

# A New Attempt in Sino-foreign Cooperation in Running-Schools: Residential College

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**Abstract:** Sino-foreign cooperation in running-school represents the new trend in China of opening-up in education. However, how to do with the whole-person education in Sino-foreign cooperation institutes? Residential college, which implements for hundreds of years both in China and overseas, shows a promising way to reconcile differences between east and west. Taken International Campus Zhejiang University (ICZJU) as an example, this paper analyzes the role of residential colleges in whole-person education. The paper refers to the “four pillars” of education as defined in *Learning, The Treasure within Report to UNESCO of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century*, discusses how its education missions can be fulfilled through residential colleges during the education globalization.

## 1. Introduction

With the globalization of education, more Chinese universities begin to start a new cooperate model, Sino-foreign cooperation in running-school, such as Tsinghua-Berkeley Shenzhen institute, The University of Michigan-Shanghai Jiao Tong University Joint Institute and Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, which could benefit students with international education mode and resources. Despite efforts to adopt international teaching and learning method, the student management and development also face various challenges due to the difference between east and west. Both sides need a new platform to fulfill their education mission without confliction.

Residential Colleges have a long tradition in higher education both in UK, US and China. Whether Oxford or Cambridge, in which Colleges established in the 15th century, even earlier than University itself. In ancient China, there were legendary “The Four Academy”, namely Yingtian, Yuelu, Bailudong and Songyang, which flourished from Tang to Ming dynasty. Despite the fact of cultural difference, east and west share the same striking idea on the mode of student teaching and management. Since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there has been a boom in the construction of residential colleges in various countries, including the construction of new residential colleges (such as Yale, Cornell, Princeton and Xi'an Jiaotong and Fudan etc. [1]. With experience above, International Campus Zhejiang University starts to set Residential College to carry out its mission and version.

## 2. A new attempt of Residential College in International Campus Zhejiang University

### 2.1 The orientation and function of Residential College in Whole-Person education

International Campus is a vital step to make progress to be one of the world top universities taken by Zhejiang University, under the national instruction for double-first class overall objective. With the aim of exploring new models of higher education that combined the best practices of the east and west, learning from world's most advanced educational experiences and cultivating talents with innovative minds and international vision, Zhejiang University began to build a total new campus in February 2013. So far, it becomes the most famous Sino-foreign cooperation in running-school example in China. Zhejiang University-University of Edingburg (ZJU-UoE) Institute and Zhejiang

University- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (ZJU-UIUC) Institute have been formally established. Students are from more than 50 countries. With obvious student management and development difference among China, UK and US, the Residential College is an important attempt to reconcile these differences in such a Sino-foreign cooperation in running-school.

The founding master of Residential College in ICZJU is Lap-Chee Tsui, served as the President of the Human Genome Organization (HUGO) from 2000 to 2002 and Vice-Chancellor (and President) of the University of Hong Kong from 2002 to 2014, indicated that, “The Residential College is a shared space for both students and teachers to live and learn. It is a platform for multidisciplinary education, knowledge exchange and cultural interaction. It also provides an environment conducive to teaching and learning, with an active mentorship, academic advising and experiential internship. The College also promotes self-governance of student bodies and facilitates self-directed student activities, thereby allowing our youngsters to develop their fullest potential, achieve academic excellence and, at the same time, establish critical and independent thinking as well as high morality and ethical principles” [2]. After 4 years, ICZJU has two Residential Colleges. They form different characters and become very popular around Sino-foreign cooperation in running-schools.

## **2.2 The mentoring system**

The Residential College has formed a framework including masters, fellows, tutors, advisors and part-time advisors, to provide all-round guidance and help for students. The master and fellows have rich educational experience and most of them are professional faculties and experts. Through activities like ‘Master’s Talk’ or ‘Fellow Lecturer’, they have many conversations with Residential students, leading students to think and discuss in different aspects and inspiring students. Tutors treating students’ studies as the initial point, educate students with morality, and cultivate students’ sense of integrity, responsibility and patriotism. They pay attention to students’ mental health and personality development, as well as their behavior, social interaction and psychological growth. Advisors are responsible for cultivation education and the college culture construction, which is aiming to provide a basis for students’ daily life and cultivate students’ ability of self-discipline, self-reliance and caring for others. The part-time advisors interact with the residential students through a series of lectures, group seminars, individual consultations, club activities and office-hour etc., providing guidance and help for the overall improvement of the students’ quality.

## **2.3 The diversity**

Residential College is a key place for students to adapt to internationalization and diversification. Chinese and international students live together in the same suite with about 12 individual cells, sharing the living room, facilities and some public space. At the same time, the college itself is an enclosed space. There are abundant places for study, leisure, fitness and entertainment, which are open to all students. Therefore, in college, students must get used to sharing an environment with others, understand and respect different traditional differences and personal habits, and learn how to solve problems through communication and exchange. It has some conflicts among students at the beginning and turns out to be good friends with each other at end. This will be of great help to the residential student’s enhance their leadership in the future, especially in an increasingly global society.

## **2.4 Learning and thinking platform**

Residential college provides not only an integrated environment for students in terms of the physical facility, but also learning, thinking and practice opportunities on various platforms. It has been proved that residential college could do a lot like student leadership [3]. In ICZJU some college typical projects are served. High Table Dinner is a very typical and welcome event held in Residential College, in which participating students need to wear special robes just like Hogwarts and there will be a celebrity delivering a speech before starting the dinner on the long and high table. Distinguished Lecture invited famous experts and scholars domestic and overseas to give lectures on

different academic fields, frontier subjects and social hot spots to help students broaden their horizon and experience general education in addition to professional education. At the same time, the college open some tutorial courses for students to take up. Fellows and tutors will list part of the bibliography at first. Students should finish reading before the tutorial to get a preliminary rational understanding of the topic. Tutorials led by the tutors, help the residential students develop a sense of self-worth during the debate as well as deep knowledge on the topic.

### 3. Literature References

Facing the trend of internationalization of higher education, Sino-foreign cooperation in running-schools already run at the first group and act as important role in “Double-first Class” construction. The experience shows the ICZJU does a pretty good job on providing a whole-person education. However, how can we explain it theoretically? Why Residential College could get it? Donald Markwell defied Residential College in a speech delivered at Trent University, Canada, “When Residential College mentioned, I don't mean a building or a complex, but a community - a group of people, not just a physical facility. In short, the college is a Residential academic community, bringing together students from different backgrounds and disciplines, exposing them to each other and to scholars and teachers from different disciplines, and trying to make the college a rich and colorful environment for students to study. In many cases, Residential Colleges also include students, teachers and staff who do not live there. This is important because it emphasizes that a college is a college and not only accommodation. The essential difference between them is that the primary purpose of a Residential College is to provide education, or at least enriched by the all-round educational experience of its students rather than providing accommodation” [5]. The above definition implies a lot. Firstly, the Residential College is not merely an architectural concept, but a community which is composed of people. It is people-oriented, people-interrelated and fulfilling common progress. Secondly, the Residential College includes not only the students, staff and faculty who reside in, but other University members; In addition, the Residential College embraces and welcomes diversity; Above all, the primary function of the Residential College is to provide or supplement education. Considering the tradition that professional colleges always take a stronger position in student’s management, Residential College could be a new choice for whole-person education.

Around 2000, the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century submitted to UNESCO a report entitled *Learning, The Treasure Within*. The report points out that for the sake of developing the society in the future, education should focus on four basic contents that are ‘learn to know, learn to do, learn to live together and learn to be’. The report also states that: formal education systems tend to emphasize the acquisition of knowledge to the detriment of other types of learning; but it is vital now to conceive education in a more encompassing fashion. Such a vision should inform and guide future educational reforms and policy, in relation both to contents and methods.

When formal education cannot cover all aspects, the Residential College is duty-bound to assume the responsibility of whole-person education. Two elementary assumptions explain the inevitability of Residential Colleges taking on the role of education: 1) Environment influences behavior. The environment here refers not only to the physical environment (such as dormitory, computer room, music room, reference library, seminar room, classroom, teaching staff office, etc.), but also to the interpersonal and social environment (interaction and activities with peers, teachers and administrators), day after day, subtly affecting the personality development of students. 2) Learning is a total process. Life in Residential College greatly influences the formation of a student's character, and it is impossible to achieve it with merely intelligent education without student's culture, spirit and psychological development [6]. Thus, Riker goes on to propose five levels of goals for Residential Colleges as in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Five Levels of Goals for Residential Colleges

What educational experience should a successful Residential College provide? How Residential College acts in whole-person education? John McCardell, President of the Sewanee, the University of the South, has summarized three general characteristics: 1) Seamless. If Residential Colleges managed student activities separately, it cannot prepare students for real life in the future, and therefore cannot succeed. 2) Comprehensive. Residential Colleges should have well-developed curricula, dedicated teachers, and other factors, such as facilities, that constitute an excellent education, develop lifelong habits and cultivate a good personality. Education is not limited to time, can be in the class, activities, meals, conversation or even in the evening self-study; Similarly, education is open to all locations, including student centers, gyms, dormitories, art studios, etc. The facilities of Residential College should enhance the learning experience and enhance the educational value of the college; 3) Relevant. Residential College should somehow be relevant to students' life before they come to school, and relevant to their life after graduation too [6]. McCardell also believes that a successful Residential College should be embodied as follows : setting up clear general education goals, cultivating education environment, encouraging students to communicate with teachers and students in the broader campus community, developing faculty's career, allowing students to grow in the trial and error, respecting diversity, extending beyond school time and fostering self-confidence.

#### 4. Conclusion

The global internationalization is irresistible. Each graduate from higher education should earn ability of cooperation and communication. Now Sino-foreign cooperation in running-school have a wonderful start and it still needs to find an effective method to provide whole-person education. In the process of building a community of shared future for mankind, students will have more international vision and global competitiveness through their study and life in university. We believe that the Residential College will provide a more powerful whole-person education during the globalization period.

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