

Guidance Bulletin 9, 31st October 2016

Years 12 and 13: Okayama University The Discovery Programme for Global Learners brings together students from Japan and abroad to study together in a four-year curriculum conducted entirely in English. The programme offers an interdisciplinary curriculum in which students may focus on the humanities, sciences, or social sciences, or build their own curriculum drawing on courses across disciplines. Intensive Japanese language classes are also available, but Japanese language ability is not required. All international students in the Discovery Program will receive monthly scholarships of 40,000 yen (approximately 400 USD) for four years, and are also eligible to apply for tuition scholarships. For general details see <http://discovery.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/> The application guide for international students is at http://discovery.okayama-u.ac.jp/en/userdata/application_guide.pdf

Years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13: Academic freedom

From the admissions office at the University of Chicago comes a video on the importance of Diversity, Academic Freedom, and Free Speech as parts of a world-class education whether at the University of Chicago or elsewhere in the world: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hx9cAuE2YBE>

Years 12 and 13: Leiden University

Leiden University (including Leiden University College) offers an international experience with 105 nationalities represented in a unique mosaic of cultures. More than forty bachelor's programmes are offered, nine of which are taught and examined in English: (1) Archaeology, (2) Arts, Media and Society, (3) Dutch Studies, (4) International Relations and Organisations, (5) International Studies, (6) Philosophy, (7) Global and Comparative Perspectives, (8) Psychology and (9) South and Southeast Asian Studies. The general deadline for applications is 01-Apr-2017, but early applications can be submitted for Psychology on 15-Jan-17 and for Leiden University College on 01-Jan-17. It is possible to sample these courses for a day: for details see <http://bachelors.leiden.edu/contact/information-days>.

Years 11, 12 and 13: University of London

Representatives and alumni from Imperial College London, King's College London, London School of Economics and University College London will be holding a presentation and information session for prospective students on Monday 28-Nov-16 at 19:00-21:00 in the Hotel Warwick Geneva. For further details and to register please go to www.studyinlondongeneva.eventbrite.co.uk.

Years 11, 12 and 13: École Hôtelière de Genève

École Hôtelière de Genève is having an open day on Wednesday 09-Nov-16 from 14:00 to 18:00. Situated on the avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Museum, the institution provides students with a practical route into the hospitality industry. The open day includes taster lessons, meetings with teachers and students, introductory talks on the breadth of the profession and a chance to discover the different courses on offer. At École Hôtelière de Genève all teaching and studying is conducted in French. To book a place on the open day write to po@ehg.ch.

Years 12 and 13: Webster University

Webster University, which has just celebrated its centenary, is holding a fair at its Geneva campus on Wednesday 09-Nov-16 from 17:00 to 19:00. Here visitors can discover more about the academic programmes, meet staff and students, participate in workshops and be involved in networking. To register for this event go to www.webster.ch/campusfair.

Years 12 and 13: Notes from the visit by École Polytechnique Paris on 18-Oct-16

École Polytechnique has been offering Masters degrees in engineering for over two hundred years. These take four years to complete. With an annual intake of about 500 students, there are some 2000 students on the campus. In each intake over 100 students come from outside France. Masters degrees are taught wholly in French. They culminate in written and oral exams. At the start of the course each student is assigned a tutor to give advice about doctorates and further training. This is a traditional academic product. What is new is the bachelor degree. Created in 2016, it is a big move for the École Polytechnique. It takes three years to complete and is taught wholly in English. The focus is on science. Afterwards there is the possibility of moving to the Masters. 80 places will be available for the first intake in September 2017. The first year involves a general course based around Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry. Students can then specialise in Economics, Computer Science or Physics. Alongside science there are modules in sports, languages and humanities. The idea is to create leaders, hence the six hours each week of sports. Designed to be intensive and rigorous, the programme is looking for applicants who will work effectively in teams. In the fifth semester students study abroad. Selection is competitive. The aim is to recruit a minimum of 60 per cent of the students from outside France. Such internationalism will be good for tackling worldwide challenges, whether climate change or cyber security. To cope with these issues students should be flexible across academic subjects, uphold cultural differences and share global values. The application process starts on 01-Nov-16. Along with the application form there are required letters of recommendation and transcripts. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed. Tuition fees are €12,000 a year and board and lodging €10,000 a year. Paris has been nominated by QS Rankings as the best student city and École Polytechnique has been declared by the Times Higher Education Rankings 2016 as the world's 3rd best small university. For further details go to www.polytechnique.edu or contact bachelor-admissions@polytechnique.fr.

Year 13: Art portfolio evaluation

Paris College of Art will be hosting the 2016 National Portfolio Day on Saturday 19-Nov-16 from 12:00 to 16:00 at the Paris College of Art campus at 15 rue Fénelon in the 10th arrondissement of Paris. The National Portfolio Day Association was created in 1978, solely for the organization and planning of National Portfolio Days. The Association consists of representatives from regionally accredited US colleges and universities that are also accredited institutional members of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) and Canadian colleges and universities that are members of Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) or that hold NASAD Substantial Equivalency status. NPDA is the only organization of its kind and the membership represents the highest standard of visual arts education available in the United States and Canada. Participating colleges include: Art Center (CA), College for Creative Studies (MI), Cornish College of the Arts (WA), Maryland Institute College of Art (MD), Otis College of Art and Design (CA), Paris College of Art, Parsons School of Design (NY) and School of the Art Institute of Chicago (IL). To register go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/billets-national-portfolio-day-at-paris-college-of-art>.

Years 12 and 13: notes from the visit by Skidmore College (NY) on 14-Oct-16

Located in Saratoga Springs, a four-hour train journey away from New York and Boston, Skidmore College has joined the growing list of institutions that do not require SAT or ACT. This is perfect for any applicant who wishes to concentrate on the IB diploma. Testimony to the academic energy of the place, a new science centre is about to be opened. Costing some \$100 million, this will integrate science with other disciplines, the cross fertilisation of ideas being particularly exciting. Last year saw the largest admissions cycle with over 9,000 applications. The acceptance rate is 29 per cent. Of those admitted, 11 per cent are international. One of the more popular majors is business. The intimacy of the teaching and the contacts for internships make Skidmore College stand out. As a minor Film and Media Studies is growing in popularity.