

Final Programme

COBIS Conference on University and Careers Advising

Navigating Futures: International Schools' Perspectives on University & Careers Advising

Deira International School, Dubai

21-22 January 2025

Timings	Tuesday 21 st January
09:00-09:30	Arrival, Registration, Welcome Coffee and Tea
09:30-10:00	Welcome Address (MPH) <i>Kirsty Smith, COBIS; Simon O'Connor, Chief Education Officer, Deira International School and Al Futtaim Education Foundation</i>
10:00-10:45	Preparing for Future Careers, with The Help of Unifrog (MPH) <i>Josie Allison & Courtney Hawkins-Fowler, Unifrog</i>
10:45-11:00	Morning Coffee Break (Foyer) Opportunity for Exhibition viewing
11:00-12:30	Enhancing the International Student Experience: A UK Sector Perspective (MPH) <i>Nesma Mostafa, British Council</i>
12:30-13:30	Lunch (MPH)
13:30-14:30	Breakout Sessions (Choose one): 1) Predicted Grades: For Better or Worse? (MPH) <i>Mario Sylvander, Wellington International College, Hangzhou; Sarah Tompkins, Keele University</i> 2) State of The Union: Ongoing Trends in Higher Education (MPH3) <i>Ian Pomeroy, British School of Jakarta</i> 3) Understanding UK University Fee Status (MPH7) <i>Sam Goodwin, UK Study Options</i>
14:30-15:00	Afternoon Coffee Break (Foyer) Opportunity for Exhibition Viewing
15:00-16:30	Workshop Breakout Sessions (Choose one): 1) Unifrog Masterclass – How to Use It, Masterfully! (MPH) <i>Josie Allison, Unifrog</i> 2) Applications and Admissions in The Netherlands (MPH3) <i>Dawn Street, the British School in The Netherlands</i> 3) Workshop: Counselling In a Time of Caps: Understanding How Government Policies Affect International Student Mobility (MPH7) <i>Andrea McLeod-Karim, Arahanga</i>
16:30-17:00	Wrap-Up Session, Logistics and Reflection (MPH)
18:00-21:00	Conference Dinner (The Boardwalk, Park Hyatt Dubai) <i>Sponsored by UK Study Options</i>

Timings	Wednesday 22 nd January
09:30-10:00	Arrival, Registration, Coffee and Tea (MPH) Opportunity for Exhibition Viewing
10:00-11:30	Breakout Sessions (Choose one): 1) Careers in The Creative Industries (MPH7) <i>Jan Horn, SAE Institute</i> 2) AI in The World of University Applications & Education – WHY We Should Use It and HOW Should We Use It – or Not? (MPH) <i>Tannya Jajal, AIDEN Global</i>
11:30-12:30	Breakout Sessions (Choose one): 1) Deira International School Tour 2) Working Together: Agents, IEC's, and Schools (MPH) <i>Giuseppe Iademarco, Millie</i> 3) Hospitality Education: A Portal to Global Job Markets (MPH7) <i>Gideon Tumong, Swiss Education Group</i>
12:30-13:00	Lunch Break (MPH)
13:00-14:30	Breakout Sessions (Choose one): 1) UCAS Personal Statement: What You Need to Know (MPH) <i>Becka Horsley, UCAS</i> 2) Session on Universities in Hong Kong (MPH7) <i>Marie Mourasheh, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Alison Chan, The Chinese University of Hong Kong</i> 3) A Year ON! How a Gap Year Can Boost Social Impact, Wellbeing and Your Sense of Purpose at University (MPH3) <i>Rebecca Warren, Tilting Futures</i>
14:30-15:30	Breakout Sessions (Choose one): 1) Managing Wellbeing in The World of Higher Educational Advising (MPH3) <i>David Thaw, Harrow International School, Japan</i> 2) Session Title The Art of the Portfolio: What Universities Really Want to See in a Creative Application (MPH7) <i>Miranda Higgins, University of the Arts London</i> 3) University Fair (MPH) <i>Deira International School and Universal American School students and participating Universities only</i>
15:30-16:00	Comfort Break
16:00-17:00	Closing Plenary: Moving Forward in The World of Careers and University Advising (MPH) Panel and Final Reflections
17:30-19:00	COBIS Conference University Fair (MPH) <i>For Students and Parents from COBIS schools</i>