

CRAZY RICH ADMISSIONS



**Syracuse University's
Maxwell-India
Tradition**

Admission Secured

**Your Essential
Study Abroad Visa
Checklist**

**Charting
Your Path to
Top MBA
Programs**

**Embracing
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**Grade Deflation
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CRAZY RICH ADMISSIONS

Eight Admissions Trends On My Watchlist

By Neeraj Mandhana
Founder
Aiiyo Magazine



Neeraj Mandhana

Every year the acceptance rates at highly selective colleges hit a record low. On April 28th, Ivy and Ivy Like colleges extended admission offers to a small set of students from India. Upon learning about their acceptances, students from across the country were also equally surprised to discover that their exceptionally talented friends at school had not been admitted.

What happened? Highly selective colleges found themselves inundated with an ever-higher number of international applications. Without a corresponding escalation in the number of admission readers, there was a notable decrease in the number of students undergoing a thorough evaluation process, coupled with reduced time allocated to review each applicant. So, was that the sole reason for the admission chaos that we all saw in admissions this year? The situation was further compounded by factors such as significant staff turnover, ambiguity surrounding test-optional admission policies, variations in high school performance pre- and post-COVID, the impact of the Supreme Court's rulings on race, and unspoken institutional priorities. In conversation with leading voices from the world of counseling from across India, I've identified the following eight trends.

Trend 1 - Mid Tier Grade Kid Has More Options

Revathi Shivakumar, a prominent South Mumbai IEC, commented - "My high-performing kids have to do ED. Else in most places, they end up on waitlists due to yield protection. Ironically, at the end of it all, middle-tier academic performers are left with more acceptance choices at the end of the cycle today. Of all my years I've been mentoring kids, this might be the most chaotic, frustrating, uncertain college admissions cycle."

Trend 2 - Test Optional Is Not Test Optional

Colleges use the SAT/ACT to confirm academic abilities, not determine them. They struggle to compare students academically because of heterogeneity within high school academic patterns. Across the Covid period, and after, Abhinav and Monica Garg from SATnPaper have constantly maintained that they saw a distinct difference in admission outcomes between students who submitted and those who did not submit their scores. While admission officers diplomatically promoted the test-optional nature of admissions, and too many school counselors drank this potent Kool-Aid, students were stuck playing the guessing game: to test or not to test. Uncertainty over test-optional admissions policies has compounded stress for families. If the SATnPaper analysis is to go by, test-optional was not really test-optional for the Indian student.

Trend 3 – CS Getting Harder & Capped Majors

Both Urvashi Malik (Founder & Managing Director of CollegeCore Education) and Kim Dixit (CEO and Co-Founder of The Red Pen) felt that the odds for a boy from India of getting into undergraduate Computer Science programs were falling precipitously. Urvashi also observed that more & more universities are capping entry into this major once admitted to college. This has led to a rise in students subscribing to CS-like majors along the lines of Math, Applied Math, Informatics, Data Science, Philosophy, and Physics, amongst others, to pursue their tech dreams.

Trend 4 – The Rise of AP's

Did you know that almost 15 times as many students get over 1400 on the SAT today than in 1984? The AP Scores carry far more information about a student's academic abilities than the SAT score. Brendan Bond, Associate Director of International Admissions at the University of Rochester recently commented - "the most notable trend that I've been seeing over the last year relative to Indian admissions to the US, is students who are already in quite rigorous programs - The Indian boards, IBDP, A levels, are also now wanting to complete AP courses and exams as well, adding pressure to students in an already complicated exam world." Yet, if trends are to go by, more and more Indian students are poised to take the AP Tests going forward.

Trend 5 – The Rise of Early Applications

According to the CommonApp, in the last five admission cycles, early round apps have gone up by 60%, while regular round apps have gone up by 26%. Nirmal Agarwal, a prominent IEC based in Kolkata and Founder of Cognix India, commented how he is seeing a strong uptake in the number of high student options for applying via the early route to enhance their chance of acceptance. Kim Dixit chimed in to confirm that for her most competitive students targeting the most highly selective colleges, regular decisions had become very unpredictable, especially in those colleges that offer both ED1 & ED2. Contrary to popular opinions about the rise of waitlists in admissions, Iris Medeira from Team Madhavi Desai said - "When Early Decision (ED) and Restricted Early Action (REA) and Early Action (EA), Decisions were released by US Universities in December, a trend we witnessed this year, was that students who were not admitted, were Denied admission, instead of the usual practice of being Deferred to the Regular Decision pool. Every year a large number of Early Applicants are Deferred, but this past cycle. So students need to think very carefully about the University they want to pin their early hopes on."

Trend 6 – The Rise of Yield Protection

Yield rates, which are a more accurate measure of popularity than acceptance rates especially when students have multiple choices, have dropped significantly at most schools except the most selective ones. Yield is not only a symbol of institutional prestige but also indicates financial stability. With students applying to more colleges, institutions are now focused on predicting which admitted students will actually enroll, and they're adjusting their strategies to attract and retain these students in order to maintain or increase their yield rates. Denver D'Souza from Syracuse University admissions office mentioned that they are increasingly emphasizing demonstrated interest from applicants, such as campus visits, interviews, and virtual interactions, as a way to gauge genuine interest in their institution. Furthermore, Kritika Bagaria, an independent educational consultant from Kolkata, highlighted that in cases where two students have similar profiles, the one who opts for an interview tends to receive more acceptance offers. Curiously, lesser-selective schools have embraced a strategy of increasingly deferring applicants in early rounds to see if they're serious – or even denying them outright when the school thinks it's being used as a backup.

Trend 7 – The Rise of California First

California students graduating in the top 9% of their high school class are guaranteed admission to the University of California. The UCs also attract students from around the world despite tuition costs that are more than double those charged to local residents. So, why was the UC so hard to get into this year for out-of-state students? Answer: Each campus receives some portion of its funding from the state. The State has increased its funding somewhat in exchange for the university admitting more students from California. That leaves fewer seats for those coming from outside the state. The number of non-resident students has declined at most UC campuses, ticking down from 17.7% to 16.3% systemwide over the past two years. Increasing pressure from the Legislature led the state to create a plan in the Budget Act of 2021 to increase the enrollment of locals in the UC system over five years. The system has enrolled more in-state residents – but not enough to meet targets set by the state. State lawmakers are demanding that the UC system make more space for residents – particularly at its most competitive campuses – even if it means charging higher tuition to those who come from out of state.

Trends 8 – Looking Beyond ‘merica

With increasing post-Covid economic instability, rising US Dollar to Rupee rate, lack of jobs, election-related uncertainty, and rise in gun and hate crimes, the US seems to be falling out of favor with the Indian parent. While the typical study abroad student remains bullish on pursuing a bachelor's degree in America, many parents are starting to re-think if this is the right time to head to the US. This is fuelling growth in other study-abroad destinations and places such as the UK, and Europe (especially France, Germany, and The Netherlands) have reported greater application numbers from Indian high school students. “We’ve seen the strongest rise in applicants from India to our summer programs at Oxford and Cambridge this summer compared to any other year in our history. I do believe many of these students would love to return to the UK for their undergraduate education” commented Diya Sharda, Head of Admissions (India) at Summer Boarding Courses (SBC) in London.

Many individuals, including students and parents, commonly hold the misconception that admission to prestigious American higher education institutions is solely based on merit – a belief centered around working diligently on academics, crafting a well-rounded profile, and pursuing passion projects to gain an advantage. The reality is that college admissions are heavily influenced by factors such as institutional reputation, priorities, and enrollment objectives. Given the complexity and dynamism of the college application process and enrollment strategies, both students and counselors increasingly need to game theory thinking in order to secure admissions into highly selective colleges.

CHARTING YOUR PATH TO TOP MBA PROGRAMS

Early Preparation Strategies

By
Niketa Desai
Founder at Admit Beacon



Niketa Desai

MBA programs at prestigious business schools such as Harvard, Stanford, Wharton, Kellogg, and Booth are fiercely competitive. For instance, the acceptance rate at Harvard Business School hovers around 10%, while Stanford's stands at approximately 5%. Aspiring applicants must start their application early and approach it strategically to stand out in this competitive landscape.

Here are six indispensable strategies to enhance your preparedness for a top-tier MBA program:

Prioritize Academic Excellence:

While business schools consider applicants holistically, a strong academic record is paramount. Start working diligently to achieve stellar undergraduate grades. Additionally, consider pursuing minor specializations or engaging in research projects to demonstrate intellectual vigor. If your undergraduate transcript could be better, explore alternative credentialing programs like HBS's core program to strengthen your academic profile.

Getting done with your Standardized test (GMAT/GRE) earlier:

Plan to write your standardized tests (GMAT or GRE) while still in college. Most successful applicants argue that scoring higher on standardized tests is easier when they are already vexing their test-taking muscles in college rather than picking up books and exams again when they have career priorities. Students considering applying to deferred programs, early entry programs, and the shorter-duration Masters in Management programs should aim to complete their tests in their penultimate year of college.

Engage, Contribute, and be more than a scholastic or professional achiever:

Business schools place significant value on extracurricular pursuits and community involvement as they provide insight into a candidate's commitment and capacity to generate positive societal impact. Hence, nurture your interests and demonstrate your ability to balance academic rigor with community engagement. Seek leadership roles in clubs, societies, or community organizations, and actively volunteer for causes close to your heart. Whether in sports, community service, or niche interests such as performing arts, demonstrate to schools that beyond being students or professionals, you embody a well-rounded individual capable of balancing diverse passions and commitments beyond work and academics.

Be Intentional with your early career choices:

Admissions committees seek candidates with continuous growth, leadership, and career impact. Therefore, you should craft a purposeful career trajectory that enables you to tackle challenging roles, diversify experiences, and exhibit leadership qualities. You can implement the following to curate an impressive career trajectory - Take on stretch roles or put your hand up for challenging projects. When switching careers, make well-informed choices. Pursue opportunities that allow you to build new skills but stay in the neighborhood. If you have the luxury, consider working abroad. If you're currently in an individual contributor role, actively pursue positions with leadership responsibilities within your organization or industry. For those in or considering departing from professional services (such as consulting, banking, or investing) where transferable problem-solving skills are predominant, focus on developing functional expertise or seek roles that facilitate the cultivation of such skills.

Stay true and nurture a distinct Personal Identity:

A unique personal identity can most effectively set you apart in a competitive applicant pool. Devote time to activities that deepen your passions and values. Whether immersing yourself in hobbies like driving, trekking, or engaging in sustainable initiatives and wildlife conservation, pursue activities that truly ignite your interests and showcase your multifaceted personality. Bottom line - If you are a sword, stay a sword, don't try to become a war hammer. Both weapons help win wars. Stay authentic and engage deeply.

Be in the know and stay informed about MBA programs:

Start engaging early with schools on social media such as Instagram and LinkedIn, and attend the informational events and discussions the schools host regularly. If feasible, then visit the schools in person and sit through the classes. These events offer the chance to interact with admissions representatives, alumni, and professors, offering a realistic and first-hand view of the program. While at this, maintain a detailed journal to organize insights and key learnings. Organized information and alumni connections should come in handy when tailoring your responses for essays and interviews.

In conclusion, securing admission to a top MBA program requires proactive planning, dedication, and authenticity. By prioritizing academic excellence, engaging in extracurricular activities, fostering career growth, cultivating a distinct personal identity, and preparing effectively, aspiring applicants can enhance their chances of success in the competitive landscape of business school admissions.



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Est. 2022

We're your friendly neighborhood independent education consultants. As India's leading body of IECs, we serve as the industry's voice. With the student's best interest in our hearts, we're raising the bar for quality of service within all our practices. Online professional development workshops, college visits, trusted vendor networks, hosting admission officers, and an awesome annual conference - that's our thang!



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EMBRACING DIVERSITY

Fostering Global Citizenship in Summer Schools

By

Will Finlayson

Director

Summer Boarding Courses



Will Finlayson

Our founding principal at Summer Boarding Courses was to “unite the cultures of the world through education”. Whilst the academic and social content of any summer programme is vital, for me, the learning that takes place when you bring a diverse group of students together from around the world is one of the most powerful and transformative experiences that a young person can have. Human Rights Law, Climate Change, or AI Regulation are all topics I’ve seen students from around the world tackle together and come up with completely innovative responses through working through their diversity of opinion and experience.

The important of Global Citizenship

In a hyper-connected world, being a global citizen has never been more important. In education, the concept of Global Citizenship Education (GCED) has emerged as a pivotal framework. Championed by the United Nations through its Sustainable Development Goals, education serves as a cornerstone for nurturing the values and skills essential for a sustainable future. At the heart of GCED lies the recognition of interconnectedness, emphasizing the significance of sustainable living, human rights, gender equality, peace-building, and cultural diversity appreciation (UNESCO, 2023).

GCED transcends the confines of a traditional academic subject; it serves as a prism through which learners can perceive and engage with global issues. Through embracing diversity in all its forms, including cultural, social, and cognitive diversity, GCED fosters an ethos of inclusion and empathy. By valuing differences and promoting cross-cultural understanding, GCED cultivates a generation of individuals equipped to navigate the complexities of an interconnected world.

Research has consistently demonstrated that teams comprised of individuals with diverse perspectives and backgrounds are more adept at tackling intricate challenges (Reynolds and Lewis, 2017). In a rapidly evolving global landscape fraught with multifaceted problems, the ability to harness diverse ways of thinking becomes paramount. Indeed, diverse thinking is seen by many as the key to tackling the greatest challenges of our age, by harnessing our unique perspectives and pooling our collective intelligence (Syed, 2019). By exposing students to varied experiences and cross-cultural interactions, summer schools can nurture diverse thinking patterns essential for addressing the pressing issues of our time that simply can’t be synthesized in a regular classroom.

Learning beyond the classroom

Summer schools, with their immersive and often interdisciplinary approach to learning, provide an ideal platform for fostering diversity and promoting global citizenship. By bringing together students from over 100 different countries each summer, our programmes enable students to explore complex issues and have exposure to global views. By sharing their own experience, whilst listening to sometimes competing views from their peers is a valuable insight into what it means to be a global citizen. We regularly see students produce completely innovative solutions as part of their Time to Shine projects, where they have, through diversity of thought, been forced to look at challenges in a different way.

Moreover, the impact of diversity within summer schools extends beyond the confines of the academic realm. By nurturing a culture of inclusivity and mutual respect, these educational initiatives lay the groundwork for building more equitable and cohesive societies. Through fostering an appreciation for cultural diversity and promoting dialogue across socio-cultural divides, summer schools serve as catalysts for social cohesion and peace-building.

The promotion of diversity within summer schools is not merely a pedagogical endeavor; it is a testament to our commitment to fostering global citizenship and building a more sustainable future. By embracing diversity of thought and valuing cultural differences, summer schools play a pivotal role in equipping the leaders of tomorrow with the skills and perspectives necessary to navigate an increasingly interconnected world. As educators and stakeholders in the realm of education, it is vital for us to harness the transformative power of diversity and cultivate a generation of global citizens poised to address the challenges of the 21st century.



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Arrange your free consultation to find the perfect summer experience for your child.



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY'S MAXWELL-INDIA TRADITION

A Time-Honored Partnership Shaping Futures

By
Amy Sloane-Garris
Interim Director of International Admissions
Syracuse University



Amy Sloane-Garris

Celebrating over seven decades of partnership, the Maxwell-India tradition stands as a testament to enduring collaboration and innovation in the realm of public affairs education. Initiated in the 1950s by Maxwell Dean Paul Appleby at the invitation of India's first Prime Minister, Nehru, this historic connection has evolved into a multifaceted exchange of knowledge, ideas, and expertise.

At the forefront of this tradition are distinguished figures such as Dean Paul Appleby and former U.S. Ambassador to India, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, whose visionary leadership has shaped Maxwell's engagement with India over the years. Their efforts have paved the way for a robust network of alumni, including senior government officials, nonprofit leaders, and business executives, who continue to make significant contributions to both Indian and global society.

Maxwell's commitment to India extends beyond mere academic exchange; it encompasses a wide array of programs and initiatives designed to address the evolving needs of Indian students and government officials. Through its Executive Education Programs, Maxwell has welcomed thousands of Indian officials, offering specialized training in areas such as public administration, policy analysis, and international relations. These programs, led by renowned faculty members such as Professor Catherine Gerard, Professor Tosca Bruno-van Vijeijken, and Professor Robert Bifulco, provide participants with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle complex challenges in their respective fields.

In addition to executive training, Maxwell offers a range of degree and certificate programs tailored to the interests and aspirations of Indian students. The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program, ranked #1 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, equips students with the analytical and managerial skills needed to excel in public service. Maxwell also offers advanced certificate programs in areas such as conflict resolution, environmental policy, and global security studies, providing students with opportunities to specialize in their chosen field of interest.

For high school students in India aspiring to engage more strongly with Maxwell's offerings, there are several avenues to explore. Maxwell regularly hosts informational sessions, webinars, and workshops specifically tailored to the needs and interests of prospective international students. These events, led by admissions experts such as Assistant Dean Christine Omolino, provide valuable insights into Maxwell's academic programs, admissions process, and scholarship opportunities, allowing students to make informed decisions about their future education.

Furthermore, Maxwell encourages active participation in its vibrant academic community through initiatives such as student organizations, research projects, and internships. The Maxwell School boasts over 200 full-time faculty members, including experts in fields such as public finance, social policy, and international development. Students have the opportunity to work closely with faculty members on cutting-edge research projects, gaining valuable hands-on experience and contributing to the advancement of knowledge in their chosen field.

Looking ahead, Maxwell remains committed to strengthening its ties with India and fostering greater collaboration between the two nations. By providing innovative educational opportunities, fostering cross-cultural exchange, and nurturing the next generation of leaders, Maxwell continues to uphold its legacy as a beacon of excellence in public affairs education.

In conclusion, the Maxwell-India tradition represents a shining example of the transformative power of international collaboration and mutual understanding. As we celebrate over 70 years of partnership, let us reaffirm our commitment to building a brighter, more interconnected future for all.

THE FUTURE OF ROBOTICS.



Explored here.



Studying the gait patterns of animals to create locomotion in quadruped robots. It's just one way Syracuse University researchers are crossing disciplines to spark new ideas.

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ADMISSION SECURED

What Next For The International Student As They Think About Transition To College Abroad

By

Kristin Crosby

Director of International Admission

Ohio Wesleyan University



Kristin Crosby

The college search process is just that – a process. A process has a timeline, and now is the time to shift to a new set of questions. The balance of that process is heavily weighted towards the search and the application process. Yet it's that final decision that sets students up for success. Think of the months – even years – students spend building CVs, perfecting test scores, striving for top grades. Then more months are spent keeping track of deadlines and requirements, polishing the essay, toiling over the application. With so much thought devoted to the application process, I'm amazed how little time is left to ponder how to make that enrollment decision. Many offers come late, and narrowing down choices to that "best fit" school can cause panic and stress. Here are a few guiding points to help families shift their mindset and truly focus on finding the place that will be a home away from home for four years.

Here are some suggestions for posing questions and steering conversations as you meet with students/families over the next month or two.

Deciding factors:

Families should once again sit down and make a list of the top factors under consideration. Perhaps parents' factors are different from the student's. How can they get on the same page?. Which **one** factor is the driving factor – is it cost? Is it major or academic based? Does the deciding factor revolve around something very specific such as sport, other talent, specific location (near relatives, etc.)? Are those factors still as important today as they were 4-6 months ago, or have they changed? Once the deciding factors have been jotted down from most important to less important, it's time to do another deep dive into researching those factors.

Comparing Costs:

Make sure that offers are truly being compared *equally*. First and foremost, when comparing offers, check that the stated costs are from the **same academic year** – I can't tell you how many students show me other award letters with costs from the current year, not from the **upcoming year**. If the upcoming year costs can't be found on the university website, be sure to factor in at least a 3% increase. And costs may be likely to rise each year, whereas a scholarship may not increase each year. If a scholarship is awarded, is the scholarship guaranteed all 4 years? Or just the first year? Is any minimum GPA required to keep it?

Think about all of the expected (billed) costs: meal plans (14 vs. 3 meals a day?), housing (guaranteed or required all 4 years? Or just the first year?) Are there other fees mentioned on the website that are not mentioned in the award letter? Lastly, I'll mention that personal costs may vary from university to university, as they are just an estimate. The same is also true with campus jobs – most international students can get a campus job, but earnings will depend entirely on hours worked and that state's minimum wage. So don't put as much emphasis on personal expenses or campus job earnings that might be mentioned in an award letter.

U.S. vs. other countries

When comparing awards from different countries such as the UK, the Netherlands, etc. where students might live off campus from the beginning, try to get a realistic sense of apartment rental, commuting costs, and all costs that go with living off campus.

We all know that a U.S. university education is a costly investment. Please consider what goes into those extra costs. The U.S. advising system, especially for international students, is highly personalized. Advising doesn't just take academics into account, but the social and emotional well-being of the student.

Determining "Fit"

So often international students make their lists based on well-known universities, states, cities, etc. Without the opportunity to have visited a campus, international students may be less likely to choose based on "feelings" and "fit" than brand, ranking or location – or even weather! The reality is, students may be busy enough with campus life that they don't take advantage of proximity to a big city or make time to see that relative who lives in the same state. Or, they may end up choosing a different major. Fit should truly focus on how the student feels about the university – from the communications, YouTube videos, virtual admitted student programs, student testimonials. The student should take the time to seek out specific answers from current students and even professors, coaches, advisors, etc. Quite often this information can be found in a student's application portal. You'd be surprised what information is available in the portal, yet students still think that the portal is just a place to check what items are missing and to view the admission decision. Make sure your students know how to log into their portals and encourage them to check in to each one for new updates.

Other factors related to fit should focus on the overall experience. Quite often I hear that students are looking at huge universities and small ones. Yet those experiences will vary vastly! If comparing a small college and a large university, the student truly needs to research the following: Is it easy to change majors? Is housing guaranteed all 4 years? How are religious or dietary needs handled? Do grad students teach classes? If considering a large or public university – do most students graduate in 4 years, or does it actually take 5 or 6? Be sure to look at retention rate.

I'd love to stay in touch and continue the conversation. I welcome you to contact me at kkcrosby@owu.edu.

GRADE DEFLATION AT UNIVERSITY: A REALITY

The transition challenges for STEM students and how counsellors can help

By
Sanjay Kothary
Director
www.stemprep101.com



Sanjay Kothary

Acceptances for university for the 2024 admission year are now mostly in, and as counsellors, you must be happy in the knowledge that your students are now bound for great experiences and challenges in the years ahead as they prepare to start life at university.

Your students too must be thinking that they have now gone through the tough part – the application process, the acing of the predictives, the test taking process and now finally the fun part begins – university, party time and freedom!

However, there is a deeper issue at stake here and this is especially true for your STEM students: this is a time of great change in the lives of these students. Most will be leaving their family home for the first time and moving to another country as well. They will have to cope with these changes, adjust to dorm life, fend for themselves and make new friends – all a bit daunting! And, even while all this is occurring, they will need to keep their eye firmly on the ball and ensure that their grades do not falter. And it is in their initial few months at college that they have to make this transition AND maintain a good grade from the get go. What do we mean by this? Let's examine this in more detail:

What are the biggest challenges STEM students will face when they first start at University?

Besides all the challenges mentioned above, incoming STEM freshmen typically find **freshman calculus, physics and chemistry** the toughest subjects in their first semester. This is true even for those STEM students who have taken these subjects at an Advanced or Higher Level and scored well in them in their school leaving boards. This is because, even though the topics covered in the first year at University would be more or less the same as at the HL or advanced level for the school leaving boards, the level of complexity of the problems and questions at the university level are distinctly **much tougher** than at the school board level and so even the good students find it difficult to cope.

Yet, it is vital they get through this first few months with good grades, because recovering from an initial poor grade will leave them climbing an uphill mountain for the rest of their undergraduate years. The next point illustrates this.

Why is it so important to start university well ?

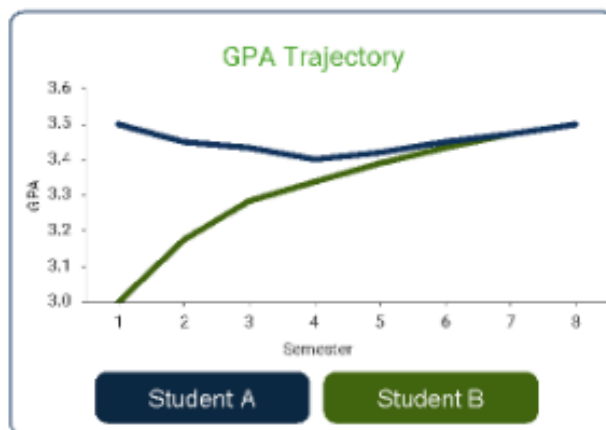
Let us presume that two STEM students, Student A and Student B both finish University with a cumulative 3.5 GPA. However, they take very different journeys during their time in University to get there.

Student A starts freshman year by not being able to cope well in the first semester in the core STEM subjects for example Physics and Integral Calculus – an all too familiar scenario – and therefore ends up with less than optimal grades and secures a starting GPA of 3.00. Subsequent to that, Student A knowing the pressure of maintaining a good GPA, works harder and harder and continues getting better and better and at graduation attains a cumulative GPA of 3.5. However, Student A's entire time at University has been spent under pressure – not a fun way to spend perhaps some of the best years of your life!

The GPA mountain problem



Semester	Student A	Student B
1	3.00	3.50
2	3.35	3.40
3	3.50	3.40
4	3.50	3.30
5	3.60	3.50
6	3.65	3.60
7	3.70	3.60
8	3.70	3.70



Numbers do not lie - Start well. The rest is easy

On the other hand, Student B, having prepped rigorously through the StemPrep101 bootcamp before University, is all prepared and therefore scores well in the first semester itself and secures a starting GPA of 3.50. Now as it stands, having coped with the first semester which is typically the toughest, Student B is on track to maintain or even improve that GPA without any pressure.

Now, while it is highly unlikely that B's performance will falter after the first semester, but as the graph shows, even if it does and B's GPA actually dips after the first semester, and even if B scores lower than A in every single semester thereafter until graduation, B still ends up with the same cumulative GPA as A! No pressure, and even with a dip in performance (although that is unlikely to happen), B comes through level with A and without any pressure throughout University life just because of starting well. As the graphic above states:

Numbers do not lie. Start well. The rest is easy

So how can StemPrep101 help?

Here is where Stemprep101, www.stemprep101.com comes in.

Stemprep101 is an intense 6 week, live streamed, online bootcamp held in the June/July period in these Integral Calculus, Differential calculus, Physics and Chemistry before students start University or start Year 12, giving students the clear head start they need. Some key highlights:

- Program is run by tenured University professors
- Contents closely mirror the actual college syllabi along with graded assignments, midterms and finals
- Courses are live streamed with 3-4 hours of online class time and lots of interaction and Q&As with the instructor
- Separate office hours each week with the professors for one on one meetings to resolve concepts and solve problems.
- The entire focus is on teaching using university level problem solving techniques and not just focus on rote methods to arrive at the final answer, thereby building a solid understanding of the topic
- Limited class sizes to ensure a quality learning experience

Our inaugural bootcamp that we ran in Summer 2023 was a huge success. We had students who were bound for universities such as **Stanford, Purdue, University of Michigan, Arizona State University, Rensselaer Polytechnic, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign**, just to name a few and we got tremendously positive feedback on how valuable our bootcamp was to them. Our website, www.stemprep101.com has more on these testimonials.

What if students are getting credits for some of the foundation STEM courses? Should they take these and bypass these foundation courses all together?

A number of STEM bound students would have taken physics and math at an Advanced / Higher level for their school leaving boards and a good score will entitle them to claim credits for some foundation level courses in these subjects in their freshman year. Most students are keen to take this. Should they? Our view is that unless the reasons are financial (i.e., saving fees by reducing the time required to graduate), students SHOULD NOT take these credits, but should enroll for these courses in their freshman year. University level problems for the same topics are markedly more difficult than even the questions posed for the advanced/higher level for the school leaving boards and building your foundation properly is far more important than the few months you may save by taking those credits.

We are now preparing for Bootcamp 2024 and registrations are now open.

Please contact the StemPrep101 Program Director, Sanjay Kothary, sanjay.kothary@stemprep101.com for more information on our counsellor referral program and limited StemPrep101 scholarships for your more deserving students.

Alternately, book a slot to speak to him directly using the following link:
https://calendly.com/sanjay_kothary/30min

STEM¹⁰¹ PREP

www.stemprep101.com

Incoming STEM freshmen typically find freshman calculus, physics and chemistry the toughest subjects in their first semester.

Stemprep101 is an intense 6 week, live streamed, online bootcamp held in the June/July period in these key subjects before students start University or start Year 12, giving them the clear head start they need.

Our Summer 2023 bootcamp was a huge success. We had students who were bound for universities such as:

- Stanford
- Purdue
- University of Michigan
- Arizona State University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic
- University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Set up an 15 minute online session with us to understand more about our program and how it can benefit you and your students.

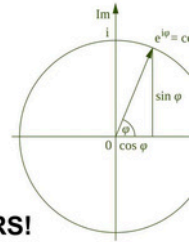
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Alternatively, contact us at:

- ✉ sanjay.kothary@stemprep101.com
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About us



CALLING ALL COUNSELLORS!



Help your students **boost their GPA** before they even get to University through our bootcamp



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Recommend your star students to us and help them get a **StemPrep101 Scholarship** to our bootcamp



Class sizes are limited to ensure a quality learning experience, so do get in touch today!

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YOUR ESSENTIAL STUDY ABROAD VISA CHECKLIST

Basics Process Every Educator Must Be Aware Of

By
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Embarking on a study abroad adventure is an exhilarating prospect, but the visa application process can often feel like navigating a complex maze. With varying requirements and procedures in popular study destinations such as Canada, the US, and the UK, it's crucial to approach the process with careful planning and attention to detail.

Here's your essential visa checklist to streamline your journey towards studying abroad.

United States of America

In the United States, prospective international students have several visa options to consider, each tailored to different academic pursuits. In the US, international students have multiple visa options. The F1 Visa is for full-time academic programs, permitting part-time on-campus work. The J1 Visa suits exchange programs or research internships, fostering cultural exchange. The M1 Visa is ideal for vocational or non-academic programs, providing avenues for specialized skill development. Navigating the US visa application process requires meticulous attention to detail and adherence to specific steps. Prospective students must obtain the I-20 form from their college, demonstrating financial capability through bank statements, approved bank loan letters, or scholarship letters. Subsequently, completing the detailed DS 160 form and paying the SEVIS fee (\$350) are essential prerequisites. Securing a visa appointment and scheduling appointments for biometrics and interviews at the Offsite Facilitation Center (OFC) and Visa Consulate, respectively, are critical steps toward a successful application.

Canada

Meanwhile, in Canada, prospective students must navigate between the Student Direct Stream (SDS) and Non-SDS visa options. The SDS Visa offers expedited processing for students willing to pay full tuition fees for one year in advance, while the Non-SDS Visa caters to a broader range of applicants with slightly higher financial requirements. For Canada visa applications, two essential documents are required: the Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) and the Study Permit. The TRV is stamped on the passport and serves as the entry document, while the Study Permit is issued upon arrival in Canada, detailing work conditions and validity. Both must be extended, with the Study Permit first and are valid until the passport expiry or the course duration. To initiate the Canadian visa application process, applicants must create a profile on the IRCC account and fulfill the Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) requirement. Obtaining a Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) from the chosen university and submitting a Conditional/Unconditional Letter of Acceptance (LOA) are crucial steps towards securing a Canadian student visa.

United Kingdom

In the UK, students must navigate the intricacies of the Tier 4 Student Visa, ensuring compliance with specific requirements and timelines. Securing an unconditional offer letter by paying the deposit and obtaining the Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) document from the university are the initial steps in the UK visa application process. Additionally, paying the Health Surcharge and Visa Fee, along with submitting the application and booking a document drop appointment, are essential tasks for prospective students. In addition to visa-specific requirements for the UK, there is the 28-Day rule, which mandates sufficient funds in the bank account to cover tuition fees and living expenses for at least 28 consecutive days, within 31 days of visa application. Moreover, TB testing and attaching the report are mandatory for certain destinations to ensure public health safety.

Across all destinations, students should adhere to additional considerations. This includes securing visas for multiple countries if necessary, being mindful of deadlines and procedural differences, and gradually accumulating funds in the bank account.

By following these steps and ensuring all documentation is in order, students can confidently navigate the visa application process, paving the way for a transformative academic experience abroad. With careful planning and preparation, the journey toward studying abroad becomes an exciting and enriching endeavor.