



# Overseas Personal **Development** Services Guardianship Summary



There is no substitute for quality of education

## Putting **Your Child** First

Here at OPDS we appreciate your role as the primary carer and understand the difficult decisions that need to be addressed when considering your child's educational welfare.

Globalisation is happening very rapidly. Modern, forward thinking parents are now offering their children opportunities to learn new subjects and skills that will prepare them for the world's needs as they grow up. Educational responsibility is often central to their thinking.

Once you have decided to send your child to the UK, the availability of professional care is of paramount importance. At OPDS, our aim is to make this process as easy as possible for you as parents.

### About Guardianship

When parents make the often difficult decision to provide an overseas education for their child, they are offering them a unique and life changing opportunity. It is vital, therefore, that the whole experience is a positive one and runs as smoothly and effectively as possible. It is also important that the academic aims of the child are not impeded by day to day worries and problems.

In tandem, it is of equal importance that the parents feel secure in the knowledge that their child's physical, emotional and educational needs are being fulfilled.

All schools insist that overseas students have a UK resident guardian for the period they are registered at the school. Here at OPDS, we have extensive experience of the care and welfare of children throughout their formative years. Working closely with parents and schools, we have developed a wealth of knowledge which equips us to carry out our responsibilities, with the best possible results.

### With each child under our care we:

Get to know them as best as possible so that a strong bond of friendship and mutual respect can be developed. We adopt a 'firm but fair' approach towards the child at all times, taking into consideration information supplied by other parties such as school staff, colleagues and home stay families. We treat and care for your child as we would our own.

Provide the best career advice for the children and their parents at all stages of their studies here in the UK, through ongoing liaison with school staff combined with our thorough understanding of the UK education system.

Advise the child on any aspect of their study so that improved performance can be obtained with increased satisfaction from their education here in the UK.

Encourage the child to explore all the wonderful places the UK has to offer during their holidays, so that a better cultural understanding can be gained from their time here. We assume responsibility for travel and accommodation arrangements as and when necessary.



## A Typical Guardian Family Profile

Mrs. Sunny Field was born in Beijing and educated in China and the UK, gaining qualifications in Biology and Accounting and Finance. She is a professionally qualified teacher and her passion for helping students to develop themselves led her to form OPDS in 1996.

Her international experience, gained in many countries, has provided her with an appreciation and understanding of the wide variety of needs faced by students when they travel and live abroad.

Sunny currently resides in London with her family, whilst maintaining strong links to her clients in China through the management of the OPDS office in Beijing.

Mr. Larry Field, husband of Mrs. Sunny Field, graduated from the Department of Psychology of University College, London. He then completed Master's degrees in Computing and Human Resource Management respectively.

Larry has been engaged in educational consulting and services for many years. He provides professional guidance and helps students to settle in their studies and lifestyle when they arrive in the UK.

Larry has a wide range of interests, including sport, classical music, travelling, meeting people and reading.

Rowena Field, daughter of Sunny and Larry, is very popular with all of the guardian students due to her bright personality and fluent bilingual skills.



### London Office

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## Services

### Pastoral Care

Time invested in understanding the student's strengths and weaknesses  
Assist with a wide range of personal matters  
Frequent phone calls to encourage progress, both academically and socially  
Liaise with parents to resolve issues before they become problems  
Work with schools to determine the best outcome for the student

### Guardianship

Representative for students for legal affairs while in the UK  
24-hour emergency contact while your child is in the UK  
Annual birthday card, Christmas or New Year present  
Assisting in registering with local police, hospital, doctor and dentist

### Educational Support

Academic subject selection and discussion with OPDS career counsellor  
Frequent visits to school to keep abreast of developments  
Translation of school reports and forwarding for parents' attention  
Assisting with University application  
Attend parents' meetings at least once a year  
Advice and arrangement of courses for students during school holidays - cost met by parents

### Financial Matters

Establishing bank account, monitoring finances and producing accounts (minimum initial deposit of £1,000 required)  
Liaising with school for tuition payment  
Liaising with student and managing pocket money

### Travel Arrangements

Airport Pickup - cost met by parents  
Pre-departure briefing  
Advising and making travel arrangements during holidays - cost met by parents  
Making internal travel arrangements in the UK for students at any time - cost met by parents  
Booking international air tickets from UK to home country - cost met by parents  
Making hotel and travel arrangements for parents to visit UK - cost met by parents  
Arranging insurance, if required, for the student

### Visa Application

Visa renewal in the UK for the student  
Visa application for parents by request (once a year)

### Accommodation

Arranging host family during holidays - cost met by parents  
Advising and assisting in hotel booking for parents by request  
Excursions during holiday - cost met by parents

### Optional Services

Educational profiling analysis with suggestion for course selection and career management  
Extra school visit at parent or staff request  
Assisting in travel and visa arrangements for a third country

E-Mail: [info@opds.co.uk](mailto:info@opds.co.uk)

## Putting **Your** Child First

"Sunny and Larry's genuine concern and their practical and caring approach to Guardianship, allow their students to enjoy a high level of support. This is reassuring for parents and the school, and it makes a major contribution to the educational development of the young people they serve."

**Headmaster of Queen Ethelburga's College, York**

"OPDS offer an efficient and personal service which is second to none. No detail is overlooked in enabling the students in their care to adapt to Boarding School life.

There is no doubt that the support offered to the pupil allows parents to send their children abroad knowing that their welfare is the priority of Sunny, Larry and their team."

**Housemaster from Strathallan School, Scotland**

"OPDS have a wonderfully in-depth knowledge of both the UK educational system and of the students who come to them for advice - so they are perfectly placed to match the right students with the right schools."

**Headmaster from Hurtwood House School**

"Sunny and Larry helped me to settle down with everything in the UK within a short time. There is always someone that I can turn to if I get in trouble, someone who shares my achievements and who helps me improve both my academic study and life skills.

In addition, Sunny and Larry have given me so much helpful advice with my GCSE and A-level subjects. OPDS offer the best service that I can ever imagine and compared with many others, I am the lucky one to have such a great guardian."

**Year 11 Student**

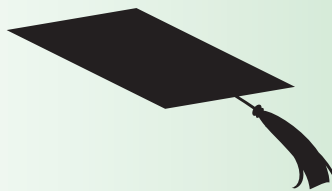
"I feel there is no better option than placing my son under Sunny and Larry's care. Due to their professional dealing with my child, my son highly respects them. He is always happy to receive their advice.

Sometimes my opinion has to go through Sunny and Larry if I want my son to listen to me, but they are always there for me. Sunny and Larry also give me a lot of advice and assurance. This has been very helpful to me as I have a limited understanding of the UK education system. I am very lucky to know OPDS!"

**Year 12 Parent**

"I really enjoy working with Sunny and Larry who are always on hand to discuss any concern I may have. Although I have responsibilities to fulfil, I find that most students treat my family and my home as if it were their own, which enables them to settle quickly and enjoy their break. Hosting students from abroad is most enjoyable and rewarding, offering me the opportunity to learn about ways of life in countries I have never visited."

**Host Family with 8 years' experience**



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