



DOWNING COLLEGE IN THE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

DOWNING COLLEGE  
2026 GLOBAL CAMPUS IN CHINA

OUR HISTORY



YOUR FUTURE

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME RUN BY A  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE COLLEGE



OUR HISTORY



YOUR FUTURE

## WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER, PROFESSOR GRAHAM VIRGO

Professor Virgo, Master of Downing College, read Law at Downing in the mid-1980s, before reading for a Master's degree at Oxford and then training to become a barrister in London. Professor Virgo returned to Downing in 1989 as a Law Fellow, holding numerous roles over the years, including Tutor, Director of Studies, and Senior Tutor for a decade.

First appointed to a University Lectureship in the Faculty of Law in 1992, Professor Virgo currently holds a personal chair in English Private Law. In 2014, he was appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education at the University, and in 2018 became Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor. In this role, Professor Virgo led major initiatives, including the creation of the Foundation Year programme, the launch of the Stormzy Scholarship for UK Black students, and enhancements to provision for mental health and wellbeing.

Of the Downing College International Programme, Professor Virgo says, "The Downing College International Programme is intended to be challenging, pushing students to learn about different subjects and to think differently about subjects they may have studied before."



**Professor Graham Virgo**  
Master of Downing College BCL (Oxon), MA, KC (Hon),  
Bencher of Lincoln's Inn



## DOWNING COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

Downing College is one of 31 colleges within the University of Cambridge, which is consistently ranked amongst the top universities in the world.

The College's purpose is to provide a world-class education to the students with the most potential in each subject, whatever their means or social background. We are a welcoming scholarly community to some of the world's brightest and most talented students, and we believe in equal opportunities for all.

Our lively community consists of 53 Fellows, 493 undergraduates, and 577 postgraduates.



OUR HISTORY



YOUR FUTURE

## ABOUT GLOBAL CAMPUS CHINA

Starting this year, Downing College launches the Junior Academic Programme for students aged 13–16—the first and only official summer programme in China organised directly by a college of the University of Cambridge. STEM sessions are taught by Cambridge academics or professors, while English for Academic Purposes (EAP) is delivered by recent graduates, current Master’s, or PhD students.

More than a summer course, the programme marks the beginning of a long-term talent development journey, building academic knowledge, language proficiency, cross-cultural communication skills, and self-confidence to support future educational choices.



OUR HISTORY



YOUR FUTURE

# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



## CAMBRIDGE-STYLE LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

Guided by Cambridge professors and expert academic mentors, students dive into real subject exploration, especially in STEM. The program goes beyond the school curriculum, challenging students to think critically and apply their learning in meaningful, hands-on ways.

## TWO WEEK PROGRAMME

This programme offers students the chance to explore potential university options through academic taster sessions. Alongside these sessions and related excursions, the afternoons focus on English for Academic Purposes (EAP), where students focus on either British Drama and Performance or British Parliamentary Debate.

## ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

This programme is designed to challenge students and deepen theoretical understanding. Key aims include emphasising interdisciplinary learning and the practical application of materials to real-life scenarios.

## CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

One full day each weekend is dedicated to an excursion. Visits to relevant academic and cultural landmarks bridge the gap between the classroom and the real world, broadening students' horizons and understanding.



## EXPLORE STEM TOPICS

### THERE ARE THREE SUBJECT TASTER SESSIONS ON OFFER FOR 2026

Students enrolled in this programme will engage in taster sessions covering various subject areas offered at the University of Cambridge. These sessions provide students with the opportunity to explore different academic fields and consider potential options for their future university applications.

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

This course moves beyond basic coding to explore how artificial intelligence can drive meaningful global change. From an interdisciplinary perspective, students examine AI's transformative role in healthcare, public services, and climate change. The goal is to understand AI not merely as a tool, but as a force for social good.



#### EARTH SCIENCE

Students are invited to question, discover and seek answers to fundamental questions: How do mountains form? How do oceans and climate shape the destiny of life? What secrets are hidden in polar exploration and fossil records?



#### ENGINEERING

Rooted in the Cambridge Engineering principle of “creating solutions, not just fixing things”, this course invites students to look around them from cars and bridges to medical devices and digital interfaces and recognise how engineering defines the modern world.





## ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES: BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

Drawing on the British Parliamentary (BP) framework, this course is led by University of Cambridge graduates and current students. Through authentic debating scenarios, students refine logical structuring, persuasive skills, and critical thinking. The curriculum focuses on argument construction, rebuttal strategies, and public speaking—essential skills for students entering the international education system.

Debate challenges students to practise language through the lens of real-world issues, develop logic through the clash of ideas, and cultivate confidence through public delivery.

## THE FOUNDATION OF CONFIDENT EXPRESSION

- **Argumentative Mastery:** Construct compelling arguments, assert claims, and respond to counter-arguments, all in English
- **Logical Structuring:** Master the art of supporting viewpoints through rigorous logical chains
- **Critical Perspectives:** Analyse issues from opposing standpoints to develop multi-dimensional thinking
- **Eloquent Delivery:** Perfect control of pace, intonation, structure, and key rhetorical phrasing in formal speech

OUR HISTORY



YOUR FUTURE

## PROGRAMME EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

Morning
Breakfast
STEM Lecture
STEM Workshop
Afternoon
Lunch
Academic English (EAP)
Dinner



\*The final schedule will be confirmed in due course.



# YEW WAH INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SCHOOL OF ZHEJIANG TONGXIANG

YWIES Zhejiang Tongxiang is an ideal host for the Downing College Global Campus Programme, offering a combination of scale, access, and a high-impact learning environment. Our Shanghai-Tongxiang network brings together 3,000+ students across five YCYW schools, ensuring diverse voices and a strong pipeline of participants.

## Why YWIES Zhejiang Tongxiang

As the newest YWIES of the YCYW Education Network, the campus offers multiple labs and state-of-the-art equipment used daily for inquiry-driven, hands-on learning—an authentic setting for interdisciplinary workshops, design sprints, and research projects. Our infrastructure can be flexibly converted into seminar rooms, studios, or maker areas.

Hosting the programme at YWIES Zhejiang Tongxiang would leverage modern infrastructure, diverse student energy, and seamless logistics to deliver an inspiring, high-quality Global Campus with meaningful outcomes in the Chinese mainland and beyond.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

- **ADDRESS:** 88 Heyue Blvd, 88, Gaoqiaozhen, Tongxiang, Jiaxing, Zhejiang, China, 314515
- **WEBSITE:** <https://www.ywies-tx.com/en>
- **PRIMARY CONTACT:** Mr. John Liu
- **EMAIL:** john.liu@ycyw.cn



OUR HISTORY



YOUR FUTURE

# YWIES ZHEJIANG TONGXIANG: LEARNING & LIVING SPACES



The images on this page highlight the programme's learning and living environments, including classrooms, dining halls, and residential spaces.

#### Notes:

- This is a two-week residential programme.
- On-campus accommodation is available.
- Residential arrangements and fees are included in the programme fee.

Please contact YWIES Zhejiang Tongxiang directly for enquiries.



OUR HISTORY



YOUR FUTURE



## -PROGRAMME DATE & FEE-

### Programme Details:

Dates: 26<sup>th</sup> July – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2026

### Programme Fee:

- RMB 38,000 for YCYW Students
- RMB 48,000 for non-YCYW Students

### Fees Include:

- 30 Hours of STEM Academics: Lectures and workshops delivered by Cambridge professors
- 30 Hours of EAP: Academic English taught by Cambridge graduates and scholars
- Full meals and accommodations are provided at YWIES Tongxiang Resident Hall
- Full Support: Continuous academic and mentor guidance
- Excursion: One-day academic city tour
- Official Certification: Certificate of completion from Downing College, University of Cambridge
- Special Benefit: £500 voucher towards the Downing College Foundation Programme\*. (\*terms and conditions apply)

OUR HISTORY



YOUR FUTURE

## HOW TO APPLY

The Downing College Global Campus Programme for students aged 13–16 is a selective and competitive initiative. To ensure a high-quality academic experience, all applicants are assessed on academic ability, learning attitude, and English proficiency.

### PERSONAL STATEMENT

Applicants should submit a personal statement (no more than 500 words) outlining their interest in STEM, previous learning experiences, and motivation for joining the programme. This forms an important part of the assessment of academic potential.

### ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Applicants must demonstrate English proficiency at CEFR B1 level or above in order to participate fully in Cambridge-style academic discussions.

### ACCEPTED QUALIFICATIONS

IELTS / TOEFL / Duolingo / Cambridge English Qualifications.

### ALTERNATIVE OPTION

If no official certificate is available, applicants may take an online Duolingo English Test arranged by the programme for a fee of £50.

Note: This test is for Global Campus admission assessment purposes only.

### SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO APPLY





If you have any questions about this programme, please contact the YWIES Tongxiang campus lead:

**Name:** John Liu

**Email:** [John.liu@ycyw.cn](mailto:John.liu@ycyw.cn)

OUR HISTORY



YOUR FUTURE



DOWNING COLLEGE | CAMBRIDGE | CB2 1DQ  
[www.dow.cam.ac.uk/international-programme](http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/international-programme)