

# Latest Research

FOBISIA supports its Member Schools in various ways, including sharing of the latest research of relevance to British international schools within the Asia region.

*"Teaching needs an ecosystem that supports evidence-based practice. It will need better systems to disseminate the results of research more widely, but also a better understanding of research, so that teachers can be critical consumers of evidence."*

- Ben Goldacre, Senior Clinical Research Fellow, Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, University of Oxford

## International School Students & Their Choice of Undergraduate Degrees

By Anne Keeling, Communications Director, ISC Research

A new report just published by ISC Research studies the pathway from international schools to higher education. The report researched the College Counsellors of 306 English-medium K-12 international schools around the world to collect data and intelligence on the qualifications achieved and the higher education destination choices of Grade 12 international school students.

The results show the breadth of undergraduate degree subjects, countries and universities that international school students consider. This seems to be due to the direct and impartial support of College Counsellors employed by many international schools to guide students to the best solutions for their individual needs.

The research shows that English-medium international school students are no longer just looking at the UK or US for their higher education destinations. Canada, Australia and non-English-speaking countries where English-medium undergraduate degree courses are now being offered, such as in the Netherlands and the UAE, are now being selected.

International school students are also more discerning about their fields of study too. The top two fields of study are Business/Administrative and Engineering/Technology, but many other fields of study are popular including Medicine/Health, Social Sciences, Biological

Sciences, Law, Creative Arts/Design, and Mathematical Sciences/Computing. Again, the report suggests that the expert, informed support of the school College Counsellor, who has the knowledge of all fields of study, enables a better matching of student to the right course.

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Anecdotally, many universities have referenced the high retention rate of undergraduate students who have come from international schools. This suggests that finding the right degree in the right establishment in the right country for each student is an important route to higher education success.

ISC Research will be conducting a similar survey with international school College Counsellors and Heads of Sixth Form again this year. All participating schools receive a complimentary copy of the entire research analysis. If you did not participate in the first survey and would like to be included in the forthcoming research please contact [enquiries@iscresearch.com](mailto:enquiries@iscresearch.com). The Pathway to Higher Education Report from ISC Research includes examination results, country and university destinations, undergraduate subject choices, and the perceived benefits and barriers to studying in key destination countries.

*To obtain a complimentary abridged copy of the report contact [enquiries@iscresearch.com](mailto:enquiries@iscresearch.com).*