



**OVERVIEW OF
UNIVERSITY AND CAREERS
OPTIONS AND OFFERS AVAILABLE
TO LEIPZIG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
SENIOR STUDENTS**

Handout for Parents
Tuesday 28th May 2019

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What does LIS offer students in the area of university admissions and careers support?

- Grade 10, 11 and 12 students are given detailed information on university admissions & careers by the university admissions and careers advisor.
- Grade 12 students are given targeted careers advice by the university admissions and careers advisor as well as feedback from their teachers on their academic and other strengths.
- There is active and practical assistance to Grade 12 students with their university applications.
- Grade 12 parents are invited to a parent information evening where the university admissions and careers advisor explains the various country systems and answers any questions they might have.
- The school organizes trips to the university & colleges and careers fairs as well as inviting universities and colleges to visit the school and present themselves.
- The school provides predicted grades, writes references/letters of recommendation, prepares students for interviews, creates grade transcripts.
- The advisor can and will meet with students and parents as often as they need to help facilitate the student's next steps after school.
- IBCP students work on their university applications and career choices in designated lessons.
- Grade 10 are given a presentation by Frau Elsner from the Arbeitsagentur laying out their options at the end of Grades 10 and 12.
- The school provides regular information on university admissions and careers on its website

The United Kingdom

Why:

- In English
- Some of the finest universities in the world
- Accepts the IBDP
- Study in Scotland is free for EU students (still for 2019 applicants)
- Expensive in England but loans are available for EU students (subject to Brexit agreement)

How:

- Applications through central system called UCAS, personal statement (student), reference (one of the teachers), predicted grades (all of the teachers) required.
- 4 – 5 choices possible
- Possible subject-specific admissions tests (eg. LNAT for law, UKCAT or BMAT for medicine) and/or interviews
- Universities respond with conditional offer (based on exam results), unconditional offer (fully accepted) or rejection
- Students need to select firm choice and insurance choice

When:

- By the 30th September or 6th December 2019 (UCAS: 15.10.19 application deadline for those applying to Oxford or Cambridge or for medicine, 15.01.20 for all other courses, Feb for art & music)
- Internal deadline of 06.12.2019 for all applications means less impact on studies
- Offers made either within a couple of weeks or after 15.01.19. Six weeks to make firm or insurance choice

Where:

- www.ucas.com – The central university admissions system in the UK (also has a course search that allows you to see how many IB points you need for specific courses), also provides information for students and parents on a whole range of topics related to studying in the UK
- http://www.internationalstudent.com/study_uk/ - overview of student living costs in the UK
- <http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/> - official government site for apprenticeships and vocational training
- www.unistats.com – a university and course ranking website for the UK
- www.saas.gov.uk – information on student fees for Scotland (and how to get them covered by the Scottish government)
- <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/StudentsFromOtherEUCountries/index.htm> - information on student fees in England and Wales
- <http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/> - UK Council for International Student Affairs: government body for helping foreign students study in the UK

The United States

Why:

- In English
- Some of the finest universities in the world
- Often gives credits for IBDP students
- IBDP students could get in by taking SATs (on offer six times a year)
- Expensive, but funding and scholarships are available
- Some US colleges have European campuses and some European universities have partnerships with USA (cheaper route to a US college education)

How:

- Usually individual applications to universities but over 600 colleges are using a central admissions programme called the Common Application (<https://www.commonapp.org>)
- a personal statement/motivational letter (students), one or more references (a teacher and university admissions advisor)
- predicted grades and possibly SATs/ACTs, grade transcripts & high school diploma

When:

- each university has its own application deadline but internal deadline for US is December 2019.

Where:

- www.collegeboard.com – the main website for SATs
- <https://www.act.org/> - the main website for ACTs
- www.commonapp.org – The Common Application (used by over 600 colleges)
- <http://www.internationalstudent.com/school-search/usa/> - a good search tool for US universities
- <http://www.forbes.com/top-colleges/list/> - Forbes ranking of US colleges
- www.aaicu.org – the central website for American colleges overseas
- <http://www.ordoludus.com/10.html> - overview of college tuition fees and living costs, university rankings
- <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/study-exchange/student.html> - official US State Department site for student visas
- <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>- US Department of Education college score and ranking platform
- <https://educationusa.state.gov/> - the US State Department's service for foreign students

The Netherlands

Why:

- All universities offer courses in nearly all subjects in English.
- Comparatively cheap (compared to UK or US), €2,083 a year tuition fees for EU students (more expensive for university colleges)
- Comparatively close to home for many
- IBDP accepted for all universities, often with very comfortable admissions requirements
- IGCSE students accepted at universities of applied science

How:

- Most applications go via a central application site called Studielink or directly to university. Registration on Studielink is the first step to becoming a potential student in the Netherlands
- The Netherlands has research universities, universities of applied science and university colleges (with liberal arts degrees)
- Some courses have a *numerus fixus* – Students can apply via direct placement if their grades are sufficient (39 IB points or better) or via decentralised selection through the university (the university creates its own admissions criteria)
- Personal statements and references sometimes required
- Sometimes additional admissions exams and/or interviews

When:

- Dutch universities have various application deadlines for various courses but general application deadline is 01.05.2019
- *Numerus fixus* courses have a deadline of the 15th January 2019
- Generally all applications need to be in by the 15th May 2019
- Some university colleges have an admissions deadline of 1st January 2019

Where:

- <https://www.studyinholland.nl/> – a website on applying to study in the Netherlands
- www.studielink.nl – the main Dutch universities website
- <https://www.nuffic.nl/en> - a website that explains the recognition of foreign exams.
- <http://www.study-in-holland.com/> - another website with useful information about studying in Holland
- <http://www.studyinholland.co.uk/index.html> - with comparisons between the UK and Dutch education systems
- <http://www.studieren-in-holland.de/> - information on Dutch universities in German
- www.studychoice.nl – a website on applying to study in the Netherlands
- <https://duo.nl/particulieren/international-student/drawing-lots/apply.asp> - The list of courses that require a *numerus fixus*
- <http://www.duo.nl> – the Dutch government website on higher education

Gap Year, freies (soziales/wissenschaftliches) Jahr

Why:

- A need to take a break from school, studying and learning
- Military or national service
- No clear idea of the next steps
- Student would like to see the world
- A wish to volunteer for a year
- Need to earn some money or save money before studying or training
- Need more work experience before applying to study a specific subject
- Need more qualifications before studying or training

How:

- Applying for internships, volunteer programmes, jobs, work and travel schemes.
- Might need personal statements, references etc. Gap year activities look great on an application and could well increase a student's chances of acceptance
- Applying for "deferred entry" (UK) or "deferred enrolment" US – students take a year off with their place of study already in place (eg. apply now to study in September 2020)

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When:

- Many programmes have their own deadlines but, essentially, now and all year long.

Where:

- <https://www.bundesfreiwilligendienst.de/> - the organisation that replaced the national service office in Germany. Great volunteer programmes.
- <http://www.freiwilliges-jahr.de/> - if you're interested in doing a freiwilliges soziales Jahr
- <https://www.praktikum.info/> - if you are looking for work experiences
- <http://www.asf-ev.de/de/friedensdienste/freiwilligendienst.html> - an incredible organisation that offers volunteer posts in 13 different countries
- <https://www.gapyear.com/> - if you just want to travel
- <http://www.gap-year.com/> - more info on gap years themselves (I'll also buy the book ☺)
- <http://www.vso.org.uk/> - a well-established UK volunteer organisation.
- <http://www.woof.net/> - why not get your hands dirty (literally)
- <http://www.peacecorps.gov/> - US volunteer organisation founded by Kennedy
- <http://ec.europa.eu/stages/> - internships with the EU
- <https://careers.un.org/lbw/home.aspx?viewtype=ip> – internships at the UN
- <http://www.gapforce.org> – UK gap year provider

Introduction to costs

- General – www.topuniversities.com
- United States - <http://www.ordoludus.com/10.html>
- United Kingdom - <http://www.nus.org.uk/en/news/press-releases/nus-figures-show-new-students-face-cost-of-living-crisis/> & <http://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/student-finance/how-much-does-it-cost-study-uk>
- Netherlands - http://www.studyinholland.co.uk/cost_of_living.html
- Germany - <http://www.studis-online.de/>

- The most expensive colleges in the US are so-called Ivy League colleges (Harvard, Yale etc.) whereas the cheapest colleges tend to be state universities from poorer states (eg. Mississippi or Alabama)

- State universities offer cheaper tuition to residents of the same state

- EU students studying in the England and Wales and the Netherlands are entitled to a government loan to pay for their tuition. In Scotland, the EU and Scottish students have their tuition covered by the Scottish government.*

- **Brexit has created some uncertainty as to the status of EU students in the UK and the British government has not yet given indication of fee status for EU students applying to the UK for 2019. The Scottish government has however confirmed that it will offer home fee status to EU students starting in 2019 <https://news.gov.scot/speeches-and-briefings/ministerial-statement-supporting-people-to-study-in-scotland>. There has been no announcement from the UK government concerning students starting in 2020**

- BafÖG is valid for the whole of the EU. If you qualify for Germany the money can also go to studying abroad.

- Scholarships and bursaries for the US are usually available directly from the university. In the UK they tend to be offered to students who score well academically in their first year.

*All this is subject to Brexit arrangements and may change

Useful Contacts

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