

Sky Avenues International Kindergarten 厦门爱幼思国际幼儿园

Xiamen, a scenic and beautiful island city and ideal location to enjoy the real Chinese experience while dually offering you the opportunity to excel personally and professionally.



Introduction Packet



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Sky Avenues

爱幼思

When you join Sky Avenues International Kindergarten, you will join a multicultural team of dedicated educators who aim to support and encourage each child's personal and social growth and learning to "belonging, being, and becoming".

As the first International Kindergarten to be established in Xiamen, we run on a western system, following the childhood program from Australia as well as the world renowned Montessori philosophy. We provide a unique learning curriculum and complete English immersion for our young learners ranging from 18 months to 6 years of age.

At Sky Avenues, we are looking for professional educators who are creative, energetic and experienced. Additionally, Educators who are passionate about providing an engaging educational environment to our students.

All classes are conducted in English with the Lead Teachers assisted in the classroom by teachers from China and the Philippines. As a Lead Teacher, you will be responsible for the daily coordination and management of the classroom and for planning and teaching inspiring, fun and interesting lessons.

Our school offers our teachers a complete and attractive employment package:



- Competitive salaries
- Annual flights allowance
- Housing Allowance for shared accommodation.
- Health Insurance
- Full Z Visa (working)
- Long term (2 year) contract
- Supportive and friendly team
- Ongoing professional development and mentorship
- A stable and supportive working environment
- The unique opportunity to work in an outstanding school where you will have the chance to help shape the lives of many young children and share educational expertise and ideas.

Our School

我们的学校

Sky Avenues was established in 2013 and was born out of an idea to offer a comprehensive and engaging international education to all young children in Xiamen.

The last twenty years has seen global expansion on a massive scale and the world is smaller than it has ever been. As Xiamen's first international kindergarten, our aim is to bring a diverse and culturally aware education system that produces confident, happy children who have a strong sense of identity, can think independently and are able to move across cultures easily.

China has seen much change in recent time and, no matter what background our students are from, it is likely that they will spend some of their later life studying, working, or traveling in other countries. Sky Avenues addresses this on two levels:

Firstly, we offer children a total English immersion learning environment, by combining English with the Mandarin they speak by living in China, and with the native language they speak at home. We are enabling young children the opportunity to become proficient in two or more languages from an early age.

Secondly, much of our cognitive thought processes and our way of looking at the world are defined when we are under 6 years old. Offering children the opportunity to develop in an international environment that promotes care, empathy, diversity and respect for others builds the foundation that will make them a caring and understanding global citizen in later life.



Our Philosophy 我们的理念

Producing happy, healthy, and confident learners

Much of our philosophy is simple and is based on providing children with the best quality education in a



safe and secure environment that promotes children's wellbeing and happiness. Our experience shows that children learn best when they are having fun and engaged.

Sky Avenues' ethos is based on several guiding principles:

We take a holistic approach to learning

We not only focus on each child's learning and English language development but we also develop all aspects of their physical, social, and emotional wellbeing.

We teach to the individual potential of each child

Many schools in China teach the entire class to the same level. At Sky Avenues, we consider each child's unique capabilities and potential, and work to these. That is why we often use smaller group work and team games.



We are an International community that promotes cultural competence

We respect and celebrate diversity amongst our Sky Avenues family and we teach children to understand, communicate, and effectively interact across cultures. We also believe that good manners are an integral part of any community and children are encouraged to show these at all times.

We foster partnerships with each family

We have a vast knowledge & experience in early childhood education but nobody knows a child better than his/her parents and family. At Sky Avenues we promote an open communication with families based on the principals of mutual trust and respect.

We promote learning through play and creativity.

As teachers, we produce learning environments and activities that encourage children to use meaningful play to explore ideas, solve problems, think critically and use their imagination to its full.

We have high expectations.

We want children to have fun and we believe that comes from giving children a challenging, varied and rewarding learning program. As teachers we also benefits from ongoing training and believe in a reflective practice where we are always open to new teaching methods and ideas

We look to create life-long learners

By creating fun and vibrant spaces and activities, and encouraging



children to explore ideas and pursue individual interests, we aim to create the desire for knowledge in all our children. As they move forward, we hope this continual wondering and reflecting on the world around us develops through adulthood.



Our Programs

我们的课程



Nursery

Our Nursery class offers a full-day program for 18 months to 3 year olds.

For many children this is their first time away from their family and so we offer a holistic, nurturing approach to our classes. Our teaching places a lot of emphasis on the emotional development of each child – helping them to socialize, share and partake in group activities – as well as introducing simple language, number, science and creative activities.



Much of a child's development up to this point has been reliant on assistance from parents and families but in our nursery classroom we provide the encouragement and controlled situations for children to discover their independence and to explore their abilities.



For those children who are experiencing leaving Mum and Dad for the first time, our teachers are well practiced in parent-child separation techniques. If parents have any questions on the best way to transition children into school, our staff are always happy to help.



Preschool

Our preschool program is for 3 to 5 year olds. A full-day program, it is divided into Preschool 1 classrooms (3-4 year olds) and Preschool 2 classes (4-5 years).

Each month the children focus on a new topic and these are designed to both inspire and challenge students. In addition to the monthly themes, more emphasis is gradually placed on English language, simple Math and Science – all undertaken in a fun and interactive way. Children are taught through interesting experiments, lively games, music, craft-work and much more.

Additionally, students are asked many questions designed to promote self-discovery and teachers allow many opportunities for children to ask questions back and follow trains of inquiry.

The Preschool years are also fundamental in developing each child's own sense of identity. During each school day, some activity times include a free choice of specially selected activities. Teachers use these to support children in discovering individual likes and preferences. We also actively encourage children to be independent on small tasks, ensuring that their self-confidence grows.



Kindergarten

A full day program for 6 year old children, our kindergarten class is our students' final step before "big school".

As with all our classes, there is an emphasis on learning through play and children follow a series of exciting and engaging monthly topics. However, in this final year there is a more structured timetable ensuring that each child is fully prepared for their entry into Primary School.

Our monthly topics are carefully chosen to inspire children in more extensive,



ongoing project work and to instill a desire for learning and individual discovery.

In addition to the structured classes, teachers ensure that we also develop each child's independence, social skills and confidence in readiness for the changes ahead – whether that be entering a local Chinese school or moving on to an International School.



School Events

学校活动

We celebrate Together!

Throughout the year, Sky Avenues marks special dates, festivals and themes with a

series of events.

School Events are designed specifically for smaller celebrations and take place in the children's classroom during normal class time under the direction of their teachers. These are used as part of our curriculum and help children learn about international cultures and ideas.

Some highlights from this year include our Halloween Parade, Christmas & Spring Festival Performances, Pirate Party, Carnival Party and Graduation Day Party.



For a more detailed list of our annual events, please see the current school calendar.

Family and Community Events

In addition to our School Events, Sky Avenues holds some Family and Community Events throughout the year. These are open to both Sky Avenues families and friends from

the local community with kindergarten aged children.

These fun community events are designed to encourage socializing between families and the local community whilst the children are involved in exciting and engaging activities.

Teacher Accommodations

教师住宿

Teachers at Sky Avenues are provided with an allowance to pay toward shared accommodation. Many apartments are located in close proximity to the school, 15-20 minutes walking or a 10 minute bike ride.

Accommodation include:

- Modern and spacious living quarters
- Shared bathroom (2 people per bathroom)
- Modern kitchen and bright open common area
- Washer, Refrigerator and other appliances included.
*Note: Dryer not included, clothes must be line dried
- Terrace for relaxing and laundry

Xiamen 厦门

Xiamen is an island city, well known for its beautiful natural scenery, fresh air and the clean environment. It is recognized as one of China's most livable cities, attracting Chinese and foreigners alike. This enchanting port city holds many charms as a sightseeing haven. It has become one of the best known areas to visit in China and for many good reasons including fresh sea food, great architecture, year round temperate weather with mild winters and hot tropical summers. Xiamen with its island charm, vibrant culture, and natural beauty is simply hard to beat!

Located at the southeast coast of China not far from Taiwan, Xiamen is a tourist city of Fujian Province famous for its attractive coastal views and romantic ambiance. The name of *Xiamen* was consequently given, meaning the "gate of China", as its is one of the forerunners of the special economic zones of China. Xiamen mainly consisting of Xiamen Island, Gulangyu Island, the north bank area of the Jiulong River and Tong'an County. Additionally, Xiamen is connected with the mainland by the Xiamen Bridge.

Sky Avenues international Kindergarten is situated on the east coast of the island, only ten minutes walk to the beach, 5 minutes walk from public transportation, and 10-15 minutes taxi or bus ride from shopping, restaurants, and other local attractions.



Living in Xiamen

居住在厦门

Xiamen is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful cities in China. Attract professionals, students, and entrepreneurs from all over the world to come and live, work, and play. Although Xiamen is a smaller less internationally know as some of China's bigger cities such Beijing and Shanghai, its reputation for as a comfortable and livable locality is undeniable.

Cost of Living

The cost of living in Xiamen is very reasonable. You can live in Xiamen, enjoy the city, and still have enough to put away and save or travel and explore. Cost of living is respectably on the lower end when comparing to larger cities in China. Which mean your money can go further in Xiamen. Housing can vary depending on the location, owner, number of rooms/bathrooms, and building maintenance. You can find very cheap and likewise very expensive housing in Xiamen based on you living expectations and personal needs.

Nightlife

During the day, Xiamen has more beauty than one can take in. However, its nightlife is equally as colorful as the city lights up at night. There are many bar, pubs, and restaurants in the city to enjoy, likewise an array of authentic Chinese and western cuisine. Many young people enjoy going to the beach, KTV and night clubs, while the less exuberant individuals can relax in a number of modern bars and authentic tea houses. There are many outdoor and street dining venues to enjoy the weather, day and night. Whatever the season, you can never get bored in Xiamen!

Shopping

Xiamen not only has a charming and attractive landscape, but also abundant local products, such as Xiamen pie, Huang Family's crushed dried pork, and an abundant amount of local fish and sea delicacies. There is no lack of famous brands, markets and malls in Xiamen. One can find anything, ranging from home appliances, high fashion, gold and silver wares, jade articles, jewelry and beautiful antiques. Even traipsing in the night market may uncover a few surprises. Some of Xiamen's most famous shopping destinations include Zhongshan Lu, Robinson Mall, and SM Mall where you can find many western stores such as H&M, The Gap, Walmart, Carrefour, and Starbucks to name a few.

Transportation

Xiamen has a multi-facet transport system. Whether by air, train, bus, taxi or coach; travel will be enjoyable due to the modern means of transport. Getting around the city is very easy and affordable. Xiamen has a vast bus systems, BRT bus line running above the city, and additionally has a multitude of taxis to get you where you want to be fast and conveniently. A bus ride starts at 1RMB per ride, while taxis have an initial 8RMD surcharge and 1-2RMB fuel fee every time you utilize their services.



Many local Xiamen also get around on foot, bicycle, and scooter. Walking is an enjoyable and healthy way to enjoy Xiamen as well, the city is pedestrian and bicycle friendly and easy to navigate.



Currently, Xiamen is under construction to develop an underground metro system which is set to open for transportation in 2017. With this additional mode of transportation, getting to any destination with ease will be even more accessible.

Exploring Outside of Xiamen

When exploring locations outside of Xiamen, there are many transportation options as well. Xiamen is an island city, on the mainland there are other cities and localities that can be reached by bus, taxi or ferry among other modes. Xiamen is home to two rail stations, Xiamen Railway Station (located at the center of the island) and Xiamen North Railway Station (located off the island on the mainland region of Jimei). High Speed Rail is a very convenient and affordable way to travel in and around China. Furthermore, Xiamen also has an international airport, servicing both domestic and intercontinental flights.



For more information on the city of Xiamen have a look at these sites:

whatsonxiamen.com

echinacities.com

tripadvisor.com

Around Xiamen

厦门左右

As a scenic port city in southeast Fujian Province in China, Xiamen has plenty of tourist attractions and is major city for domestic tourism. All year round people from all over China come to Xiamen for its beautiful weather, romantic ambiance, and island allure.



Gulangyu Island

Gulangyu Island is a top attraction for anyone visiting Xiamen. The island sits just off the shores of Xiamen city and is only accessible by ferry. Known for its historical value, delicate natural beauty, ancient relics and varied architecture. Gulangyu houses many attractions including the Piano Museum, Sunlight Rock, Shuzhuang Garden, Yu Park, Bright Moon Garden and Museum.

Yong Ding Hakka Earth Buildings

Yong Ding Hakka Earth Buildings are scattered over the southern part of Longyan area in Fujian Province. By bus from Xiamen it takes about 3 hours to reach the Hakka buildings, and many companies provide all day guided tours. It is a wonderful example of ancient Chinese architecture, the edifices are renowned for their history, unique grandiose style, and delicate layout. Yong Ding Hakka Earth Buildings were even praised by UNESCO as testament to "mythological mountain village architecture unmatched in the world."



Nan Putuo Temple

Nanputuo Temple is a must for tourists in Xiamen. The surroundings of the temple are guaranteed to be a refreshing, calming, and enlightening experience. Built on a mountain and facing the sea, the temple offers scenic views of the city and ocean in the distance. The temple was first built during the Tang Dynasty (618-907), and it was damaged twice during wars. In 1684, Shi Lang, a general of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) rebuilt the temple and named it

"Nanputuo" (meaning "south Putuo"), because it is situated to the south of Putuo Mountain, a sacred Buddhist mountain in Zhejiang Province.

Island Ring Road

Built around the sea, the Island Ring Road is located in the southeast of Xiamen Island. It stretches from the ferry port and then goes through the Yanwu Bridge, Hulishan canon platform, as well as Wuyuan Bay and airport, with a total length of 31 kilometers. Island Ring Road is the special racetrack for Xiamen's annual International Marathon and also one of the most popular tourist areas in the city. It connects numerous tourist attractions, such as Shangli reservoir and the exhibition center among others. The 9 kilometer coastline between Xiamen University and Qianpu, hailed as the "golden coastline", is a green coastal corridor integrating tourism, sightseeing, and entertainment.

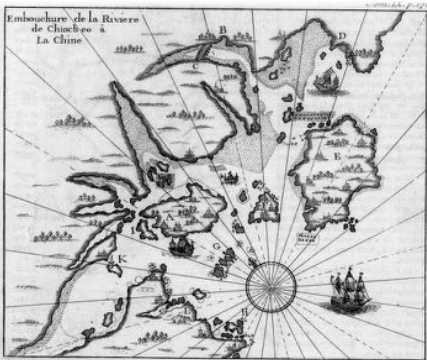


Xiamen also offers many other enchanting attractions, such as:

Jimei Turtle Garden, Xiamen University, Jinmen Island (Taiwan), Sun Light Rock, Yuanboyuan Expo Garden, Riyuegu Hotsprings and Wanshi Botanical Garden.

Xiamen's History

历史



Sources:
world-guide.com and chinatouronline.com

Xiamen was originally known as "Amoy", among many other historical recognitions. With recorded human activity on the island as early as 3,000 years ago, with an administrative organizational structure dating from the Song Dynasty (960 to 1279 AD). Although the history of Xiamen has been written for centuries before the Song Dynasty came into power, it was the Song who put this port town on the modern map. By opening Xiamen up as a sea port that was accessible to foreign traders, the Song set a precedent that would shape the future of the city for centuries to come. In 1993, the city was renamed as it is known today, domestically and international as Xiamen.

Xiamen was one of the main ports in the nineteenth century for the exportation of tea. The port was first used for trade by Portuguese in 1541. In 1841 During the First Opium War (1839 to 1842), Britain captured Xiamen during the Battle of Amoy, proving to be a major breakthrough between Britain and China. When the Treaty of Nanking was ratified in 1842, the history of Xiamen once again looked towards global trade, as the port was named one of the five treaty ports that were open to foreign trade as a consequence of China losing the war. In 1949, Xiamen became a provincial city and was then upgraded to a vice-province-class city of the People's Republic of China. Since 1980, it was allocated as a Special Economic Zone and the city of Xiamen has continued its accelerated progress in commerce and trade, educational institutions, culture and scenic beauty.

Why our school? 为什么我们的学校?

Our Teachers benefit from:

- Teach at Xiamen's first International Kindergarten!
- Be part of a fun, engaging, and supportive educational and professional work environment
- Have the opportunity to teach creative arts, simple science experiments and fun projects all within exciting monthly themes such as: dinosaurs, the animal kingdom, our world, life-cycles etc.
- Receive encouragement to be creative and play an active part in the ongoing development of our curriculum.
- Know that prospect for professional progression is available. Future Managerial and Head Teacher positions are available for those who excel in the classroom and as leaders.
- Receive professional development and mentorship on an ongoing basis
- Competitive Salaries
- Subsidized living accommodations
- Airfare Allowance
- Modern and clean educational environment and school facilities
- Enjoy the beautiful island city location
- Grow in multicultural and diverse team
- Experience the genuine Chinese cultural experience where you can "belong, be, and become".

