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INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS ANALYTICS AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
The Essential Role of Business Analytics

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The world is dominated by information, and data has become one of the most precious assets for a business. Leaders are more reliant on data to fuel informed decisions that lead to the success and growth of their organization. This systematic process of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data is called business analytics. It plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of companies worldwide. Recruiters are looking for professionals who can work with data to offer insights for business decision-making.

A. What is Business Analytics?

At its core, business analytics involves employing statistical analysis, predictive modeling, and advanced tools to bring out meaningful insights from data. To list a few examples:

- Netflix leverages business analytics to analyze user viewing habits, preferences, and historical data to recommend personalized content, enhancing user satisfaction and retention.
- A pizza place owner might use business analytics to comprehend which toppings are most popular, identify peak sales hours, and discern how weather patterns influence orders. By delving into these patterns, the owner can make informed decisions to enhance the overall efficiency and profitability of the business.
- Car insurance companies use data offered by vehicle software or mobile apps including variables such as acceleration, braking patterns, speed, and time of day, to help determine personalized insurance premiums.
- Amazon utilizes business analytics to optimize its supply chain by analyzing historical sales data, predicting future demand, and streamlining inventory management, ensuring efficient operations, and reducing costs.

B. Why does Business Analytics matter?

- **Informed Decision-Making:** Business analytics helps companies make decisions based on evidence rather than intuition. By scrutinizing data, businesses can identify trends, understand customer preferences, and predict future outcomes to stay one step ahead in the competitive marketplace.
- **Efficiency and Cost Savings:** Business analytics can assist a retail company in identifying top-selling items and those gathering dust on the shelves. This insight allows the company to optimize inventory, reduce waste, and ultimately save costs.
- **Enhancing Customer Experiences:** By analyzing past behaviors and preferences of users, companies can personalize their experience, offering products and services aligned with their interests. This helps in customer retention and it boosts sales.
- **Predicting Trends:** Business analytics serves as a crystal ball for predicting the future of markets. By analyzing historical data and market trends, businesses can make informed predictions about upcoming demands. This foresight allows companies to adapt and stay relevant in a dynamic business landscape.

C. How does Business Analytics work?

There are three primary components:

- **Descriptive Analytics:** This type of analytics focuses on summarizing historical data to comprehend past events. It involves creating reports, dashboards, and visualizations that highlight key performance indicators (KPIs). In our pizza example, this could be a report showcasing the most popular pizza toppings over the past year.
- **Predictive Analytics**: Taking a step further, predictive analytics uses historical data to make predictions about future events. In the pizza scenario, this might involve predicting the most popular toppings for the upcoming season based on past trends and external factors like holidays.
- **Prescriptive Analytics**: Going beyond predictions, prescriptive analytics recommends actions to maximize desired outcomes. In the pizza business, it might suggest introducing a new topping based on emerging trends or optimizing delivery routes to enhance customer satisfaction.

D. How does one get started with Business Analytics?

For those interested in exploring the world of business analytics, several entry points exist:

- **Learn Basic Statistics:** Understanding statistical concepts is fundamental to business analytics. Concepts like averages, percentages, and probability play a crucial role in analyzing and interpreting data.
- **Explore Data Visualization Tools:** Mastering tools like Microsoft Excel, Tableau, or Google Sheets is essential. Learning how to use these tools helps in creating visual representations of data, aiding effective communication of findings.
- **Take Online Courses:** Numerous online platforms offer courses on business analytics. Websites like Coursera, Khan Academy, and edX provide courses ranging from beginner to advanced levels, covering topics such as data analysis, machine learning, and predictive modeling.
- **Participate in Data Competitions:** Platforms like Kaggle host data science competitions where individuals and teams tackle real-world problems using data. Participation in these competitions provides hands-on experience and allows the application of analytical skills in a practical setting.

E. What career paths exist In Business Analytics?

There are several career paths for those interested in business analytics:

- **Data Analyst:** These professionals sift through vast amounts of data, identifying trends and patterns. They transform raw data into actionable information, aiding organizations in making informed decisions.
- **Business Intelligence Analyst:** Focused on providing strategic insights, these analysts analyze data trends within specific industries or markets. They develop dashboards or reports to facilitate decision-making based on data.
- **Data Scientist:** Data scientists use machine learning algorithms, predictive modelling, and statistical analysis to uncover complex patterns and make predictions. Proficiency in programming languages like Python or R is crucial for this role.

- **Machine Learning Engineer:** Specializing in developing and implementing machine learning algorithms, these engineers apply artificial intelligence to solve real-world problems, contributing to technological innovation.
- **Business Analytics Consultant:** Working with clients to analyze data, identify challenges, and propose data-driven solutions, consultants collaborate across diverse industries, providing insights to enhance efficiency and profitability.
- **Operations Analyst:** Focused on optimizing internal processes, operations analysts use data to recommend improvements in workflow, resource allocation, and performance metrics.
- **Quantitative Analyst (Quant):** Often found in finance and investment industries, quants use mathematical models and statistical techniques to analyze financial data, playing a crucial role in risk management and investment strategy.
- **Healthcare Data Analyst:** In the healthcare sector, data analysts optimize patient care, streamline operations, and improve overall healthcare outcomes using electronic health records and clinical data.

F. How can a high schooler navigate the path to a career in Business Analytics?

Embarking on a career in business analytics requires a combination of education, skills development, and practical experience. Here are some steps to guide your journey:

- **Education:** Consider pursuing a degree in fields like statistics, mathematics, computer science, or business analytics. Many universities offer specialized programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed for a career in business analytics.
- **Skill Development:** Master tools like Microsoft Excel, SQL, and data visualization platforms like Tableau. Proficiency in programming languages such as Python or R will open doors to more advanced roles in data science and machine learning.
- **Hands-On Experience:** Participate in internships, co-op programs, or take on real-world projects to gain practical experience. Building a strong portfolio showcasing your analytical skills will make you stand out to potential employers.
- **Certifications:** Obtain industry-recognized certifications in business analytics, data science, or specific tools and platforms. Certifications demonstrate your expertise and commitment to staying current in the rapidly evolving field of business analytics.
- **Networking:** Connect with professionals in the field through networking events, online forums, and industry conferences. Building a strong professional network can open doors to mentorship opportunities and job prospects.

In the ever-evolving field of business analytics, there are abundant opportunities for individuals enthusiastic about harnessing the potential of data... whether captivated by the investigative role of a data analyst, the strategic acumen of a business intelligence analyst, or the forefront of innovative advancements.

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THE "REAL" DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAT & ACT

Should I take the SAT or ACT?

By
Megan Stubbendeck
Chief Executive Officer
ArborBridge

Megan Stubbendeck

Students applying to American universities face a dilemma. "Should I take the SAT or ACT?" Since US universities value the tests equally, you can pick whichever fits your strengths.

Differences at a glance

- Sections: The ACT has four sections—English, Math, Reading, and Science—plus an optional essay. The SAT has two sections—Reading/Writing and Math—each split into two separate question sets, called "modules."

- Scoring: Each ACT section is scored out of 36 points, then those section scores are averaged to form a student's overall score out of 36. Each SAT section is scored out of 800 points, then summed together to form an overall score of 1600 points.

- Access: For students outside the US, both exams are computer-based and taken at testing centers. One difference between the exams, though, is access to testing centers. Access may be limited depending on where you live and when you plan to test. Be sure to check the SAT and ACT websites to see which is given near you.

- Length and Pace: Most importantly, the testing experiences are very different. The ACT is just over three hours, with an average 49 seconds per question; the SAT is only about two hours with an average 82 seconds per question. That means that the SAT is both shorter, and students can move at a slower pace through the test.

Adaptive testing

One unique element of the SAT is that it's adaptive. How you perform on a section's first module determines the difficulty level of that section's second module. The better you do, the higher the difficulty on your second module. This allows the SAT's algorithm to quickly home in on your score.

In contrast, the ACT is non-adaptive—meaning that you'll see the same questions in the same order as every other student, regardless of how you perform. ACT students see 215 questions on the test; SAT students see just 98. This big difference means students who struggle with test-taking endurance might choose the SAT over the ACT.

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Verbal

The ACT tests verbal skills across its English, Reading, and Science sections. English tests grammar rules. Reading tests your ability to identify main ideas and details from long passages. And, contrary to its name, Science doesn't test your scientific knowledge. Instead, it tests your ability to synthesize information from text, charts, and graphs. The SAT tests these same skills in a single section—the Reading/Writing section.

For students, the most important Verbal differences to consider:

1. **Passage Length:** SAT reading passages are short, usually under 150 words. Plus, there's only one question per passage. Conversely, ACT passages are 5 times as long, with about 750 words. The ACT asks a student to answer 10 questions on every passage.

1. **Content Depth:** ACT reading questions test surface-level information, essentially asking "do you remember the basic facts?" However, the SAT tests critical reading skills. It asks you to make complex inferences and connections between ideas. The trade-off for this increased difficulty is that the SAT gives you significantly more time per question.

Math
Both exams permit calculators, though the SAT also has Desmos's graphing calculator built right into the test. And both test arithmetic, algebra, geometry, basic trigonometry, and statistics.

The tests differ on the harder questions. The ACT includes longer story problems and more advanced topics from pre-calculus. On the SAT, concepts aren't as advanced but can be trickier—this is again offset by giving SAT students more time per question.

Which test should you take?
Consider the parable of the tortoise and the hare.

The SAT is for tortoises—slow, careful workers, who shine when judged on their critical thinking.

The ACT is for hares—fast workers with sharp, short-term memories.

But this just scratches the surface. The next step is to try one of each and compare your experience. Which did you score better on? Which test felt more comfortable? To access full-length practice tests, try the PSAT at school, visit the SAT and ACT official websites to download sample exams, or email us at ArborBridge (info@arborbridge.com) for free diagnostic tests and advice. We're here to help you find the right, customized path!
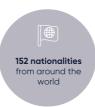
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THE MOST COMMON MISTAKE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MAKE FINDING A RESEARCH LAB

The Key to Securing High School Research Lab Positions

By
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Professor of the Practice of Biomedical Engineering and Global Health, Emeritus, Duke University
Academic Director, International Research Institute of North Carolina

Dr. Robert Malkin

High school students are looking for academic research laboratory positions in unprecedented numbers. This is probably because a research experience can have a major impact on a college application. While these positions can be challenging to find and competitive to obtain, the chances of landing a position can be markedly increased by avoiding the one, most common mistake that high school students make when searching for a research lab: Do not start by writing an email with lists of accomplishments. Instead, start by finding your passion.

Faculty do not choose high school students for their lab primarily because of their accomplishments. In fact, showcasing your accomplishments can reduce your chances of success. A Professor does not expect a high school student to come to the lab with a well-developed skill set. Rather, faculty are interested in high school students who have a passion for their area of research. They want to share their love of science and their specific domain. So, the first step in finding a lab is figuring out what you are passionate about.

You certainly have an interest in science, or you wouldn't be looking for a lab job. But, is your interest a passion? To make sure you have a passion, and not just an interest, read a few issues of a scientific journal in your area of interest. Or use a general interest science journal like Nature or Science. Do any of the articles seem intriguing? If you don't understand everything you are reading, don't panic. As you read, write down what you don't understand. If you have multiple areas of interest, write down the things you don't understand for each one on separate lists. If you reach 30 or 40 questions about one topic, you have probably found an area of science that could be a passion for you.

Now that you have a passion defined, you can work on that email. Keep the email to no more than a few very short paragraphs; ideally only two.

Do not start with a list of your accomplishments, your GPA, or your awards in the first paragraph. This is a risky strategy because you are assuming that your list is superior to all the others received by that faculty that day. Also, in this world of inflated CVs, you are also assuming that the faculty member reading your email will believe you. Moreover, your list of accomplishments has little bearing on your chances of getting the lab position. Remember that faculty are mostly interested in students who share their passion. They don't expect a high school student to come to the lab with specific skills. The skills and accomplishments you list probably don't apply directly to their lab anyway.

Instead, lead with your passion. Your first paragraph should introduce yourself and where you got their name, leading into a discussion of your shared passion. This is your chance to show that you have spent time thinking about the field of inquiry and reading journal articles. Ideally, mention a specific, recent publication from your readings or work from the target lab that you have read about.

The second paragraph is your ask. You can mention that you are looking for a lab position, but your main request is for an interview. Ideally, you can say that you will be on campus on a particular day and would like to meet. It is even better if you propose a particular time window and even perhaps a location, like their office.

Now, you can send that short, passion-filled email to as many lab directors and faculty as you can. If you want to learn about the next steps in finding that perfect lab spot, and how to make the most of the lab job when you have it, please look for my book "A Guide to Academic Research."

It can be very challenging to find a lab position. You can increase your chances of landing one of these coveted jobs by avoiding the most common mistake: **Start with your passion, not your accomplishments.**

THE POWER OF SELF-REFLECTION IN THE UNIVERSITY APPLICATION PROCESS

Navigating College Applications Through Self-Reflection and Personal Growth

By
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Deborah Rosario

When I see an email sitting in my inbox or hear the office telephone ring, I am rendered curious. It is, perhaps, not as exciting as the anticipation of opening a Christmas present, but it is something like that: what question will I hear, what story will I enter? Not uncommonly, though, I meet with simplifying questions like, "What are the top ten universities in business"? I do understand that students and families have limited time, and need help to accelerate the application process. Yet, I don't want students to arrive at facile answers. Rather, I want students to recognize that the application process is a step that must emerge from the story they have been leading, and will frame the story they lead into the future. This step, therefore, must be an outflow of self-awareness, and that can only happen through self-reflection.

For one, students are better placed to select colleges and universities, when they are not just blinded by the glare of fame. Of course, critical criteria like their major and funding will steer choices. But it would also be ideal for them to ponder other aspects of their dispositions: what is their learning style? would they prefer the kind of class size where professors know their name and invite them over for dinner, or that when they step out of the university, they step into all the vibrancy of city life? do their values align with those the university cultivates? One might even want to start them with: why is study abroad or in the U.S. right for them now?

To provide some examples, small community colleges played a big role in one student's shortlist because she wanted a safe, nurturing environment with close-knit relationships. Another student I worked with felt she learned best through a variety of stimuli, and chose a university that had plenty of options in terms of hands-on projects, industry visits, semesters abroad, student-led activities, and so on. When I was last in touch with her, she was fully participating in every one of these, and thoroughly flourishing. Knowing their preferences and how they line up with these sorts of nuances, can really make the difference between students surviving and thriving at a university campus. And this begins in self-examination.

Self-reflection similarly benefits the writing of application essays. Of course, aspects like creativity and uniqueness can make a difference, but over the years, I've come to see that essays often stand out when students dig deeper beneath the superficial flow of activities and events. Through the particular story of their life they are narrating, they understand the journey of the self. What are the unique quirks that make them tick? How have they grown? Why did they do what they did?

The Washington Post once published the story of a student who was admitted to a prestigious U.S. university. Her acceptance letter included a note from an admissions officer appreciating her essay about how something as routine as ordering pizza meant celebration and comfort to her, as well as connoted her coming of age. Through this very quotidian event, she was able to reveal a deeper significance for her life.

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For these reasons, at the start of and through the application process, I try to prompt students to reflect on their life story and brainstorm something of a personal inventory. I suggest they respond to questions such as: what are the personality traits that set them apart from their friends; what are their values or the ideals they hold dear? what are their learning goals and learning style? what are the key events in the last four years that have impacted them or through which they have grown? Knowing themselves can be a sure compass that guides students through the entire application journey.

Students and families may often want to jump straight into the practicalities of applications. It can sometimes be a challenge to slow them down because reflection takes time and thought. It may also be a challenge to encourage them not engage in a perfunctory manner but to really delve into what is playing out beneath the surface. But leading them in such an exercise is important.

In 1933, the thinker, John Dewey, wrote, "we do not learn from experience … we learn from reflecting on experience." Going further back, a quote that is of uncertain provenance, but often attributed to Aristotle, reads, "Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom." Indeed, reflecting on your experiences and knowing yourself is so fundamental, not just when applying to universities, but at every stage, in every aspect of life. Training students in the ways of self-reflection and self-examination can not only transform the application process, leading to a more meaningful educational experience, but can also initiate students in a habit that can guide them all their lives.

For information on studying in the United States, please visit the EducationUSA website (https://educationusa.state.gov), and for individual questions about direct counselling with an EducationUSA adviser, please write to mumbai@educationusa.org.

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THE OFFICIAL JLPT N5 JAPANESE EXAMINATION

Exploring Study Abroad In Japan

By
Neeraj Mandhana
Independent Education Consultant

Neeraj Mandhana

Recently, I had an opportunity to visit Japan: the land of the rising Sun, anime and kimonos, hi-tech robotics, home of Masayoshi Son, and a large greying population. Incidentally, Japan is increasingly interested in recruiting students from India. Yet, the almighty question remains: do you need to know Japanese to study in Japan? While the large majority of the courses I came across were taught in Japanese, there were also interesting opportunities (look for these in a future article) for courses taught in English. Overall, as an international counselor, even if a student was pursuing an English-medium-based course, I still felt that they would benefit tremendously from learning beginner-level Japanese.

Enter: The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).

What is the JLPT?

The JLPT has been around since 1984 and it is currently the most widely-taken Japanese language test in the world. As well as acting as an indicator of language ability for Japanese employers hiring foreign workers, passing a JLPT exam is also valid for meeting the government's 150-hour study requirement. There are five levels of the JLPT, with N5 being the easiest level to pass and N1 being the most difficult. Each exam tests four things: reading comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and listening. In Japan, the exam is normally held twice a year – once in July and once in January. There are many overseas testing sites, but not all of them offer the chance to take the test twice a year.

Why take the JLPT N5 exam?

Preparing for, and taking, the JLPT N5 exam is a great learning experience and motivator for beginner Japanese language students. It can be challenging getting your head around a new language, so having an exam to work towards can give you structure and learning goals that help take your language skills to the next level. The N5 isn't going to land you a job with a Japanese company, but it strongly demonstrates your ability to understand the building blocks of the language. This foundation is crucial to the success of your Japanese learning journey. Let's also not downplay the sense of achievement you will feel when you pass the exam.

What does the JLPT N5 exam test?

The N5 Japanese proficiency test assesses your foundational understanding of the language. To succeed, you must meet specific criteria, including familiarity with approximately 100 essential kanji, typically covered in the early stages of Japanese language learning. Additionally, you should possess a vocabulary of approximately 800 words, enabling you to comprehend common expressions and sentences written in hiragana, katakana, and basic kanji. Proficiency extends to both reading and understanding, encompassing everyday scenarios and classroom situations. Successful completion of a beginner-level course, typically spanning 12 weeks, can adequately prepare you for the N5 test.

What is the structure of the JLPT N5 exam?

The exam has three sections and a time limit is allocated to each. The three sections are Vocabulary (20 minutes), Grammar & Reading (40 minutes), and Listening (30 minutes). The vocabulary section evaluates your proficiency in recognizing kanji readings, identifying kanji and katakana versions of hiragana words, understanding word meanings in context, and recognizing words and expressions with similar meanings. In the grammar and reading segment, your assessment will cover: selecting appropriate grammar formats for sentences, composing sentences accurately, ensuring sentences contribute effectively to the overall text flow, understanding short texts of approximately 80 characters on subjects related to study, daily life, and work, comprehending brief texts of around 250 characters on everyday life topics, and retrieving information from materials like notices with a word count of approximately 250 words. In the listening portion, your evaluation will include: understanding essential information to address specific s and discerning the appropriate course of action, pinpointing key details based on pre-presented information, selecting suitable verbal expressions through both listening and observing illustrations, and choosing the correct responses by listening to short phrases, such as questions.

How is the JLPT N5 scored?

To successfully clear any JLPT exam, you must fulfill two criteria: First, your total score must meet or exceed the overall pass mark, and second, your scores in each section must meet or surpass the required points for that section (known as the "sectional pass mark"). Failing to reach the pass mark in any section results in overall exam failure, even if your total points are sufficient. For JLPT N5, the sectional pass marks are as follows: Vocabulary, grammar, and reading require 38 points while Listening requires 19 points. The overall pass mark is set at 80 points, with the maximum achievable score being 180 points.

How to register for the JLPT exam?

If you're in Japan and would like to register for the JLPT N5, you can apply online about three to four months before the scheduled exam date. You can read more about the process in our article here. If you're not in Japan, you will need to find your local test site and register with them directly. You can find a list of overseas test sites on the official JLPT website. The fee you need to pay will differ depending on location and the level you're taking.

How to prepare for the exam?

Whether you are learning Japanese at a language school, taking an online course, or self-learning, the best piece of advice I can give you to pass your JLPT N5 exam is to study, study, and study more. Do practice tests: Put the things you learn into practice. Do as many practice tests as you can get your hands on. Some free resources include the JLPT website, JLPT Sensei, Japanesetest4you, Kanji123 (focused on testing kanji), NHK Todai App. You can also buy the official practice book, which is released by the same organization that creates and administers the JLPT. Other JLPT N5 prep books, such as those created by the likes of Nihongo Sou Matome, Shin Nihongo, and TRY! will also have practice questions. Try to mimic the actual exam environment when doing practice tests.

What to expect on the day of the exam?

Before the exam day, you will receive a test voucher from the organizers. This voucher will dictate which room you're in on exam day. In the exam room, you will only be allowed your writing utensils on your desk. Normally you will only be allowed to use a pencil to record your answers. You can also have a watch, but it must be analog.

When to expect your results?

If you're taking the test in Japan, you can expect your results in about two months. You can view your results through the JLPT online portal. Those taking the exam outside of Japan can expect results in two to three months, although details will vary by country.

Good luck with the test and Arigatōgozaimasu.

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UNVEILING THE LIFE-CHANGING YEAR FELLOWSHIP

A Unique Gap Year Journey in India

By
Sanjay Kumar, PhD
Founder, Sohum
Former India Country Director, Harvard LMSAI

Sanjay Kumar

Embarking on a journey of self-discovery, grassroots experience and cultural immersion is a pivotal moment in every student's life. Not many students in India take a gap year without a solid plan. Many students take a break to prepare for JEE or NEET or to improve their marks in the 12th. Although parents, students and colleges in the west have accepted the concept of gap year, India is still not very open about it. Even though people take breaks in their careers and there are many ways to lose a year or two during our lifetime, taking a year's break post 12th to explore and understand what a student wants to do is still a big no-no in our country. One cannot deny the fact that students are constantly running as if they are on a treadmill for 12 years and they are not allowed to pause and think about their preferences in life.

I am a great proponent of gap year as a parent and as someone who is passionate about experiential learning. My son wanted to go to the US or Canada after his 12th in 2022. I got really worried when he did not get any offer from the best US colleges. I started looking at programs that could potentially support him during his gap year. I could not find any program. The only way he could have kept himself busy was by attending one of the coaching classes and preparing for JEE. He was not very keen to do that which made me more worried. I was looking for a program that could offer several learning opportunities for him and help him prepare for the next stage in life. However, he got accepted at the University of Toronto and I forgot about my struggle in finding a gap year program for him until I started my own education venture.

When I started building programs for my latest venture Sohum, this huge gap came to my mind, and I decided to start a gap year program that is the first of its kind in India. It was my own struggle as a parent that I could foresee as a big need for many fellow parents and students that I came up with led to the creation of an extraordinary gap year program in India — the Life-Changing Year Fellowship (LCYF).

After multiple years of continuous education, a one-year break after grade 12th would allow participants to understand deeper issue in the society; contribute towards the social and human development; identify their own strengths and weaknesses; find a larger purpose in life.

Life-changing year will be rewarding for:
1. Individual learning through multiple field experiences
2. Becoming a problem solver by identifying problems through internships during the immersion
3. Mastering empathy through mentoring, immersion, and cultural exposure in multiple locations
4. Understanding larger purpose in life through curated programs
5. Preparing participants for the next phase of life i.e. college or any other path they choose

Expected Outcomes of LCY

Goals	Action	Outcome
Individual learning	Immersions at the grassroots level	Understanding of real situation beyond cities and privileges
Social contribution	Internships at govt. schools, health centers etc.	Value the joy of giving and have more empathy
Problem solving	To identify problems during immersion and internships and work on their solution	Emerge as a real-life problem solver
Thought Leadership	Writing a monthly blog; participation in discussions and roundtables	Evolved critical thinking process
Finding purpose	Multiple programs to be curated in a manner to encourage them to find a larger purpose in life	To have clarity between purpose and means
Preparation for the next chapter in life	Activities and discussions to prepare candidates for college	Clarity about college life and better understanding of how to deal with studies, situations, and circumstances

The Life-Changing Year Fellowship is designed for students graduating from 12th grade in 2024. Additionally, a limited number of seats are available for undergraduates taking a gap year. The program kicks off post-board exams, commencing in April/May 2024, ensuring a smooth transition from academics to experiential learning.

A Nine-Month Journey:

From April to December 2024, this transformative experience spans nine months, providing ample time for personal development, skill enhancement, and meaningful contributions to society. Participants will conclude their journey in December 2024, equipped with not just academic certificates but a holistic understanding of the world around them.

Recognition and Endorsements:

Certificates of internships from host NGOs and Letters of Recommendation (LOR) from Sohum will be presented to students who successfully complete the program. These credentials serve as a testimony to the dedication, skills, and impact each participant brings to the program.

A Future of Possibilities:

The Life-Changing Year Fellowship is not just a gap year program; it is a catalyst for personal and societal change. By providing students with the tools to navigate a complex world, LCY prepares them to be leaders, innovators, and compassionate global citizens.

First ever experiment of transformative journey awaits a cohort of 12th graders. LCYF invites them to embrace a year of discovery, growth, and impact — a year that promises to be truly life-changing.

EMERGING GLOBAL CHANGE MAKERS '24

A RURAL SUMMER IMMERSION FOR THE TOP 100 HIGH-SCHOOLERS

LED BY HARVARD ALUMNUS DR. SANJAY KUMAR

VISION

We're on a quest to shape high schoolers into the next generation of thought leaders and change-makers through immersive, hands-on learning in Bihar's vibrant landscape!

AREAS OF FOCUS

- PUBLIC POLICY
- GOVERNANCE
- LOCAL IMMERSION
- PROBLEM SOLVING
- MENTORING
- CULTURAL EXCHANGE

PROGRAM DEADLINE

25TH First Deadline
JAN '24

20TH Second Deadline
FEB '24

APPLY NOW
FOR 9TH-12TH GRADERS

PROGRAM DATE

- **25 MAY-25 JUNE, 2024**
  1-MONTH ON GROUND IN KATIHAR, BIHAR
  2-MONTHS ONLINE DURING THE WEEKENDS

CERTIFICATION

- LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM HARVARD ALUMNUS
- CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PROGRAM FEE

1,65,000 INR

- LOGISTICS INCLUDED
  TRAVEL
  MEALS
  ACCOMMODATION (HOTELS)
  SAFETY & SUPERVISION

OUTCOMES

- ABLE TO CREATE UNIQUE COLLEGE PATHWAYS
- ABLE TO BUILD YOUR NARRATIVES UNIQUELY
- EMERGE AS A REAL-LIFE PROBLEM SOLVER
- UNDERSTANDING REAL SITUATIONS BEYOND CITIES AND PRIVILEGES
- VALUING THE JOY OF GIVING AND GAINING EMPATHY
- FINDING PURPOSE

SOHUM

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