countries and regions in our diverse UG student population



616
entry scholarships awarded



21%
increase in UG student applications compared to 2022/23



350+
school visits and attendance at education fairs



270+
student exchange partners of leading universities in 37 countries and regions



1,111
UG students participated in student exchange programmes



580+
UG students engaged in other outbound learning opportunities



40
UG students participated in 8 international conferences or competitions

March | Counsellor Fly-in Programme

GEO jointly hosted the six-day "HKUST x PolyU Counsellor Fly-in 2023" in late March. To strengthen the close connection between PolyU and the rest of the world, 39 counsellors from 38 schools in 15 countries and regions, namely Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Malaysia, Pakistan, The Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam, as well as counsellors from local schools, were welcomed at PolyU. Professor Ben Young, Vice President (Student and Global Affairs), Professor Kwok-yin Wong, Vice President (Education) and Professor Geoffrey Q. P. Shen, Associate Vice President (Global Partnerships) and Director of Global Engagement shared information about how talented students are helped to gain access to PolyU's top-quality education and dynamic learning environment. The entire fly-in programme ended with a dinner, with all parties exchanging educational experiences and expressing their hope of jointly nurturing tomorrow's leaders with a global vision.

39
counsellors from
38
schools in
15
countries and regions



April | Junior Researcher Mentoring Programme 2023

PolyU first launched the Junior Researcher Mentoring Programme in 2021, with the participation of 300+ high school students from both local and local international schools. During April to August this year, a total of 136 high school students from 49 schools participated in 42 small-scale research projects led by PolyU academics from 20 schools and departments. The Programme enabled high school students to gain holistic hands-on experiences on the research process across different topics. Designed to stimulate interest in research, the Programme hopes to nurture more young talents going forward.

136
high school students from
49
schools participated in
42
small-scale research
projects



May | Mainland China Recruitment Roadshow

To recruit as many new Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) applicants as possible for the 2023 intake, recruitment roadshows were arranged in 10 Mainland cities in May 2023, with the active participation of PolyU's faculties and schools. A total of 27 representatives, together with GEO, introduced PolyU's vibrant learning environment and undergraduate programmes, along with the JEE admission scheme, to prospective applicants. The roadshows were well attended, with 1,111 participants, who gained a comprehensive understanding of the University's unique strengths.

1,111
participated



July | Summer Institute 2023

This July and August witnessed the launch of the first PolyU Summer Institute, with the support of the nine Faculties and Schools, which aimed to offer high school students a rewarding PolyU experience. Around 210 local high school students from 107 schools participated in the residential camp, taking part in a series of engaging activities and sessions where they mingled with PolyU representatives. Among the participants, 45 also took a credit-bearing course. These students gained an elementary knowledge of entrepreneurship and artificial intelligence, and learned to apply the theories to develop an innovative mindset in this digital era. The participants not only experienced our University's dynamic learning environment, but also got valuable first-hand experience of making informed choices for their future studies.



210 local high school students

107 schools participated

July | International Summer School 2023

The International Summer School 2023 was held from mid-July to mid-August for around 450 undergraduate students from 18 countries and regions including PolyU students. During their stay at PolyU, students not only took our signature credit-bearing courses but also engaged in a variety of enrichment activities and local tours. These enabled the participants to experience teaching at PolyU and learn about the vibrancy and diversity of Hong Kong. The Programme also helped boost intercultural communication between PolyU students and participants from other countries and regions.



450 undergraduate students studying in **18** countries and regions



October | International Cultural Festival

The inaugural PolyU International Cultural Festival was held in October. The Festival spanned over eleven days. It was a celebration of diverse cultures through food appreciation, cultural workshops, booth exhibitions, live performances, traditional dances, film screenings, and craft demonstrations. With an amazing attendance of over 6,000 individuals, including 40 distinguished guests from 20 countries and regions represented by the Consulates-General, among whom were 10 Consuls General, the Festival had a profound impact and created memories that will be cherished for years to come. Additionally, we secured the sponsorship of over 25 organisations, including multiple Consulates-General in Hong Kong. This remarkable event further solidified PolyU's commitment to diversity and international collaboration.



6,000 participated



40 distinguished guests from **20** countries and regions



Sponsored by **25** organisations

2. Global Engagement

October | Global Exchange Fair

The two-day Global Exchange Fair comprised an exhibition and four information sessions in October. With nearly 650 students in attendance, the Fair showcased the student exchange opportunities for PolyU undergraduates. Students and teaching staff were invited to share their outbound learning experiences. The exhibition booths at the Fair were hosted by enthusiastic inbound and returning exchange students, who were eager to share their amazing exchange experiences with the participants. The sessions were informative, and all of the participants had a productive and enjoyable time.

650
attended The Fair



November | Networking with Secondary School Principals and Vice Principals

PolyU has been developing strong relationships with local secondary schools. This year, 39 principals and vice principals from 34 local secondary schools in Yuen Long, Tuen Mun and Tai Po were invited to a luncheon meeting with PolyU representatives, followed by a guided tour of various faculties, departments and schools, along with our Industrial Centre. The participants learned more about PolyU's latest developments, the features of our 4-year undergraduate programmes and the dynamic learning environment.



39
principals and vice principals from
34
local secondary schools



Summary

PolyU has a vast global network that stretches across continents. In 2023, **PolyU** continued to strengthen collaborations, international alliances and strategic partnerships for closer worldwide connections and nurturing future talent. The leading partners buttress our development in teaching and learning, research, knowledge transfer and community.

PolyU also plays a key role in supporting the country's Belt and Road Initiatives to bring about positive changes in the region. We are dedicated to advancing the learning experience and academic collaboration with Belt and Road countries. Throughout the year, we had several Belt and Road Initiatives and worked closely with our partners in areas such as cultural exchange, mobility for students, professional training and related services.



355+
valid collaboration agreements



265+
overseas partner institutions from 38 countries and regions



35+
new MoUs/agreements signed or renewed with overseas institutions



8
new institutional partners (all ranked either in the world's top 200 or national top 1)



25
incoming delegation visits from 16 countries and regions



4
outgoing delegation visits to 6 countries and regions



12
courtesy calls and visits from Consuls General, foreign government officials, and representatives from Bangladesh, Dubai, France, Kazakhstan, Panama, Poland, The Netherlands and Turkey



10+
links facilitated for academic and non-academic units, and internal teams

Institutional Relations and Partnership

Outgoing Delegation Visits

February | Belgium, Czech and Germany

Professor Geoffrey Q. P. Shen, Associate Vice President (Global Partnerships) and Director of Global Engagement, and Associate Dean (FB) Dr Xin Xu, joined Professor Ben Young, Vice President (Student and Global Affairs) and paid a visit to the Group T Leuven campus on 20 February to explore new collaboration opportunities, and later visited two other partner universities – Czech Technical University and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. During the meetings, all of the parties expressed interest in strengthening ties and deepening collaborations.



April | South Korea

Led by the Council Chairman, a delegation comprising Professor Jin-Guang Teng, President of PolyU, and Professor Ben Young, visited three partner universities and an international school in South Korea from 18 to 20 April. The university visits included high-level meetings with Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Seoul National University, and Yonsei University. President Teng shared the University's latest developments and achievements. The PolyU delegation also paid a visit to Seoul International School. A Korean undergraduate student joined to share her PolyU experience with prospective students.



November | The UK

Professor Wing-tak Wong, Deputy President and Provost, led a delegation to visit several universities in the UK to deepen our academic partnerships. The delegation visited Imperial College London, the University of Warwick, Loughborough University and the University of Oxford between 6 and 8 November. Both parties explored further cooperation in undergraduate- and doctoral-level dual programmes. They also identified research initiatives and other educational collaborations, such as creating research opportunities for final-year undergraduates and exchanging academics or researchers.



September | Australia

President Teng was invited to participate in a Presidents' Forum at The University of Sydney on 25 September to engage in roundtable discussions with presidents of world-leading universities on university leadership and other emerging challenges encountered by the higher education sector.

Professor Christopher Chao, Vice President (Research and Innovation), joined the visit and met with the representatives of the University of Adelaide and the University of Technology Sydney. There was also mutual interest in exploring the opportunities to offer joint programmes at master's and doctoral levels, or identifying areas for collaborative research. In addition, Professor Christopher Chao paid a courtesy visit to UNSW Sydney.



Incoming Delegation Visits

October | Meeting with the Knowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai

On 11 October, President Teng hosted a delegation from the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) in Dubai, led by the Director General, Dr Abdulla Al Karam, who shared the Dubai Economic Agenda 'D33' and his view on the city's competitive advantages and plentiful educational opportunities. He also expressed the support of KHDA for starting PolyU programmes that are in high demand in Dubai such as business and hotel and tourism management. Both parties agreed upon the common goal of contributing to talent development in Dubai.



Networking Events

February | Luncheon with Consulates General

On 3 February, President Teng hosted an exclusive luncheon for Consuls General and representatives from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, South Korea and The Philippines. During the luncheon organised by GEO and supported by all of the Deans, President Teng provided an update on the latest achievements and future development plans of the University, while Professor Ben Young shared the learning opportunities and support to students.



August | Breakfast Meeting with the Minister from Kazakhstan

On 17 August, President Teng hosted a breakfast meeting for Mr Sayasat Nurbek, Minister of Science and Higher Education in Kazakhstan. He was accompanied by Mr Almas Seitakynov, Consul General of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Hong Kong and Macao. Mr Nurbek shared the Ministry's latest development plan, its support for opening foreign university branches in Kazakhstan, and his country's strategic focus in technical fields to enhance cooperation in education, research and innovation. They had a fruitful discussion about collaboration on various fronts, including initiatives of mutual interest to be launched in Kazakhstan.





The University Social Responsibility Network (USRN) was initiated by PolyU in 2015 in the belief that universities have an obligation to work together to find solutions to address the economic, social and environmental challenges facing the world today, making the world more just, inclusive, peaceful and sustainable. Serving as a global platform to connect and foster partnership among members, the USRN shares ideas and resources to develop collaborative USR projects with varied scope and scale, advancing higher education as a catalyst for social change through education, research and community service. The USRN comprises 20 member institutions with a wide geographic spread. Professor Ben Young, Vice President (Student and Global Affairs), is Chair of the USRN Executive Committee. The Network Secretariat is currently hosted at the Global Engagement Office of PolyU.

USRN's Participation in the Global Engagement & Empowerment Forum (GEEF) 2023

On behalf of the USRN, Professor Kwok-yin Wong, Vice President (Education), spoke at the Global Engagement & Empowerment Forum (GEEF) 2023, hosted by Yonsei University on 3 February. The theme of the GEEF was "Turning Point: From Crisis into Opportunity". During the Forum, the task of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 was discussed in terms of current progress at the mid-point, along with future directions for pursuing SDGs.

Professor Wong was invited to speak in a panel session focusing on "SDG 4: Quality Education". Moderated by Professor Donghoon Kim, Senior Vice President of Yonsei University, the session addressed the role of higher education institutions in realising a sustainable future.



USRN Staff Development Workshop 2023: Cultivating University Communities with a Broader Mind

The USRN and one of its member institutions, VU Amsterdam, co-hosted the USRN Staff Development Workshop 2023 from 24 to 26 September. The theme was "Cultivating University Communities with a Broader Mind". This biennial USRN event brought together 36 participants from around the world, including representatives from 10 USRN member institutions: Ateneo de Manila University, Rhodes University, Sichuan University, Simon Fraser University, PolyU, The University of Manchester, Tufts University, University of Haifa, University of Iceland and VU Amsterdam. The event was also attended by representatives from four invited institutions: the International European University, Sabanci University, University Paris-Est Créteil and V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University.

During the Workshop, the participants learned about and discussed the "Mixed Classroom Education" model, a diversity and inclusion best practice model developed by VU Amsterdam, which aims to cultivate an enriching and supportive learning atmosphere for all students, regardless of their backgrounds or abilities. The participants also had the opportunity to exchange their ideas, knowledge and experiences of building successful University Social Responsibility (USR) initiatives that can be sustained over time.

Following the Workshop, the 6th USRN Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting was hosted, in which members of the USRN ExCom gathered to discuss the future priorities and strategic foci of the Network.



Rwanda Service-Learning Programme

From 21 July to 6 August, three students from USRN member universities, including Ateneo de Manila University, Beijing Normal University and the University of Pretoria, participated in an international Service-Learning programme organised by PolyU's Service-Learning and Leadership Office in Rwanda, Africa.

The student participants engaged in a project entitled "Habitat Green in East Africa", in which they collaborated with local students to design and implement sustainable energy solutions for families in remote villages. The main objective of the Service-Learning programme was to install solar power systems in Bicaca Village, located in Rwamagana District in Rwanda's Eastern Province. Over 14 days, the students worked diligently to address the basic electricity needs of more than 400 households in this rural mountainous region.

In addition to learning about the technical aspects of the systems, the students participating in the Programme had the opportunity to actively engage with the local community, thereby fostering collaboration and establishing meaningful connections. Their dedicated efforts brought hope and light to families in need, showcasing the transformative power of learning through service to others.



July | Forum of the Belt and Road Alliance Founding Institutions

On 7 July, GEO hosted the Forum of the Belt and Road Alliance Founding Institutions, which commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiatives. Under the theme of "Jointly Building the Belt and Road", the Forum brought together 18 scholars from the founding institutions of seven Belt and Road academic alliances to share insights into fostering talent development, knowledge transfer and research development for the sustainable advancement of Belt and Road countries.

PolyU is actively developing its international networks to support the Belt and Road Initiatives. The University is not only the Co-founder and Vice-President of the University Alliance of the Silk Road but also a member of the Association of Sino-Russian Technical Universities, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Consortium of Universities, and the University Consortium of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. To further strengthen our presence in and strategic development of the Belt and Road, PolyU joined the Alliance of International Science Organisations in the Belt and Road Regions and ASEAN-China Network for Cooperation and Exchanges among Engineering and Technology Universities as a member institution in 2023.

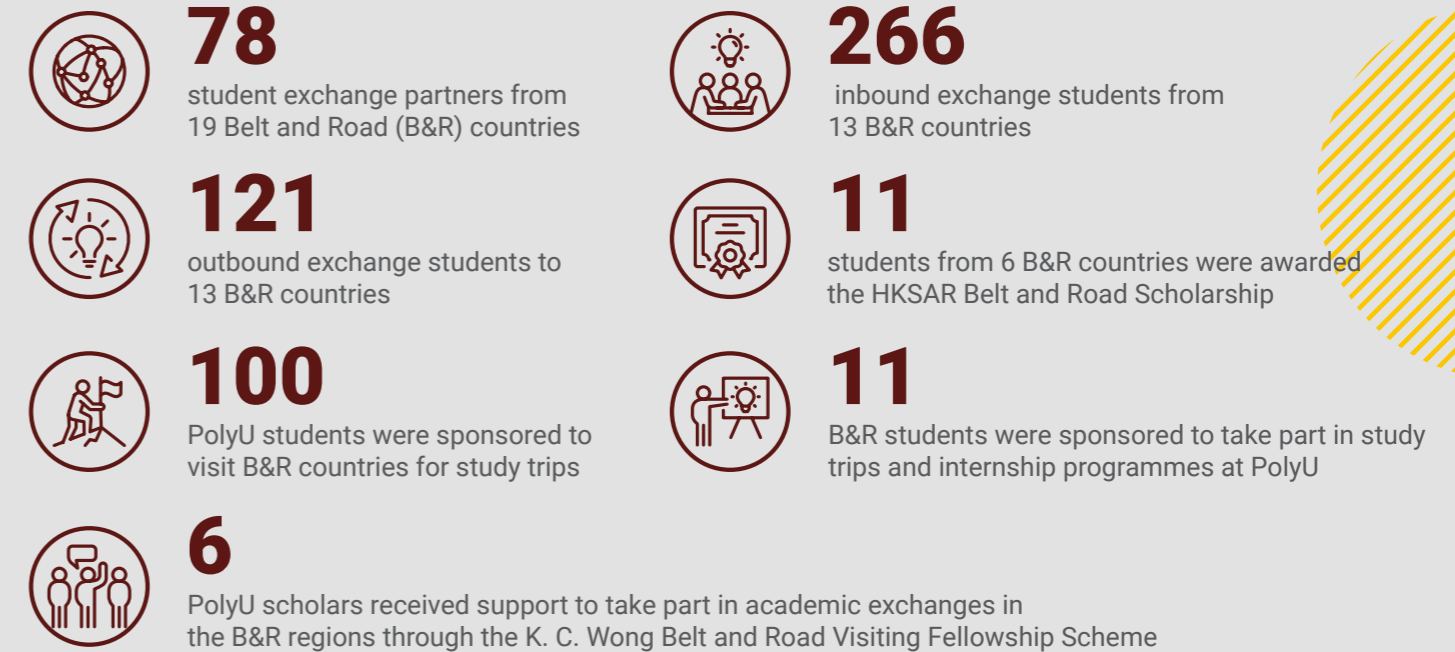
Participating Alliances:

- Alliance of International Science Organisations in the Belt and Road Regions
- ASEAN-China Network for Cooperation and Exchanges among Engineering and Technology Universities
- Association of Sino-Russian Technical Universities
- BRICS Universities League
- China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Consortium of Universities
- University Alliance of the Silk Road
- University Consortium of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road



Belt and Road Academic Exchange

PolyU has built robust partnerships with Belt and Road tertiary institutions, to enhance academic exchange and mobility programmes in the regions. The Sub-Committee on Belt and Road Development, chaired by Professor Geoffrey Q. P. Shen, Associate Vice President (Global Partnerships) and Director of Global Engagement, was established under the purview of the Global Engagement Committee. The aim is to make significant progress in fostering strategic partnerships, promoting academic exchange, and facilitating collaborative research projects with institutions along the Belt and Road. As part of our commitment to the Belt and Road Initiatives, GEO launched a two-year pilot Belt and Road Funding Scheme to promote knowledge exchange and talent mobility in the regions.



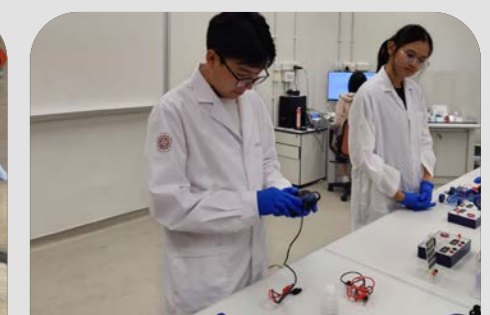
I was overjoyed by the amount of knowledge I gained in Mongolia. It was an eye-opening experience to see how occupational therapy can be practised differently in different cultures.

Chan Weng U
Rehabilitation Sciences student



Our school organised the Singaporean tour that gave 21 of us the unique opportunity to gain insights into logistics and supply chain management industries.

Cho Hau Nam
Logistics and Maritime Studies student



My research internship in PolyU's Department of Mechanical Engineering focused on the design and development of fuel cells for green power generation. It was an incredibly enriching experience that enhanced my professional growth, expanded my cross-cultural learning, and enhanced my personal development.

Benyapa Yawanopas
Student from Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)

List of Partner Institutions

Australia

Charles Sturt University
Curtin University
Deakin University
Griffith University
Monash University
Queensland University of Technology
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Southern Cross University
Swinburne University of Technology
The University of Melbourne
The University of Newcastle
The University of Queensland
The University of Sydney
University of New South Wales
University of South Australia
University of Technology Sydney
University of Wollongong
Western Sydney University

Austria

IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems
Management Center Innsbruck
MODUL University Vienna
Salzburg University of Applied Sciences
Vienna University of Economics and Business

Bangladesh

Jahangirnagar University

Belgium

Ghent University
KU Leuven
Universite libre de Bruxelles
University of Antwerp
University of Liege

Canada

HEC Montreal
OCAD University
Queen's University
The University of British Columbia
University of Alberta
University of Calgary
University of Guelph
University of Montreal
University of Toronto
University of Waterloo

Croatia

Zagreb School of Economics and Management

Czech Republic

Czech Technical University
Prague University of Economics and Business

Denmark

Aalborg University
Aarhus University
Copenhagen Business School
Copenhagen School of Design and Technology

Finland

Aalto University
Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences
Hanken School of Economics
JAMK University of Applied Sciences
Metropolia University of Applied Sciences
Tampere University

France

Audencia Business School
Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Industries Textiles
Ecole Supérieure Internationale de Savignac
EDHEC Business School
ESSCA School of Management
Excelia Business School
IESEG School of Management
INSA Group
Institute of Polytechnic Science and Aeronautics
KEDGE Business School
NEOMA Business School
SKEMA Business School
TBS Business School
University of Angers

Germany

EBS Business School
Frankfurt School of Finance & Management
Hochschule für Technik Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences
Hochschule Geisenheim University
Hochschule München University of Applied Sciences
Hochschule Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences
HTWG Konstanz University of Applied Sciences
IU International University of Applied Sciences
Ludwig Maximilian University Munich
RWTH Aachen University
Technical University of Darmstadt
Technische Hochschule Köln
University of Mannheim
WHU-Otto Beisheim School of Management
Worms University of Applied Sciences

India

National Institute of Design

Indonesia

University of Indonesia

Ireland

Technological University Dublin
Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin

Italy

Bocconi University
Free University of Bozen-Bolzano
Polytechnic University of Milan
University of Bergamo
University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Japan

Beppu University
Kansai Gaidai University
Kochi University of Technology
Kyoto Institute of Technology
Kyoto University
Kyushu University
Nagoya University
Osaka Gakuin University
Rikkyo University
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
Shinshu University
The University of Tokyo
Tohoku University
Toyo University
Waseda University

Kazakhstan

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University

Latvia

Art Academy of Latvia

Malaysia

National University of Malaysia
University of Malaya
University of Technology, Malaysia

Mexico

Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education

Myanmar

University of Nursing, Yangon

New Zealand

Auckland University of Technology

Norway

BI Norwegian Business School
NHH Norwegian School of Economics
Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

Poland

Kozminski University
University of Warsaw

Russian Federation

Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University

Singapore

Nanyang Technological University
National University of Singapore
Singapore Management University

Slovenia

University of Ljubljana

South Korea

Ajou University
Chung-Ang University
Ewha Womans University
Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
Hanyang University
Hongik University
Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology
Korea Aerospace University
Korea University
Kyung Hee University
Pohang University of Science & Technology
Sejong University
Seoul National University
Soongsil University
Sungkyunkwan University
Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology
Woosong University
Yonsei University

Spain

IE University
Ramon Llull University
University of Barcelona
University of Jaen
University of Navarra
University of the Balearic Islands

Sweden

Chalmers University of Technology
Jonkoping University
Karolinska Institute
Konstfack University College of Arts, Crafts and Design
KTH Royal Institute of Technology
Linkoping University
Lund University
Malardalen University
Malmo University
University of Boras
University of Gothenburg
Uppsala University

Switzerland

Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne
Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts
University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons
University of Zurich
Zurich University of Applied Sciences
Zurich University of the Arts

Thailand

Asian Institute of Technology
Chiang Mai University
Chulalongkorn University
Dusit Thani College
King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi
Mahidol University
Prince of Songkla University
Srinakharinwirot University
Thammasat University

The Netherlands

Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences
Breda University of Applied Sciences
Delft University of Technology
Design Academy Eindhoven
Erasmus University Rotterdam
Hotelschool The Hague
Maastricht University
University of Groningen
University of Twente
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Zuyd University of Applied Sciences

Turkey

Koc University
Sabanci University

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Aston University
Bournemouth University
Cardiff University
De Montfort University
Durham University
Falmouth University
Glasgow Caledonian University
Imperial College London
Kingston University
Loughborough University
Manchester Metropolitan University
Nottingham Trent University
Oxford Brookes University
Queen's University Belfast
Royal College of Art
The London School of Economics and Political Science
The University of Edinburgh
The University of Liverpool
The University of Manchester
University of Birmingham
University of Exeter
University of Glasgow
University of Leeds
University of Nottingham
University of Reading
University of Southampton
University of Strathclyde
University of Surrey
University of the Arts London
University of the West of England, Bristol
University of Warwick
University of Westminster

United States of America

Boston University
Brown University
Carnegie Mellon University
Drexel University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia State University
Indiana University
Kansas State University
Kent State University
Michigan State University
North Carolina State University
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
San Francisco State University
Temple University
The University of Chicago
The University of New Mexico
University at Buffalo SUNY
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Houston
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Pennsylvania
University of San Francisco
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Yale University

Uzbekistan

"Silk Road" International University of Tourism

Vietnam

An Giang University
Vietnam National University, Hanoi

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