

NEWSLETTER

EDUCATION

18 -24 May 2026



China Pledges Global Cooperation as UNESCO Warns of 44 Million Teacher Gap

Chinese education officials called for deeper global cooperation on teacher training at the World Digital Education Conference on May 16. The pledge came as UNESCO warned the world faces a staggering shortfall of approximately 44 million teachers by 2030. China said it will expand its Smart Education platform and World Digital Education Alliance to help bridge the gap through digital tools. **(Ministry of Education)**

China's Two-Way Student Mobility Reaches Post-Pandemic Highs

A total of 570,600 Chinese students went abroad in 2025, while 535,600 returned home after graduation. Since 1978, China has sent 8.88 million students overseas, with 6.44 million ultimately returning. Inbound figures also grew, with 380,000 international students from 191 countries enrolled in China in 2024-2025. Among degree-seeking foreign students, engineering topped the list by attracting 27.8% of the total. **(britishcouncil.org)**

World Digital Education Conference Draws 850 Global Leaders to Hangzhou

The 2026 World Digital Education Conference opened on May 11 in Hangzhou with a record 850 guests from 65 countries and regions. Over 500 international participants joined the event themed "AI+Education: Transformation, Development and Governance." China's Smart Education platform currently provides online courses to learners in more than 220 countries and regions. **(CGTN)**

China Unveils Ambitious AI Education Plan for 2030

China launched an "AI Plus Education" action plan on April 10 to build nationwide AI literacy across all schooling levels by 2030. Fudan University has already introduced over 100 AI courses taken by more than 13,000 students, alongside 41 "X + AI" dual-degree programs. Beijing reports 87.7% of its schools have adopted AI education, with students receiving at least eight class hours of AI instruction annually. **(State Council of PRC)**