



China's Key Education Tasks for 2022

(Information as at March 2022)

On 8 February 2022, the Chinese Ministry of Education (MoE) published its key tasks¹ for the year. The document contains 35 detailed tasks under six broad themes covering all areas of education. Of note is the theme containing tasks designed to deepen reform and further open the education sector to international cooperation.

The key tasks specify that China will continue to support international education collaboration and exchange, especially under projects/partnerships such as the Sino-Foreign High-Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges, and the Belt and Road Initiative. China also aims to increase education cooperation through ASEAN and UNESCO.

Under the theme of promoting regional education innovation and development, top foreign universities and vocational institutions are encouraged to establish science, engineering, agricultural and medical institutions in Hainan, which is consistent with the plan on deepening education reform and opening up of Hainan² issued in 2019.

According to the detailed tasks, the [*Measures for the Employment and Management of Foreign Teachers*](#) regulation is expected to be released in the form of a trial document, with implementation to commence in 2022. This could have implications for Australian providers delivering transnational education programs across all sectors. However, there is no update on the long-awaited amended version of the [*Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Chinese-Foreign Cooperation in Running Schools*](#) (CFCRS), which was raised in the 2021 key task list with the caveat that it was still being revised.

The [*Double Reduction*](#) policy remains the top priority in the compulsory education sector, with increased supervision of implementation of the policy expected. China will also carry out pilot reform on the establishment of Chinese-Foreign Cooperation in Running Schools joint institutes with legal person status³. No Australian partnerships currently fall into this category.

With the focus on the opening up of high-level education to the outside world, the MoE will continue reform of the system for sending government-funded students/scholars abroad and will

improve pre-departure training for these students. China hopes to become more competitive in attracting international students by modifying its Government Scholarships System and offering better courses on introducing China to international students. The key tasks also foreshadow promoting the establishment of Chinese schools overseas, an outgoing strategy that was put in place during the 13th Five Year Plan period. The first school was established in Dubai⁴ in 2020.

In 2022, the "[Double First-Class](#)" initiative will continue to be a key priority, with some changes. When initially announced in 2015, the initiative was designed to increase the global recognition of China's university system by 2049 through identifying and categorizing institutions, as well as programs/disciplines at individual universities, that have the potential to become world-class. Going forward however, there will be a gradual reduction in the emphasis placed on identifying first-class universities, with emphasis instead placed on program/discipline strength and on producing top professionals in areas that are in line with China's strategic needs. In the second round of the initiative, announced on 11 February 2022, the previously separated lists of universities and programs/disciplines have been merged into a single comprehensive list to reflect this changed focus.

The document reiterates the importance of party leadership and the integration of "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era" into all levels of education. It should also be noted that 2022 will be a critical year with China holding the 20th Party Congress.

For further enquiries, please contact the [Education and Research Section](#) of the Australian Embassy in Beijing.

¹ People's Republic of China, The Ministry of Education, "教育部 2022 年工作要点 (The Ministry of Education's Key tasks for 2022)", 8 February 2022.

http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xwfb/gzdt_gzdt/202202/t20220208_597666.html

² People's Republic of China, The Ministry of Education and Hainan Provincial People's Government, "教育部海南省人民政府印发《关于支持海南深化教育改革开放实施方案》的通知 (Ministry of Education Notice of the Hainan Provincial People's Government on the Implementation Plan to Support Hainan in Deepening Education Reform and Opening Up)", 25 June 2019.

http://www.moe.gov.cn/srcsite/A03/moe_1892/moe_630/201907/t20190702_388674.html

³ There are three types of CFCRS projects: joint institutes established as independent legal entities; joint institutes without legal person status; and joint programs. Where a joint institute is established as an independent legal entity, it is able to sign legally binding agreements in its own interest. There are only nine such joint institutes to date, including Shanghai New York University and Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University.

⁴ <http://m.news.cctv.com/2020/09/01/ARTibQn9QLTwHHS20jqQZ3FS200901.shtml> The Dubai school is a not-for-profit 12 years primary and secondary school, with capacity of 800 students. The school will mainly adopt Chinese curriculum with some supporting courses from Dubai and other international curriculums.