

NEWSLETTER

EDUCATION

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National Gaokao Enrollment Hits 12.9 Million

China's 2026 national college entrance exam (gaokao) kicked off on June 7 with 12.9 million registered candidates nationwide. The exam runs June 7–8, with some provinces extending to June 9–10. This year's gaokao introduces stricter anti-cheating measures, expanded undergraduate enrollment quotas, and 38 new undergraduate majors. (www.thepaper.cn)

Elite Universities Expand Undergraduate Seats

Top Chinese universities are significantly increasing 2026 undergraduate enrollment. Nanjing University will add 300 spots, bringing its total expansion to over 1,000 since 2021. Xi'an Jiaotong University is adding 360 seats for a total of 6,710, focusing on embodied intelligence and smart manufacturing. Southeast University will increase enrollment by 600 students compared with 2025. (www.thepaper.cn)

38 New Undergraduate Majors Debut

The Ministry of Education released the 2026 undergraduate catalog with 38 new majors. Additions include low-altitude economy management, embodied intelligence, brain-computer science, digital finance, and nuclear medical engineering. These programs align with national strategic needs and emerging industries. The 2025 catalog had already introduced 29 new majors, including carbon neutrality and AI education.

(www.thepaper.cn)

Guangdong Sees Slight Enrollment Drop but More Seats

Guangdong Province reported 1.103 million total registrations for spring and summer gaokao, with 782,200 for the summer exam. This marks a 1,800-person decrease from 2025, the first decline in five years. However, the province plans to expand undergraduate and vocational enrollment by approximately 10,000 seats, potentially improving overall admission rates. (gaokaozhitongche.com)