

Minister Susan Close

Minister for Education and Child Development

EMBARGOED UNTIL 6AM

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Five Chinese schools sign up to SACE; Government forges stronger ties

Five Chinese schools have signed on to teach the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) as the Government continues its drive to promote our top-quality education.

Education Minister Susan Close was in China last week with SACE officials to sign the memoranda of agreement, which she said will further strengthen ties between China and South Australia and bring economic and cultural benefits to the State.

“These agreements represent an exciting opportunity to attract more international students to South Australia, in support of the State Government’s economic priorities.

“As well as using the SACE to enter top universities around the world, a significant proportion of students who complete the SACE in China come to South Australia for their tertiary education.

“Each year we welcome around 11,000 Chinese university students to South Australia, and these new colleges will further strengthen our educational links with the region,” Dr Close said.

She said the strong interest in China in the SACE showed its growing reputation as an innovative and rigorous certificate.

“This is further evidence of the high regard international educators have for the SACE, and for our successes in preparing students for further learning and work.

“The SACE is known for its breadth and innovation, including through subjects such as the Research Project, and these attributes are strongly valued by these Chinese colleges.”

The five new schools that will introduce the SACE International in either 2016 or 2017 are:

- Wuxi Foreign Language School, Wuxi, Jiangsu Province
- Zhengzhou No. 47 School, Zhengzhou, Henan Province
- Shuozhou Shuocheng No.1 High School, Shuocheng District, Shanxi Province
- PKU College, Beijing
- Guangdong Country Garden School

Dr Neil McGoran, Chief Executive, SACE Board of SA, said recent discussions with Chinese education and school officials included information about the SACE Research Project.

“Chinese educators want their students to be able to develop skills beyond rote learning – skills such as the ability to plan, to manage time, use initiative, and evaluate information and make decisions.

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“These skills are emphasised throughout the SACE, especially in unique subjects like the Research Project, as essential for success in our rapidly changing world,” Dr McGoran said.

The SACE is currently taught in South Australia, the Northern Territory, five colleges in Malaysia, and two colleges in China.

Known as the ‘SACE International’ outside of Australia, the SACE has been delivered in Malaysia since 1982 and China from 2005. More than 40,000 students across Asia have studied the SACE International.