



Year 12 University Guidance Evening April 2017



Year 12 Higher Education Evening April 2017

[General Advice](#)

[References](#)

[Predicted Grades](#)

[What next?](#)

[UK](#)

[USA](#)

[Canada](#)

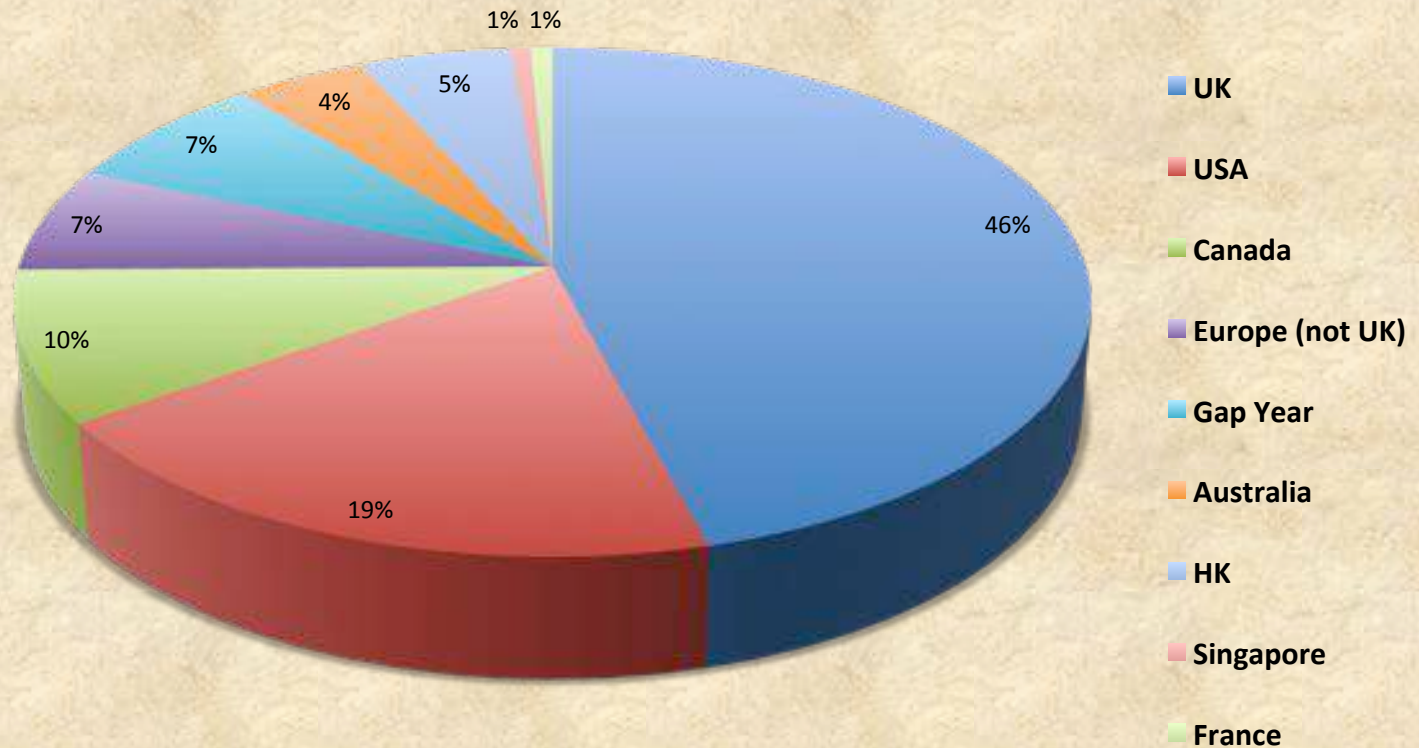
[HK](#)

[Europe \(outside France\)](#)

[Australia](#)

Getting Ready for University Applications

International Stream Final Destinations 2011-2016





Getting Ready for University Applications

Timings

All applications done in Yr13

FIS deadlines:

Oxford/Cambridge/UK Medicine	end of Sept
USA early decision/action	mid-Oct
UK (UCAS)	mid-Nov
USA	end of Nov
HK	mid-Dec
Canada	early Jan
Australia	after IB results

UK UKCAT (Medicine test) take before 5 Oct

UK BMAT (Medicine test) take on 5 Nov

UK LNAT (Law test) take before 20 Jan

Is there a magic formula?

Yes...

Hard work that generates good IB grades + positive comments from teachers

+ realistic university choices

= university offers

How do I decide which universities?

Prof Mike Merrifield, University of Nottingham

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdypNNlx1SM>



Rankings – Beware!

Subject-based rankings more meaningful than general rankings, e.g:

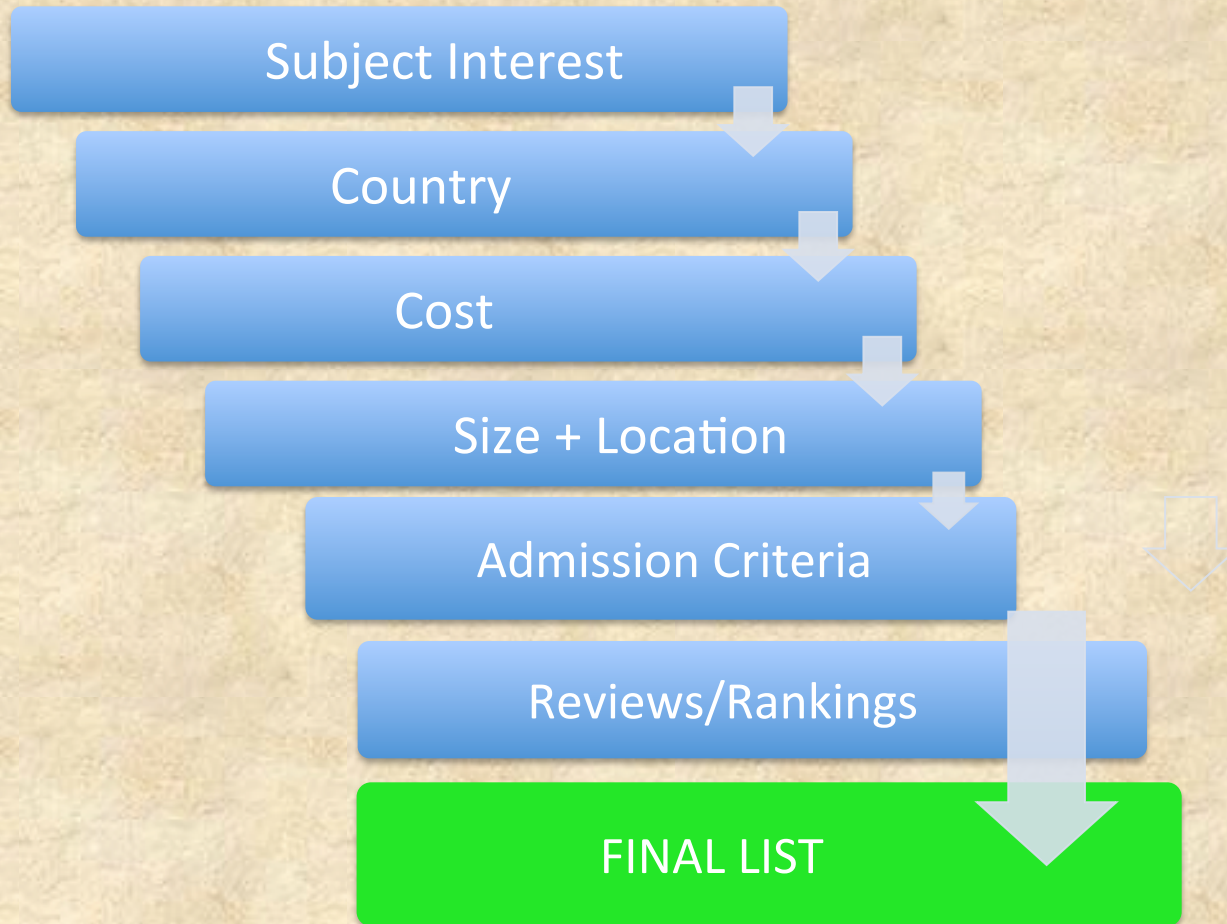
<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/>

New approach: Global Employability Rankings:

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/news/best-universities-graduate-jobs-global-university-employability-ranking-2016>

Hair-splitting to choose between excellent universities is a waste of time: the degree of precision required exceeds the reliability of the data.

How do I decide which universities?



How many applications can I make?

- UK (UCAS) = max 5 applications (Medicine/Vet Science = 4)
- USA – max 20 (!) but multiple essays – impact on studies – Recommend 6-8 max.
- Smaller number of high-quality applications = higher % of offers
- A large number of applications means you haven't researched and focused
- Many students apply just to UCAS – perfectly fine
- Don't waste time applying to countries/cities/unis that you don't actually want to go to or will not be able to finance

Good strategy (UK)

Ambitious, realistic & safe choices

- 1 x ambitious (~ 1pt above predicted grades)
- 3 x realistic (required grades match your PGs)
- 1 x safety (~2-3pts below PGs)

Be realistic

Stretch choices are just that!

- Columbia 6% admit rate
- Stanford 4.8 % admit rate
- MIT 7.9% admit rate
- LSE avg 8.9% admit rate
- A great fit can happen at many universities
- Remember - v selective universities can also be accessed at postgraduate level
- Danger of liking the name, but not the degree content/social make-up, geography. Find a fit! – Size, degree content, urban/campus, cost...

Be Realistic – Annual Costs in HKD

Europe – Erasmus Rotterdam	Cost (HKD)
Tuition per year	\$17,000 (EU nationals)
Living costs per year	\$100,000
Total per year	\$117,000
Total per degree (3 yrs)	\$350,000
HK - HKU	Cost
Tuition	\$42,000 (HKID holders)
Living costs	\$70,000
Total per year	\$112,000
Total per degree (4 yrs)	\$448,000
Australia - Melbourne U	Cost
Tuition	\$230,000 (International fees)
Living costs	\$140,000
Total per year	\$370,000
Total per degree (3 yrs)	\$1,110,000
UK - UCL	Cost
Tuition	\$185,000 (International fees)
Living costs	\$150,000
Total per year	\$335,000
Total per degree (3 yrs)	\$1,050,000
Canada - UBC	Annual Cost
Tuition	\$230,000 (International fees)
Living costs	\$100,000
Total	\$330,000
Total per degree (4 yrs)	\$1,320,000
USA – Boston U	Annual Cost
Tuition	\$400,000
Living costs	\$130,000
Total	\$530,000
Total per degree (4 yrs)	\$2,120,000

University application info

<http://orientation.fis.hk/>

Lycée Français International de Hong Kong

aeef

Ressources Orientation Guidance Resources

Rechercher

HOME / ACCUEIL EVENTS ETUDES **STUDY** PROCEDURES DIAPORAMAS / ATELIERS RESSOURCES CDI DU LFI PLUS...

- Study in UK
- Study in USA
- Study in Australia
- Study in HK
- Study in Canada (anglophone)
- Study in English in the EU
- Presentations from universities

**Resources Orientation
Guidance Resources**

FUTURE
NEXT EXIT →

University presentations/events in HK

<http://orientation.fis.hk/events.html>

Check online – Orientation Website

Regular emails sent to students, and parents

Also posted on 5/F noticeboard



The screenshot shows the website for Lycée Français International de Hong Kong. The header includes the school's logo and the text "Ressources Orientation Guidance Resources". A navigation menu contains links for "HOME / ACCUEIL", "EVENTS", "ETUDES", "STUDY", "PROCÉDURES", "DIAPORAMAS / ATELIERS", "RESSOURCES CDI OU LFI", and "PLUS...". A central banner features the text "UPCOMING EVENTS" next to a calendar icon. Below this, a text block in French and English explains that the page contains a calendar of university events. At the bottom, a blue button reads "Calendrier des événements - Calendar of events".

Lycée Français International de Hong Kong

Ressources Orientation Guidance Resources

HOME / ACCUEIL | **EVENTS** | ETUDES | STUDY | PROCÉDURES | DIAPORAMAS / ATELIERS | RESSOURCES CDI OU LFI | PLUS...

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vous trouverez ici l'agenda des événements orientation organisés au sein du LFI et hors du LFI pour la filière française et pour la filière internationale.

Here you will find the calendar of university events held at FIS and outside FIS for both French and International streams.

[Calendrier des événements - Calendar of events](#)

References

- UK/USA/HK universities need a counsellor reference
- Comments collected from all your teachers and compiled into a full reference by form tutor
- Self-Reflection Form completed in autumn of Yr13
- US colleges need a counsellor reference AND 2 or more “teacher evaluations” – students need to approach teachers in Yr13
- Canada/Australia – reference letters not accepted
- No need for you to approach teachers for references, apart from for USA

Predicted grades

- The IB grades that your teachers think you are likely to achieve, based on your performance so far on the IB course.
- You will be given a total IB prediction (out of 45) and individual predictions. This will help you choose your universities strategically.
- June predictions – early indicator. Reviewed in Yr13 – can change if you show you're better!
- Non-negotiable, but do ask teachers for areas you need to improve
- Grades sent to UK/Canada/HK/USA universities to help them to decide whether to make an offer.

What next?

- Study hard - IB scores are the biggest deciding factor!
- Talk to family and friends about academic interests, degree areas, destinations
- Research universities + degrees online
- Start to narrow down and focus – not a machine-gun approach!
- Good depth of extra-curricular/humanitarian activity, esp. for USA
- Plan for this summer – visit universities/summer programme/ work exp if needed
- Individual meeting with Mr H/Mrs McCarthy in June
- Personal Statement/College Essay seminar in June





UK



- 3 year degrees, or 4 with year abroad/professional experience
- Apply for specific subject (unless taking Liberal Arts degree)
- 5 applications maximum via UCAS (4 for Medicine/Veterinary Science)
- Apply via UCAS, except for Art + Design Foundation
- Student creates + completes UCAS profile; school uploads reference + predicted grades
- FIS deadline: mid-Nov. UCAS deadline: 15 Jan
- Oxford/Cambridge/Medicine/Vet Science: earlier UCAS deadline - 15 Oct

Offer decisions based on:

- Personal Statement
- Reference from school
- Predicted IB grades
- IGCSE grades
- Interview or admission test (for minority of degrees)



UK



Offers are **conditional**, eg:

Institution	Course	Decision	Reply	Conditions
(B16) University of Bath	(B213) Pharmacology	Conditional offer		This offer is subject to you obtaining an overall IB score of 36 Points to include 6 in HL Chemistry, 6 in a second HL Science/Maths subject and one other HL subject at 6. No subject below 5.

- When all 5 decisions in (usu. by end March):

Choose 1 “Firm Choice” and 1 “Insurance Choice”

- Fee status (Home/EU or Overseas) will be part of offer
- Can ask university for “Fee Status Review”

UK



- UK universities are v focused on IB grades
- Be strategic – apply to a range of universities
- Eg, if predicted 36 points, apply to a range from 36/37 - 32 points

UCAS Search: <http://search.ucas.com/>

- Search by course/city
- Look at the entry requirements tab
- Be careful – having the minimum entry requirement does not guarantee an offer

The screenshot shows the UCAS search interface. At the top left is the UCAS logo. To its right is a navigation menu with links: Home / How it all works / Apply / Members & providers / Data & analy. Below this is a green header with the text "Search courses". Underneath is a dark grey bar with the text "Where do you normally live?*" followed by a dropdown menu showing "Please select". Below this is a note: "*This helps us to show courses that are available to you. [Click here for more info](#)". The main search area is green and contains the text "Search by any or all of the following". There are three input fields: "Course: Enter a course title", "Provider: Enter a university, college or conservatoire", and "Location: Enter a country, county, city or town". To the right of these fields is a "Search" button with a right-pointing arrow.

Personal Statement - UK



- 4,000 characters
- 75% academic, 25% extra-curricular

The more selective the university, the less important the 25%.

- Maintain a focus on the degree subject **all the time**.
- The strongest applicants link their extra-curricular activities to the degree area.
 - ✓ Why you're applying for this degree (how your interest developed, evidence you understand what the subject involves)
 - ✓ Why you're suitable for the degree (skills + experience)

Personal Statement - UK



Ressources Orientation Guidance Resources

Search

HOME / ACCUEIL

EVENTS

ETUDES

STUDY

PROCEDURES

DIAPORAMAS / ATELIERS

RESSOURCES CDI DU LFI

PLUS



Bienvenue sur le site orientation du lycée français i
Welcome to the Guidance Department of the Frencl

UCAS application (UK)

Admissions Tests (UK)

Personal Statements (UK)

Oxford/Cambridge or not?

SAT / ACT (USA)

Common Application (USA)

College list help (USA)

Reference Letters

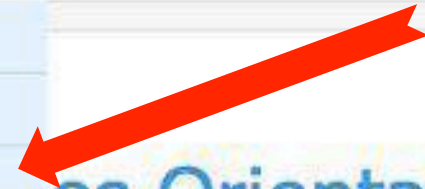
Self-Reflection Form

Transcript

IB Choices Advice

es Orientation

ce Resources



Oxford/Cambridge/Medicine UK



Early application – UCAS deadline 15 Oct

Medicine - most universities require BMAT or UKCAT test.

UKCAT - test at Pearson HK by start of Oct

BMAT – test at British Council or FIS 2nd Nov

Interview

Extensive work experience needed

Oxford/Cambridge:

For many degrees, extra tests taken at British Council or FIS 2nd Nov

V high academic level, + demonstrated “super-curricular” subject involvement. Interview is crucial.

Both: must tell Mr. H before summer holidays of intentions.

USA



- No limit on number of applics but...workload/effect on IB studies!
- 4 year degrees. More flexible than UK – choose major later
- Liberal Arts model
- FIS deadline: end of November. Official deadlines vary; often 1st January
 - Early action/early decision vs. Regular Action

Offer decisions based on:

- Transcript (record of report grades/IGCSE)
- College Essay
- Written supplements
- Extra-curricular activities
- Counsellor Recommendation
- 2 Teacher Evaluations
- Predicted IB grades
- SAT or ACT scores

- Offers usually conditional on maintenance of academic performance (colleges will ask for mid-year report and final report)

USA



Research universities/required scores

USA: BigFuture College Search: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

- Search by major/city/size of college/required SAT scores etc

Find Colleges, Advice and More Search Sign up Sign in

Get Started • Find Colleges • Explore Careers • Pay for College • Get In • Make a Plan •

Home / Find Colleges / College Search

ShareThis Like

College Search

Save Selections Clear All Selections

SELECT FILTERS

Test Scores & Selectivity

Type of School

Location

Campus & Housing

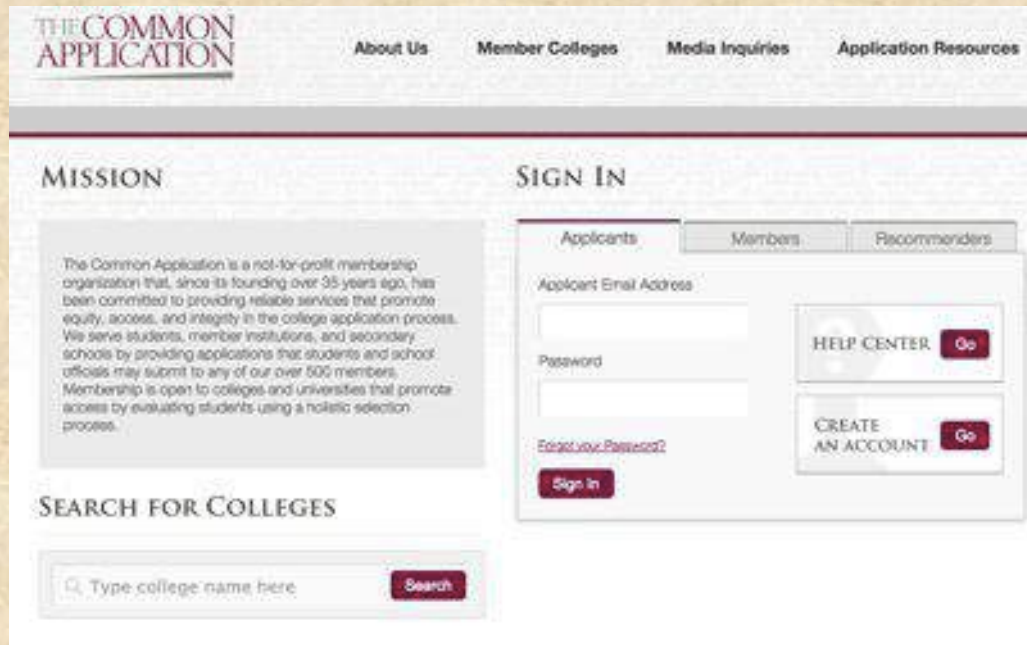
You have 3,961 college options. Choose a

Not sure where to start? Go to College Search Step-by-Step an interactive guide.

USA



Common Application: system used by 600 of the 4,000 colleges/universities



Common App simplifies things a little, but many colleges ask for written supplements

Some key universities (eg University of California, Georgetown, Rutgers) don't use it.

USA



Common Application

- Profile
- Family
- Education
- Testing
- Activities
- Writing

- Student creates account from September, completes above sections, selects colleges, enters details of recommenders
- School uploads counselor recommendation and transcript
- 2 teachers complete subject evaluations by email invitation from CA

USA



The Common Application essay titles for 2017-18 are:

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from *obstacles we encounter* can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a *challenge, setback, or failure*. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you *questioned* or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your *thinking*? What *was the outcome*?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or *realization* that *sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others*.
6. *Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?*
7. *Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.*

650 words max

- Ability to write interesting and accurate English
- Make it vivid; catch the reader's attention
- Ok to go into detail about 1 single event and its impact
- Focus on what you learned from and experience/event/challenge and how it changed you

USA



Written supplement examples:

“What one invention would you uninvent if you could, and why?” (Brandeis)

**“A good story starts with a good beginning. Get us hooked in the first 150 words.”
(Notre Dame)**

“Celebrate your nerdy side.” (Tufts)

“What’s so odd about odd numbers?” (Chicago)

**“You were just invited to speak at the White House. Write your speech.”
(UNC Chapel Hill)**

“Imagine a scientist and artist coming together for a conversation about color. How do you think this exchange would go?” (Hampshire College)

USA



- Extra-curricular activities
- Community service



http://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/files/gse-mcc/files/20160120_mcc_ttt_execsumm_m=1453303460

Recommendation #1: Meaningful, Sustained Community Service

We recommend that students engage in forms of service that are authentically chosen—that emerge from a student's particular passions and interests—that are consistent and well-structured, and that provide opportunity for reflection both individually and with peers and adults. **We also recommend that students undertake at least a year of sustained service or community engagement (see below for description of "community engagement"). This service can take the form of substantial and sustained contributions to one's family, such as working outside the home to provide needed income.** Just as important, it's vital that the admissions process squarely challenges misconceptions about what types of service are valued in admissions. Some students seek to "game" service by taking up high-profile or exotic forms of community service, sometimes in faraway places, that have little meaning to them but appear to demonstrate their entrepreneurial spirit and leadership. **The admissions process should clearly convey that what counts is not whether service occurred locally or in some distant place or whether students were leaders, but whether students immersed themselves in an experience and the emotional and ethical awareness and skills generated by that experience.**

Recommendation #2: Collective Action that Takes on Community Challenges

While individual service can be valuable, we also encourage young people to consider various forms of community engagement, including working in groups on community problems, whether the problem is a local park that needs attention, bullying in their schools or

communities or some form of environmental degradation. These types of activities can help young people develop key emotional and ethical capacities, including problem-solving skills and group awareness, as well as greater understanding of and investment in the common good.

Recommendation #3: Authentic, Meaningful Experiences with Diversity

We encourage students to undertake community service and engagement that deepens their appreciation of diversity. Too often, current forms of service are patronizing to recipients and don't spark in those providing service a deeper understanding of social structures and inequalities. Rather than students "doing for" students from different backgrounds, for example, we encourage students to "do with"—to work in diverse groups for sustained periods of time on school and community challenges, groups in which students learn from one another. Importantly, these experiences of diversity should be carefully constructed and facilitated.

Recommendation #4: Service that Develops Gratitude and a Sense of Responsibility for the Future

We encourage students to take up forms of community engagement, service and reflection that help them appreciate the contributions of the generations before them—how their lives are built on the service of others—and their responsibility to their descendants. Working within a tradition, whether religious or secular, such as 4H clubs, can help generate this kind of gratitude and responsibility.

SAT / ACT



Required for most U.S. colleges

Some are test-optional: <http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

SAT: Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, May

ACT: Sept, Oct, Dec, Apr, June

- Don't take too many times – max 3 times suggested, usually 1 or 2 – eg May/June Yr12, then Oct/Nov Yr13 if needed
- Some colleges also need SAT subject tests - research

Register online at College board

Preparation

- SAT manuals in library
- Khan Academy (free online SAT preparation)
- TruePrep (reduced price online SAT tutoring with score increase guarantee): <http://trueprep.co/>

Financial Aid for International Students

Institution	Need-Based	Merit Based	Average Award	% Receiving Aid
Amherst College	x		\$55,673	89.5%
Baylor University		x	\$13,993	77.8%
Boston University		x	\$36,904	4.7%
Brandeis University	x	x	\$35,177	12.8%
Brown University	x		\$44,925	30.1%
Bucknell University	x	x	\$42,372	11.8%
Clark University		x	\$25,328	64.9%
Colby College	x	x	\$51,794	52.6%
Cornell University	x		\$52,332	14.9%
George Washington university	x	x	\$22,777	23.5%
Georgetown University	x		\$54,847	2.5%
Harvard University	x		\$52,634	74.5%
Lehigh University	x	x	\$35,056	19.7%
The New School	x	x	\$11,775	70.9%
Tulane University	x	x	\$19,965	46.9%
University of California		x	\$9,225	18.6%
University of Vermont		x	\$18,075	43.3%
Vanderbilt University	x	x	\$46,781	26.9%
Villanova University	x	x	\$37,904	45.8%
Washington and Lee University	x	x	\$52,278	95.8%
Yale University	x		\$55,862	56.6%

Canada



- 4 year degrees
- Between UK and USA in terms of flexibility
- 3-year Post-Graduation Work Permit for non-Canadians
- Strong Co-Op (alternating study + work placements)
- Conditional offers, but not as grade-specific as UK (eg “Obtain IB Diploma with 32 points”)

FIS deadline: 15th January. Official deadlines vary – check. Usually Jan-March

Offer decisions based on:

- Transcript of grades from Yr10-Yr13
- Predicted IB grades
- Application form (includes extra-curricular activities, work experience etc)

No reference letters accepted

SAT/ACT not required

Less time-consuming application than USA

UBC/Simon Fraser/Toronto can offer advanced credit for good IB scores

Canada



Ontario:



Ontario Universities' Application Centre

OUAC system allows 1 application to several universities in Ontario.

Examples:

Toronto

Western Ontario

Waterloo

Queen's

York

McMaster

Carleton

HK



4 year degrees

Different social experience

HKU, CUHK and HKUST seen as most prestigious

Some degrees (eg Medicine/Law/Global Business Management) as hard as Oxbridge – don't underestimate!

FIS deadline: 15 December (official deadlines Dec – March)

Non-JUPAS application – online, direct to university

Offer decisions based on:

- **Predicted grades**
- **Transcript**
- **Statement of interest**
- **Reference letter (some universities)**
- **Interview (for some programmes)**

Offers conditional on completion of Diploma with certain no of points

Europe (outside France)



- **Global interest accelerating**
- **Globally recognised universities offering Bachelor degrees taught in English**
- **Very international**
- **Reduced fees for EU passport holders**

E.G:

Rhein-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Germany
BSc Systems Engineering: Mechatronics – 3.5yrs, no tuition fees

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
BA Business Administration – 3 yrs, 610 Euros

University of Groningen, Netherlands
BA Intl Relations & Intl Organisation – 3 yrs, 2006 Euros

Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands
BSc Intl Business Administration – 3 yrs, 2006 Euros.

University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
BSc Economics + Business – 3yrs, 2006 Euros



Europe (outside France)



Offer decisions based on:

- Transcript
- Predicted grades (some universities)
- Statement of interest
- Deadlines vary – usually a wide window eg Oct to April

<http://www.eunicas.ie/>

The screenshot shows the EUNiCAS website homepage. At the top left is the EUNiCAS logo, with the text 'EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY CENTRAL APPLICATION SUPPORT SERVICE' below it. Below the logo are three dark blue navigation buttons: 'PROGRAMMES', 'UNIVERSITIES', and 'APPLY NOW'. The main content area features a banner with a background image of a building and a checkered pattern. The banner text reads: 'Manage your applications to multiple European universities and colleges in one place. Register now'.

Australia



- 3 or 4 year degrees (Bachelor or Bachelor with Hons)
- Typically apply to specific course, but some flexibility once there: major subject is 2/3 of degree; 1/3 can be any other subjects
- Focus on independent, creative thought

Group of 8 (QS World Rankings)

- Australian National University, Canberra (24)
- University of Melbourne (36)
- University of Sydney (39)
- University of Queensland, Brisbane (46)
- University of New South Wales (52)
- Monash University, Melbourne (61)
- University of Western Australia, Perth (79)
- University of Adelaide, (102)

Australia



- **Semester 1** starts Feb/March: apply after IB results in July – deadline often October
- **Semester 2** starts July/Aug: apply by end December of Yr13 using predicted grades for universities accepting them (e.g. Sydney). This option is rarely used.
- Offer decision based on final IB scores. Reference letters not accepted
- IB result often converted to ATAR score – can see previous years' required ATAR online
- Australian nationals apply through TAC (Tertiary Admissions Centre)
- Non-Australians apply directly; up to 3 course choices per university
- Decision usually within 3 weeks
- AEC (www.aec.com.hk): official educational agency representing Australian universities in HK