



The International School  
OF MACAO | 澳門國際學校

# ANNUAL REPORT

# EXPERIENCE WEEK

# 2018



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*The best thing about experience week is that we can learn new things, see new things, taste new things and also meet new friends. We can also experience new things and gain more knowledge through the things we try (Gr9 student)*

# INTRODUCTION

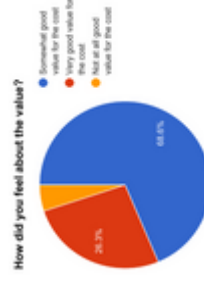
Experience Week (ExWk) at The International School of Macao (TIS) has evolved since its inception in 2009. Initially, as a voluntary trip to Vietnam during spring break, it is now an expectation of all Secondary students. Each year in March, TIS sets aside a full week for experiential and service learning and as of 2018, ExWk participation is included on each student's final progress report. This year, ExWk occurred from **10 - 16 March, 2018**.

## Terms Used in this Report

CALM	Career and Life Management
CAS	Creativity, Activity, Service
ExWk	Experience Week
HS	High School
IB	International Baccalaureate
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
MAM	Marketing and Management
MS	Middle School
PRC	People's Republic of China
TAP	Teacher Advisory Program
TIS	The International School of Macao

## 2017 Review

Students were surveyed at the end of ExWk 2017. Approx. 60% of the High School (HS) students that responded indicated that the price for ExWk 17 was too high.



At the same time, 95% said they were satisfied with the overall value. Middle School (MS) students that did not participate in ExWk 2017 were also surveyed to find out why they didn't take part.

## 2018 APPROACH

*"In a safe and caring environment, our mission is to develop socially responsible, life long learners able to problem solve, think critically, and make positive changes in our global world" TIS Mission Statement*

*"Students learn the value of citizenship by contributing to the school community. TIS values the importance of developing socially responsible students who are willing to make a difference in their community" Service Aim, TIS Approach*

As demonstrated by the TIS Mission and Service Aim, experiential and service learning are fundamental elements of the TIS approach. At the Secondary level, ExWk 2018 was also guided by the strands of Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS), and intended to provide students with the opportunity to "learn by doing". Through CAS, and the efforts of TIS staff, intentional curriculum connections were made throughout the year including during TAP, CALM, ICT, MAM, MATH, and Mandarin classes.

ExWk 2018 was not intended to replicate what students could do while traveling with their families, nor was it solely about geography. It instead was a chance for students to learn about themselves and develop new skills, in a new way, often in a new location, while cultivating perseverance. The inclusion of service learning gave many students a chance to better understand their obligation toward others and to work collaboratively in response to authentic needs or on issues of global significance (IBO, 2015). Service learning included within ExWk 2018 provided students the opportunity to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Cost and other expressed concerns were considered in the design of ExWk 2018. All HS options fit within three price categories ranging from 'free' to a maximum of 20,000MOP/student.

Of the HS options that were implemented, three (42%) cost under 5,500MOP/student; two (29%) cost between 5,501 and 15,000MOP/student; and two (29%) cost between 15,001 and 20,000MOP/student. Of the implemented HS options, three were in Macao, one was in the PRC, and three occurred in others parts of Asia.

In MS, the grade-level programs ranged from 11,000MOP/student to 12,500MOP/student. Of the four MS destinations, two were locations from previous ExWks (Hoi An, Vietnam and Chiang Mai, Thailand) and two were new this year (Xian/Shaojin, PRC and Macao).

TIS is not a travel agency. To ensure that service learning opportunities were in response to "authentic" need and to provide the required logistics for multiple, simultaneous ExWk programs, TIS relied on familiar and/or reputable service providers, specified throughout this report.

## Risk Assessment and Management

All ExWk destinations and activities were reviewed by TIS Human Resources to ensure appropriate insurance coverage. **Government of Macao, Government of Canada and International SOS** websites were monitored regularly to assess travel safety, and risks. TIS staff received medical and security training in preparation for ExWk from **International SOS**. During ExWk, staff were able to access **International SOS** via phone, app, and internet to receive guidance and advice in response to emergencies. Staff also received First Aid training from **Mind & Body** in association with **First Aid Macau** prior to ExWk. Service providers that had direct contact with TIS students were required to read, sign and comply with TIS' *Child Protection Policy* and *Adult Code of Conduct*. Together, these measures allowed TIS to assess and manage risk during ExWk.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL (MS)

Grade-level programs served as the foundation for ExWk in MS. This year saw the creation of a Macao Alternative for MS students unable to travel for legitimate medical or family reasons like late enrolment. As a result, 99.5% (189 of 190) MS students participated in ExWk 2018.



### GRADE 7 - ETR Tours

The Grade 7s traveled to Hoi An, Central Vietnam for ExWk 2018 with ETR Tours. They hiked, biked, engaged in collaborative group activities in the UNESCO World Heritage site of old town Hoi An, learned to cook, and made traditional crafts. They did service at a local orphanage in the form of painting and cleaning, after getting a chance to interact with children living at the orphanage.



## GRADE 8 - Traidhos Three Generation Community for Learning

*My child definitely learned a lot such as independence and cooperation. She is also so impressed by the activity with the elephants that we have to treat them nicely from now on. (TIS parent)*



The grade 8s traveled to Chaing Mai, Thailand and spent ExWk 2018 at **Traidhos Three Generation Community for Learning**. They engaged in reforestation with **FORRU**, spent time with retired elephants, and learned about minority ethnic groups. They had Thai language lessons and were taught how to prepare Thai food, as well as biked, kayaked and scaled a giant climbing wall.



*The thing I loved about experience week was making heaps of new friends and new experiences and meeting the kids at the orphanage and the fruit suits!! (Gr 7 student)*



## GRADE 9 - Educational Excursions

The Grade 9s traveled to Xian and Shaolin, PRC for ExWk 2018. They hiked, biked, learned kung fu, and visited cultural heritage sites including the Longmen Grottoes and the Big Goose Pagoda. They did service at the Hui Ling community and made their own Terracotta warriors.



*When we went to the Hui Ling community, there were many kids and adults that had disabilities, but they were still happy about their life. I learned that we should be more grateful of what we have and cherish the things we own, because not everyone has the same opportunities or chances that we have. (Gr9 student)*

## MS MACAO ALTERNATIVE - TIS, Caritas and Local Artists

*It made me more aware of problems like the challenges that children with disabilities face and children that aren't receiving the care they need. This is a problem all over the world. (Gr7 student/MS Macao Alternative)*



The MS students unable to travel, spent ExWk 2018 creating tape art animals guided by two local artists, **Peta Houghton** and **Simon Macfarlane**. The students also performed community service with **Caritas** and associated organisations in Macao and engaged in athletic activities each day after lunch.

# HIGH SCHOOL (HS)

HS students had 16 options to choose from during the 2018 selection process. Students were asked to choose three options after discussing it with their parents/guardians. Taking into account student preferences, requisite numbers to implement each trip, and a division between grades and genders, three local, and six options outside of Macao, were selected for implementation. Two of the international options (Bali and Fiji) were cancelled for reasons beyond TIS' control. Students affected by the cancellations participated in one of the other seven options (noted on later pages as "fourth choice"). Five of the seven options addressed all three CAS strands; the other two covered two strands. Six out of seven options included some form of service learning. 98% of HS students (185 of 189) participated in ExWk 2018.

## MACAO 1 (3D Printing and Production) - TIS/Mr. Voykin

The 3D Printing and Production option enabled students to design and produce prosthetic hands for donation to individuals in need in Kosovo. Students were challenged to foster a deeper sense of responsibility toward others while engaging their creativity. Students also participated in fundraising activities throughout the week in support of the overall service goal for the program.

*The best thing about Experience week is the opportunity to learn new things. (TIS student/Macao 1 option)*

## MACAO 2 (Homeroom Helpers) - TIS

After an interview with Mrs. Kiat and/or Mr. Chignall, students who participated in the Homeroom Helpers program were assigned to a Kindergarten or Elementary classroom at TIS. They assisted the teacher to whom they were assigned, and learned more about being an educator in an international school setting.



*Since I'm considering to be a teacher, this homeroom helper experience really offered me an opportunity to see what the role of a teacher is like. It is not easy to have such kind of experience. (TIS student/Macao 2 option)*





## MACAO 3 (CAS) - TIS, Caritas and Local Artist

*"...we should to grateful and appreciative for what we already have because sometimes we forget"* (TIS student/Macao CAS option)



The Macao 3 (CAS) option built on what was established in the ExWk 2017 local program. Students were given the opportunity to engage in service learning in various locations around Macao thanks to the support of **Caritas** and associated service providers. Students also collaborated with others creatively under the tutelage of **Mr. James Wong**, Artist-in-Residence, to create paper mache elephant heads on display at TIS.



## BHUTAN - Etho Metho Treks

In Bhutan, students forged new connections and built a foundation for what is hoped will become a reoccurring, sustainable ExWk program. Students planted trees, hiked to Tiger's Nest monastery, participated in an archery competition, practiced their drawing techniques and learned Bhutanese songs. From the cross-cultural and environmental awareness gained during their time in Bhutan, students and teachers developed recommendations on how, together with a Bhutanese organisation, local needs can be addressed in next year's program.



*"The best thing about experience week was that we get to see the lifestyle of the happiest country and see the way the locals interact with one another and the environment"* (TIS student/Bhutan Option)

## INDONESIA - Operation Wallacea

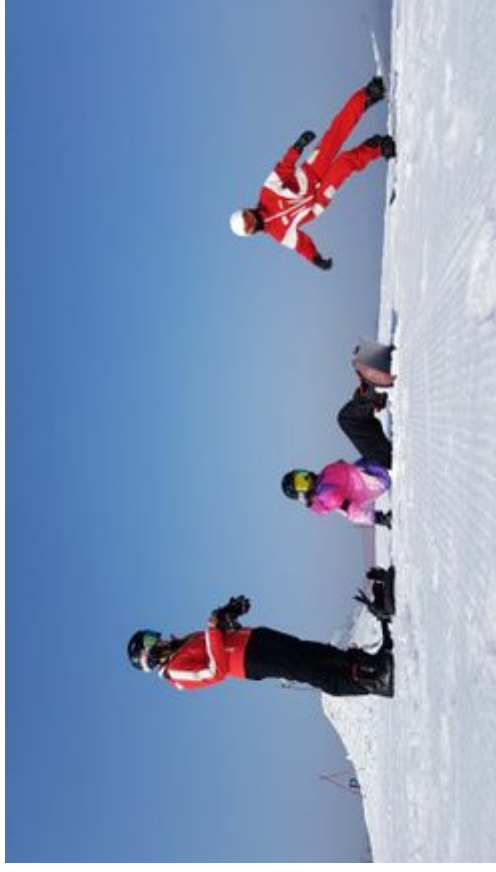
*Experience week has affected my lifestyle choices, as I am more aware of the impacts of our actions regarding the marine environment. I am also inspired to volunteer or pursue a career in conservation in the future (TIS student/Indonesia Option)*

At the end of ExWk 2018, the students that participated in the Indonesia option not only had a better understanding of environmental issues that affect the underwater world in which they spent much of their time, but they were also able to identify multiple fish, invertebrate and coral species. Additionally, 10 students received their PADI Open Water certification and 1 student received their Advanced PADI certification.



## SOUTH KOREA - MITS

The South Korea Option gave TIS HS students a chance to improve or develop new skills, skiing and snowboarding, as well as in Traditional Korean Culinary Arts. They exerted themselves and contributed positively to their overall health through the active and creative elements of the week.



*"It really taught me how you can still achieve great things with persistence, even when it's difficult to learn or try new things at the start" (TIS student/South Korea Option)*



## YUNNAN, PRC - WildChina

The students who participated in the Yunnan option came away with a deeper sense of accomplishment after facing the challenges of a cold climate, combined with altitude, and rigorous hiking and camping conditions. Students also had a chance to demonstrate their proficiency in *putonghua* by using what they have learned in Mandarin class.



# PARTICIPATION

MS EXWk18 - BY NUMBERS	
DESTINATION	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
Gr7 - Hoi An, Vietnam	53
Gr8 - Chiang Mai, Thailand	52
Gr9 - Xian & Shaolin, PRC	51
MS Macao Alternative	Gr7 - 15 Gr8 - 9 Gr9 - 9

HS EXWk18 - BY NUMBERS				
OPTION	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	NUMBER BY GENDER (Female/Male)	NUMBER BY GRADE	NUMBER BY SELECTION
Macao 1	20	2F / 18M	8 Gr10 5 Gr11 7 Gr12	14 - 1st choice 5 - 2nd choice 1 - 3rd choice
Macao 2	22	14F / 8M	4 Gr10 6 Gr11 12 Gr12	21 - 1st choice 1 - 2nd choice 1 - 3rd choice
Macao 3	44*	19F / 25M	13 Gr10 10 Gr11 21 Gr12	9 - 1st choice 6 - 2nd choice 3 - 3rd choice 24 - 4th choice
Bhutan	22	14F / 8M	5 Gr10 15 Gr11 2 Gr12	13 - 1st choice 2 - 2nd choice 6 - 3rd choice 1 - 4th choice
Indonesia	25	11F / 14M	6 Gr10 7 Gr11 12 Gr12	16 - 1st choice 6 - 2nd choice 1 - 3rd choice 2 - 4th choice
South Korea	26	13F / 13M	9 Gr10 12 Gr11 5 Gr12	23 - 1st choice 1 - 2nd choice 2 - 4th choice
Yunnan	24	15F / 9M	19 Gr10 1 Gr11 4 Gr12	11 - 1st choice 9 - 2nd choice 4 - 3rd choice

\*2 additional students participated in a local, modified program

*"The best thing about Experience Week in Yunnan for me was to be able to make more friendships, passing my goal on hiking the mountains and being able to have a big snowball fight with everyone on the trip" (TIS student/Yunnan Option)*



# FINANCIALS

MIDDLE SCHOOL (MS)		HIGH SCHOOL (HS)	
GRADE 7 - Hoi An, VIETNAM		MACAO 1 (3D Printing and Production)	
Income	583,000 MOP	Income	30,000 MOP
Expenditures	549,995 MOP	Expenditure	28,403 MOP
GRADE 8 - Chiang Mai, THAILAND		MACAO 2 (Homeroom Helpers)	
Income	555,500 MOP	Expenditure	800 MOP
Expenditures	555,377 MOP	MACAO 3 (CAS)	
GRADE 9 - Xian & Shaolin, PRC		Income	36,000 MOP
Income	587,211 MOP	Expenditure	17,744 MOP
Expenditures	589,142 MOP	BHUTAN	
MS MACAO ALTERNATIVE		Income	435,600 MOP
Income	26,400 MOP	Expenditure	385,550 MOP
Expenditures	20,401 MOP	INDONESIA	
MS BALANCE	37,196 MOP	Income	502,138 MOP
		Expenditure	464,200 MOP
		SOUTH KOREA	
		Income	407,500 MOP
		Expenditure	403,841 MOP
		YUNNAN	
		Income	228,000 MOP
		Expenditure	223,800 MOP
		HS BALANCE	116,860 MOP
		OTHER EXPENDITURES (OE)	
First Aid training			9,670 MOP
International SOS training			24,405 MOP
International SOS (part of annual membership)			63,503 MOP
EXWK Annual Report			8,000 MOP
Reimbursements			64,600 MOP
		OE Subtotal	176,178 MOP
		FINAL BALANCE	
		MS Balance	37,196 MOP
		HS Balance	116,860 MOP
		Subtotal	154,056 MOP
		OE Subtotal	-170,178 MOP
		BALANCE	-16,122 MOP

# REFERENCES

International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). (2015). *Creativity, Activity, Service Guide for students graduating in 2017 and after*.

Sustainable Development Goals, 17 Goals to Transform our World. Communications Materials. UN News Centre. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>

*Our Approach*. The International School of Macao. <https://www.tis.edu.mo/about/approach/>



For more information about Experience Week at The International School of Macao please contact: (853) 2853 3700 [www.tis.edu.mo](http://www.tis.edu.mo)