ANNUAL REPORT 2022
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR SURVEY

The Annual ChinaICAC Guidance Counselor Survey Report and its contents are the property of ChinaICAC and are protected under copyright laws. The report is intended solely for the use of the members and may not be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any other information storage or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of ChinaICAC.

Unauthorized use or reproduction of the report or any of its contents is strictly prohibited and may result in penalties. ChinaICAC reserves all rights to pursue legal action against any individual or entity found to be in violation of this copyright statement.

By accessing or using the Annual ChinaICAC Guidance Survey Report, the member(s) agree to abide by the terms of this copyright statement and all applicable laws and regulations governing the use of the report.

01. Introduction

03. Survey Participant Overview

04. Data Analysis: High School

05. Data Analysis: Class of 2022

10. Data Analysis: Parent

11. Data Analysis: Guidance Counselor

17. Implications and Applications

18. Toolkits

22. Conclusion
Preparing Chinese high school students for their future academic pursuits overseas is a crucial and collective responsibility of high school college counselors and admissions officers. These professionals are vital in guiding students as they navigate the complex study abroad college application process.

The study aims to examine the 2021-2022 academic year college enrollment data, evaluate the support, resources, and experiences of high school college counselors in mainland China, and identify any challenges they face in the performance of their guidance counseling duties. The research for this study was collected via a nationwide survey, which was open to all high school members and non-members of ChinaICAC. The research provides valuable information on the current state of college counseling practices in mainland China, which can be used to inform future practices and initiatives aimed at improving the support and resources available to high school college counselors and admissions officers.

The ChinaICAC is committed to promoting transparency and advocating for international students and educators. By conducting surveys and research, ChinaICAC is dedicated to advancing the field of international education and promoting best practices in preparing and supporting Chinese students as they embark on their study abroad journeys.
MESSAGE FROM RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP & LEARNING (RSL) COMMITTEE

Dear international educators,

On behalf of the RSL committee, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you for taking the time to read our annual report. Your role in shaping the future of international education is immense, and it’s an honor to have your support and insights.

As you may already know, the past few years have been challenging for international education, especially with regard to advising Chinese students in their overseas college admissions process. The ever-evolving political and economic landscape, combined with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, have created a complex environment for international education professionals.

"With authentic and transparent data, international educators can collaborate towards the advancement of a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment in the realm of international education."

In the face of these challenges, your unwavering commitment and dedication to providing quality college counseling and professional admissions advising to Chinese high school students are truly inspiring.

Thank you for your contributions to shaping the future of our field.

Warmest regards,

Yanjie (Ruby) Cheng, EdD
Chair, Research, Scholarship and Learning Committee

Guidance Counselor Survey
ANNUAL RESEARCH SERIES 2022
Below is a quick overview of the survey participants.

**Survey participants**

**OVERVIEW**

The sample collected in the survey is diverse and comprehensive, representing a wide range of demographic characteristics. The sample includes participants from different counseling roles and high schools. This diversity in the sample allows for a more accurate representation of the population as a whole and ensures that the findings of the survey can be applied to a broad range of high schools.

- **Guidance Counselors (121)**
  - 36% are director-level counselors
  - 39% are guidance counselors
  - 25% are guidance counselors with other duties such as teaching

- **High Schools (91)**
  - 33% are public high schools
  - 55% are private high schools
  - 12% are international high schools with non-Chinese students

- **Students (17,572)**
  - 32% are grade 12 students (class of 2022)
  - 32% are grade 11 students (class of 2023)
  - 36% are grade 10 students (class of 2024)

*Students were represented by counselors. No students filled out the actual guidance counselor survey.*
Data Analysis

HIGH SCHOOL

A total of 91 high schools filled out the annual survey. The following data provides insight into the location, school type, student enrollment, and college application details of surveyed high schools. The data collection period was in the fall of 2022, and the college application information is specific to the class of 2022.

1.1 High School Location

China is home to many different cities, each with its unique characteristics. The survey participants were asked to select the city tier based on Yicai's 2019 city tier classification report (Yicai, 2019). 45% of the high schools are located in tier 1 cities in China. Tier 1 cities in China, such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, are considered the most developed financial and cultural centers of China. 35% of the high schools are from new 1st-tier cities such as Chengdu and Chongqing. 12% of the high schools surveyed are from 2nd-tier towns and 8% are from 3rd-tier/other cities in China. Please see the complete city tier classification chart by Yicai (2019) in Appendix A.

1.2 High School Enrollment

Analysis of the data reveals that there is an overall increasing trend in enrollment from the class of 2022 to 2024.

1.3 Senior Class Size

The survey results revealed a diverse range of senior class sizes among the surveyed high schools. 78% of the schools had less than 100 seniors, 14% had between 100-200 seniors, 7% had between 200-300 seniors, and 1% had over 300 seniors. This distribution of senior class sizes shows that a majority of the surveyed high schools have relatively small senior classes.

78% schools had less than 100 seniors
14% schools had 100-200 seniors
7% schools had 200-300 seniors
1% schools had over 300 seniors
**Data Analysis**

**CLASS OF 2022**

**2.1 Senior Student Passport Type**

62% of the surveyed high schools reported that most of their students hold Chinese passports, while 20% said that all their students hold Chinese passports. On the other hand, 13% of the schools said that most of their students hold non-Chinese passports, and 5% stated that all their students hold non-Chinese passports.

- **62%** Primarily Chinese passport holders
- **20%** All Chinese passport holders
- **13%** Mostly non-Chinese passport holders
- **5%** All non-Chinese passport holders

**2.2 Senior Student Application Data**

As we delve into the senior college application data, it is important to note that this data encompasses a wide range of aspects that provide insight into the choices and aspirations of our students. These include the types of schools they are applying to, the countries they are applying to, and the specific programs they hope to pursue. This data not only helps us understand the trends and patterns among our students but also provides valuable information for advising and supporting them in their post-secondary journey. It is important to consider all factors and nuances that contribute to their decision-making, and we hope that this data will help us gain a deeper understanding.

**2.2.1 Most Popular Academic Programs**

The following data highlights the most popular academic programs senior students applied to.

- **STEM** (91%)
- **Business Management** (90%)
- **Social Science** (45%)

Chart 2.1 Top three fields of study

According to the data collected from the question "What were the top three popular fields of study of your graduating class [class of 2022]?)", the results indicate that the most popular fields of study among the graduating class of 2022 are STEM (91%), Business (90%), and Social Sciences (45%). These programs have attracted the majority of students, with STEM having the highest percentage, followed by Business, and Social Sciences.

**2.2.2 Most Popular Types of Institution**

The survey asked about the type of higher education institutions senior students applied to. The results showed that 53% of students applied to four-year public institutions, 41% applied to four-year private institutions, 3% applied to two-year community colleges, and the remaining 3% applied to other types of institutions.

- **53%** 4-year public institutions
- **41%** 4-year private institutions
- **3%** 2-year community colleges
- **3%** Other

**Guidance Counselor Survey**

ANNUAL RESEARCH SERIES 2022
Data Analysis

CLASS OF 2022

2.2.3 Application Country/Region

From the application data of the class of 2022 Chinese high school students presented below, it is evident that students are applying to more than one country.

According to the survey data, 85% of schools indicated that more than half of their senior students applied to more than 2 countries or regions. On the other hand, only 2% of the surveyed schools indicated that none of their students applied to more than 2 countries. This indicates that the trend of applying to multiple countries or regions is prevalent among students and that it is becoming increasingly common for students when applying to colleges.

85% schools indicated that they had more than 50% of students apply to more than 2 countries/regions

2% schools indicated that none of their students applied to more than 2 countries/regions

2.2.4 Most Popular Country/Region

An analysis of senior applications and enrollment data revealed that the United States continues to be the most popular country/region, followed by the United Kingdom. The third most sought-after destination among seniors was in Asian countries.

The survey found that 57% of schools chose the United States as the top country for application and 65% chose it as the most popular destination for enrollment. The United Kingdom was the second choice for both, but the ratio was much lower than that of the United States. 29% of surveyed schools selected the United Kingdom as the top application destination, while 21% of schools chose it as the top enrollment destination.
### Data Analysis

## CLASS OF 2022

### 2.2.5 Top Application Destination Combination

The survey also asked schools to choose the most popular combination of destinations for their students' applications. The top choice, selected by 62% of schools, was a combination of the United States and the United Kingdom. The second most popular combination, chosen by 32% of schools, was the United States and Canada. The third most popular combination (30%) was the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada as their most popular choice.

We have also listed other popular combinations selected by surveyed schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Combination</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK+HK</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA+ Australia + Canada</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA+Singapore</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than three countries</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 71%

While 29% of the surveyed counselors did not see the trend, 71% of counselors reported that they saw an increase in the number of students and parents inquiring about global campuses in China.

Upon further examination, counselors reported that 42% of the interest came from both parents and students and 19% reported that the interest was primarily from parents.

### 2.2.6 Popularity of Global Campus in China

The mobility of international students has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. With travel restrictions in place, it has become much more difficult for students to study abroad compared to the pre-pandemic period.

As we gradually move out of the study abroad challenges and travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, ChinaICAC will continue to monitor the popularity of global campuses in China.
Data Analysis

CLASS OF 2022

2.2.7 Top Deciding Factors for Application

The data obtained from the inquiry regarding the determining factors for students and parents in selecting which institution to apply to revealed that the ranking of the institution, the academic programs offered, and the location of the institution were the most highly regarded considerations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ranking</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Offers</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3 Agent

This session aimed to investigate the prevalence of agent usage among senior high school students during the college application process.

8% of schools reported that none of their seniors used agent services for the application process.

Out of the schools that indicated they have seniors who paid agents for the college application process, 68% indicated they had less than half of the seniors utilized agents.

68% of schools reported that less than half of the senior population utilized agents for the application process.

24% of schools reported that more than half of the senior population utilized agents for the application process.

The present survey did not conduct an in-depth examination of the perspectives of counselors regarding the reasons for student usage of agents. This is because the perspective on agent utilization is best obtained through direct engagement with the students and parents who utilize these services. In light of this, ChinaICAC sees an opportunity to conduct a comprehensive national study on students' and parents' perspectives on studying abroad in the near future, in order to gain a deeper understanding of this phenomenon.
Data Analysis

CLASS OF 2022

2.4 Top Pressing Concerns of Class of 2022

We also asked for the perspectives of counselors on the pressing concerns of their senior students during the college application process. The following are the most commonly cited concerns that were gathered from the data.

Counselors were asked to identify the top three most pressing concerns they see in their senior classes. The results revealed that the top concerns were: students' mental wellness, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on disruptions, and students' academic performance.

The following table presents the full data on students' pressing concerns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety, stress and emotional well-being</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interruptions caused by COVID-19</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students' academics</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Readiness</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students' access to college/university information</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students' communications with parents</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students' communication with you and other college counselors</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students' friendship, identities, and related teenage challenges</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The section above delved into a comprehensive examination of data on Chinese high school seniors in the class of 2022. It is crucial for educators from both high school and higher education to gain a deeper understanding of this data in order to meet the needs of Chinese applicants.
The survey also collected counselors’ perspectives on the role of parents in the college application process for seniors. As an integral part of the process, parents play a significant role and the survey aimed to understand the support they require.

### 3.1 Interaction Frequency Between Counselors and Parents

Among the surveyed counselors, 58% reported regular communication with parents. When asked about parent involvement in the application process, 59% responded as "somewhat involved," and 17% as "extremely involved."

- **59%** of the counselors indicated parents are somewhat involved.
- **17%** of the counselors indicated parents are extremely involved.

### 3.2 Change on Study Destination Preference

When asked about changes in preferred study destinations, 71% of counselors reported an increased preference for Asian countries, while 56% reported an increase in the popularity of the UK as an application destination.

- **71%** for Asia
- **56%** for the UK

### 3.3 Channels Where Parents Receive Information

Friend referrals (73%), WeChat articles (67%), and agents (66%) are the most selected channels where parents receive college admissions information for their children.

- **Friends** #1
- **WeChat Articles** #2
- **Agent** #3

### 3.4 Parents’ Primary Concerns

We asked counselors to identify the top three primary concerns of parents during their children’s college admission process. The results showed that the top three concerns were safety, ranking, and career outcomes.

- **#1** Ranking 94%
- **#2** Safety 79%
- **#3** Career Outcomes 49%

Chart 3.1 Increase in popularity among parents
Data Analysis

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

The survey allocated a specific section to gain a more comprehensive understanding of Chinese high school counselors’ perspectives of their own work and how they can be better supported throughout the application cycle.

4.1 Counselor Work Experience

The chart above illustrates the distribution of years of experience among the surveyed counselors. It can be observed that 61% of the counselors have more than five years of experience.

4.2 Number of Counselors per School

The pie chart below illustrates the counselor-to-school ratio in surveyed high schools. 61% of schools stated that they have less than three counselors.

4.3 College Counseling Formats

The chart above illustrates the distribution of years of experience among the surveyed counselors. It can be observed that 61% of the counselors have more than five years of experience.

4.4 The most Influential Person

In our inquiry into the perspective of counselors regarding the most influential person in the college application process for seniors, we found that there was a relatively equal distribution of responses, with 42% of the counselors selecting students and 38% selecting themselves as the most influential.

Chart 4.1 Counselor work experience

Chart 4.2 Number of counselors per school

Chart 4.3 College counseling formats

Chart 4.4 The most influential person
Data Analysis

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

In addition to our previous inquiry, we also sought to gain insight into the perspective of counselors on the subject of recruitment efforts from overseas institutions. Specifically, we asked them to share information about recruitment events taking place in their schools in 2022, as well as to comment on the efficacy of various recruitment methods. The following information is a summary of what we learned.

4.5.1 College Visits in the 2021-2022 Year

Most of the schools (58%) selected they have less than 10 in-person college visits in the 2021-2022 academic year. 34% of the counselors surveyed indicated that they had organized fewer than 10 online visits, while 35% of counselors stated that they had arranged between 10-39 online visits.

4.5.2 Best Way to Contact Counselors

In the survey, we posed the question of what the most effective means of communication between admissions officers and counselors is, and the results are presented below. The top three most effective means to counselors are via emails (52%), social media (34%) and phone/video calls (12%).

4.5.3 Effective Ways to Recruit Students

Our survey also included the question of which formats of college/university information are deemed the most useful by counselors and their students. The results of this inquiry are listed below.
Data Analysis

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

4.5.4 Most Useful Content for Students

In order to gain insight into the preferences and needs of counselors and their students during the college counseling and admissions process, we asked counselors to share what they believe are the most beneficial contents. The results of this inquiry are presented below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admission criteria</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test-optional and related admissions policies</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranking of the school/program</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career outcomes upon graduation</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus safety</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart 4.5.3 The most useful content for counselors and students

4.6 Understanding the Mental Wellbeing and Supporting Guidance Counselors

It is crucial to understand the mental well-being of guidance counselors and to identify the support they need to effectively perform their job and assist students during the college application process. The survey conducted has collected important information on this topic, which will be presented in the next session. By understanding the needs and challenges faced by guidance counselors, we hope to offer the resources and support they need to effectively guide and support students through the college application process. This ultimately benefits not only the counselors, but also the students they serve.

We asked guidance counselors to rate the level of stress they experienced while performing their job on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being extremely stressful. Results showed that 62% of counselors rated their stress level as high, with a score of 4 or 5 on the scale.
Data Analysis

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

4.6.1 Stressors

We asked counselors to identify the main stressors and below are what we found.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Disruption</th>
<th>Heavy Workload</th>
<th>The Ranking Phenomenon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing center closures</td>
<td>Understaffed office</td>
<td>Battling with the ranking phenomenon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission policy changes</td>
<td>Long working hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Stressors

- "People around me don't understand the nature and value of a college counselor"
- Conflicts with colleagues and/or leadership
  Specifically on different vision, values and perspectives on finding the best fit school for students.
- Feeling under-prepared
- Job Security
Data Analysis

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

4.7 Understanding the Mental Wellbeing and Supporting Guidance Counselors

Counselors were asked to rate the level of support they felt their schools provided in the 2021-2022 academic year on a scale of 1-5. 71% of counselors reported feeling their schools were supportive.

We surveyed counselors to gauge their level of agreement with statements related to support for their professional work. Overall, counselors reported feeling supported in their work, but the statement "I have access to necessary professional development sessions to perform my job effectively" had the lowest level of agreement (19%). Additionally, 87% of counselors reported feeling a sense of achievement in their work.

Chart 4.6 Support and professional development statement
Data Analysis

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

4.8 Professional Development

We surveyed counselors to determine the frequency of their attendance at professional development sessions during the 2021-2022 academic year, as well as which conferences their school supports them to attend. The results are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Conferences</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-10</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 10</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart 4.7 Number of professional development conferences attended

We also inquired about the types of professional development conferences and/or memberships that counselors’ schools support them to attend or join.

- **64%** Attend the annual ChinaICAC national conference and regional events
- **64%** Membership of ChinaICAC
- **56%** Regional networking events
- **37%** Attend the annual conferences hosted by international professional organizations, such as NACAC, InternationalACAC, and NAFSA.
- **36%** Memberships of international professional organizations such as NAFSA and InternationalACAC.
- **29%** College counseling degree/certificate study
The survey conducted on the Class of 2022 provides valuable insights into the current trends and challenges in the college application process for Chinese high school students. The analysis of the data collected from counselors sheds light on the areas of support that students and their families need, as well as the effective recruitment tools and strategies that schools should implement.

One of the key findings of the survey is the growing trend of students applying to colleges in multiple countries or regions. This highlights the importance of schools offering a diverse range of programs and institutions for students to consider. In addition, overseas universities need to ensure that their recruitment and counseling efforts are well-informed about the admission requirements, test-optional policies, and rankings of different institutions.

Another important finding of the survey is the level of stress experienced by counselors and the need for their schools to provide adequate support. Nearly two-thirds of counselors reported feeling highly stressed in their jobs, which is concerning given the critical role they play in helping students navigate the college application process. To address this challenge, schools should consider providing professional development opportunities and workshops to help their counseling staff manage stress and perform their jobs more effectively.

The survey also revealed that in-person college visits, college fairs, downloadable fast-facts, online webinars, and downloadable slides are the most effective formats for recruitment. This information can be used by schools to design their recruitment and outreach strategies and to allocate resources more efficiently.

Finally, the survey showed that parents play a significant role in the college application process, with the majority of counselors reporting that they are involved. This highlights the importance of school engagement with parents and families. In addition, it is integral that they are provided with the necessary information and support to make intelligent decisions about their children's education.

In conclusion, the findings of the study provide a valuable resource for schools, counselors, and overseas higher education institutions to better understand the Chinese students' college application process and to make informed decisions. The survey results can be used to guide future policies and programs aimed at supporting students and their families and to enhance the recruitment efforts of overseas higher education institutions.
TOOLKITS

The ChinaICAC 2022 Guidance Counselor Survey has generated important insights into the trends and preferences of senior students during the college application process, as well as the support and resources needed by guidance counselors. Based on the survey results, this session presents a set of toolkits for high school counselors and overseas institution admissions officers to use for the data-informed decision-making process at work.

The toolkit is designed to provide practical recommendations and best practices, taking into account the latest developments in the field of college admissions. With the information contained in this toolkit, high school counselors and overseas institution admissions officers will be equipped to provide the best possible support to their students.

01 Data Collection Template
Designed for guidance counselors in mainland China

02 Recruitment Tips
Designed for overseas university/college admissions officers

03 Combat the "Ranking Phenomenon"
Suggestions generated from the survey's open-ended questions
ChinaICAC plans to make the annual guidance counselor survey a yearly tradition to keep international educators and stakeholders informed on the best ways to support Chinese high school students in their pursuit of studying abroad. This is a key mission for ChinaICAC and we strive to provide guidance counselors with the best tools and knowledge to assist with their work. We recommend that guidance counselors save the template and be ready to provide data in the 2022-2023 academic year.

01. Student Data Tracking
- Students enrollment data
- Senior student application data
  - Types of institution
  - Fields of study
  - Popular country/region
  - Deciding factors
- Parents and agents information tracking

02. College Recruitment Data Tracking
- Numbers of visit
- The best effective recruitment practice to you and your students
- Suggestions for AOs

03. Support Tracking
- Mental health wellbeing tracking
- Professional development tracking
- Areas of support and needs tracking

*The actual data reporting template will be shared with ChinaICAC members in a word document.*
In the survey, we sought the input of counselors on what would make an impactful college visit and what information admissions officers tend to overlook during their presentations. We hope it will provide valuable insights for admission officers to work towards improving their recruitment strategies and better cater to the needs of parents and students.

01. Informative

Counselors emphasized the need for a comprehensive session for their students, highlighting unique features of the visiting institution that cannot easily be found on its website.

02. Engaging

Counselors stated that an effective session should feature engaging and interactive elements to keep students focused on the content.

03. Passionate

Counselors highlighted the significance of being thoroughly prepared with key institution highlights. The importance of having passion and enthusiasm for engaging with students and sharing information was also repeatedly emphasized in their open-ended responses.
It is a well-known fact that ranking is a highly regarded factor for Chinese students when applying to study abroad. Our research results also echo the ranking phenomenon. We asked counselors to share their insights on ranking and what they have done to help students find the best fit.

01. Ranking is NOT important (95%)

95% of the counselors indicated that ranking should not be considered as an important factor when applying to universities. It is essential to help students and parents understand the importance of finding the right fit in terms of academic programs, campus culture, location, and personal interests.

02. Engaging parents

Counselors emphasized the importance of involving parents and educating them on alternative factors that should be considered when evaluating study abroad options. This approach helps to dispel the singular focus on rankings and promotes a more well-rounded and informed decision-making process.
CONCLUSION

The data analyzed from the 2022 ChinalCAC annual guidance counselor survey provides valuable insights into the trends of senior applications, effective recruitment tools and content, and the preferences of parents. The results highlight the most popular types of institutions applied to, the combination of application destinations, and the determining factors for selecting institutions. The survey also sheds light on the top concerns of senior classes, the level of parent involvement in the application process, and the most beneficial content for counselors. The survey data also reveals the stress levels and the level of support felt by counselors, as well as the frequency of their attendance at professional development sessions. Overall, the report provides a comprehensive view of the class of 2022 application trends and the areas that need support and improvement.

Application Trends of Class of 2022

- The most popular fields of study: STEM (91%), Business (90%), Social Sciences (45%)
- The most popular types of institutions:
  - Four-year public (53%)
  - Four-year private (41%)
- The trend of applying to multiple countries/regions prevalent among the class of 2022
- The most popular app destination combination:
  - 62% chose US and UK
  - 32% chose UK and Canada
  - 30% chose US, UK, and Canada
- 71% of counselors reported that they saw an increase in the number of students and parents inquiring about global campuses in China
- Institution ranking remains the dominant factor in students' choices of institutions to apply to
- 8% of schools reported that none of their seniors sought the services of agents during the application process.
- Top 3 concerns among senior classes:
  - Students' mental wellness
  - Impact of COVID-19 on disruptions
  - Students' academic performance
- 76% of counselors reported that parents are involved in the student's college application process
- Parents' primary concern in students' college application is the ranking of the institutions (94%)
CONCLUSION

Recruitment & Admissions

- Most effective recruitment formats:
  - In-person college visit
  - College fair
  - Downloadable fast-facts
  - Online webinar
  - Downloadable slides
- Top 3 beneficial contents for counselors and students in the college counseling/admissions process:
  - Admissions requirements
  - Test-optional policies
  - Institution ranking
- Compared to the class of 2022, the enrollment of the class of 2024 Chinese high school students preparing to study abroad increased by 14%

Support and Professional Development

- 62% rated stress level as high (4 or 5 on a scale of 1-5)
- Key stressors of guidance counselors:
  - Challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic
  - Heavy workload
  - The ranking phenomenon
- 71% reported feeling supported by their schools
- 61% of counselors reported attending 1 to 6 professional development sessions during the 2021-2022 academic year, supported by their schools
APPENDIX A

China City-tier Classification by Yicai (2019)

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to guidance counselors who have participated in our 2022 annual survey. Your efforts have been invaluable in helping us gather data that will inform decision-making for international educators and provide transparent insights on how to better assist Chinese high school students in the overseas college application process.

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to the mission of ChinaICAC

Contact:
Research, Scholarship & Learning Committee
ChinaICAC
https://www.chinaicac.org/
RESEARCH@chinaicac.org
@ChinaICAC