

New tax bulletin will change the tax landscape for many foreign universities in China

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Education Alert

As U.S. colleges and universities rapidly internationalize, it's unsurprising that institutions are increasingly entering the Asian market, especially in China where the student demand for international programs is especially high.

However, even after classes have started abroad, these institutions may still find themselves facing unforeseen and expensive predicaments with Chinese regulatory authorities. One of the most notable cases ended with China slapping well-established Nottingham University with a US\$1.5 million tax bill, as we reported in August 2016.

It's clear that the nation's tax authorities are becoming increasingly more sophisticated in alleging violations and collecting fines. Adding to the complexity of complying with higher education regulations, a recently issued tax notice titled *Circular of the State Administration of Taxation on Certain Issues relating to the Implementation of Tax Treaties* (Bulletin 11) has resulted in a ground-breaking tax development for Sino-foreign cooperative education institutions and programs in China.

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Contacts



Sherry Gong

Partner

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