



IB CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS 2015

Chicago, IL • 23–26 July



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How to Apply to Canada, the UK and Europe

Huron Room
July 26, 2015
9:00am-10:15am



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Session Panelists

- **Andrew Arida**, Associate Registrar, Undergraduate Admissions, The University of British Columbia
- **Pam Joos**, University Counselor, Washington International School
- **Marie Vivas**, University Relations Manager, IB Americas



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Why should IB students look abroad?

- Education in a diverse community
- continued international education
- Cost
- academically focused right away
- More straightforward application process
- They love the IB!



Studying in Canada

- International Experience
- World Class Education
- Incomparable Value

10 provinces and 3 territories
Population of 34 million
Largest cities: Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver
Shares a 9,000 km border with the US
Multicultural, bilingual
90+ universities
Primarily public system
Range of sizes: 2,000 - 40,000+
International students: 200,000 full-time; 7500+ from US
Universities differ from colleges





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Big Destination for IB students

- University of Toronto (1st)
- University of British Columbia (2nd)
- McGill University (5th)
- University of Alberta (6th)
- University of Waterloo (7th)
- University of Western Ontario (8th)
- Simon Fraser University (10th)

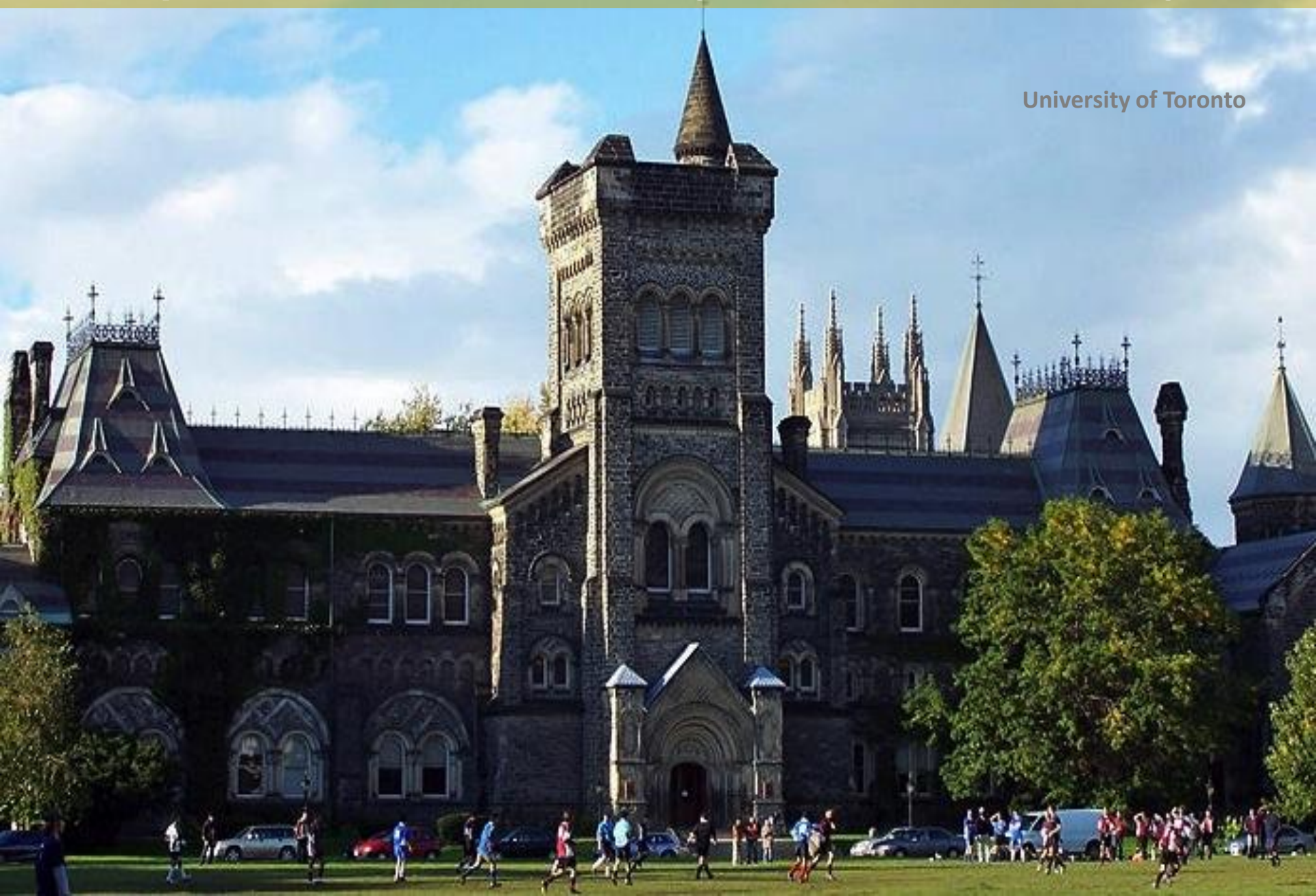
Fourteen Canadian universities are in the *Times Higher Education* ranking of the **250 best research universities in the world** (3 in top 50)

McGill University
Montreal



70+ public universities - Strong financial support from gov'n't

University of Toronto





Diverse and flexible academic curricula; **breadth, selection and interdisciplinary**

Mount Allison University
Sackville, New Brunswick

Undergrad experience: *paid* internships, research positions, study abroad, and three-year work permit in Canada after graduation



University of Calgary

Canadian university degrees will take you **anywhere you want to go**



University of British Columbia
Vancouver



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Undergraduate Admissions Process

- Focused on academic performance in secondary school
- Straightforward application process
- IB students: admission and scholarships based solely on anticipated IB Diploma scores
- Can apply to more than one faculty at many universities
- Up to a full year of credit for IB coursework
- US secondary school
 - Focus on academics : “Senior level” grades
 - Supplementary info & SATs may also be required



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Benefits of studying in England

Academic

- UK education highly regarded worldwide
- New viewpoints and perspectives with global focus

Financial

- Shorter completion time = lower tuition cost
- Work permission
- NHS health coverage
- FAFSA accepted

Career

- US employers value UK degrees and international experience
- Tier 2 Work visa (exempt from Labour market test)



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UG Study

- 3 year degrees (except Medicine & Scotland)
- Law and medicine can be a first degree
- Subject focused and more independent study
- Possible to double major & growth of liberal arts courses
- Lectures and seminars taught by full professors



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How to research universities

- UCAS (www.ucas.com)
- University websites – search should be course specific – IB course and grade requirements listed
- University rankings (Times Higher Ed & QS World University rankings)
- Contact universities with specific questions
- Make sure that student has correct IB subjects for their course

Where do you normally live?*:

Search courses available in*: Clearing 2015 2015 2016

Search by any or all of the following

Course:

Provider:

Location:

Search >

Filters

Availability

Courses open to new applicants

Single/Combined subjects

Single subject (9)

Joint subjects (1)

Combined (0)

Major with a minor subject (1)

Major with more than one minor (0)

Triple subjects (2)

Other type of combination (0)

Provider types

Universities and colleges (13)

Conservatoires (0)

How you study

Full-time (12)

Full-time with a placement (sandwich) (1)

Full-time with study abroad (0)

Flexible/Part-time study (0)

Flexible study (evenings only) (0)

Flexible study (daytime only) (0)

Flexible and full-time study (0)

Qualification level

[< Back to results](#)

Durham University



13 courses found

Single subjects

Marketing (N501) : Taught at 4 locations

Undergraduate Degree

Qualification
BA (Hons)

Duration
3 Years

Study mode
Full-time

Marketing (N501) : Taught at 4 locations

Undergraduate Degree

Qualification
BA (Hons)

Duration
4 Years

Study mode
Full-time with a placement (sandwich)

Marketing with Business Placement (N505) : Taught at 4 locations

Undergraduate Degree

Qualification
BA (Hons)

Duration
4 Years

Study mode
Full-time

Marketing with Study Abroad (N507) : Taught at 4 locations

Undergraduate Degree

Qualification
BA (Hons)

Duration
4 Years

Study mode
Full-time

Psychology (C800) : Taught at 14 locations

Undergraduate Degree

Qualification
BSc (Hons)

Duration
3 Years

Study mode
Full-time

Psychology (Applied) (C817) : Taught at 3 locations

Undergraduate Degree

Qualification
BSc (Hons)

Duration
3 Years

Study mode
Full-time

Psychology (Applied) with Foundation (C818) : Taught at 3 locations

Undergraduate Degree

Qualification
BSc (Hons)

Duration
4 Years

Study mode
Full-time

Sport, Exercise and Physical Activity (C603) : Taught at 14 locations

Undergraduate Degree

Qualification
BA (Hons)

Duration
3 Years

Study mode
Full-time



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Qualification level

Postgraduate qualification (0)

Undergraduate degree (13)

HND, DipHE or Foundation degree (0)

HNC or CertHE (0)

Foundation certificate (0)

Other qualifications (0)

BA (Hons) 3 Years Full-time

Sport, Exercise and Physical Activity with Foundation (C604) : Taught at 14 locations

Undergraduate Degree

Qualification	Duration	Study mode
BA (Hons)	4 Years	Full-time

Combined subjects

Education Studies (Psychology) (X1C8) : Taught at 14 locations

Undergraduate Degree

Qualification	Duration	Study mode
BA (Hons)	3 Years	Full-time

Natural Sciences (CFG0) : Taught at 14 locations

Undergraduate Degree

Qualification	Duration	Study mode
BSc (Hons)	3 Years	Full-time

Natural Sciences - Psychology (CFG0) : Taught at 14 locations

Undergraduate Degree

Qualification	Duration	Study mode
BSc (Hons)	3 Years	Full-time

Philosophy and Psychology (CV85) : Taught at 14 locations

Undergraduate Degree

Qualification	Duration	Study mode
BA (Hons)	3 Years	Full-time



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How to apply

- Online application – UCAS or Common App
- Up to 5 choices – choose wisely based on IB predictions – need to pick courses that are related – ONE essay only
- 15th January deadline
- 15th October for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry
- Conditional & unconditional
- Firm & Insurance (UCAS)



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Advice on predictions

- Check in with IB teacher - encourage dialog between student and teacher
- Base it on work so far – IAs, orals, etc
- Optimistic score is okay – student has to achieve the result
- Take into account potential and desire – WIS students who need the IB score +4 more than those who don't



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Applying to highly selective universities

- Predicted grades – IB
- Can submit SAT, AP scores, but not required
- Some unis ask for a HS transcript, but most don't
- Additional tests where applicable - BMAT, UKCAT, LNAT, MAT
- Interviews where applicable



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Application advice – personal statement

- Why have you chosen the course?
- Interest through IB classes or outside the classroom? Be specific about papers – EE, TOK, IAs that relate to chosen course
- Relevant courses, summer schools, work experience
- Career aspirations
- Volunteering & mentoring, social, sporting & musical interest and achievements
- Potential to contribute to academic course & university life



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Application advice – reference letter

- Much like the personal statement, reference should focus on the student's interest in the course
- At WIS - counselor writes the letter – drawing from subjects that relate to chosen course
- Example – engineering – focus on math, physics, chemistry
- Extracurricular interests of student – focus on ones that support their course



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FAQ

- I have a British passport do I qualify for home tuition?
- Will my UK degree be recognised in the US?
- Can I transfer?



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Applying in Europe

- Many more programs taught in English – increasing every year
- Varied curricular offering – some very focused universities and some more like a US model where students take lots of subjects
- Can be useful to have SAT scores on top of the IB
- Use IB high school in the country of interest as a resource
- IBO website has recognition policies, general info on IB requirements by country



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Why study in Europe?

- **Quality**
 - Excellence - Quality assured - Value for money - Lasting legacy
- **Diversity**
 - Choice - Tradition and innovation - Multicultural
- **Opportunity**
 - World-renowned - Opening doors - Portable skills - Springboard for your travels
- **Global Focus**



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The Bologna Process

Towards the European Higher Education Area

- Creating the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)
- Based on cooperation between ministries, higher education institutions, students and staff from 46 countries
- Participation of international organisations.

The three priorities of the Bologna process are:

- Introduction of the three cycle system (bachelor/master/doctorate)
- Quality assurance
- Recognition of qualifications and periods of study



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Participating countries

 Albania	 Germany	 Poland
 Andorra	 Greece	 Portugal
 Armenia	 Holy See	 Romania
 Austria	 Hungary	 Russian Federation
 Azerbaijan	 Iceland	 Serbia
 Belgium	 Ireland	 Slovak Republic
 Bosnia-Herzegovina	 Italy	 Slovenia
 Bulgaria	 Latvia	 Spain
 Croatia	 Liechtenstein	 Sweden
 Cyprus	 Lithuania	 Switzerland
 Czech Republic	 Luxembourg	 Former Yugoslavia
 Denmark	 Malta	 Turkey
 Estonia	 Moldova	 Ukraine
 Finland	 Montenegro	 United Kingdom
 France	 Netherlands	
 Georgia	 Norway	



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European Higher Education

- 4,000 higher education institutions
- over 19 million students
- 1.5 million staff



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Characteristics European higher education

- Long tradition in education
- Intellectually exciting learning environment
- 3- or 4-year Bachelor's programmes
- 1- or 2-year Master's
- Research (classical) Universities ↔ Universities of Applied Sciences
- European experience well beyond classroom to incorporate campus life and activities.
- Many variations in schools from location to size to academic format



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Structure European Higher Education

- Entrance to a particular course of study
- Major right from the start
- Attendance classes; class discussions; group assignments, and substantial amounts of reading, writing and other work
- Grades: a combination of assignments and class participation, as well as final examination
- ECTS system (European grading system)
- Close relationship with faculty
- In Europe, campuses are quite small compared to US campuses
- Sports not a main issue in Europe



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Admission requirements

- Admission requirements may differ per institution
- In most cases: proof of academic qualifications and language proficiency. IELTS and TOEFL commonly accepted
- Most countries have their own education website



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Academic Calendar / payment

- 9-month academic year, from September to May/June in either:
 - Two semesters of equal length
 - Three trimesters of equal length
- During the summer, June through August, most students are on break and not taking classes. However, re-sits usually take place in summer
- Tuition fee is usually much lower than in the US
- Student bills are to be paid at the beginning of each academic term
- Payment option in instalments



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Interesting websites

- Study in Europe: www.study-in-europe.org
- European University Association: <http://www.eua.be/>
- Bologna process:
<http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/>



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Germany – University Education

THE NEW GERMAN SYSTEM

- Bachelor's (3 years)
- Master's (1 or 2 years)
- Doctorate (3 to 5 years / research-based)

CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE DUE TO THE
BOLOGNA AGREEMENT



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Admission Criteria

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Secondary school leaving certificate
- Higher Education Entrance Qualification (EU vs non-EU)



ADMISSION DATA BASE – www.daad.de



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Admission Criteria

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

- First language
- Second language
- Mathematics – no math studies
- Natural sciences – no environmental systems
- Social sciences
- Optional (must be a natural science or a social science)

Final score minimum 32 from 42
Three higher levels with one in either Math or Science



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Admission Criteria – Other Systems

FESTSTELLUNGSPRUEFUNG

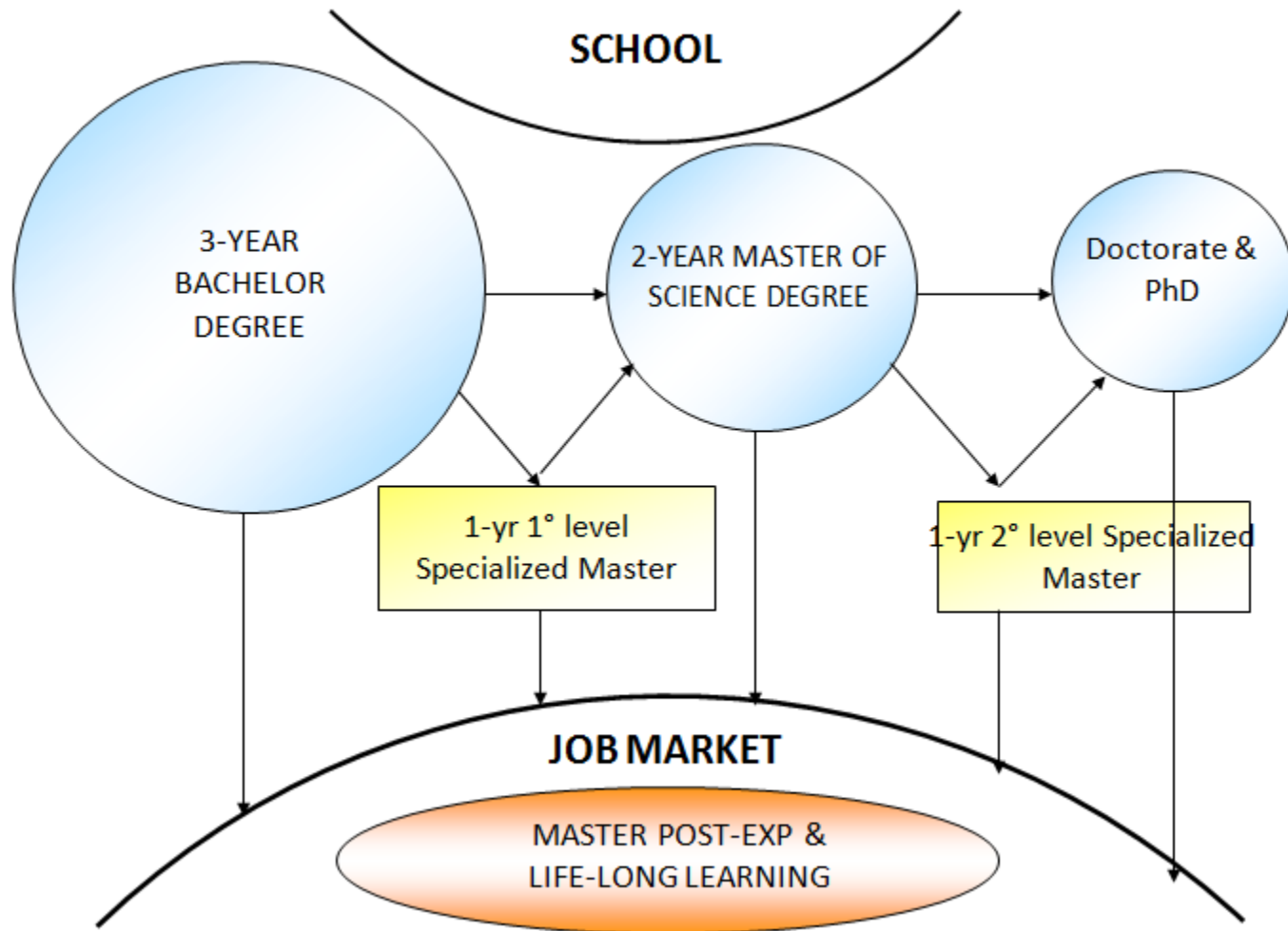
- Studienkolleg
- University studies in home country
- Proof of German proficiency test DSH or DAF





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The Italian Education System





Italy – Admissions Requirements

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- 12 Years Education
- IB Diploma fully accepted
- US Diploma:
Bocconi: + 5APs + SAT/ACT;
Italian unis: + 1 year College + 4APs



www.study-in-italy.it



Dutch Universities

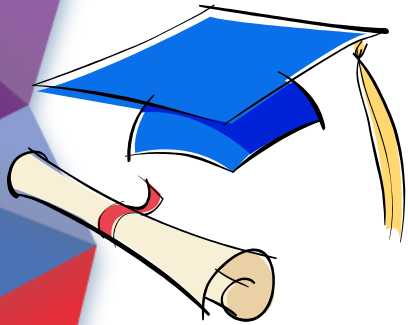
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PhD

Master's programme
at Dutch Universities

Master's programme
outside the
Netherlands

Master's in
Research



Bachelor's programme





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General Admission Requirements

- International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma
- European Baccalaureate (EB) diploma
- (Western European) secondary school diploma that equals the Dutch VWO diploma such as Abitur, Lycée Français, etc.
- 4 Advanced Placement subjects
- A + O levels (3 A-levels)
- Any other secondary or high school diploma plus one or two years of university education



In addition, specific admission requirements may apply per different program.

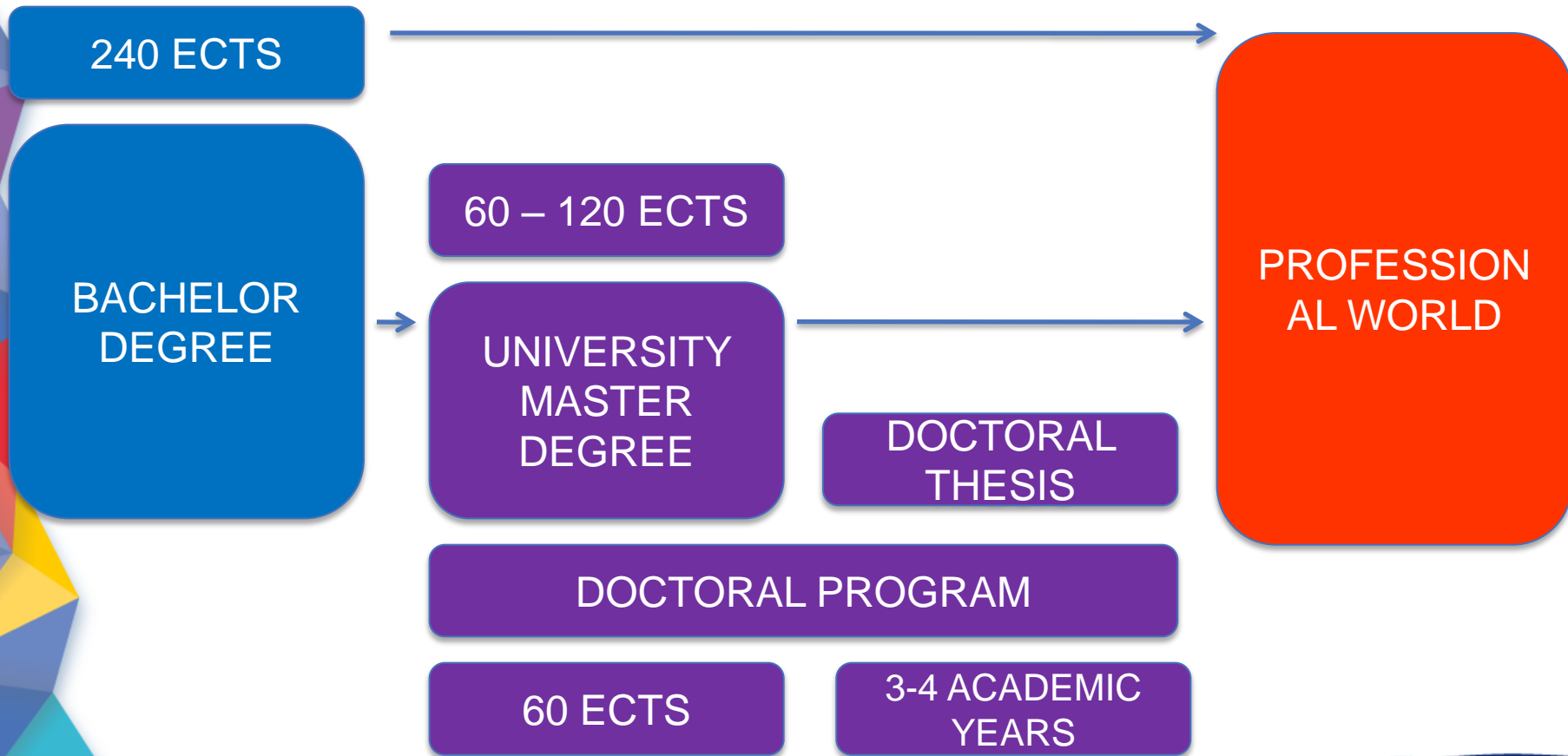
www.studyin.nl



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Spanish Higher Education System



A collage of various student activities including working at computers, in a lab, in a classroom, and in a meeting. A central white card with a black binder clip is attached to the collage.

Admissions Requirements

Explore
Innovate
Create

Spanish Ministry of Education requires:

Spanish HSD and university access exams

Equivalent within the EU: Abitur, A-Levels, Bac etc.

IB Diploma

Bi-lateral agreement with Switzerland, China, Liechtenstein and Norway

Transfer in 30 university credits



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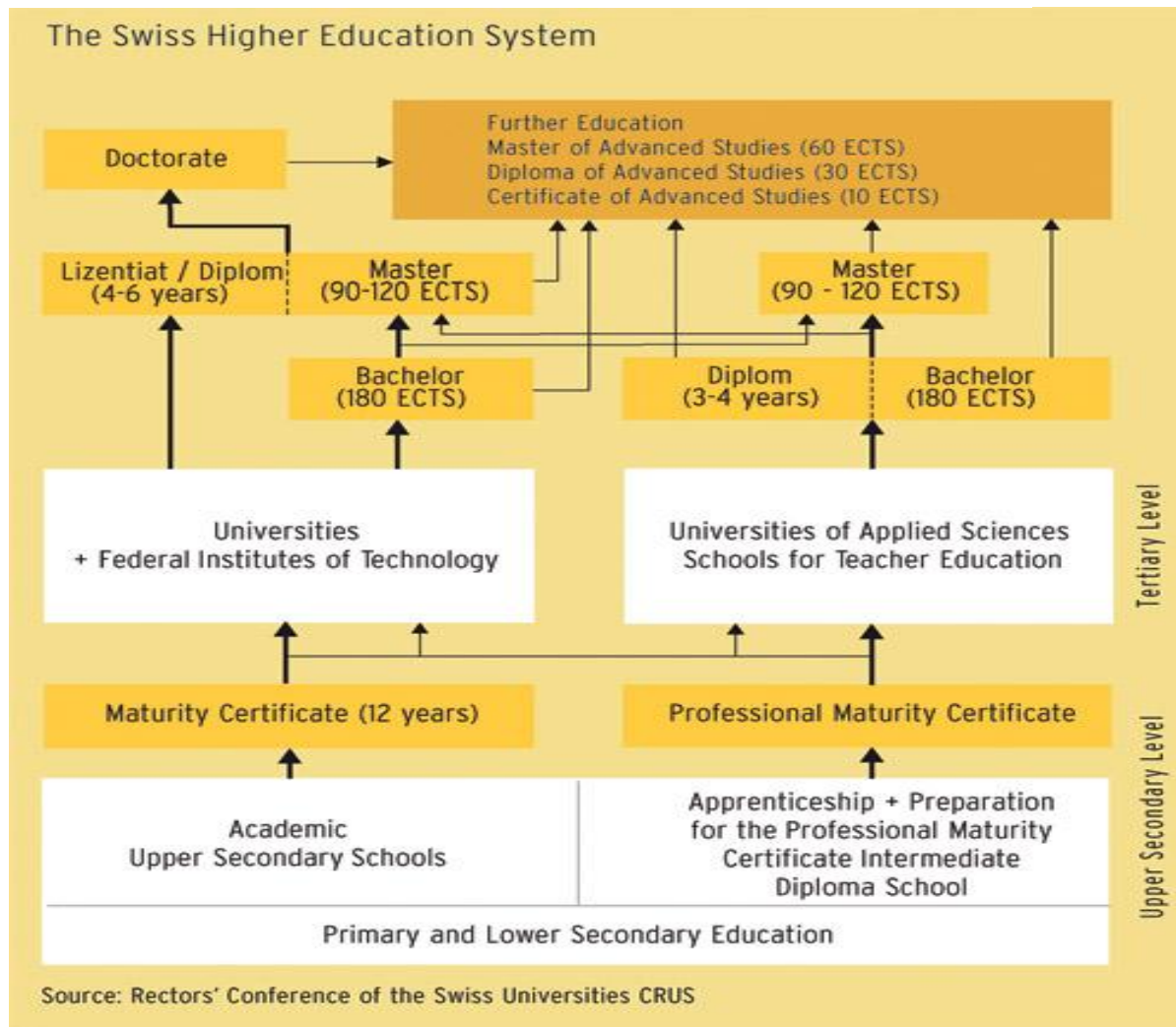
Study in Spain – Useful Links

- MEC: www.educacion.es
- Fundación Universidades: www.universidad.es
- Universia: www.universia.es
- Eduespaña: www.eduespa.org



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Swiss Education System





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General Conditions for Entrance to Swiss Universities

- 1.) First Language (mother tongue)
 - 2.) Second Language (must take German, French or Italian entry test)
 - 3.) Mathematics -higher level/standard level (NO Math Studies)
 - 4.) Natural Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, NO Environmental Systems)
 - 5.) Social Sciences (Geography, History, Economics)
 - 6.) Additional Subject within the Social Sciences, Natural Sciences or Languages
- Majority require final score of 32 out of 42 without bonus points
 - Three subjects must be at the HL, one of which must be Math or Natural Science
 - Requirements can vary from university to university



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Important Websites / Resources

- Conférence des Recteurs des Universités Suisses (CRUS)
- www.crus.ch
German, French with Italian and English
- The Swiss Education Server
- www.educa.ch
Available in German, French, Italian, Romansch and English