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# REDEFINING LEARNING: THE AIREVOLUTION IN EDUCATION

What Does Al Mean for the Future of Education?

By Jed Applerouth Founder & President, Applerouth Tutoring



The arrival of Open Al's GPT-4 captured the imagination—and fears—of millions, making it clear that the world would never be the same. While GPT-4 and other Al models like it are not without flaws, they are powerful enough in their nascent form to begin transforming many fields, including education, where they've already had a profound impact.

**Jed Applerouth** 

Artificial Intelligence is all around us: our smart thermostats, turn-by-turn driving directions, spelling and grammar checks, TV and music recommendations. But GPT-4 showed us a world where humans could have a thought partner and teacher in myriad domains, an intelligence that could rock the LSAT, the Bar Exam, the GRE, and a variety of AP exams—so we should all be paying attention.

#### **A Direct Impact in Education**

Students are using GPT-4 and other platforms like it to expand their knowledge, complete assignments, generate ideas, and proof papers. In a recent webinar on AI in education, Ben Breen of UC Santa Cruz spoke of his peers in the Spanish department noticing that suddenly all the Spanish essays were being turned in without errors: no comma errors, no grammar errors. Lilach Mollick of UPenn's Wharton Interactive noted that *any homework assignment*—for a student who is good at prompting (skillfully entering data into GPT-4 to optimize and tailor the output)—could be done using AI.

If an AI can complete any assignment, educators are going to have to begin to rethink both their pedagogy and how they assess student knowledge. Breen noted that given the advent of GPT-4, essay assignments are no longer a real signal for what a student is able to do, and he also identified a range of faculty responses to the new developments in generative AI: some of his colleagues were excited, others were worried, while others were completely oblivious.

Some academics are primarily concerned about the impact of AI on cheating, but Breen argues this is a limited perspective: while cheating is happening, that's not *the* story here. "When we write about this in 100 years, we won't be talking about cheating."

In any case, students are embracing AI at a quick clip. One survey found that 30% of college students used ChatGPT for school work in the 2022-2023 academic year. The adoption is only going to increase across the student population.



#### **Potential Applications for College Admissions Offices**

At the same time, college administrators and admissions offices are seeing the potential of AI to customize and personalize outreach messaging and marketing, to read and score transcripts and applications, and to synthesize and organize and prioritize mountains of data.

Slate, a leader in CRM for college admissions with 1700 member schools, announced at its 2023 Slate Summit new Al-powered features including the ability to summarize student essays and recommendation letters, calculate GPAs, and expedite transcript review.

It's not so hard to imagine a world where one AI identifies the students to recruit, another AI writes the application for the student, and another AI reads and scores the application. This is a story about humans gaining efficiencies, but losing some of that human contact. Is that a price we are willing to pay?

Either way, colleges are already jumping in to use this technology. One recent survey found that 80% of colleges will be using AI in admissions by 2024.

#### What Will These Learning Machines Teach Us?

Als will give us mountains of data at our fingertips, and will force us to become good curators and editors, but every technological advancement comes with some cost. Has spell-check made us better at spelling? Google Maps made us better at orienting ourselves? In most cases, no. We sacrifice some capacity to gain efficiency.

On the other hand, technologists understand that AI is transformational. Just like the personal computer or the internet, this technology will become embedded in our daily lives.

Like many companies, Applerouth is actively examining all the ways this new technology can assist us, our students, and their families. The power to analyze, synthesize, and personalize information and data is very real. There are so many use cases for generative AI, and we hope to harness this new technology to improve the experience of our students and enhance their academic outcomes.





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**Bharat Mundra** 

#### The Genesis of a Visionary Institution

Indo Bharat Online School (IBOS) stands as a testament to India's progressive approach to education. Founded in 2016 by Bharat Mundra, a graduate of the University of Rajasthan and the University of Bath, UK, IBOS emerged from a vision to bridge the gap between Indian education and global academic standards. Mundra, hailing from a family deeply rooted in education, leveraged his international experience and insights into the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) curriculum to establish this unique educational model.

#### NIOS: A Global Benchmark in Open Schooling

At the core of IBOS's curriculum is the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), the world's largest open schooling system. As an independent board under the Indian government, NIOS offers flexible and accessible education equivalent to other national boards like CBSE and State Boards. This inclusivity extends to first-generation learners and students with various disabilities, ensuring equitable access to quality education.

#### **Curriculum and Choices: Catering to Diverse Needs**

IBOS offers a broad spectrum of subjects, allowing Grade X students to choose from subjects like English, Mathematics, and Painting, among others. For Grade XII, students have the flexibility to select from streams like Science, Commerce, and Humanities. This diverse curriculum caters to individual interests and career aspirations.

#### **IBOS: A Hub for Diverse Learners**

IBOS is more than just an online school; it's a haven for students who find traditional schooling challenging. Whether it's academic hurdles, learning disabilities, or the pursuit of sports and arts, IBOS provides an environment where every student thrives. The school also serves as a valuable resource for homeschooled students, offering an online platform that aligns with the evolving educational landscape, especially in the wake of COVID-19.



#### **A Second Chance for Aspiring Minds**

IBOS believes in second chances. Students who have faced academic setbacks can enroll immediately after their results, avoiding a year's delay and keeping their university aspirations alive. This flexibility, unparalleled in other boards, underscores IBOS's commitment to student success.

#### Flexible Academic Structure and Admission Process

Adapting to change is integral at IBOS. Students have the liberty to modify their subject choices anytime during the academic year, ensuring their education aligns with their evolving interests. The admission process is streamlined into six stages, including an application form, a recommendation letter review, an interview, a mock class, and a talent evaluation, culminating in a committee decision.

#### **Global Recognition and Success Stories**

The success of IBOS is reflected in the accomplishments of its students, who have been accepted into prestigious universities worldwide, including Stanford, NYU, and the University of San Francisco. This global acceptance is a testament to the quality and effectiveness of the education provided at IBOS.

#### **Conclusion: A Trailblazer in Online Education**

Indo Bharat Online School stands as a beacon of innovative education in India, offering a global perspective and personalized learning experience. Its commitment to inclusivity, flexibility, and global standards sets it apart as a premier online high school, shaping the future of education in India and beyond.







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# 5 CLASSIC ARTS PORTFOLIO MISTAKES Artistry Unveiled: 5 Critical Mistakes to Avoid in Your Art Portfolio By Neha Pandit Founder We-Learn



**Neha Pandit** 

As an art student, a portfolio is the most important documentation of their creative journey. Their creative expressions are formed by their own life experiences, influences and interpretations. So, in a sense it is equivalent to a thumb print, and for an art student this could be a gamechanger in their college admissions.

While the path itself can be challenging, these tips can exponentially increase the student's chances of getting into the college of their dreams.

#### Time:

Students often completely prioritize their academic commitments over the development of their art portfolio and plans to execute at the last lapse of their high school years. However, a portfolio is a long journey through which a learner shows progression of their own artistic growth. A fast-tracked portfolio tends to lack the in-depth, intense, and detailed body of artworks.

While some students start as early as in grade 9/10, the perfect day to start is the day the student realizes that their interests lie in pursuing art.

#### Approach:

In today's time, with ideas, archives, exemplars being so easily available, students are prone to transcribe what they see. They fail to realize, that the same resources are available to their peers too. So, in the process of transcribing work, and editing it a little to give it a fresh look, the admission officers do not see any original artwork.

A portfolio is an individual documented body of artworks, so it must be unique to one's personality and the stream which it has been applied for.

#### Versatility-Media, medium and material:

It is common for art students to have their favourite medium, which is generally their strongest medium to render, and are hesitant to show their works in other mediums. This gives their portfolio a monotonous look, and will not appeal to the admission officer.

The art portfolios need to show diversity in terms of using of media, medium and materials. This approach, displays the students as a risk taker, open minded, innovative, and will tempt the admission officer to go on the next slide



#### Review, refine, reflect:

Art portfolios are not meant to show the direct images of a completed artworks. These images give no background to the admission officer of the processes that have gone behind in the creating of the works.

Consequently, it is important to show the process of how the artworks were reviewed after completion, then refined and improvised and thus taking the journey to reflect through the curatorial rationale. The descriptions give an insight to the viewer of the intention of the student.

#### **Presentation:**

Students tend to opt for one of the first few presentation templates available, which shows a lack of enthusiasm, and this requires more attention.

The presentation is a vital part of the portfolio as it ties together the entire body of work. Each artwork needs to be photographed based on the concept and production value. The colour scheme, fonts and layout of the presentation can be aligned to the art stream applied for. Also, as colleges can have different requirement for submission, it is important to keep different compatible versions ready for uploads.

Through this entire journey, the student needs to remember, that their art will evolve and grow, and often face challenges. But, the process to work around it, and creating something even better, is truly art!



# SHAPING THINKERS, SHAPING LEADERS Great Books Summer Program at the World's Top Universities By Katie Lagana Director of Admissions & International Development Great Books Summer Program



As the academic calendar turns its pages, the Great Books Summer Program beckons, promising an enriching experience on the campuses of renowned institutions such as Amherst, Stanford, Northwestern, Haverford, Oxford, Dublin, Edinburgh, and online. With programs tailored for high achieving middle and high school students, Great Books offers one to multi-week sessions from late June through early August.

Katie Lagana

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At Great Books, students get a true taste of university life both by living on campus and gaining valuable learning experience with educators from esteemed universities and other luminaries. Great Books has gratefully gained the attention and participation of Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winning authors, as well as journalists, filmmakers, and poets like Lois Lowry, Sarah Kay, Peter Hedges, Doris Kearns Goodwin, movie director Chris Columbus, Dennis Lehane, and other illustrious guests who have joined Great Books on campus for special sessions with students.

From seminars facilitated by esteemed professors and prestigious special guests to living in dorms, students sample the best of the college experience in a safe environment guided by talented program assistants. Much more than camp counselors, Great Books program assistants hail from prominent colleges and both mentor students academically and coordinate activities that make camp memorable and fun.



#### Develop as a Thinker

Great Books Summer Program students explore important ideas through the time-honored teaching method of Shared Inquiry. Dating back to the days of Socrates, Shared Inquiry is teaching by asking questions. It encourages in each student the habit of close, reflective, analytical reading and critical thinking. It also teaches empathy and communication skills as students engage together in probing dialogue, in civil discourse, about the big ideas that shape our lives and world.

"My students loved Great Books and reported that it opened their eyes to read better and think more deeply." - Neeraj Mandhana, PhD

Students develop the ability to hone in on key concepts and more readily understand the subtleties in literature and in life. The Socratic approach makes students stronger and more rigorous thinkers. It also makes articulate, confident communicators who are better prepared to thrive in increasingly competitive universities and beyond.

Grow as a Leader

Great Books nurtures the critical thinking skills valued by top universities and graduate schools. Students have gone on to attend Harvard and Harvard Law, Oxford, MIT, Amherst, Dartmouth, NYU, Carnegie Mellon, Stanford, UChicago, Yale and Yale Law, Bowdoin, WPI, Cambridge, Rice, Columbia, Brown, and many more.

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**Birgit Bery** 

Germany is known for its strong industrial base, and pursuing a bachelor's or master's degree here often means exposure to a dynamic and innovative environment. Additionally, students benefit from relatively low or no tuition fees in many public universities, making education more accessible. The country's robust economy also opens up opportunities for internships and collaborations with industry leaders. Germany serves as a center for international education, offering around 330 undergraduate degree courses taught entirely in English. These diverse programs span disciplines such as International Business Management, Engineering, Computer Science, and creative fields like Animation, Illustration, and Music.

#### Research Universities Vs. Applied Science Universities

Prospective students applying to German universities can choose between two distinct types: research universities and universities of applied science. Research universities concentrate on theoretical and research-oriented courses, immersing students in scientific principles and research methodologies to develop a deep understanding of their subjects. In contrast, universities of applied sciences prioritize practical, hands-on experience, delivering application-oriented courses that equip students with industry-relevant skills. This balanced approach ensures a comprehensive education, combining theoretical knowledge with practical skills for a well-rounded learning experience.

The following select universities provide rich academic experiences, combining comprehensive teaching with robust research opportunities across a wide array of disciplines, fostering innovation and critical thinking among their student bodies.

#### Technical University of Munich (TUM)

Technical University of Munich (TUM), among Germany's elite, hosts over 52,000 students pursuing diverse disciplines. Renowned for STEM education, it offers 172 degree programs spanning engineering, natural sciences, medicine, and social sciences. TUM stands at the forefront of research, collaborating with global institutions and fostering innovation. The university's robust ties with industries fuel practical learning, propelling students toward real-world challenges. With cutting-edge facilities and a rich academic heritage, TUM's commitment to excellence and interdisciplinary studies is reflected in its global rankings and contributions to pioneering research initiatives, making it a beacon for aspiring scholars worldwide. TUM has 4 campuses in Bavaria with Munich being the main campus and offers double-degree programs with Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). 48 bachelor's degree courses are offered out of which 6 courses are taught entirely in English. One of the most popular majors is BSc Aerospace fully taught in English.



#### **RWTH Aachen**

RWTH Aachen located in Aachen, Germany, is renowned for its excellence in engineering and technology. With a rich history dating back to 1870, RWTH Aachen is one of the country's leading technical universities. Boasting a vibrant academic community, it attracts over 47,000 students from Germany and around the globe. The university offers a diverse range of degree courses, encompassing engineering, natural sciences, humanities, and business. Known for its cutting-edge research and strong industry connections, RWTH Aachen consistently ranks among the top universities globally. Its commitment to innovation, state-of-the-art facilities, and a multicultural environment make it a sought-after institution for aspiring scholars. All bachelor's degrees are taught in German.

#### Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Germany stands as a leading institution renowned for its technical prowess and scientific excellence. With an impressive student body exceeding 22,000, KIT fosters a vibrant academic community. Offering a diverse array of degree courses, it boasts over 100 study programs across various disciplines including engineering, natural sciences, economics, and humanities. KIT's commitment to innovation and research elevates its stature globally, attracting students worldwide seeking cutting-edge education and impactful research opportunities. Its interdisciplinary approach and state-of-the-art facilities continue to shape future leaders and pave the way for groundbreaking advancements across multiple domains. The only bachelor's degree fully taught in English is BSc Mechanical Engineering (International).

#### Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU Munich)

Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU Munich) stands as one of Germany's leading research universities, catering to over 52,000 students. It excels in diverse undergraduate teaching across humanities, social sciences, and life sciences, offering an array of degree courses. Emphasizing research, LMU boasts numerous Nobel laureates among its faculty, creating a vibrant academic environment. The university's commitment to innovation and academic excellence is reflected in its comprehensive research initiatives, providing students with ample opportunities for hands-on experiences and fostering critical thinking. Its robust academic programs, extensive research endeavors, and sizable student body affirm its position as a cornerstone of higher education in Germany. All bachelor's degrees are taught in German.

#### The University of Heidelberg

The University of Heidelberg stands as a cornerstone of academic excellence and tradition, tracing its roots back to its founding in 1386, making it one of the oldest universities in Germany and Europe. Nestled in the picturesque city of Heidelberg, it exudes an atmosphere steeped in history, fostering a rich intellectual legacy that continues to thrive today. Renowned for its exceptional research and teaching across various disciplines, including humanities, natural sciences, medicine, and social sciences, the university attracts scholars and students from around the globe. Its commitment to innovation is evident in the cutting-edge research conducted within its renowned faculties and institutes. The University of Heidelberg's blend of venerable tradition and forward-thinking initiatives solidifies its status as a prestigious institution, playing a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of higher education in Germany and beyond. All bachelor's degrees are taught in German.

#### The University of Mannheim

The University of Mannheim, located in the heart of the city, is a distinguished institution celebrated for its academic prowess and innovative spirit. Established in 1967, it has rapidly become one of Europe's leading research-oriented universities. The university is renowned for its emphasis on business, economics, and the social sciences, with faculties dedicated to fostering a comprehensive understanding of these fields. The campus itself, featuring modern architecture and state-of-the-art facilities, reflects the institution's commitment to providing students with a dynamic and conducive learning environment.



With a strong focus on research and practical application of knowledge, the University of Mannheim continuously contributes to advancements in various academic disciplines. Its international outlook is underscored by numerous collaborations and exchange programs, attracting a diverse student body and faculty from around the world. The University of Mannheim stands as a beacon of academic excellence, preparing students to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving global landscape. All bachelor's degrees are taught in German.

#### **Admission Eligibility**

Admission in Germany depends largely on the academic credentials students have earned in India. Grade 12 Indian Board: Direct admission is only possible under special conditions (JEE Main and Advance rank obtained) for technical and natural sciences courses. IB Diploma and A-Levels: Direct admission is possible if the student has taken certain subjects in the IB or A-levels. One year of bachelor studies in India: Direct admission is possible for the same or similar degree course starting again in year 1. Foundation Year (Studienkolleg): Most students would be eligible for a foundation year in Germany. As it is taught entirely in German and students have to pass an exam at the end of the course, the language requirements are quite high.

#### German/English Language Proficiency

Research universities - Advanced C1 level required for admission. Universities of Applied Sciences - Intermediate B2 level required for admission. Some universities accept a lower level of proficiency at the time of application and require students to confirm their language proficiency when students enroll at the university. It is recommended to check the website of the university to which language proficiency tests are accepted for admission.

#### **APS Certificate**

The APS certificate is required for anyone applying with Indian academic qualifications. The Academic Evaluation Centre will issue a document, the APS certificate, after the successful authentication of the academic documents which is required to obtain a student visa in Germany.





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**Blake Thomsen** 

"I think Meto is a game changer for the future of admissions," says Yein Oh, university counselor at Utahloy International School, an IB school in Guangzhou, China. "Admissions is such a difficult game for the students," she continues. "We cannot consider all of the thousands of universities out there at once. Meto helps us bring more sanity to the application process."

Meto ended up in Yein's office – and in counseling offices around the world – largely by accident. A US-based NGO, Meto was originally founded in 2018 to serve high-achieving, low-income African students. The problem was simple: this demographic of students did not know what higher-ed options were available to them. They wasted time applying to the wrong opportunities and failed to identify the right ones. Meto offered an innovative solution: what if universities reached out directly to good-fit students to let the students know they were competitive candidates for admission, rather than students having to find good-fit universities by themselves?

The idea caught on quickly with stakeholders on both sides of the table. Students and counselors enjoyed the opportunity to maximize admission success by only applying to good-fit opportunities, while universities benefited from directly connecting with the types of students they wanted to see in their application pools.

It soon became clear that low-income African students were not the only ones who could benefit from Meto's service. From talking to students, counselors, and universities around the world, Meto has realized that all students can benefit from hearing directly from interested universities. As a result, Meto officially opened its platform to students and counselors around the world in July 2023 at the IACAC conference in Miami, Florida.

Yein is among the dozens of global counselors who have piloted Meto this fall. She has appreciated the efficiency Meto has brought for her and her students. "Students and universities have finite resources and time," she says. "It helps me refine the list and make sure the time and resources of students are being invested into universities of the right fit."

Yein has been particularly pleased by the quality of universities on Meto's platform. "What I see Meto as doing well, even amongst other reverse admissions tools, is that many of the universities on Meto's platform are 'sexy' universities that students want to go to," she explains.

Yein's students joined Meto in early September. Since then, they have received expressions of interest and connections to admissions officers from University of Toronto, University of Alberta, Vanderbilt University, Wake Forest University, Boston University, Washington University in St. Louis, Georgia Tech, and many, many more.

Having used Meto with her students for one semester, Yein is confident that Meto will expand quickly. "I'm sure Meto's database will grow exponentially, both the students and universities," she says. "It's really that missing link between the two."



That growth is in its early stages in India. A handful of Indian students have created Meto profiles this fall, which has been met with great enthusiasm by global universities. In the past few months alone, Indian students have received expressions of interest and connections to admissions officers from all of the universities previously listed as well as University of Notre Dame, University of Miami, Colgate University, Texas Christian University, Carleton University, University of St Andrews, University of York, University of Sydney, and dozens more.

As demand for Indian students remains high, universities will continue to use tools such as Meto to supplement their in-person travel to the region. The Meto team is confident this is only the beginning of the story for Meto in India.

Despite the rapid growth for the organization, Meto has not forgotten its roots supporting high-achieving, low-income students. Toward this end, Meto intentionally curates partnerships with universities who are able to support students via need-based or merit-based aid. As a result, high-achieving, low-income students around the world – including in India – have been connected this fall to Vanderbilt, Notre Dame, Colgate, and many other universities who are able to provide lower fees for students.

Originally designed to provide good-fit university options to African students, Meto's dream has now shifted to include students to as many students as possible across the globe. Meto is well on its way.

<u>Meto</u> is completely free for students and high schools. If you are interested in learning more or piloting Meto with your students for the upcoming application cycle, please contact Blake Thomsen (<u>bthomsen@meto-intl.org</u>/+1 949 302 5745) and mention that you read Meto's story in Aiyyo.



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