

SPECIAL REPORT: CONTINUING AND OVERSEAS EDUCATION

Whether it is preparing for an admission exam or entering an overseas or local educational institution, Hong Kong is flush with organisations that can help ease the process.

For example, **Arch Education** is offering a medical admissions preparatory series this week aimed at Form Five and Six students planning to study medicine in Hong Kong or in Britain. Its applicants would also benefit from attending the sessions, says Arch Education co-founder **Jeanette Ma**.

"Medical undergraduate offers are increasingly competitive to secure," she says. "The Medical Admissions Prep Series is the first programme in Hong Kong where top medical practitioners and trainers are invited from the UK to deliver an intensive workshop to medical applicants."

The three sessions will run from 7am to 5.30pm on 17, 18 and 19 July.

"Unlike other courses, [our series] focuses on difficult areas such as ethics, law and current events in medicine. It also has a unique structure for students to use when answering questions in these areas," Ma adds.

At the Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI), a Higher Diploma in Landscape Architecture has just been launched.

Professional core modules include history and theory of landscape architecture, landscape design studio, landscape visualisation, principles of landscape architecture, professional practice, expanded studies and a graduation project. It is a full-time two-year programme.

"The programme lays a foundation of both design philosophy and technical



Themes to explore such as the HK Design Institute, students and professionals can access various continuing education options. Photo: HKDI

Multiple choice

HK offers menu of local and overseas courses. Reports by Michael Taylor

knowledge for students who intend to pursue the landscape architecture profession," says Sara Wong, senior lecturer at the school's department of product and interior design. "It provides

the background training in basic design skills, planting design, landscape architecture theory and history, technology, and visual communication, for the students to practise or to advance to further studies in landscape architecture."

Graduates could find jobs in landscape architectural assistants, project assistants for the government, architectural consultants, engineering and contracting companies, private corporations, and developers.

Graduates can apply for admission to the BA (Hons) Landscape Architecture programme at the Technological and Higher Education Institute

of Hong Kong, under the Vocational Training Council. Over at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the department of computer science and engineering is offering a Master of Science in Information Technology (MSc-IT).

"The programme provides students with a strong theoretical foundation in all the areas of IT," says Jagdish Muppala, MSc-IT programme director and associate professor at the department. "The courses give students insights into the application areas of all the subject materials that they learn in the courses. This dual emphasis on strong theoretical

foundation and application, and skill-set training, provides our students with powerful training to meet the future needs of the IT industry."

Students can complete the course part time in 20 months or full time in 12 months. To graduate, they must complete 30 credits of coursework.

"Our goal is to prepare our students to take on leadership roles in the IT industry, not as entry-level programmes," Muppala says.



for the full story go to www.scmp.com/sp/specialreport

Ethelburga stirs students to excel

The Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate Foundation is one of those quintessentially British boarding schools that you see in movies. There is ivy climbing up red brick walls, sweeping lawns, and ancient trees.

The school's Queen's Kindergarten accepts children from three months to three years. Its Chapter House Preparatory School takes children from three to 10 years. King's Magna Middle School is for students from 10 to 14, while Queen Ethelburga's College is for students from 14 to 19.

"The focused academic route in the college is the key to success for many young people with high aspirations," says Dan Machin, head of Queen Ethelburga's College.

"The traditional range of subjects, alongside the diverse set of enrichment and extra-curricular activities, gives a stimulating and fulfilling education. We welcome students from all over the world who are able and determined to realise a success of their academic life and to contribute to our wider community at school. The college is an exciting place in which to live and study, and students gain an excellent preparation for higher education and life beyond."

A traditional academic foundation is supported by a strong programme of extra-curricular activities to encourage the development of well-rounded individuals. Students in Key Stage 4 are taught in mixed Year 10 and 11 groups, which reflect their ability rather than their age. They are encouraged to study at the level most appropriate to their individual circumstances.

In Form 5C, the focus is on ensuring that students gain entry to higher learning – both in Britain and overseas. This is achieved by a firm focus on three academic A-Levels, with the opportunity to achieve breadth of knowledge in Year 12 through a fourth subject chosen from BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council) or less traditional A-Levels. College Sixth Form students are encouraged to have high aspirations by the end of the two-year course.

Recent graduates have found places at Oxford, Cambridge, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and Imperial College London, as well as such prestigious tertiary institutions such as the West Point Military Academy in New York and the University of Waikong.



LSE is a top target for Ethelburga graduates. Photo: Kelvin Chan



Jeanette Ma



Sara Wong