

NACIS Pipe Band

——China Mainland's First Student Pipe Band

The band is part of the Nord Anglia Chinese International School in Shanghai and is the first ever student pipe band formed in Mainland China. The band wears a uniform with a NACIS-inspired kilt design, reflecting the blue, teal & white colors of the school.

The piping students began their journey in *September 2023* when lessons were first offered at the school. By February 2024, students started their transition from practice chanters onto their bagpipes.

The following are the footprints of the bagpipe band's performances:

MIFA 1862 performance with The Shanghai Chinese Symphony Orchestra with Mr. Hu. A cross-cultural music concert with bagpipes and suona. The audience was over 800.



Internal performance in NACIS. They performed in summer show, Winter show, graduations and other stage.



December 2024, NACIS Pipe band performed in Shanghai Disneyland, the stage is called "Tomorrow Land".



The band has received international recognition for their ability and for making history, including several broadcasts on podcasts and articles.

<https://bagpipe.news/2024/06/24/mainland-china-now-has-its-first-ever-youth-pipe-band/>

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Mainland China now has its first ever youth pipe band!

By John Savin June 24, 2024

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BY MATTHEW KIDD.

This young band is part of the Nord Anglia Chinese International School in Shanghai (NACIS) and is the first ever student pipe band formed in mainland China that we know of (Hong Kong has several bands, and Macao also has a university band). The NACIS band is based in the Minhang district of west Shanghai and is now performing across the city.

Under the direction of myself, Pipe Major Matthew Kidd, (originally from Glasgow, tutored at the National Piping Centre, former member of the NYPBS and other bands, now a teacher at the NACIS school) and Pipe Sergeant Allan Price, the band currently comprises of 14 founding members aged between 8-15 years old - ten pipers and four drummers - with a structure in place to continue recruitment of new members going into next year's school term. The band members began their journey in September 2023 when chanter

December 2024, to celebrate Christmas time, Pipe band also performed in Shanghai Hongqiao Hub, and Shanghai Radisson blue hotel.



Shanghai International Arts Festival "Arts for the Future"

With the mission of "Linking Arts to the Future," the festival aims to build bridges for a rtistic and cultural exchange among schools. The prelude, with its unique opening, "lin ks" art and the audience like a key unlocking the door to art, igniting sparks of anticipa tion in the venue.

The bagpipe band from Shanghai Minhang Nacis International & Bilingual School deliv ered a distinctive opening performance. Their marching- style presentation featured three familiar Chinese and Western classics: "Moli Hua" (Jas mine Flower), "Amazing Grace," and "Auld Lang Syne." The sound of the bagpipes, orig inating from Scotland, was unique and melodious, like nimble musical notes dancing g racefully in the air.



The NACIS Pipe Band performed in New York in April 2025. This performing arts trip involved 22 NACIS students who formed a performance troupe, including choir members, bagpipers, drummers, and a dance team. They crossed the Pacific with bagpipes, Chinese dragons, and Gaelic ballads. When Scottish tartan met Chinese culture, and the melodious sound of bagpipes collided with the fragrance of "Jasmine Flower," a youthful narrative of cultural integration blossomed brilliantly on the streets of New York. This was not just a performing arts journey but also an experiment in the recombination of cultural DNA, 22 children with Chinese souls redefined cultural identity in a foreign land.



‘Students from NACIS Shanghai were in New York last week as part of the *‘New York City Tartan Week Mod’*, The 22-strong Secondary singers entered the Choir Competition to perform in Gaelic on stage, as well as playing traditional instruments along the streets of New York as part of the parade.’ Student also got the interview from BBC, and they post the news about them. This is the link:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5y4gn3de27o>

But Emily, one of the choir members - who will also be playing the bagpipes in the main parade - still says it has been "beautiful" to find out the culture behind the Gaelic language.

Though she concedes that it has been a learning curve, describing the language as "very different from Chinese and very different from English".



Bibi, Emily and Will (left to right) travelled from Shanghai to perform in Gaelic at Tartan Week

But this is a perfect illustration of the international reach of Scottish culture, and the role that Tartan Week plays in it.

The festivities will culminate with a march through the streets of Manhattan later today, led by the actor **Alan Cumming** as its "Grand Marshall".

June 2025, Pipe Band was invited by *Shanghai New York University* to perform during the graduation ceremony.



Left: Torch bearer Deziree Joy Harmon '25 (left) and banner bearer Chen Danqing '25 (right) Right: Deziree Joy Harmon '25 passing the torch to Daniel Arturo Woc Garcia '26 (right)



Left: Faculty Representatives marching in Right: NACIS (Nord Anglia Chinese International School) bagpipe band marching in the procession, echoing a beloved NYU tradition.

At the ceremony, the torch bearer and banner bearer were selected from members of the Student Commencement Committee, as per NYU Shanghai tradition. This year's torch bearer was **Deziree Joy Harmon '25**, who served as chair of the Student Commencement Committee and Senior Class