



Utahloy International School

The Benefits and Experience of Boarding in Dragon House!

Boarding schools provide a unique service to both students and parents. Many boarding experts claim that "boarding school is an education in and of itself." The phrase is true - living in a boarding school community leads to learning that is just as, or more, valuable than the education you get from within a classroom environment. Students who are boarders not only statistically out perform day students academically, but also have much higher retention and success rates at university. Our boarding accommodation, Dragon House, provides the perfect environment for students to develop academically and socially. The boarding experience at UISZC is enhanced by the teaching staff residing on campus. This means that teachers, in most circumstances, remove their teacher's hats and as adults interact with students after the school day. This may sound unimportant but is conducive to creating a unique relationship between students and staff that is based on mutual respect and trust. Education then, takes on a broader meaning at UISZC as there is an explicit link to our mission to not only educate students in the classroom, but to also help them become better more rounded individuals well prepared for tertiary and vocational pursuits. Indeed, UISZC has the capacity as a boarding school to achieve this that day schools do not. So while boarding students often do very well academically due to structured study regimes, on-site teaching staff and access to school facilities, the less directly measurable benefits of boarding at UISZC should be considered as well.

Boarders learn to take responsibility for themselves and make choices that matter. Boarding students need to take care of themselves and take responsibility for their own actions to a much greater degree than if they were living at home. While there is a structured boarding programme, students will need to make choices as to how they spend their time, what activities and opportunities to take advantage of, and how to create a reasonable balance between work and play. Boarders at UISZC are able to make choices that have a direct impact on what they learn outside the school day and the life they lead in the boarding community. *For parents, this roughly translates to increased maturity, greater self-sufficiency, and superior college preparation for their son or daughter.*

Boarders live in an environment that encourages them to try new things. Becoming a member of Dragon House means venturing into something unfamiliar. UISZC is a community where the willingness to explore new things is inherent in the student body, and where other students will also be trying new things. Members of the Dragon House community repeatedly

make ventures into the unknown. They are exposed to people from amazing backgrounds, learn new skills and subjects, and who are continually challenged to reach a higher academic standard. With every challenge that boarding presents, students learn more about themselves and become more comfortable with who they are. *For parents, this means that students often experience huge personal growth and vastly increased self-confidence.*

Boarders form lifelong friendships and have fun. Living in Dragon House can also be a lot of fun. Imagine living in a house with a bunch of your best friends. It's common for your dorm mates to become your closest friends and support network. The friendships that you make in this environment will be ones you will remember for life. *For parents this means that their son / daughter will establish and form a global network of friends that often stand the test of time.*

Boarders have the benefit of having teaching staff as mentors and friends, and having them regularly and readily available. Students are exposed to teaching staff in many settings throughout the day. For example in the classroom as teachers, athletic fields as coaches, extracurricular groups as advisors, and dorm settings as dorm supervisors. As mentioned previously all staff at UISZC live on campus and are therefore accessible throughout the day and evening. Obtaining academic help is always on hand. Boarding experts comment on this access to teaching staff as the core advantage in adding value to students academic achievements. Also, relationships with teaching faculty members and adults can better flourish in these multiple settings, creating learning and mentorship opportunities that are hard to find in other environments. *For parents, this means that our philosophy where 'Every student matters every moment of the day' has real meaning in both academic achievement and character development.*

Boarders become members of a proud community. Boarding graduates are generally very enthusiastic and proud of their boarding school. Our boarding students create the traditions and history that drive and define the character of Dragon House, the school, and influence each and every student who attends UISZC. The shared experience of this tradition and history creates a strong network of people and a feeling of community that lasts a lifetime. *For parents, this equates to their son / daughter being instilled with qualities such as loyalty, team work, pride, acceptance and tolerance.*

As one of the few International Boarding Schools in China, we offer a service that many schools cannot offer. At UISZC we understand the pressures of families living and working overseas and the need for flexibility. Expatriate families expect, and deserve, that children receive an excellent education, live in a safe, nurturing and challenging environment and also experience quality time at home.

If you are interested in exploring the possibility of your son or daughter boarding at UISZC and the excellent benefits it provides for your child's education and development, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ben Hinves
Deputy Head of School