



## Phoenix House International School

### Admissions - FAQs

#### 1. Age and Year Group Placement

Please refer to our Age and Year Group Placement [document](#) to confirm the year group in which group your child will be placed.

#### 2. Who is eligible to apply to Phoenix House for the next academic year starting in August 2021?

- a. Any family with a child aged between 5 and 10 on 31st August 2021.
- b. Families with at least one parent with an international passport
- c. Please refer to our [Admissions Policy](#) to check your child's eligibility.
- d. For the academic year starting in August 2021, with the exception of Year 1 and 2, we are not able to accept students with Japanese passports unless they can prove they need an international education ie. as a returnee.

#### 3. What are the English language requirements for entry?

All students must have sufficient age-appropriate English speaking, reading, writing and comprehension skills to enter PH. The curriculum is taught entirely in English.

#### 4. When should we apply?

Applications are now open and can be registered via our online OpenApply [portal](#).

#### 5. What EAL and SEN support will be available?

- a. There will be a small team within the school that will offer specialised support for students in need of mainstream EAL and SEN support. This may include one-to-one classes or small group sessions.
- b. Needs exceeding those the school can meet will incur additional costs to parents.

#### 6. When will the admissions assessments take place?

Admissions assessments will be ongoing. For August 2021 entry they will take place between April and May.

#### 7. What will the Admissions assessment include?

- a. Year 1 Entry - Approximate time - one hour  
Children applying for places in Year 1 will be invited into school for a short in-person assessment which will involve working with some learning materials and looking at books together.
- b. Years 2-6 Entry - Approximate time - 1.5-3 hours  
The online assessment is aimed at providing our admissions team and teachers with information about incoming students' academic potential. Tasks involve thinking about shapes and patterns (Non-Verbal Reasoning), words (Verbal Reasoning), numbers (Quantitative Reasoning) and some questions are answered by mentally generating and transforming visual images (Spatial Ability).

We should advise against any kind of practice ahead of time. This is not an assessment of learnt

knowledge and as such needs to be as unaffected as possible to yield useful information. Think of it like going to the opticians; if you practice ahead of an eye test and memorise the card, your results may not be correct and valuable information may be missed.

For students entering Years 2 and 3 (1.5 hours)

The assessment features two parts, each taking approximately 30 minutes. We will take a break in the middle; the 30 minutes also includes several minutes at the start of examples and practice.

For students entering Years 4, 5 and 6 (3 hours)

There are three parts, each lasting about 40 minutes. The 40 minutes do however each include about 10 minutes at the beginning of examples and practice. Again, we will take a break between each of the three parts.

**8. How many students will be admitted to Phoenix House?**

- a. At capacity there are 288 places available at Phoenix House (Years 1-6)
- b. Each year group will have three classes, each with maximum 16-18 per class.

**9. What curriculum will be used?**

Teaching will be based on the National Curriculum of England and will be customised to meet the needs of our local context. E.g. We will not only teach British History and Geography but also aspects of both subjects pertaining to Japan, Asia and the wider world.

**10. Where do our teachers and staff come from?**

Our teachers and staff come from a diverse range of backgrounds. Most of the teaching faculty are British and all teachers are fully trained and experienced in delivering the National Curriculum of England.

**11. Do you follow a Safe Recruitment policy when appointing staff?**

Yes, our recruitment process is in line with international best practice in terms of safeguarding. All applicants, academic and admin, submit a full application form and letter. Longlisted candidates meet for a short introductory conversation to ascertain personality match and experience. Shortlisted candidates move through a full interview which includes detailed questioning and then the subsequent calling of two professional references. All successful candidates undergo a professional background check.

**12. What is the Hokkaido North Peak Program?**

- a. The Hokkaido North Peak Programme is a part of the curriculum, aimed at extending learning beyond the classroom. Surrounded by nature, the North Peak campus is located in southern Hokkaido close to Chitose airport, thus very easily accessible from Tokyo. It will provide opportunities to discover and develop new skills and passions through a rich program centered around outdoor education, the arts and the natural world, academics as well as Japanese culture. It also allows us to teach areas of the curriculum challenging to deliver in an urban setting e.g. animal habitats.
- b. Accommodation, catering and transport for school term-based trips to NP will be included in fees for all students registered at PH.
- c. Summer Programmes at North Peak will be charged separately.

**13. Is Phoenix House connected to Rugby School in Tokyo?**

Phoenix House and Rugby School are both managed by Clarence Education Asia.

**14. What are the school bus routes?**

Our bus routes will be confirmed later in Spring. Please refer to our school Bus Policy and map for further details when published on our website(link). We can confirm that one bus route will stop on Aoyama Dori, near Clarence International School.

**15. What are the Phoenix House Fees?**

Please refer to our School Fees document for further details on our website

**16. What after school extracurricular activities will be available?**

Phoenix House will be providing a rich program of extracurricular activities for students to get involved in every term. From House oriented initiatives to after school activities, there will be many opportunities for students to take on challenges in the arts, sciences or sport.

**17. What will the average class size be?**

The maximum capacity for each class will be 16-18 students.

**18. Will English be the main spoken language of the school? How will PH ensure this?**

Yes, all students will be expected to speak English in school. We recognise that many children will have another language, which should be applauded and encouraged, but they will always be expected to speak in English at PH. There may be occasions when all the children in a group playing together can understand the same language in which case speaking another language is fine, but only if everyone in the group fully comprehends. Excluding others through language use will not be accepted in our school.

**19. What approach will Phoenix House take to behaviour management?**

We will operate a positive behavior management policy throughout the school. Good behaviour will be the expected norm, this includes good manners, being polite and kind to others and supporting those in need. Staff, parents and other members of the wider community will be expected to model the behaviour we want to see in the children.

We will notice and acknowledge good behaviour, celebrating particular acts of courage or kindness. PH will not shy away from dealing with challenging behaviour or bullying - neither of which will be tolerated. Should issues arise they will be dealt with directly and swiftly with each child and family.

**20. How will PH attract international families?**

There are many factors which attract a family to a school. We believe our rich and robust British based curriculum combined with a wide range of character building indoor and outdoor enrichment opportunities, both in Tokyo and Hokkaido, will appeal to a wide range of internationally minded families.

**21. Will children studying the curriculum at Phoenix House be able to continue their education onto iGCSEs, A Levels or IB Diploma?**

Yes, studying the Key Stage 1&2 (Primary) and Key Stage 3 (Lower Secondary) National Curriculum of England is a smooth and natural preparation for study beyond age 14 - iGCSEs, A Levels and IBDP.