

# **Promote, Pivot or Move on? Navigating Change in International Education Careers**



**REGIONAL INSTITUTE**  
East Asia, Southeast Asia,  
& Oceania 2026

# Meet the Panelists:



***Helen Cheung***

Head of University  
Counseling

Singapore International  
School Hong Kong



***John Gursky***

Associate Director of College  
Counseling

Taipei American School



***Megan Mankерian-  
Stem***

Founder

Global Leaders Collective



***Ronni Mariñez***

International Admission  
Counselor

Loyola Marymount Univ.



***Anna Wise***

Associate Dean of Admission  
and Director of International  
Recruitment

Hamilton College



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# Meet the Moderator: Ronni Mariñez



***Ronni Mariñez is an International Admission Counselor at LMU and has worked in international education for over seven years. She holds a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration from LMU and is passionate about expanding access to educational opportunities for international students.***

***Ronni will serve as the moderator for this panel, bringing the perspective of a mid-career professional navigating career growth and change within the field of international education.***

# Meet the Panelists: Helen Cheung

***Helen Cheung currently serves as the Head of University Counselling at Singapore International School (Hong Kong). With over 20 years of experience in career and college advising, Helen has navigated professional growth across large-scale U.S. institutions and international schools in Hong Kong.***

***After building a foundation in the expansive career centers of the University of Pennsylvania, Temple, and Drexel, she transitioned to Hong Kong, where she immersed herself in the local landscape to learn the nuances of the field from the ground up.***

***She has since led efforts to institutionalize processes and scale impact in developing departments, from formalizing parent seminar series to expanding student internship and career exploration programs.***

***Grounded in the philosophy that we learn by doing, Helen is a strong advocate for professionals 'trying on different hats' to discover their unique expertise and navigate intentional career growth***



# Meet the Panelists: John Gursky

***John Gursky has spent 20 years in admissions and college counseling. He currently serves as the Associate Director of College Counseling at Taipei American School (TAS) in Taiwan and will be the interim Director starting this July. In 2017, John founded the Counseling Association of Taiwan (CAT) regional network.***



***John spent ten years working in undergraduate admissions at two American universities. He started at St. Lawrence University, where he worked as an Assistant Director of Admissions, a Senior Assistant Director of Admissions, and Coordinator of International Admissions. He then moved to Boston University where he served as an Assistant Director and Senior Assistant Director of International Admissions. In 2016, he switched sides of the desk (and the world) to Taipei, Taiwan, where he has been counseling at TAS.***

***Through John's roles, he has made the switch from primarily domestic (US) to international admissions and has navigated multiple experiences at different institutions with senior leadership transitions. He has also navigated working in newly created positions five different times among his three schools, which came with increased responsibility surrounding supervision of colleagues, program and system development and management, and event***

# Meet the Panelists: John Gursky

- **20th year in education - admissions and college counseling**
- **10 years working in undergraduate admissions in the United States:**
  - **St. Lawrence University: Assistant Director of Admissions, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions, Coordinator of International Admissions**
  - **Boston University: Assistant Director of International Admissions, Senior Assistant Director of International Admissions**
- **10 years total working in college counseling in Taiwan:**
  - **Taipei American School (Taiwan): College Counselor, Associate Director of College Counseling, interim Director of College Counseling (Beginning July 2026)**
- **Founded the Counseling Association of Taiwan (CAT) network in 2017**
- **Switched sides of the desk and the world from admissions in the US to college counseling in Taiwan**
- **Switched from primarily domestic (US) admissions to solely international admissions**
- **Increased responsibility with staff supervision and developing/managing programming, systems, and event planning in both admissions and counseling**
- **Multiple experiences at different institutions with senior leadership transitions and navigating change through newly created roles**





## Meet the Panelists: Megan Mankерian

***Megan Mankерian-Stem is the founder of the Global Leaders Collective and has worked in international education for over 15 years. Previously, Megan worked for US universities in the international enrollment space. Now, through GLC, Megan supports universities worldwide with their enrollment strategies, partnership building, and program development. She's also on the executive board for International ACAC and a NAFSA leader.***

***\*Add President-Elect***



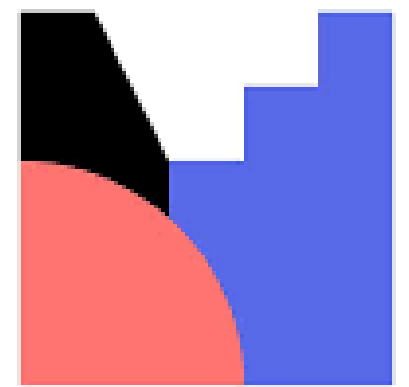
## Meet the Panelists: Anna Wise

***Dr. Anna Wise is the Associate Dean of Admission and Director of International Recruitment at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, where students hail from 61 countries and represent 8% of the student population.***

***She completed her doctorate at Northeastern University and is a frequent contributor to the field of international higher education, serving in various capacities for NAFSA, IACAC and Study Maryland.***

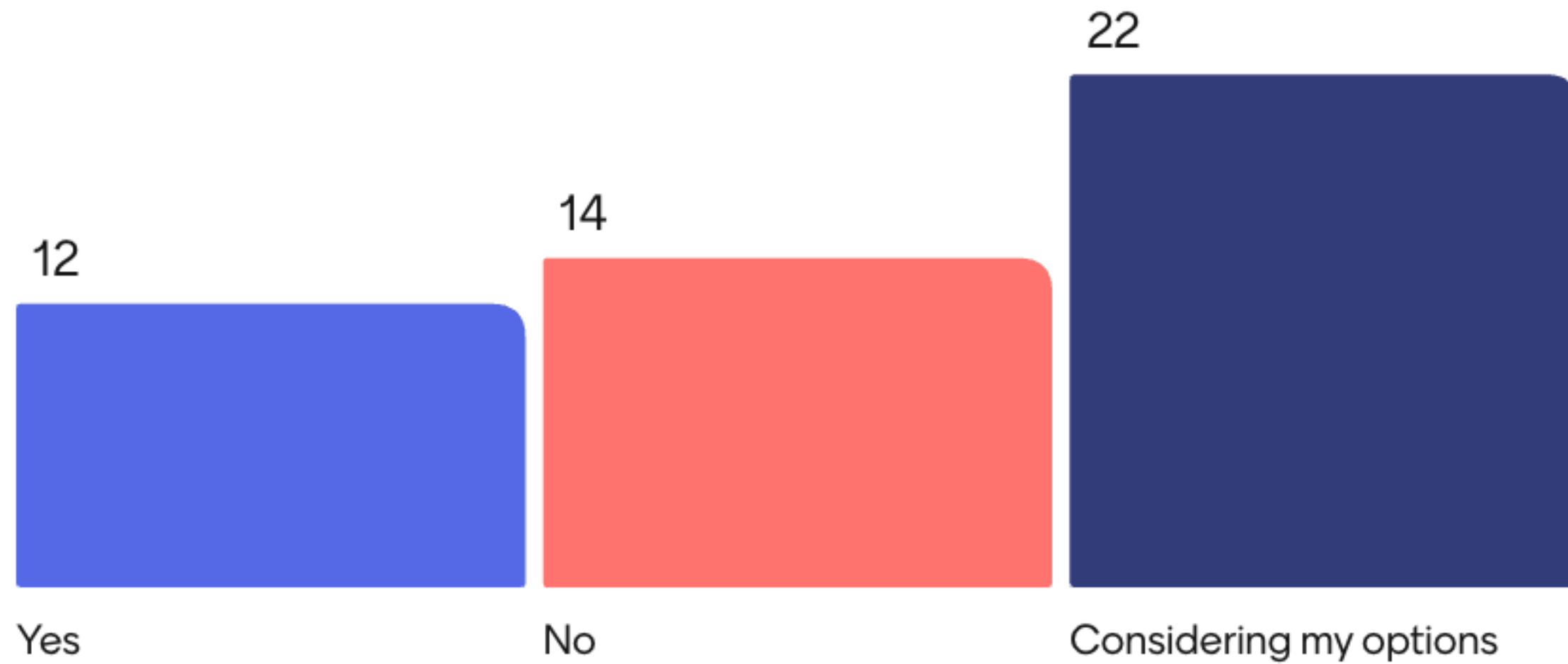
***Dr. Wise has presented at conferences in 10 different countries, and has traveled to over 50 nations to assist international students in their pursuit of higher education.***

# International ACAC Regional Hanoi: Survey Results



Mentimeter

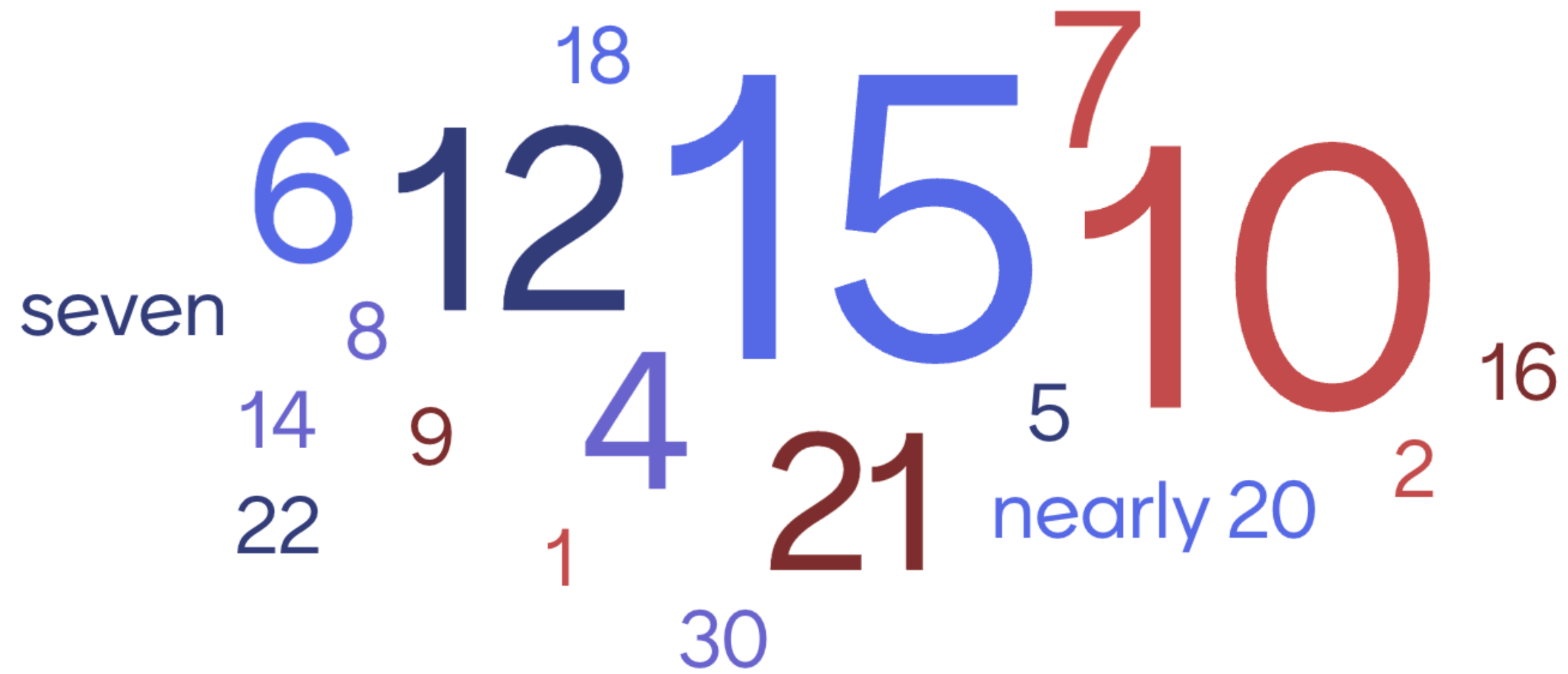
# Are you thinking about a career shift?



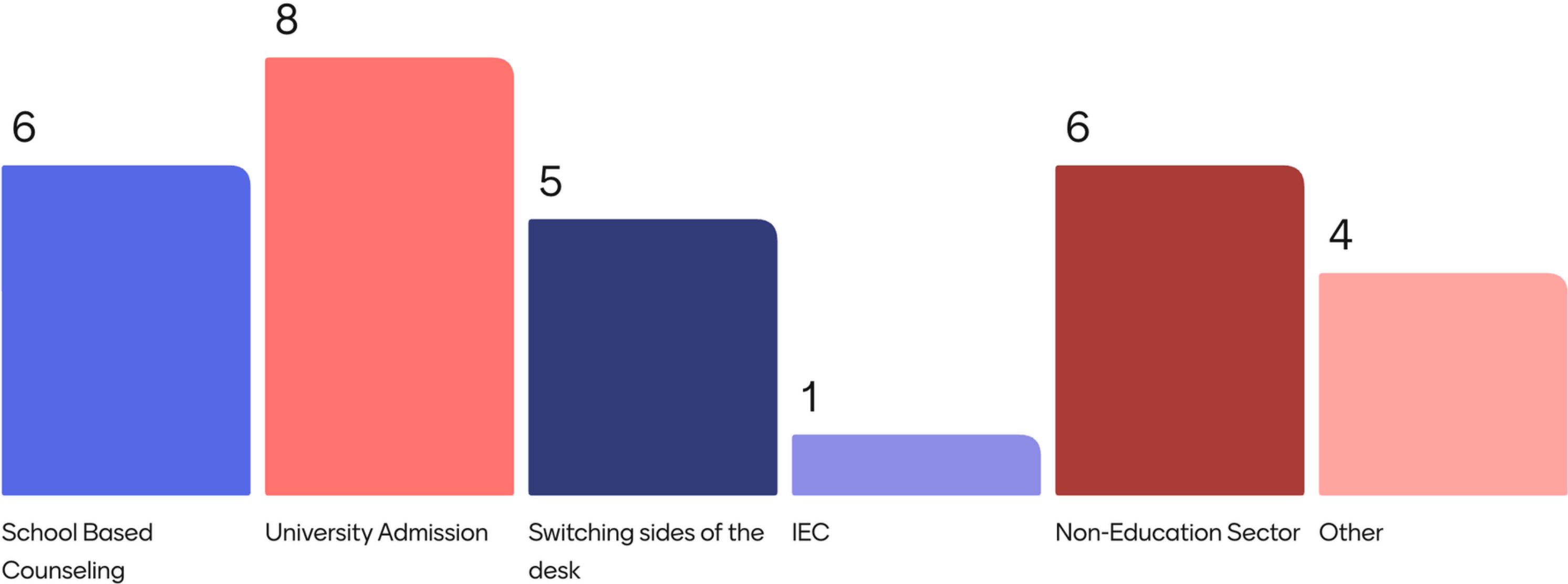
When you think of pursuing a career change, what words/hopes/worries (etc) come to mind?



Total number of years in the field?



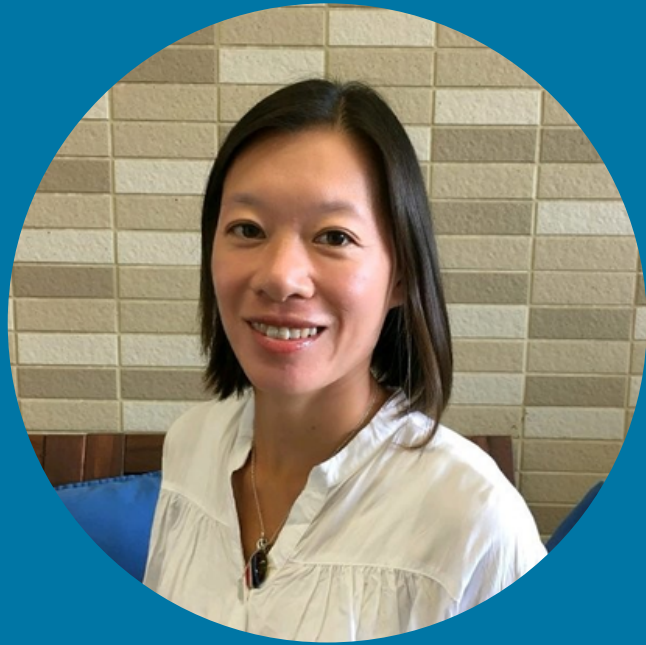
# Are you looking to learn more about: (Check all that Apply)



# What is one thing you are hoping to take away from this session?

possible options  
practical ideas  
knowledge  
ideas to move to the next  
how to manage the unknown  
networking  
ideas  
broaden my horizons  
ideas and ways to change  
pd  
enlightenment  
advice  
encouragement  
evaluate myself  
broader industry insights  
test  
learning  
honesty  
how to stay international  
learning about the option  
options  
things to consider  
tangible steps to take  
what are the options

# Panel Discussion: Promote, Pivot or Move on?



*Helen Cheung*



*John Gursky*



*Megan Mankerian-Stem*



*Ronni Mariñez*



*Anna Wise*



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# Audience Q&A



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# Activity

## Beyond the Title - The "Secret Sauce" Mixer

Step 1: Individual Reflection - "What makes YOU unique?"

Step 2: The "Title-Free" Peer Pitch

Step 3: Debrief - Validating the "Transferable Hats"



# Professional Development Resources

| Join Communities   | Build your Network   |
|--|--|
| FaceBook <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International ACAC</li><li>• Globetrotters</li><li>• Wonder Women in International Admision</li></ul> | LinkedIn <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International ACAC</li><li>• Globetrotters</li><li>• Wonder Women in International Admision</li></ul> Professional Organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ChinaICAC</li><li>• NAFSA</li></ul> |

| Learn & Grow   | Stay Connected   |
|--|--|
| Conferences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International ACAC</li><li>• Regional conferences</li><li>•</li></ul> | LinkedIn <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Global Leaders Collective Job board</li></ul> |

# CONNECT WITH US!



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