IB CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS 2014
WASHINGTON, DC • 10–13 JULY
How to Apply to Canada, the UK and Europe
Session Panelists

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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
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)
70+ public universities - Strong financial support from govn’t
Diverse and flexible academic curricula; breadth, selection and interdisciplinary
Undergrad experience: paid internships, research positions, study abroad, and three-year work permit in Canada after graduation.
Canadian university degrees will take you anywhere you want to go.
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
• 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
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)
Differences

- Suitability for program based on academic background
- Independent study
- Greater subject knowledge
- Law & Medicine UG programmes
How to research universities

• British Council (www.britishcouncil.org/usa.htm)
• UCAS (www.ucas.com)
• University rankings (QS World University rankings)
• University websites - Start with your international student section and your country page
• Contact universities with specific questions
UG Study

- Three Years (except Medicine)
- Subject focused
- Possible to study double major
- No summer study
- Lectures and seminars
Undergraduate Applications

- Online application – UCAS or Common App
- Up to 5 choices
- 15\textsuperscript{th} January deadline
  (15\textsuperscript{th} October for Medicine, Dentistry)
- Personal information, academic background, choices, reference
- Personal statement
- Conditional & unconditional
- Firm & Insurance (UCAS)
Applying to highly selective universities

- Predicted grades – IB, SAT, AP, French Bac
- Proven academic record
- Additional tests where applicable - BMAT, UKCAT, LNAT, MAT
- Reference
- Personal Statement – the right balance and focus
- Interviews where applicable
FAQ

• I have a British passport do I qualify for home tuition?
• Will my UK degree be recognised in the US?
• Can I transfer?
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**
European Higher Education

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