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# young post

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**O**ur friends to the south have some great options for your post-secondary studies. To help you navigate those options, IDP Education will hold the Australian Top Universities Interview Day on May 7 at the Eaton Hotel in Jordan. The event will feature seminars and student interviews from the Group of Eight (Go8), a coalition of leading Australian universities.

Go8 includes the Australian National University (ANU), the University of Adelaide (Adel), the University of Melbourne (Melb), Monash University, the University of New South Wales, the University of Queensland (UQ), the University of Sydney, and the University of Western Australia (UWA).

To prepare for the big day, *Young Post* asked two experts how you can find the school that's right for you.

### Hok Yau Club Student Guidance Centre director Ng Po-shing

**1** One of the hardest part of overseas study is getting professional recognition back home. If you want to work in Hong Kong, you need to make sure your qualifications will be recognised here.

Most graduates from Australian universities will need to submit their qualifications to the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications before they can take a civil servant position in Hong Kong, or do further study at local universities.

**2** Be familiar with the study pathways in Australia. On Interview

Day, you will receive a lot of brochures about undergraduate courses, but look at each university's website to understand their academic entry requirements.

Go8 schools will not count all subjects for their 2017 intake. ANU, for example, looks at your four best DSE subjects, but won't assess Chinese language, PE, technology and living, tourism and hospitality, health management and social care, and religious studies.

Some DSE or IB candidates are able to study the Year One programme if they get a certain combined score. If you do not meet the entry requirements of your preferred courses, or if you are a Form Five student who wants to study in Australia, an alternative pathway may be Foundation Studies. This one-year course, which also has entry requirements, prepares you for undergraduate programmes.

**3** Some subjects may also have additional requirements, such as the Bachelor of Actuarial Studies at ANU, which requires IB candidates to have a 6 in mathematics (higher level).

Australian universities require a certain level of English proficiency. The University of Sydney requires an overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum score of 6 for each of the components.

Some undergraduate courses have higher requirements, though, such as the Faculty of Law, which requires an overall score of 7.5 or better, with no band score below 7.

You don't always need the IELTS, though. Check the university website to see if your DSE English score meets the minimum English

requirement. For example, at the University of Sydney, a Level Five in DSE English Language is equivalent to a 6.5 on the IELTS.

### IDP Education Senior Manager Calvin Chan

**1** Some Australian university courses, such as medicine, physiotherapy, optometry, veterinary, nursing, and psychology, attract a lot of Hong Kong students due to the limited places offered here. Ask the university's representatives how their courses are different from Hong Kong's, and what professional qualifications you would acquire after completing them.

**2** You can also learn about the special features of each university. For example, Melb, UWA, UQ, and the University of Sydney are particularly strong in health science, but as they are research-based, Go8 universities are less likely to offer vocational subjects such as hotel management.

The Australian education system differs from Hong Kong's as most undergraduate courses in Australian universities take three years. And you'll have to spend an additional year for an honours degree.

**3** Most Australian universities start their first semester in February, and second semester in July, so this year's DSE candidates will have to wait for the 2017 January intake. You should consider how to make good use of this half-year gap, possibly by travelling, taking English courses, or getting a part-time job.



Australia can be a great option for students who want to study abroad, writes **Ben Pang**

# Higher learning down under