







# An introduction to teaching in China with Dipont Education

## Committed to developing, guiding and empowering our students

Dipont Education Management Group is a leading Chinese educational services company with a particular focus on the delivery of overseas curricula to Chinese students.

In association with highly regarded public high schools, we currently manage 11 A Level Centres (UK curriculum) and 6 AP Centres (US curriculum) in a range of locations across China. Demand for our foreign curricula provision is extremely high and we are expanding our existing centres, in addition to opening in new locations over the next few years.

We also co-ordinate international educational exchange programmes, summer programmes and provide emigration and study abroad consultation.

## Making international education accessible

A number of our students achieve some of the highest examination results globally and continue their education at the best universities in the world. As well as academic achievement, each centre also strives to develop confidence and independence in their students in order to ensure that they are well prepared for their university careers. Through the programme and their studies in the English medium, students develop awareness of other cultures and an international perspective, but at the same time retain strong ties to their Chinese heritage.

At present, Dipont has over 300 Chinese employees and 180 foreign teaching staff. We have over 3,200 students currently studying in our foreign curricula centres and envisage this increasing to 6,000 students in the next two years across at least 20 centres.



## Company Background

Dipont was founded in Australia in 1990 as a private emigration and visa consulting company, focused primarily on providing advice, support and services to Chinese students studying overseas. In 1994, Dipont began roll-out in mainland China and established branch offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Chengdu, Xi'an, Shenzhen, Chongqing, Hangzhou and Wuxi, in addition to representative offices in the US, Canada and the UK.

In 2003, Dipont became a senior subsidiary centre and associate partner of the University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) in China. This was a further milestone for the company in entering a new sector to provide direct educational services to Chinese institutions and students. Dipont adopted the strategy of cooperating closely with provincial educational administrations on behalf of CIE and individual public high schools. Great success has been achieved with this strategy and Dipont has become the largest provider of the CIE A Level programme in China.

In 2009, Dipont became authorised participants in the AP (Advanced Placement) Programme and we are currently in the process of developing an IB (International Baccalaureate) provision.

Additional educational programmes have developed over the past 15 years, including 'High School Year Abroad'; special courses for gifted and talented students; short-term educational camps; an Au Pair programme; 'Teach in China'; 'Academic Ambassadors' and 'Work and Travel' programmes. It is estimated that over 25,000 young people have participated in these programmes since 1994.



## Mission Statement

To ensure that our excellence in teaching, curricula and programmes empowers our students to become successful global citizens, able to maximise their potential in life and future careers.

## Our Philosophy

- Dipont Education is committed to promoting high quality education and educational programmes to young Chinese talent by exploring and integrating global education resources.
- We focus on delivering premier education to our students in an international context via the English language medium and expatriate teaching staff, whilst ensuring the retention of strong ties to their native culture.
- The provision of international educational programmes provides ease of access for some of China's top academic talent to the very best universities overseas, and supports them in achieving academic success.
- By working in association with some of the top public high schools in China, we ensure that students have all the support, expertise and direction they need for their current and future development.
- The entire school programme encourages students to develop non-academic as well as academic skills, enabling them to become creative, self-directed individuals able to succeed at all levels in higher education programmes overseas.

## Our Goals

- To ensure the provision of excellent teaching, delivered by high quality professional educators.
- To collaborate effectively with all stakeholders and for all parties to benefit from cross-cultural links.
- To continually develop our provision and range of educational services in response to the needs of our students.
- To ensure that our management and support structures provide professional development and growth opportunities for all staff (teaching and non-teaching).
- To expect and strive for excellence in all we do.



## Dipont Curricula Provision

Students who wish to join our programmes transfer to the centres once they have completed either their nine year compulsory education, or senior years one and two, in the Chinese system. In all cases, they are keen to study at higher education level overseas – primarily in the US, UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

### The A Level Programme

Cambridge International A/AS Level is an internationally recognised qualification, taken by students in over 125 countries. The Dipont Cambridge programme includes IGCSE for Pre A-level (PAL) and the CIE AS and A2 levels. IGCSEs are taught within one year, with students then moving onto the AS and A2 programmes. Expatriate teachers teach predominantly at AS and A2 level.

Subjects offered are Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Business Studies, ICT and Accounting. English is a compulsory subject for all students throughout the programme, even when they have met English entrance requirements (IELTS/TOEFL) for overseas universities. Students can choose 4 to 5 subjects at AS level and in most cases take 3 to 4 subjects at A2 level. The Chinese school system places a great deal of emphasis on mathematics and sciences and therefore many students enter the centres with a very strong academic background in those subjects. Their background in business studies subjects is limited and therefore more support for these courses is required in the PAL year.

### The AP Programme

Advanced Placement courses provide high ability students with the opportunity to earn college credit whilst at high school and stand out in the admissions process to Colleges in the US, Canada and other parts of the world. Dipont has developed a coordinated curriculum that builds on the strength of the Chinese National Curriculum through the study of AP courses and the provision of academic English teaching.

In some parts of the world, secondary school students can take AP examinations without having taken AP courses. The College Board, however, strongly recommends that the best way to prepare for an AP exam is to take a specifically developed AP course. For most Chinese students, whose learning follows the Chinese national curriculum, taking the AP exam without undertaking a specific course is unrealistic due to the requirement to master concepts, display critical thinking skills and study particular content. Our students really benefit from our more concept-driven AP courses that can build upon their previous learning.

We currently offer AP courses in Calculus, Physics, Chemistry, Statistics and Economics, whilst English is taught to all students as a separate subject. Over the next two years, we will widen the subject provision. As in the A Level Centres, students take a Pre-AP year in order to prepare them for the first year of AP study.

## Locations of Dipont Centres

**Beijing**, as China's cultural and political capital, has a wealth of historical sites, modern architecture and a diverse range of activities on offer. From the Forbidden City, Summer Palace and The Temple of Heaven to a vibrant nightlife and a burgeoning art scene, Beijing is a community – there's a vast array to choose from.

**Nanjing** was the former capital for China during the Ming dynasty and, for a brief time, before the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949. It is now the modern, attractive and cosmopolitan capital city for Jiangsu province - with tree-lined streets, historical sites and arts scene.

**Xi'an** is the prosperous capital of Shaanxi province. It is an ancient city and was the imperial capital between 1000 BC and 1000 AD. It has a vibrant culture with a wealth of historical sites - including the Terracotta Army, the Bell and Drum towers and the city walls from the Ming dynasty.

**Chengdu** is the capital of Sichuan province and is one of the largest cities in China. It has a long and fascinating history spanning the past 2400 years and is famous for its spicy cuisine and relaxed lifestyle. Sichuan province itself is a beautiful area to explore, and Chengdu provides easy access to Tibet.

**Wuxi** is another canal town with beautiful lake scenery and also boasts the world's tallest Buddha. Well located in Jiangsu province, it's only 45 minutes from Shanghai or Nanjing and very close to Suzhou. It has a great balance of 'real' China, with modern China very close by in Shanghai.

**Fuyang** is located 38km away from Hangzhou in Zhejiang province and is an ancient city with a population of around 680,000. The Fuchan River winds through the countryside surrounding the mountains, waterfalls, lakes and

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**Zhangjiagang** is a small city in Chinese terms, but still has a population of some 1.2 million through the city and outlying areas. It is well located close to Suzhou, Wuxi, Nanjing and Shanghai. It is a modern, clean, tranquil and affluent area and was selected as a model city for China in 1993.

**Suzhou** is known as 'The Oriental Venice' with its network of canals and bridges. It is also famous for its traditional style of gardens, architecture and silk products. Proximity to Shanghai (about 40 minutes by train), has certainly helped the city develop a real cosmopolitan and modern feel against a more traditional backdrop.

**Ningbo** is one of China's oldest cities (dating back to 4800 BC) and has a long history as a vital port city for the whole of China. The thriving city economy offers a wide variety of attractions and some interesting tourist sites in and around the city. In 2008, a 33km sea bridge created an easy road link to Shanghai.

**Hangzhou** is often referred to as 'the most beautiful city in China' with its stunning central lake and surrounding countryside – the modern city having grown and developed around the lake. It is the capital of Zhejiang province and offers a wealth of amenities and activities.

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**Shenzhen** is reputedly one of the fastest growing cities in the world. Due to its proximity to Hong Kong, it was chosen as the country's first Special Economic Zone in the 1970s and has benefited from a huge level of investment. The climate is subtropical with some very attractive and dramatic landscape surrounding the modern city.

# Partner Schools & Teaching Centres

## A Level Centres:

### The High School Affiliated to Renmin University, Beijing

RDFZ is considered to be one of the best schools in China and is consistently placed at the top, or near the top, of league tables for Chinese schools. The school's leafy campus is situated within the education zone of the city and has a wide range of excellent sports facilities, laboratories and lecture theatres. The main school has 5,000 students and the A Level Centre (in its 6th year of operation) currently has 400 students on roll from 14 to 18 years of age.



### Beijing National Day School, Beijing

Beijing National Day School was established in 1952 and has more than 5,500 Chinese students, from 12 to 18 years of age. The school is also extremely highly regarded with a continuing aim to ensure its status as a model school in China. The campus is extensive (over 156,000 square metres) and has more of a university feel, providing students with modern, first-class teaching conditions and facilities. The A Level Centre opened in August 2009, currently has 160 students on roll and will be expanding further over the next few years.



### Nanjing Foreign Language School, Nanjing

NFLS was founded in 1963 and there are approximately 4,000 students on roll, ranging from 12 to 19 years of age. The mission statement for the school is: "To educate our students to be open to international understanding in a modern world whilst maintaining their Chinese soul", which is certainly a philosophy echoed by all our partner schools. Competition for places at the school is fierce and the school has scored at the top of league tables for Jiangsu Province over several years. The A Level Centre was opened in 2006 and currently has 316 students enrolled.





### **Nanjing Jinling High School, Nanjing**

The school enjoys a central location in the city and has a beautiful, extensive and well resourced campus. Established in 1888, with many eminent graduates over the years, it currently has 2,500 students from 16 to 18 years of age. The school has a strong belief in the promotion of education to enable all-round development and provides a wide range of extra-curricular, as well as academic activities. The A Level Centre opened in September 2008 and has 211 students on roll.



### **Suzhou High School, Suzhou**

The school was originally established in 1032 and has around 2,700 students from 13 to 18 years of age. It is another provincially and nationally recognised school and has won numerous awards as part of its status as a model school. Located centrally in Suzhou, with beautiful gardens surrounding the campus, teaching facilities are good and the school also runs a wide range of extra-curricular activities. The centre was established in 2007 and has 268 students on roll.



### **Wuxi No. 1 High School, Wuxi**

Located in a very attractive 5 acre campus, Wuxi No. 1 High School also benefits from its setting close to the downtown area. The school opened in 1912 and has 2,000 students on roll from 15 to 19 years of age. It is a key school in Jiangsu province and has received accolades on a national level. The A Level Centre opened in 2008 and has good sporting and academic facilities. 230 students are enrolled on the A Level programme.

## Partner Schools & Teaching Centres

### Hangzhou Foreign Language School

HFLS was established in 1964 and has approximately 2,500 students on roll from 12 to 19 years of age. The ethos of the school is to develop excellent high school graduates with outstanding foreign language skills, solid academic knowledge and creative ability. The campus has a university feel and is located in a stunning setting. The A level Centre was established in September 2008 and has 280, high ability students enrolled.



### Ivy Experimental School, Zhangjiagang

A modern school, having opened in 2000, it currently has about 2100 students on roll from 12 to 18 years of age and has already won a number of awards for high standards. The campus covers an area of over 80,000 square metres with excellent facilities. The school is committed to a student-centred approach and a focus on preparing students for lifelong development. The A Level Centre opened in 2005 and has 117 students.



### Chengdu Shishi High School, Chengdu

Shishi High School is the oldest known school in the world having operated continuously on the same site for 2,150 years. It has been a reputed key school since 1949, with an excellent reputation on a national level, and has 2,000 students from 16 to 18 years old. It has also achieved 100% in students' enrollment at university for decades. The A Level Centre opened in 2005 and currently has 129 students in the programme.





### **Ningbo Zhenhai High School, Ningbo**

The school campus encompasses several acres and has stunning gardens and fish ponds. The school has a wonderful history, with parts of the campus also devoted to excavated artifacts. It has an excellent reputation and academic standards are high. Located outside the city centre, close to the port area, the surrounding urban area from the school is quiet and relaxed. The A Level Centre was established in 2008 and has 180 students on roll. Resources are good and the centre also runs a range of extra-curricular activities.



### **A Level & AP Centre:**

#### **Xi'an Gaoxin No. 1 Middle School**

Xi'an No. 1 Middle School was founded in 1995 with a current enrollment of 1,800 students. The school enjoys the reputation as the most comprehensive and academically challenging secondary school in Xi'an. The centre opened in 2006 and has over 300 students, with access to an excellent range of facilities. It is unique in the Dipont network for introducing the AP curriculum alongside the existing A Level offering.



### **AP Centres:**

#### **Chengdu Foreign Language School**

Chengdu Foreign Language School was established in 1989 and is one of 13 foreign language schools approved by the State Ministry. Most of the 5,800 students are boarders, with an age range from 13 to 18 years old. It is one of the best schools in Chengdu and Sichuan Province, and has the right to recommend students for admission to key universities without the need for entrance examinations. The AP Centre, launched in September 2009, has 150 students and 6 foreign teaching staff.

## Partner Schools & Teaching Centres

### Jiangsu Tianyi High School, Wuxi

The motto of Jiagsu Tianyi High School is 'honesty and sincerity'. The campus covers 320,000 square metres and is extremely attractive, with a pavilion, rockery with waterfalls, bridges over a river (in which fish can be seen swimming) and beautiful gardens. The school, established in 1946, has over 3,000 students and is a national exemplary high school. The centre was established in September 2009, with 162 students and 6 foreign teachers.



### Shenzhen Foreign Languages High School, Shenzhen

Shenzhen Foreign Languages High School is considered the most rigorous and desired high school in Shenzhen. All graduates qualify for college admission in either China or abroad. The AP centre opened in the spring of the last school year and presently has 105 students enrolled. The centre offers AP economics, physics, chemistry, statistics and calculus as well as academic English. Additional resources are available to provide supplemental study in TOEFL and SAT preparation and the centre hosted US college admission fairs during the summer and autumn.



### Shude High School, Chengdu

Shude High School started in 2007 and has an enrollment of 3500 students. "Shu De" can be translated to 'cultivate personality and character' and therefore, in addition to the more academic subjects, Shude High School also emphasises sports and the arts. The Shude Foundation Program began in July 2010. It is a one-year English immersion program, focusing on English, US High School Math and Physics, coupled with intensive TOEFL and SAT preparation. Students take AP Exams in Calculus and Physics in May.





### **Xishan School, Beijing**

Xishan School is a school administered by RDFZ and is located about 20 minutes from the main RDFZ campus. It opened in the summer of 2009 and currently has 550 middle school and Senior 1 (10th grade) students. Student enrollment is expected to increase substantially over the next few years. The campus has outstanding facilities and is extremely well resourced. The AP centre opened in August 2010 and has over 80 students studying within the programme.



### **Fuyang No. 1 High School, Fuyang**

Fuyang High School is a well-established key school with an outstanding reputation based on the excellent academic record of its students and quality of its teaching staff. The new campus has modern, and well-equipped facilities within a beautifully landscaped setting. The school enrolls students from throughout the Hangzhou area and Zhejiang province. The AP centre opened in September 2010 with 80 students and 5 foreign teachers. The programme is a natural fit for a school with a history of strong international relationships, annual teacher and student overseas exchanges as well as intensive English summer camps.



## The Requirement for High Quality Teaching Staff

Expansion within our existing locations, as well as the opening of new centres, will create a wide range of opportunities at all levels for the next academic year and beyond. Current projections indicate that our student numbers will grow from just over 2,500 this year to at least 6,000 within the next three years. Appointments will be available in A Level and AP centres for:

- Leadership roles: Centre Principals and Academic Quality Managers
- A Level subject teachers: Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, English (ESL), Economics, Business Studies and Principles of Accounts
- AP subject teachers: Calculus, Physics, Economics, English (ESL), Statistics and Chemistry

## Why teach with Dipont in China?

### Students

Our model, by working with highly regarded public high schools, offers educators a unique opportunity to teach high ability Chinese students who are eager to learn – without the behaviour management issues experienced in many teaching posts. Teachers who really enjoy the depth of subject teaching required at A level, IBDP or AP level find this experience incredibly fulfilling. One of the key aims within each centre is to adequately prepare our students for successful university careers and for life overseas, in part developed through a modern, western style of teaching that encourages critical thinking, debate and application of learning. Our students, above all else, make teaching here a very special and rewarding experience.

### Schools

Our partner schools have unique histories and cultures, yet common themes emerge across all of them: high standards, committed students and a belief in the all-round development of young people. From the oldest school in the world (where our A-Level centre in Chengdu is based) to the most recently developed institution, the commitment to the success of these programmes and recognition for the contribution foreign teachers make, is undoubted.



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## Company

As the first and leading A Level provider in China, Dipont has the experience to understand the demands of foreign curricular provision to Chinese students and the methodologies required to deliver a successful programme. Our senior management team incorporates individuals from both Chinese and Western cultural backgrounds ensuring cross-cultural ideas and communication. Our proven model allows us to further extend the range of curricular provision with the AP and IB Programmes and to provide a variety of related educational services required by Chinese students. Growth over the next few years will be extensive in this ever-developing market and Dipont are currently the leaders in this field. As a result, career development opportunities for individuals are excellent.

## Culture

The cultural experience is fascinating and a fantastic opportunity for anyone with an interest in exploring this dynamic, diverse, beautiful and rapidly developing country. The chance to work alongside Chinese educators, to share educational philosophy and to generally understand more about Chinese culture, is also very rewarding. The food is wonderful and diverse across provinces, the opportunity to learn Chinese is available to all our staff and you are welcomed into this engaging culture on all levels.

## Benefits, Package and Support

Our salary package is very competitive and other benefits include good quality housing or a housing allowance, annual return airfare and worldwide medical/accident insurance. Staff also benefit from a considerably lower cost of living compared to the west, hence disposable income is high. In being part of a network of schools, there is also the opportunity to transfer to other centres during your time with Dipont.

## Before you start

We will manage your visa process and entry into China and ask you to attend an induction weekend before school starts. This allows you to meet all key staff from Dipont and new staff from all centres. The induction will provide information about the company, Chinese culture as well as the academic and professional requirements of your role. A separate new staff orientation is provided in each centre in terms of information about the city, the school and the centre. Our support staff organise your accommodation and assist you in all other matters required to establish your base in China.

## When in post

You are assisted with daily life issues and provided with administrative support by a centre co-ordinator and supported in all ways by your line manager. Leadership staff and subject teachers alike have a network of counterparts across the centres and share ideas, resources and experience. Our senior management team travel around the centres on a regular basis to provide further support and direction. We want our staff to develop professionally with us and we therefore have an established evaluation process, a developing training provision and a clear management support structure.

## What do we look for?

Educators employed in our centres need to have excellent subject knowledge and must be highly skilled, committed practitioners who can engage and stretch our students.

In subject teaching, opportunities are available for talented, recently qualified teachers as well as highly experienced and Advanced Skills Teachers.

Centre Principals must have a strong track record in school management, demonstrate skills in multiple stakeholder communication and be an excellent classroom practitioner.

Academic Quality Managers must be able to develop and tailor curricula, support subject teachers with resources and work with teachers to develop teaching skills where required.

For all staff, appreciation for a different culture and an understanding that cultural differences do exist is very important. The ability to adapt the teaching of a subject when English is a second language is also essential.

For more information, please contact [teachers@dipont-edu.org](mailto:teachers@dipont-edu.org)

## Senior Management Team



### **Benson Zhang: CEO**

Benson undertook a PhD in Australia before establishing Dipont in 1990. He has personally driven the growth of the company and continues to play an integral role in developing our services to support the needs of our Chinese clients.



### **Yang Fei: Vice President**

Yang Fei joined Dipont in 2003 and has been at the forefront of the development of the western curricula programmes in China. He studied at Bath University in the UK and then returned to China to develop his career in education management at both high school and tertiary level.



### **John Birchall: Academic Director**

John has held school principal positions in the UK and overseas for the past 25 years and has also provided senior level consultancy services to schools. He joined Dipont in 2009 in order to help drive the development of the programmes and oversee the academic management of the centres.



### **Vanessa Cumbers: HR Director**

Vanessa has worked within education recruitment and HR consultancy for over 10 years in both the UK and China. Her focus within Dipont is the recruitment of high quality teaching staff and the provision of support for teachers across our centres.