

**THE COMPLETE PARENT'S GUIDE TO
TOP US & UK
UNIVERSITIES**

GET YOUR CHILD INTO HARVARD OR OXFORD

A CRIMSON EDUCATION PUBLICATION

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Introduction



Competition for spots at the top-ranked universities intensifies every year as more people realise the power of a degree from world class education institutions in the US and UK.

Now more than ever before, universities in the US and UK welcome applications from international students and value the perspectives and experiences they will bring to their new academic communities.

Most countries use national exams or university entrance exams to dictate university admissions, with little else required. However, US and UK admissions officers go beyond determining your child's academic readiness to identify how they will contribute to the whole college community. This is a big adjustment for students from countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, where the university systems emphasise grades above all else.

It's important that parents understand why the US and UK admissions processes are so different from those of other countries and how it affects your child's application, what additional information international applicants need to provide to colleges, and how admissions officers respond to applications from international students.

If you live in the US or UK, you already have a world class university system at your doorstep. But given how different higher education is across these two leading global study destinations, is a domestic university right for your child?

From choosing a study destination to financing your child's education, this eBook covers it all. By the time you've finished reading, you'll have everything you need to guide and support your child as they navigate the weird and wonderful world of US and UK university admissions.

02

The Value of Studying Abroad



The ultimate study destinations: The US and the UK

If you've done any research into top universities, you'll know there are two big players in the field of global elite education: the US and the UK.

These countries dominate the global university rankings, but that's where the comparisons end!

The most obvious contrast is their teaching styles; the UK offers a depth in knowledge while the US offers breadth and flexibility.

Knowing your child's suitability for each system will help decide where to apply, which we'll delve into later on.

First, you need to learn a bit more about these two dream study destinations.

Both countries have an elite league of schools with the US boasting the Ivy League, and the UK housing the famous Oxbridge.

THE IVY LEAGUE (US)

- + Brown University
- + Columbia University
- + Cornell University
- + Dartmouth College
- + Harvard University
- + University of Pennsylvania
- + Princeton University
- + Yale University

OXBRIDGE (UK)

- + University of Cambridge
 - + University of Oxford
-

But these aren't the only elite universities in these two regions. In fact, many US colleges outside of the Ivy League are considered just as good (if not better!), namely Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Stanford University, which are the number one and two universities in the world according to the [2018 QS World University Rankings](#).

In the UK, there's the Russell Group, which consists of 24 prestigious institutions, including the highly ranked University College London (UCL), King's College London (KCL), London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and Imperial College London.

If your child is lucky enough to gain admission into one of these universities, they'll be rubbing shoulders with the future business and political leaders of the world.

Seriously! Just take a look at these stats:

Of the UK's **56** Prime Ministers, **42** studied at an Oxbridge college.

In CNN's top **100** startups list, **34** of the CEOs went to Harvard.

Of the **113** Supreme Court Justices, **40%** attended an Ivy League university. The nine current serving Justices all went to an Ivy League.

The reason these universities are so good at nurturing and developing future leaders is because they admit students based on more than just academics.

Once admitted, top tier universities take time to support student development beyond the classroom, teaching real life, tangible skills such as leadership, public speaking, empathy, creative thinking and flexibility.

This gives students at elite universities a distinct advantage, not only in their own personal development, but for the fact that they gain access to a **powerful alumni network**.

When you look at the pay gap between the graduates of these elite universities and the average income, the advantage becomes even more obvious.

A [study conducted by the US Department of Education](#) in 2015 revealed that a decade after enrolling in a four-year college degree, the average income of a typical graduate is \$40,500 USD a year. Now let's compare that to the average Ivy League graduate's salary:

IVY LEAGUE UNIVERSITY	AVERAGE GRADUATE INCOME
Harvard University	\$87,000 USD a year
Princeton University	\$77,900 USD a year
University of Pennsylvania	\$79,700 USD a year
Yale University	\$74,200 USD a year
Columbia University	\$75,200 USD a year
Cornell University	\$72,100 USD a year
Dartmouth College	\$67,800 USD a year
Brown University	\$59,700 USD a year

Pretty big difference, right?

At the very least an Ivy graduate will receive on average \$19,200 USD more than the standard university graduate. While at the widest range, an Ivy League degree holder can earn more than double the average income of their non-Ivy degree holding counterpart.

Benefits like these are the reason why top US and UK university admissions have become even more competitive in recent years.

The number of applicants to the world's best universities has risen across the board, but the acceptance rates are only getting smaller.

Take a look:

UNIVERSITY	APPLICANTS		ADMISSION RATE	
	2007	2017	2007	2017
Harvard	20,986	39,506	9.8%	5.2%
Yale	17,731	32,900	11.4%	6.3%
Stanford	19,000	42,497	12.1%	4.8%
Oxford	13,639	19,144	23.2%	17.5%

With unprecedented numbers of applicants, admissions offices at these colleges had to rethink the way they admit students, since they couldn't distinguish between them on academics alone. This resulted in a major change to the admissions process.

Universities today – particularly in the US – are not just interested in what students achieve *inside* the classroom, but what they achieve *outside* of it.

This shift in approach is explained in the Harvard University report, [*Turning the Tide: Inspiring Concern For Others And The Common Good Through College Admissions*](#), which was created in cooperation with admissions offices at more than 50 top-ranked US universities.

If your child is interested in studying in the US, we recommend that you read the report, as it provides great insights into how the admissions process is changing to focus on:

- + Promoting more meaningful contributions toward people, community service, and engagement with the public good.
- + Assessing students' ethical engagement and contributions to others in ways that reflect varying types of family and community contributions across race, culture and class.
- + Redefining achievement in ways that both level the playing field for economically diverse students and reduce excessive achievement pressure.

US universities truly consider the “complete package”, looking for evidence of passion, initiative and a strong sense of purpose as well as intellectual ability, and your child will have plenty of opportunities to display these traits on their application.

Your child's extracurricular activities, essays, reference letters and interviews should come together to tell a coherent and compelling story of who they are and what they are capable of bringing to the college.

UK universities are more traditional and less concerned with a student's non-academic pursuits, but they do want to see evidence of passion and gain an insight into the “human” qualities of prospective students, which your child can convey in their application essay, reference letter and interview.

Obviously, the differences can make choosing between the US and UK for university pretty tough, but each system offers an exceptional learning experience in its own way.

Though undeniably the US has more variety and flexibility (not to mention just having more universities to apply to), the UK has many strong points, especially for students who already have an idea of what they would like to study.

Whether one system is better than the other will depend on your child. More on this in **Chapter 4**.

What a world class education can do for your child

As we've already touched upon, there are a number of benefits to getting a world class university degree. The best institutions in the world offer much more than just the ability to:

- + Get a job
- + Keep a job
- + Make more money

What separates the standard education from a world class education is the ease in which you are able to achieve these three things. Top universities have more resources, bigger networks and better connections, which translates to your child having **more opportunities**.

Let's say your child dreams of working at Goldman Sachs. Attending a top US or UK college will give them the best chance of making that dream come true.

Global powerhouses like Goldman Sachs understand that the best universities house the brightest students, so more often than not they'll cut out the middleman and hire directly from the source.

For example, at University of Pennsylvania, an Ivy League college known for its strong focus on financial services careers and prestigious Wharton School, around 25 students are hired by Goldman Sachs each year in what is part of a mutual "feeding" arrangement.

In fact, UPenn has more alumni working on Wall Street than any other university! Its finance and economics programs are so highly regarded that industry leading firms literally fight for graduate hires.

Without a degree from such a well-connected university, your child's chances of getting a job with a top global firm are much slimmer, particularly in highly competitive fields such as finance, law and consulting. In many cases, the only way to hear about graduate jobs is through one of these "feeder schools".

Now, let's go beyond graduate employability and career prospects, and consider some of the more sentimental reasons your child might consider going overseas for university. These include:

1. To gain independence

Studying abroad offers students time to develop into their own; time to mature and grow not only as people, but as global citizens, too. Travelling will help your child build confidence, independence, strength, determination and respect for themselves and the world around them.

2. To learn about other cultures

The best universities attract students from all over the world. Your child will be introduced to a variety of people, cultures and traditions that will enhance their global perspective.

3. To experience the perks of cheap(er) student travel (two birds, one stone!)

As an international student, your child will get to experience another country on a "budget". They'll get access to discounted flights, meals, movies, museums and shows among other things. This especially applies if your child chooses to study in the UK, where so many other countries are just a short trip away.

4. To establish a global network of friends

Not only will your child make lifelong friends at university, they'll also be rubbing shoulders with the future movers and shakers of the world!

03

Common Parent Concerns



As a parent, it's natural for you to be worried about sending your child abroad for university.

Of course, you're going to worry about whether they'll eat well, what their living situation will be like and if you've prepared them well enough to live on their own.

But, before your child ever leaves for college overseas, you're bound to have a flurry of concerns about applying to these universities.

More specifically:

1. Is your child a good candidate for overseas universities?
2. How will the application process impact your child's current schooling?
3. And, the biggest question of them all, can you actually afford to send your child to an overseas university?

Time to calm your fears!

Is your child a good candidate for overseas universities?

Here's the deal, is your child enrolled in high school?

Yes?

Great. Then he or she is good enough to go to an overseas university!

With over 4,000 universities in the US and over 100 in the UK, your child is bound to be good enough for at least one of them.

But you're probably really wondering whether your child has the potential to get into a top US or UK university, à la Harvard or Oxford, right?

In that case, it depends.

Obviously, not all students are “smart” enough to get into Harvard or Oxford, but perfect grades won’t necessarily get you in, either.

Remember what we talked about earlier? Yep, unlike most university systems, academics aren’t everything.

So what exactly does your child need to do to get into the best universities overseas?

Well, for **US universities**, your child needs great academics, strong extracurricular activity involvement and leadership skills.

For **UK universities**, your child needs great academics and should already have a pretty solid knowledge base in the field they intend to study. Extracurricular activities are an asset here, too, but only if they’re relevant to the course.

But before we look further into each of these study options, let’s work out whether going to university in the US or UK is right for your child. They could actually be better off staying at home!

First up, **Aussie and Kiwi parents**.

If your child is set on studying law or medicine and has top grades, going to university locally is an excellent choice because they will have a shot at the top courses at the top institutions. In other words, they get access to the best tertiary education your country has to offer, and that’s certainly nothing to scoff at!

However, if your child is choosing to go into law or medicine *because* they’re a top student and they don’t see any other respectable degree choice, but they actually have *other* interests, then they are very likely an excellent candidate for top-ranked universities overseas!

The key point we’re trying to communicate here is that **the highest performing students shouldn’t go into law and medicine just because they can**. If they are qualified for the most selective courses locally, then they are probably **very qualified** for the most selective courses overseas.

Why limit your child to **law or medicine** just because he or she is smart?

The whole world is at their fingertips!

Now let’s apply this example to the UK. **British parents**, listen up!

In the UK, the smartest students will almost always apply to Oxbridge because it's the "done thing". If your child is Oxford or Cambridge material, i.e. exceptionally bright, then the expectation is that they will take this path.

But, while they are two of the world's best universities, Oxford and Cambridge (and other elite UK universities for that matter) aren't necessarily the right environment for your child.

Here's why:

UK universities expect applicants to be sure about their career path and highly knowledgeable in their chosen subject before they even enroll in the degree. The problem is, not every smart student has a clear idea of what they want to study and forcing them to choose too young can result in them pursuing a career path that's not the best for them.

Many British students fall into this trap.

If you think this could be where your child is heading, perhaps they would be better off studying in the US.

At a US college, your child can explore many different subjects before they are required to settle on one (or a few) to major in.

This is what's known as a **liberal arts education**. (More on this later.)

Still not sure which system is right for your child?

Here we have three animated volunteers who will help you to understand the types of students who go to the US and UK for university. See if you can identify your child in one of them.

Meet John, Lizzie and Peter:



John excels in school and maths in particular, which he loves. He partakes in maths Olympiads and has won multiple national and international competitions. John is set on studying maths at university and one day wants to be a maths professor.



Lizzie has always performed well academically and achieved near-perfect results in her high school exams. However, she's never excelled in one subject in particular. She enjoys English but taught herself how to code and recently built an app to help kids find babysitting jobs.



Peter has absolutely no idea what he wants to study at university but he wants to have a fun experience and get to know himself and his interests better.

Let's put your skills to the test!

Which one of these students do you think is the **best fit for UK universities?**

If you said John, you're right!

John is just what top UK universities are looking for. He's very dedicated to one subject and is ready to show his expertise to the admissions officers.

Which student is the **best fit for US universities?**

Trick question!

Both Lizzie *and* Peter are suited to the US education system!

Lizzie's wide range of passions and great extracurricular and leadership skills (as well as her impressive grades) make her a strong candidate for the Ivy Leagues and other highly selective colleges.

While Peter's free spirit might not get him into a top 10 US university, his willingness to explore new things means he'll flourish in a liberal arts degree, where he'll take classes in a wide variety of subjects.

How will the application process impact your child's current schooling?

One of the scariest parts of deciding to apply to university overseas is how much time it takes to get your child ready and to perfect each application on top of their already hectic schedule.

Between homework, exam prep and extracurricular activities, applying to university overseas can seem like an unnecessary headache.

Why spend so much time and money on pursuing an overseas education when your local options are great?

What if your child's grades suffer because of how much time they are dedicating to overseas applications?

Not okay.

Well, one thing you should know is that the application process is designed to be a **marathon, not a sprint**.

The earlier your child begins preparing for the overseas applications, the less it will impact their life and affect their schooling.

By spreading out the workload over three to four years, your child can maintain a healthy lifestyle, reduce stress and minimise risk from an application strategy point of view.

On the other hand, if your child starts thinking about overseas universities in their second to last or last year of high school, they'll need to put in a lot more work in a short period of time.

If you're wondering why your child should do any of this if they can just go to a top local university, then listen up.

As mentioned above, a local university – even a top one – may not be the best fit for your child. Plus, there’s a **huge difference** between a top university in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore or Thailand and a top US or UK university.

Take a look at the QS World University Rankings:

Of the top 10 universities in the world, there are five US universities, four UK universities and one Swiss university.

The first Australian university is ranked 20th and the first New Zealand university doesn’t appear until slot 82!

So, what do these rankings mean?

Well, at a top US or UK university, your child will:

- + Have access to more resources and better facilities
- + Be taught by Nobel Prize laureates
- + Network with the brightest students in the world
- + Increase their chances of getting hired (and earning more)

Your child deserves the best education, and the **best education in the world is provided in the US and UK.**

So believe us when we say that your hard work and preparation will pay off in the long run.

Can you afford to send your child overseas?

It probably comes as no surprise to you that going overseas for university can be more expensive than staying local.

Point blank.

But don’t fear, **financial aid** is here!

Overseas universities are like cars; the sticker price is almost never the price you actually end up paying.

In fact, in some cases, going overseas can actually end up being *cheaper*.

No, really!

As a **New Zealand resident** studying in NZ, your child's tuition (as a full-fee paying student) will be around \$5,531-\$8,002 NZD a year.

As an **Australian resident** studying in Australia, tuition (as a full-fee paying student) will be about \$6,526-\$10,440 AUD a year.

If your child is a **UK resident** studying in the UK, their tuition will be £9,250 a year.

If they are a **US resident** studying in the US, their tuition fees will vary dramatically depending on a number of factors.

All of these numbers seem fairly reasonable, right?

Now, let's take a look at what the costs are for **international students** at US and UK universities.

As an international student (i.e. not an EU or UK resident) studying in the UK, your child's tuition will range from £9,700-£50,130 a year.

As an international student studying in the US, you're looking at \$14,400-\$54,347 USD a year.

P.S. None of the figures above include rent or any other living expenses.

Needless to say, being an international student is expensive.

But, don't run towards your local universities just yet! **There are ways to make studying abroad more affordable.**

While UK universities are almost never going to be cheaper than a local option, there are a few scholarships available.

If your child is looking to study in the US, you're in luck. These universities are a lot more generous with their financial aid!

Many US colleges (especially the Ivies), make sure that **cost is not an obstacle** for your family.

Basically, if your child gets into Harvard (or most other Ivies), they will do everything they can to make sure you can afford to actually send your child there.

So, if your child is set on studying abroad but the cost is keeping you up at night, you should encourage them to look at US options.

And whatever you do end up paying for your child's world class education, keep in mind that your ROI (return on investment) will be huge!

More on beating the cost of studying abroad in **Chapter 6**.

04

Investigating the Overseas Study Options



Choosing the right study destination: Is your child best suited to the US or the UK?

As you now know, the US and UK education systems differ dramatically. It's important to understand the pros and cons of each in order to help your child choose the right system for them.

US Education System

As previously mentioned, the US provides more breadth in their education. There's more variety and flexibility with courses than in the UK.

This is largely due to the liberal arts degrees on offer at most top US colleges. Liberal arts emphasises general knowledge and developing broad intellectual capacities.

According to Ivy League college, Yale, the aim of the liberal arts degree is to liberate or free the mind "to its fullest potential".

Liberal arts courses are interdisciplinary and cover a range of topics, allowing student to explore different academic avenues, broadening their knowledge and uncovering hidden passions before deciding on a major.

It's not until their third year (or fourth at some colleges) that liberal arts students are required to specialise.

UK Education System

The UK doesn't offer any such liberal learning program; rather it places more emphasis on in-depth knowledge of a specific major. As you can already tell, the UK is perfect for those who are confident with what they wish to study.

Despite its more rigid approach to education, the UK system, more specifically, the Oxbridge system, has one big advantage over its US counterpart: the tutorial system.

These are small groupings that take place at least once a week with a tutor (an academic employed by the university and often a leading expert in your child's chosen subject).

More attention and contact time means personalised support and an enhanced learning experience for your child. Plus, they'll always have someone holding them accountable!

If your child is confident of the field they wish to pursue beyond high school, the UK would be the place for them.

However, if they're still unsure about the major they wish to pursue, the US system might be the better destination.

Identifying your child's best-fit universities: Where should your child apply?

There are many aspects to consider beyond just the education system within which they operate. There is an art to choosing the perfect university.

While there are countless universities that are well regarded, there may only be one best-fit college for your child.

You might be tempted to focus on the universities that are known and respected in your home country or whose name includes a state or city you're familiar with. However, this can lead to your child applying only to extremely selective universities.

Choosing the right one is not simply a matter of choosing "the best" college according to the rankings. It could never be that simple.

Your child's time at university will be spent during some of the most important years of their life; formative years where they transition from teenagehood to adulthood.

For this reason, rankings should be simply be a guiding factor when it comes to university selection. More importance should be placed on aspects such as campus culture, alumni networks, extracurricular groups and clubs, location and courses offered.

Restricting your child to the "best" universities as defined by arbitrary rankings could be the biggest mistake you ever make. You need to consider universities based on their suitability for your child and their future, not just based on their reputation.

The best university for your child is the one that meets their requirements – academic, financial and personal.

When researching potential universities, help your child split selections into three categories:

Dream universities:

These are the universities at the top of your pile. The creme de la creme. The cherries on top. The Ivy Leagues and the Oxbridges. If your child gets accepted it will be a dream come true, but they should not be disappointed if they're not.

*Choose **3-7** dream universities.*

Realistic universities:

These are the universities that have a history of admitting applicants of a similar standard to you. These are the universities your child should spend the most time researching and aligning to their values. They'll give your child the education most suited to them.

*Choose **3-5** realistic universities.*

Backup universities:

Generally, these are the universities your child is likely to get accepted to if they put their best foot forward. However, this is not to say they need to be of a lower standard than the dream and realistic universities. It just means if something goes wrong when applying for the realistic schools, your child will still get the highly quality education they're after.

*Choose **1-3** backup universities.*

How to choose a US university

There are over 4,000 colleges and universities in the US and each one has its own unique flair. Luckily, there are ways to categorise these universities in order to help organise them.

The four major types of US universities are:

1. Ivy League Universities
2. Private Research Universities
3. Liberal Arts Colleges
4. State (Public) Universities

Keep in mind that these are broad categorisations. You might find that some universities fall into two categories, while others may not fit into any!

It's also important not to limit your child to one type of university due to status or reputation.

Obviously, it's the Ivy Leagues that hold the most prestige in the US. However, they certainly aren't for everyone. Many students find the expectations placed on them at an Ivy League college to be too overwhelming. In instances such as this, a large, public college might actually be a better fit and allow the student to prosper.

Once again, it all depends on the student.

When working with your child to select a US college, start by narrowing your selection down to a list of 10. Try to add a few public universities, a couple of Ivy Leagues and a liberal arts college.

There's no harm in applying to all of them (as long as you can afford the application fees). In the US there is no limit on the amount of colleges you can apply for.

How to choose a UK university

Selecting a UK university is a little more complex as there are many more restrictions in place. While we still recommend students take time to choose dream, realistic and backup universities, they'll need to be more strict with the refining process.

This is because in the UK, the UCAS application limits students to a maximum of five universities.

There's a limit of four universities if your child is looking to apply to medical courses (medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, or veterinary science). If your child wants to apply to a fifth university, they'll need to pick a different course.

And possibly the most annoying restriction of them all, students can't apply to both Oxford and Cambridge in one cycle, meaning your child will have to wait until the next application cycle if they wish to apply to the other.

But don't stress, because there are plenty of other top universities in the UK, including all the Russell Group institutions, which pride themselves on creating unrivalled links with business and the public sector. So it's not all bad!

While your child can apply to up to five universities in multiple subject categories, we recommend picking just one focus area. If your child chooses too many different courses, it will be a problem when writing their personal statement.

Here's a step by step guide to help you and your child navigate the university selection process for both the US and the UK:

1. Ensure they offer the right degree

When assessing and selecting universities with your child, the first step should be to make sure they offer the right degree. There's no point applying to a university that doesn't offer what your child wants.

2. Learn about location and campus culture

Once you've decided on the course, we suggest researching the university's location and culture. This will be your child's home for the next 3-5 years, so you want to make sure it's a nice, safe and fun location. You want your child to have a good time, after all!

3. Review class sizes, rankings, subject specialisations, and graduate employability

Once you've ticked the first two boxes, it's time to take a look at the rankings and standings. There's so much information out there about universities, so try to refine it to information that will affect your child and their quality of education. Class sizes, teacher-student ratio, subject and school rankings, subject specialisations and graduate employability. These are all crucial to the future success of your child.

If a university ticks all of these boxes, place it in the "yes" pile!

However, if a university only manages to tick some of the boxes, don't be so quick to toss it aside. Place it in the "maybe" pile and revisit it when refining the list.

If it becomes apparent the university is not going to work for your child, whack it straight in the "no" pile.

Remember, while a top education is ideal, it won't be so great if your child isn't happy at their new university. Regardless of what the rankings suggest, a perfect college for your child can only be determined by them!

05

Supporting Your Child in the Application Process

Breakdown of US and UK university applications

Given their vastly different approaches to education, US and UK universities rely on different information when assessing applicants.

In the US, the process is less reliant on academics and looks at the “whole package” of a student. Plus, most universities require your child to take a standardised entrance exam (SAT or ACT). In the UK, there is more of a focus on strong academics.

US Application Requirements	UK Application Requirements
+ SAT or ACT results	+ High school grades
+ Academic transcripts	+ UK entry tests results
+ Common application essay	+ Academic transcripts
+ Extracurricular activities	+ English language test scores (if required)
+ English language test results (if required)	+ Personal statement
+ Interview	+ Interview

Despite their differences, the requirements of the two systems can be broken down into three categories: **academics, extracurricular and leadership, and essays and interviews.**

Each section is weighted differently depending on the country (and sometimes the university) your child is applying to:

US Applications and Weightings

40%	30%	30%
Academics	Extracurricular and Leadership	Common App Essays and Interview
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + SAT or ACT + SAT Subject Tests + High School Curriculum Grade + Academic Transcripts 		

UK Application and Weightings

75%	15%	10%
Academics	Extracurricular and Leadership	Application Essay and Interview
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + High School Curriculum Grade + UK Entry Tests + Class Rank / Academic Transcripts + English Language Test Scores 		

As you can clearly see, UK universities place much more of an emphasis on academics than US colleges do.

In fact, in the US, academics is almost secondary to the rest of the package.

So much so, that over a recent five-year period from 2010-2015, most of Stanford's applicants (69%) with SAT scores of 2400 – the highest possible score at the time – were not offered a place.

Conversely, with perfect grades in the UK, your child would virtually have one foot in the door at their dream university!

So, ultimately what is it that US and UK universities look for in students?

To make it simple, we've broken it down into two easy to follow categories:

The **US** look for the **well-lopsided** candidate:

A candidate who is much more than just academically gifted. A student who has shown an interest in passions beyond the classroom and taken initiative to impact their community.

Your child's application needs to tell a coherent and compelling story about who they are, what they've achieved and why they're exceptional.

This last point is crucial to your child's success. Each aspect of the application, from essays to extracurriculars needs to work together to shape their story.

At the end of the day, almost all applicants to top US colleges have good grades. Your child needs to be able to stand out from the crowd by sharing whatever it is that makes them an individual!

UK universities, on the other hand, look for the **academically gifted** candidate:

This is a student with near-perfect academics. Though academic grades are most important, your child's application is stronger if they've proven capable beyond the classroom, too.

How to help your child

Understandably, parents want the best for their children. But wanting the best and achieving it are two very different things.

Before you consider ways to help your child secure a place at a university overseas, you need to ask yourself whether this is your child's dream or your dream for your child.

Each requires a different approach.

If it's your dream, you need to take a more visionary role, providing your child with information and advice to open their mind to the idea of studying in another country. However, at the end of the day, you can't push them into it – this could come back to bite you!

If it's your child's dream, your role becomes more practical. You need to support your child with learning about the application process, helping select best-fit universities and making sure they're hitting all the key milestones and targets.

Either way, it can feel uncomfortable trying to support your child in a process that you do not completely understand (and are not sure you can afford).

The university admissions process works best when it's a family project. Encourage your child to take primary responsibility, but understand that they need parental support and guidance to help them through the experience.

Here are a few of things to do (and avoid doing) in order to help your child improve their chances of gaining admission into a US or UK university.

1. Communicate!

This is the one guaranteed remedy to quell all issues before they even arise.

Sit down and have a frank and open discussion with your child about expectations, university goals, what your role is and whether international study is an option. It's critical that you and your child are on the same page when it comes to the list of potential universities and the need for financial aid. If you're really organised, you can start having these talks as early as year 9!

As the journey continues be sure to keep all communication channels open. Discuss all dream universities, realistic universities and backup universities. Know the costs of each and what you can afford, because, after all, you don't want to be placing unnecessary pressure on the hip pocket!

2. Avoid adding unnecessary pressure

Often the pressure of parents wanting the best can actually interfere and make matters worse. Remember, top universities look for students who love learning and are passionate about contributing to their institution, not just robots who can regurgitate correct answers.

As such, it's crucial that you're providing the right kind of support to your child.

If you catch yourself saying "we're applying to the US for university" or "we got 1400 on the SAT", it's possible that you're a little *too* involved in the process...

While some students may perform well under parental pressure, eventually it will take a toll on your child, particularly on their mental health.

In fact, when you couple parental pressure with the already high pressure education system in some countries, such as Singapore, Hong Kong and China, you have a recipe for disaster.

Most education systems in Asian countries emphasise the importance of exams and tests, teaching students to fear failure, not to love learning.

Take, for example the strict, exam-focused Chinese education system. In 2014-2015, [statistics from The Chinese University of Hong Kong's](#) counselling team show they handled 725 cases of students who were mostly troubled by personal growth and study issues.

Sadly, many parents seem to endorse this high pressure, fear-of-failure approach when judging their child's academic performance. Students are not embraced and praised for showing a keen interest in learning, yet they are scorned for dropping marks in an assignment.

If your child begins to fear failure, then they will cease to love learning. Once this happens, they will have a hard time getting into any top tier university. It's as simple as that.

Failure should be embraced as a vital aspect of development, all throughout your child's academic journey from primary and secondary school through to university and beyond.

3. Go beyond the classroom

Learning does not, and should not, end with the sound of the school bell. Whether the dream of studying abroad is yours or theirs, encouraging your child to pursue natural curiosities and passions will be a great boost to their chances of admission.

It's outside of the classroom where your child is able to discover what they truly love doing. This can open their eyes to studying abroad.

If your child sparks a fascination with building and creating, suggest they start looking into the [world's best engineering universities](#).

If they have shown great interest in maths, encourage them to get involved in maths activities after school.

The internet is a great resource for fun educational activities for students at any stage of the journey, from primary school through to university!

4. Aim high, but don't restrict your child

By all means, you should encourage your child to strive for a top university.

The Ivy League and Oxbridge schools are great, for sure, but they're not the only universities where you can get a strong education. Don't pigeonhole your child to just a handful of elite colleges.

Remember, the *best* universities aren't necessarily the *best-fit* universities for your child. This does not mean they're not worthy of a place at a top school, it simply means they're better suited to a different environment.

In many circumstances, a better education will be received at a lower ranked university because students may feel more comfortable to explore, take risks and love their learning experience!

5. Start saving early

As you can tell from some of our previous sections, attending a university without any form of financial aid or scholarship can come with a hefty price tag!

While it's likely your child will be in line for some financial support, inevitably you'll have to contribute *something* to their overseas education. Doing some early calculations and being frank about what you are prepared to contribute financially to your child's education is imperative to avoid misunderstandings and disappointment later on.

When it comes to the cost of university, try to be as transparent as possible with your child. It's important that they are aware of potential cost to your family, as this will affect how they go about the admissions process.

Many students have no idea how much of an investment an international education can potentially be. If you're a middle income family, it's possible that your child assumes you have enough money to pay for university out of pocket and that looking for scholarships or considering universities' financial aid policies isn't necessary.

Sit down and have a chat about finances with your child.

You never know, talking to your child about the cost might inspire them hit the books and get the grades that will put them in line for a scholarship!

6. Show your interest

One of the best things you can do as a parent is demonstrate genuine interest in your child's education. Knowing that you're on board with their dreams will motivate them to work hard and show you they can do it! Your love and support is going to be the best source of comfort in this whole process.

You're already taking a huge step towards helping by downloading this eBook. Make sure your child sees you reading it, because this sends them a great message!

When and where to start

Let's play a game.

When should your child start preparing for the overseas application process?

- a) In their last year of high school
- b) When they are five
- c) In their first year of high school
- d) Never, my child is going to a local university

If you guessed **C**, you're right!

The truth is, your child is **never too young** to prepare for the overseas application process (okay, five might be pushing it).

Why?

Because applying to overseas universities is **hard** and building candidacy takes **time**.

Remember, the process is a marathon not a sprint and with so many moving parts involved from standardised exams, extracurricular activities, leadership projects and grades, the sooner your child starts preparing, the better.

Think of it like studying for an exam. The earlier your child starts studying, the more prepared they will be. They can cram the night before, but their results are probably going to be less than ideal!

While it might seem difficult to think so far ahead, starting the process early allows your child to **incorporate the overseas requirements** into their everyday lives and be strategic about what they need to do to get accepted.

For example, if your child budgets their time well, they can study for their SAT in their second year of high school, take it multiple times during their third year of high school, and use their last year to focus on other differentiators.

Plus, both the US and the UK university applications are dependent on **passion** and it's never too early to start developing your child's passions.

The more time your child has to develop the necessary parts of their applications, the more time they can dedicate to improving their craft and really have an impact on their community and their field, therefore making them more attractive to both US and UK universities.

The best thing you can do as a parent is **start the conversation** about studying abroad early.

Gauge your child's interest and talk to them about how an overseas education can change their lives, help them land better jobs and ultimately make more money.

Keep the conversation going often but don't push them too hard.

If your child is uncertain about going to an overseas university, it's best to prepare them anyway so if their last year of high school rolls around and they decide that they do want to study abroad, they'll have the skills they need to do so.

Steps to building your child's candidacy for US and UK universities

First two years of high school (and before)

It's important to get your child involved in **many different activities** early on in life so they can figure out their strengths and passions.

Consider signing up your child for multiple different activities when they are young to help them explore as much as possible.

Think horse riding, maths camps, creative writing courses and anything else they show an interest or an aptitude for!

As they get older, your child will begin to **establish a deeper passion** for some activities and will show their strengths for certain subjects.

This is key.

By the time your child is in their first or second year of high school they should have a pretty good understanding of what they're passionate about and what subjects they are good at.

The next thing you should do in their first or second year of high school is discuss the **differences between the US and the UK systems.**

Keep in mind that UK universities require students to be an expert in *one* subject and *one* subject only, while the US system simply wants to see students take initiative and create unique, meaningful experiences through involvement in extracurricular activities.

In order to be as prepared as possible, you and your child should **research, research and do more research** on what kind of universities would be best fit for your child and what system they will excel in.

Then, the two of you should start compiling a list of criteria to help you narrow down the options.

For example, does your child want to go to large university or a small one? Do they want to live in a big city or the peaceful countryside? How important are sports to your child?

Think of every possible **variable** that may make a difference to your child and write them down, then start making a list of universities that fit the bill.

Don't worry, your child is still only in their first or second year of high school, there's no need to finalise the list quite yet.

The most important thing you can do for your child during these first two years is keep the **dialogue flowing** and make sure they are dedicating time to their passions and strengths.

Second last year of high school

Here's where things start to get more serious.

If your child is interested in **US universities**, they need to:

- + Study for the ACT or SAT as well as SAT subject tests
- + Sit the ACT or SAT and SAT subject tests
- + Keep their grades up
- + Look over successful past college essays
- + Build a college list
- + Dig into leadership roles
- + Start their own projects based on their passions
- + Figure out how they can make an influence on their community and do it

They also need to be honing their extracurricular and leadership profile.

Examples of extracurricular activities and leadership roles include:

- + Starting their own club at school to give students a safe space to talk about mental health issues
- + Coding an app, selling it on the Apple/Android Store and getting Google to buy it
- + Writing multiple plays that get picked up by local theatres and then directing the plays
- + Being president of a political organisation at school and changing the way they hold elections

The point is, your child needs to take their passion and apply it to as many areas as they can.

Your child doesn't need to be great at *everything* but they do need to be passionate and consistent.

If your child is interested in **UK universities**, their third year of high school will look very different.

They should:

- + Make sure they are taking the hardest classes in their desired fields and receiving the top grades
- + Work hard to be at the *top* of their class
- + Read everything and anything that has to do with the subject they are ultimately going to apply to study
- + Immerse themselves in outside activities related to their field
- + Narrow down their list of potential universities (remember, they can only apply to five and only one of the Oxbridge group)

Remember that **academics make up 75%** of the UK application system so your child needs to make sure they are pushing themselves and achieving top grades.

For example, if your child wants to study history at university they should do everything they possibly can to become an expert in history. Think shadowing their favorite historian, winning international writing competitions about history, tutoring fellow students in history and anything else they can think of that could help them become an expert in history or whatever field they want to study in university.

Just one field.

Final year of high school

You've made it to the home stretch!

If your child is interested in US universities, their final year will be a lot more stressful than those interested in UK universities.

The **US applications are no joke.**

In their final year, your child should:

- + Finalise their college list
- + Start (and finish) their applications on time
- + Make sure there is a common narrative throughout their each application
- + Tailor each application to each specific university they are applying to
- + Write, rewrite and write their college essays over and over again
- + Keep up their grades and passion projects

By now, your child's grades probably aren't going to improve that much, their standardised test scores are locked in and all that's left to do is finalise their list of colleges and apply. Sounds easy, right?

Wrong.

The US applications are a huge part of whether your child gets accepted into their dream uni, most notably, **the essays**.

The majority of your child's application is static. Grades. Academic transcripts. Classes. Extracurricular activities. Addresses. Phone numbers. The works.

But the essays are where your child can really let their personality shine.

And US admissions officers **love personality**.

Plus, a great essay could make up for a few subpar grades.

Remember, your child does not need a 4.0 GPA and a perfect SAT score to get into Harvard (although it does help).

What they need is a great narrative, illustrated by extracurricular activities and outstanding essays.

The best way you can help your child is by ensuring that they start drafting their essays often and leave a lot of time for edits.

And make sure you encourage them to be creative. Top US universities have accepted students off the back of some pretty weird essay topics.

One student even got into Yale University by writing their essay about pizza.

Seriously! Almost anything is up for grabs when it comes to US application essays.

Your child may also need to interview with some of the universities they apply to so it's a good idea to help them develop their interview skills.

A great way to do this is to hold mock interviews at home.

The US application process is tedious so you and your child should prepare to tackle the challenge when that final year of high school rolls around.

If your child interested in **UK universities**, their final year is a bit more lax.

A bit more.

Your child needs to:

- + Continue taking the most challenging courses in their field
- + Stay at the top of their class
- + Learn more and more about their field and get hands-on experience
- + Finalise their list of unis
- + Fill out the UCAS application for their chosen fields
- + Write one essay

The UK application system doesn't require nearly as much thought or creativity.

The UCAS system simply requires basic info like your address, your child's grades, etc. as well as one essay, which is focused on your child's chosen field, why they are passionate about it, what qualifies them as an expert and what they want to do in the future.

Simple enough!

If your child applies to Oxbridge, they will most likely also be required to sit exams in their chosen subject to make sure they are qualified and attend interviews (which sometimes double as exams as well).

Prepare your child by making them start their applications early, help with essay editing, keep their grades up and stay up on current events in their field as well as practise their interview skills.

The best way to help your child in their last year, regardless of where they are applying, is to be there for them and offer your support.

At this point, you've done the best you can to push them to be great, now they need you to lean on.

So, keep being the awesome supportive parent that you are.

Also, a little ice cream goes a long way in stressful situations!

Key Application Dates and Milestones

US:

1-2 years before your child applies:

- + Sit ACT or SAT and SAT Subject Exams (if relevant)

P.S. The dates for each exam vary but there are about **7** ACT exams every academic year, **6** SAT exams every academic year and **5** SAT Subject Exams every academic year (remember that not all subjects are held every time).

Year of Applying:

- + Start working on ideas for college essays
- + Begin drafting each essay as topics are released
- + Confirm your letters of recommendation

MONTH	ACTION
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Start college applications
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ FAFSA and CSS Profile opens
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Application deadlines for early admission including submitting your test scores and letters of recommendations+ Interview for early admission choices (if necessary)
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Continue interviewing for early admission+ Most early admission decisions released+ Application deadlines for regular admission including submitting your test scores and letters of recommendations
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ All early admissions decisions released+ Interview for regular admission choices (if necessary)

February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + More potential interviews + CSS Financial Profile deadline
March - April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Regular admissions decisions released
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Your child must commit or defer from a university on 1 May
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + FAFSA deadline

UK:

DATE	ACTION
6th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + UCAS Apply opens
15th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Deadline for Oxford, Cambridge, and most medicine, dentistry, and veterinary courses.
19th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Deadline for COPA (Cambridge)
22nd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Deadline for SAQ (Cambridge)
2nd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Cambridge deadline for most written work and pre-interview assessments.
10th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Oxford deadline for written work.

December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Cambridge Interview + Oxford Interview + Oxford decisions released
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Cambridge decisions released + May require another interview for Cambridge if you are pooled.
15th January, 18:00 UK Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Deadline for most other UCAS undergraduate courses
25th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + UCAS Extra opens today so your child can apply to a 6th university if they have been declined by all of their other choices or don't want to go to any of the unis they were accepted to.
24th March, 18:00 UK Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Deadline for most art and design courses
4th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Deadline to respond to any offers received on or before 31st March.
4th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Final day for universities to send out their decisions for applications received by 15th January.

Phew, that's a lot of steps, but you've got this!

06

Financing Your Child's International Education



All the costs you need to consider

Prepare yourself to see very large numbers in this section but remember that most of these costs can be reduced one way or another.

Are you ready?

Let's start with all of the costs you need to consider for the US.

Costs You Need to Consider: US

Application Fee: \$30-\$100 USD per university application

In-State Public University Tuition: \$3,729-\$17,900 USD a year based on where your child goes to university

Out-of-State (International) Public University Tuition: \$3,745-\$46,662 a year based on where your child goes to university

Private University Tuition: \$8,760-\$54,347 USD a year based on where your child goes to university

In-State Public University Living Expenses (rent, food, fees, books, transportation, personal expenses): \$7,392 (if commuting from home a.k.a no rent)-\$38,492 USD a year

Out-of-State (International) Public University Living Expenses (rent, food, fees, books, transportation, personal expenses): \$14,542-\$24,424 a year based on where your child goes to university

Private University Living Expenses (rent, food, fees, books, transportation, personal expenses): \$12,910-\$24,424 USD a year based on where your child goes to university

Visa Fees: \$160 flat fee, additional costs may occur depending on your child's nationality. You must demonstrate that your family has enough money and recurring income to send your child to study in the US (no exact number needed).

Alright, let's calculate some costs!

If your child is a **US citizen** or resident looking to study in their **home state**:
\$11,151-\$57,192 USD a year

If your child is a **US citizen** or resident looking to study at a **public university**:
\$18,317-\$71,886 USD a year

If your child is a **US citizen** or resident looking to study at a **private university**:
\$21,700-\$79,571 USD a year

If your child is an **international student** looking to study at a **public university**:
\$18,479-\$72,046 USD a year plus enough money and income to demonstrate the needs of your visa

If your child is an **international student** and wants to study at a **private university**:
\$21,860-\$79,731 USD a year

Plus, most undergraduate degrees in the US take **four** years to complete so not only are most of these universities' tuitions more expensive than the UK, but you also have to pay them for an extra year!

Scared yet?

Don't be! There are lots of ways to reduce these costs to almost zero!

Affording US universities

Many private universities actually end up being cheaper than public universities due to the amount of aid the private universities are able to give away.

In fact, even if your child is offered in-state tuition, **it may be cheaper for them to attend an Ivy League!**

For example, at Stanford, if your family's income is **less than \$125,000** USD a year (which is a lot!) you are not expected to contribute *any* money towards your child's tuition.

And if your family's income is **less than \$65,000** USD a year, you are not expected to contribute anything towards tuition, room or board! However, your child will need to contribute about \$5,000 USD a year, which means getting a part-time job!

But still, your child will get a top notch education for close to nothing.

On the other hand, if you were a California resident and your child got accepted to University of California, Berkeley and your yearly income was \$65,000 USD, the average amount of assistance your child would receive is \$19,828 USD.

This means that **you would still need to fork out about \$15,144** USD per year.

Convinced yet?

Take a look at the Ivies!

Ivy League Costs

UNIVERSITY	TOTAL COST	FAMILY ANNUAL INCOME CUTOFF	AVERAGE GRANT	WHAT YOU PAY*
Princeton University	\$67,100 USD per year	\$140,000 USD typically pay no tuition < \$65,000 USD typically pay no tuition, room or board	\$48,000 USD per year	\$19,100 USD per year
Harvard University	\$71,600 USD per year	\$150,000 USD typically pay 0-10% of tuition < \$65,000 USD typically pay no tuition, room or board	\$50,000 USD	\$21,600 USD per year
Yale University	\$70,570 USD per year	\$65,000-\$200,000 USD typically pay 1-20% of tuition on a sliding scale < \$65,000 USD typically pay no tuition, room or board	\$47,000 USD	\$23,570 USD per year
Columbia University	\$71,690 USD per year	\$60,000-\$100,000 USD typically contribute a lot less than other students	\$52,073 USD	\$19,617 USD per year

University of Pennsylvania	\$72,584 USD per year	N/A	\$50,171 USD	\$22,413 USD per year
Dartmouth College	\$71,827 USD per year	~\$100,000 USD typically pay no tuition	\$47,833 USD	\$23,994 USD per year
Brown University	\$71,050 USD per year	N/A	\$47,940 USD	\$23,110 USD per year
Cornell University	\$71,321 USD per year	< \$60,000 USD typically have no parental contribution	\$39,797 USD	\$31,524 USD per year

* Based on rough averages and purely illustrative, not indicative of what you will pay if you're accepted.

The Details

Most colleges do not want money to be a deciding factor so they try to create ways to make their tuition more affordable.

The amount of aid you receive is usually determined by your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Essentially, **the more your family earns, the more your family pays.**

If your child is an American student, they'll need to fill out both the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the College Scholarship Service Profile (CSS).

FAFSA determines the amount of *federal* aid you are eligible for, while the CSS profile determines the amount of *institutional* aid you are eligible for.

If your child is an international student, they do not qualify for US federal aid; therefore, they only need to fill out the CSS profile.

Each college has its own way of analysing the CSS profile based on your EFC.

However, FAFSA has a formula to determine how much aid your family can receive.

FAFSA ranks the EFC on a scale from 0-99,999.

If you're at the lower end of the scale, you'll pay less (a score of zero means you are expected to contribute nothing).

If your child doesn't submit the forms on time, your family may not receive the aid you are eligible for, so **don't be late!**

Before you go running off to share the great news, there are a few terms and conditions we have to talk about.

You didn't just think your child was just going to get free money, did you?

Your US Financial Aid Dictionary

There are three types of university financial aid in the US:

1. Full-Need

These colleges will provide enough aid to sufficiently cover your family's need.

2. Need-Aware

These colleges take your financial situation into account when accessing your child's application and may reserve some spots only for students who can pay full price, which can make getting in with financial needs much more difficult.

All US colleges are need-aware for international students (with the exception of the five listed below).

3. Need-Blind

Need-blind colleges do not take your financial situation into account at all when assessing your child's college application.

These colleges will not deny your child based on whether or not you are able to pay. However, there are only **five colleges** in the US that offer need-blind admissions for international students:

- + Harvard

- + Yale
- + Princeton
- + Amherst
- + MIT

As an **international student**, your child's best bet is to apply to one of these five universities because they will not turn them down because of your financial situation.

However, these five international **need-blind institutions are also some of the hardest to get into.**

There are a few other universities that give out large financial packages to international students.

UNIVERSITY	NO. OF INTL STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED AID 15' - 16'	TOTAL COST (17' - 18')	AVG AID AMOUNT FOR EACH INTL STUDENT
Williams College	94	\$67,700 USD	\$59,674 USD
Stanford University	160	\$69,109 USD	\$59,000 USD
Amherst College	159	\$73,250-75,700 USD	\$58,477 USD
Trinity College	163	\$69,020 USD	\$57,250 USD
Duke University	173	\$72,710 USD	\$55,213 USD
Wellesley College	91	\$66,984 USD	\$54,873 USD

NB: Keep in mind that total costs go up slightly every year so most of these students received pretty close to full aid.

To help determine the cost of each college on your child's list, search each university's website for its net price calculator. It gives an estimate of the total cost of attendance, including tuition, room and board, and other expenses (every university is required by law to have one).

Aside from aid based on need, many universities also give out **merit-based** aid that your child may be automatically eligible simply by applying for universities and having good grades!

Occasionally, a university may require your child to write another essay or submit additional work but these scholarships (also known as "grants") can be very lucrative.

For example, 5% of all incoming students at Boston University received the Presidential Scholarship, worth \$20,000 USD a year!

Another way to receive aid from universities is through **sports scholarships**.

If your child has great grades and is a gifted athlete, they might be eligible for a sports scholarship!

While these scholarships are usually pretty generous and often cover the majority of your child's tuition, it takes a lot of effort to secure one.

More often than not, your child will need to be recruited, meaning that they'll need to capture the attention of the relevant coaches, maintain a relationship with them and keep them updated on their progress and achievements.

That being said, your child doesn't need to be the next Michael Phelps to get a sports scholarship to a US university, so if your child is athletic, you might like to look into this option.

If not, there are many other ways for you to find additional aid on your own.

Some of these options are only available to US students so make sure you reach out to prospective universities to see what kind of aid they offer.

1. Private Scholarships

Depending on your financial situation, scholarship money can make the difference between your child going to university where they *want* to go and going where they *have* to go.

Many universities that want to appear more attractive to international students offer special scholarships to make tuition more affordable. For example, American University in Washington, DC, offers scholarships for international students that range from \$6,000-\$25,000 USD, renewable for all four years of study.

Scholarships are a great way of funding your child's education; however, they require a lot of time on your end. Your child will need to do quite a bit of research, fill out more applications and write even *more* essays.

Luckily, there are scholarships for just about anything. Sometimes these are merit-based scholarships and other times they are circumstantial (background, ethnicity, wealth, etc.).

One of the most famous US scholarships is the **Robertson Scholarship**, which has been won by many Australian and New Zealand students and offers a full-ride scholarship to attend Duke University or University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, meaning all costs are covered for the entire four years.

P.S. If your child is an international student, look for scholarships through this [website](#).

For now, check out some super easy scholarships your child can apply to below:

- + **Courage to Grow Scholarship**
 - + \$500 awarded monthly
 - + 250 word essay from your child on why they deserve the money
 - + Deadline: every month
 - + Proof of enrollment and 2.5 GPA in Uni

- + **Dr. Pepper Tuition Giveaway**
 - + 10x \$2,500 USD, 5x \$25,000 USD, 5x \$100,000 USD in tuition fees
 - + Student must be 18-24 years old
 - + 350 word essay from your child about why they'll change the world and a 1 minute video
 - + US citizens only

- + Deadline: October

- + **Scholarship Points**
 - + \$1,000-\$10,500 USD
 - + Complete activities to earn scholarship points
 - + Use points to enter random prize draws
 - + No deadline

- + **Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation**
 - + \$250-\$2,500 USD
 - + Available to students and parents (yay!)
 - + Take common knowledge quizzes
 - + No deadline

- + **The \$2,000 “No Essay” College Scholarship**
 - + \$2,000 USD
 - + International students with valid visas are eligible
 - + Simple sweepstake
 - + Deadline: N/A

- + **CGTrader Scholarship**
 - + 1, \$2,000 USD grand prize, 2, \$500 USD runner-ups
 - + 500-1000 words written by your child (topics vary)
 - + At least a 2.5 GPA and enrolled in an academic institution
 - + Deadline: N/A

- + **Automatic Fire Sprinklers Association Scholarship Essay Contest**
 - + 10x \$2,000 USD or 5x \$1,000 USD
 - + Only for high school seniors residing in the US
 - + Deadline: April

2. Loans

Taking out loans should be your absolute last resort.

While international students aren't eligible for US federal loans, there are a few international student loans available. Just bear in mind that your child will probably need a US citizen or permanent resident to cosign the loan with them.

See! There are so many ways to afford university in the US.

No matter what your family's financial situation may be, it makes sense to get someone else to pay for your child's education if you can. The more money that comes from outside resources, the more money your family will have left over for other things, like visiting your child on campus!

When your child is choosing universities to apply to, keep in mind the differences in financial aid policies and be aware that applying for funding can affect your chances of admission at some universities.

Now, let's take a look at the UK!

Costs You Need to Consider: UK

Application Fee: £13 for one uni or £24 for multiple universities

UK/EU Domestic International Tuition Fees: £9,250 a year

International Tuition Fees: £9,700-£50,130 a year based on where your child goes to uni and what they study

Living Expenses (food, activities and rent): £12,056-£15,180 an academic year depending on where your child is are living (London is the most expensive)

Oxford International Tuition Fees: £16,230-£26,190 a year

Oxford College Fees: £7,570 an academic year for international students only

Oxford Living Expenses (rent,food,books,activities): £9,021-£13,237 an academic year

Cambridge International Tuition Fees: £19,197-£50,130 a year

Cambridge College Fees (covers a range of educational and domestic support): £6,580-£12,264 an academic year for international students only

Cambridge Living Expenses(rent,food,books,transportation, activities): about £10,310 an academic year

Visa Fees: £335 plus proof that your child has:

- + £1,265 per month for living costs if studying in London
- + £1,015 per month for living costs if studying outside London or anywhere else in the UK
- + Plus enough money to pay for at least the first year of the course
- + Healthcare is included in your child's visa fees

So what does all of this mean?

Well, if your child is a **UK student** looking to study at a **UK uni** (not Oxbridge): £18,963-£24,454 per academic year

If they are a **UK student** interested in **Oxford:** £18,284-£22,511 a year.

If they are a **UK student** interested in **Cambridge:** £19,573-£19,584 a year.

Now, if your child is an international student your costs are obviously going to be much higher.

International students interested in UK universities (not Oxbridge): £22,104-£65,669 a year plus proof of all of the money required for a visa.

Interested in **Oxford:** £33,169-£47,356 a year plus proof of all of the money required for a visa.

If **Cambridge** is your child's dream: £36,435-£73,063 a year plus proof of all of the money required for a visa.

P.S. Most undergraduate courses take three years to complete in the UK so all of these costs must be multiplied by three to get your full costs.

By now you should know that these "sticker prices" are not completely accurate.

There's more to UK costs than meet the eye.

Affording UK Universities

The UK isn't quite as up to speed as the US in terms of financial aid support and most universities have a lot less aid to dole out, ultimately making most UK universities *more* expensive than US universities.

Financial Aid for Tuition

In the US, each university has a certain amount of money it gives out to students in need in the form of scholarships, grants, and loans.

In the UK, however, financial aid varies based on your country of origin. The majority of financial aid are **loans** but you may be able to find independent scholarships that you will not need to pay back.

How much your child's studies cost depend on the university, the course, and where you're from.

For example, if your child is a Scottish student applying to a university in Scotland, guess what? Their tuition is **free**.

If your child is Welsh and they want to study in the UK, they can apply for a grant that they don't need to pay back at all.

Unfortunately, if your child is not from the EU, their fees will be much higher but there are other financial aid options available as well.

It can take up to six weeks to get financial aid so don't leave it too late.

Also, the EU referendum may impact financial aid, especially if your child is not from the UK, but the implications of this are not yet known.

EU students

Tuition Fee Loans:

As an EU resident, your child can get a tuition fee loan up to **£9,250** a year.

The best part about these loans is that they do not need to be paid off until your child finishes their studies and their income is over £21,000. If your child ever stops making £21,000, their payments stop.

These loans come with many other perks as well:

1. 9% of your child's annual income goes towards paying off their loans, which means their repayments are based on their income and not on the amount they owe.
2. Interest is only calculated from the day your child starts paying until they pay off their entire loan (or their loan is cancelled).
3. If your child has disabilities, children, or other dependants then they don't need to repay their loan.
4. If the entire debt isn't paid off in 30 years, the remaining debt is forgiven.

Maintenance Loans and Living Expenses Loans:

Your child's living expenses can also be covered by grants and loans.

Maintenance loans are given out as follows:

FULL-TIME STUDENT	LOAN FOR THE 2016 TO 2017 ACADEMIC YEAR	LOAN FOR THE 2017 TO 2018 ACADEMIC YEAR
Living at home	Up to £6,904	Up to £7,097
Living away from home, outside London	Up to £8,200	Up to £8,430
Living away from home, in London	Up to £10,702	Up to £11,002
You spend a year of a UK course studying abroad	Up to £9,391	Up to £9,654

Scholarships:

There are a multitude of scholarships and bursaries available to your child as well.

The majority of these scholarships come from the universities themselves so make sure you check to see if the university your child is applying to offers additional financial aid.

The best way to find a scholarship or bursary is to search for them through your course.

International Students:

If your child is not from the UK or an EU member country, their tuition fees are much higher.

Unfortunately, they also won't have access to the same loans that EU students have.

Certain universities, such as University of Manchester, Cambridge, and Oxford, offer loans to international students. It's usually a case-by-case basis, so you'll need to do some independent research.

For example, Oxford and Cambridge offer loans to US and Canadian students through the Foreign Enrolled loan program.

There are also a few outside **scholarships** available if your child wants to study in the UK.

For example, if your child is a citizen of a developed Commonwealth country, such as Australia and New Zealand, then they are eligible for a range of Commonwealth-based scholarships.

However, many of these scholarships are only available for postgraduate students so make sure you check before applying.

P.S. **Singaporean undergraduate students** can also apply for this program but they'll need a clear research path to innovation in order to apply.

Check out a few simple scholarship applications below:

1. CastleSmart Scholarship

- + £6,000
- + Open to UK undergraduates of all nationalities

- + Your child must make a YouTube video about their course, why they chose it, what they'll gain and what they plan to do after the course
- + Deadline: December 15

2. Chinese Student Awards

- + Up to £3,000
- + Only for STEM Chinese Ph.D students looking to study in the UK and STEM British PhD students looking to study in China
- + Deadline: April 10

As you can tell, the UK system is a lot more stingy than the US system, and you'll need to prepare financially if your child plans on studying in the UK.

Other Methods of Funding Your Child's Overseas Studies

Whether your child is interested in US or UK universities, there are a multitude of ways you can find funding for their education, aside from the actual universities themselves.

- 1. Local Governments:** A great way to get some funding is through your local government. Check online to see if your government has any funding options available for students looking to study overseas. However, some of the funding options may require your child to come back home after they finish their studies (which you might insist on anyway!).
- 2. Large Companies:** Large, local companies usually have some aid available for students looking to study abroad. These companies know how beneficial overseas universities can be and are willing to help in any way they can. Start by writing letters to the largest local companies in your area and don't be afraid to pick up the phone or knock on their doors as well!
- 3. Global Organisations:** Many global organisations offer scholarships as well. Most notably, the Fulbright Scholarship, which offers students the financial support they need to attend an international (or national) college of their choice.
- 4. Fundraising:** Ah, good old Kickstarter. Get creative! If your child really wants to go overseas and you just can't find the money to pay for their studies, start fundraising. Sell chocolate bars! Start a GoFundMe campaign. Get your child involved! You can do it.
- 5. Gap Years:** If all hope is lost and there's no way you can afford to send your child overseas, suggest a gap year to them. This way, they can work for a year to help fund their own tuition.

Where there's a will, there's a way!

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How Crimson Helps



Do you need the support?

Now that you've read all of that, hopefully you are feeling excited about the prospect of your child studying at a world class university in the US or UK... or are at least a little more comfortable with the idea of letting them go away for a few years after school.

This eBook provides you with the information and guidance you need to navigate the respective US and UK university admissions mazes by yourself.

There is nothing wrong with going it alone, and if your child is committed and ambitious enough, he or she can certainly achieve greatness. Our co-founder and CEO, Jamie Beaton, is proof of that, applying and getting accepted to 25 of the top universities around the world, including Cambridge, Stanford and the five Ivy Leagues he applied to (by the way, he chose Harvard!). However, Jamie had a number of school friends who weren't successful in their international applications, despite being just as capable and driven. This was simply because they lacked guidance and support.

While Jamie did pull it off, he found the process of applying to overseas universities extremely stressful – even with his mum's unwavering support. He had multiple tutors to take care of the academic side of things, but struggled without assistance in the other aspects of the admissions process.

From this experience, the idea for Crimson was born.

Unfortunately, there is no formula and we can't guarantee that your child will get into Harvard or Oxford, but we can elevate their academics and build their candidacy to maximise their chances of getting into their preferred university. Who knows? Maybe that university is Harvard or Oxford... we've placed students at each of these institutions many times over!

Who do we support?

At Crimson, we don't just help the "high performers". In fact, it is those students who are struggling academically or have no idea on how to navigate their academic and career trajectories who need and can benefit the most from our services.

Most of our students will not be dux or school captain. We help C students get into B universities and B students get into A universities. A students are already aiming for the most selective universities so we help them increase the chance of getting in or apply for more selective programs within top-tier universities.

The real indicator of success of a student will be their drive, their ability to adapt and their willingness to contribute to the community.

Crimson vs. school careers advisors

Where does your child's school careers advisor fit in all of this? Isn't it their job to provide expert advice on your child's tertiary study options?

Typically, students don't meet with careers advisors until their final year of high school by which point their candidacy is all but set in stone. If your child is interested in going to university in the US, in most cases this is too late. Remember, US colleges evaluate an applicant's last four years of academia and extracurricular activities.

By all means, make sure you are getting as much help from as many sources as possible. Work with the school's careers advisor so they know about you and your child's shared ambition and let them help where and when they can.

Ultimately, if you need expert support on US and UK admissions – that's our speciality area. We can dedicate a huge amount of resources to your child's success, reducing the burden on the careers advisor to deliver on your goals.

What US and UK University Admissions Support looks like at Crimson

We help your child rise to the top of the applicant pool with admissions support, expert mentoring and focused strategies, increasing their chances of getting into highly selective universities.

Our Process

Our admissions support is delivered in **four phases**.

Phase 01: The Assessment

Your family's first point of contact at Crimson is an Academic Advisor, who'll meet with you to discuss your child's dreams, goals and interests, assess your child's candidacy for global universities, and determine your family's needs.

This means they will ask your child about his/her:

- + Subjects, grades and academic performance
- + Fields and careers of interest
- + Hobbies and extracurricular activities
- + Leadership skills
- + Ambitions and inspirations

Don't worry if your child hasn't worked out all of the above yet (who has everything worked out as a teenager anyway?) – your Academic Advisor can help you with that, too.

By analysing each of these key elements of your candidacy, they will piece together a strategy (or package) to help your child get to where they want to be. However, you won't just be presented with one potential strategy, you'll be presented with many.

And guess what? YOU will get to choose which strategy you like most because YOU are in charge of the direction you take. You make the call as to:

- + What you can afford
- + What suits your trajectory and schedule
- + What you can see your child enjoying

Your Academic Advisor is there to guide you and give you everything you need to make an informed decision.

Oh, and by the way, Academic Advisors know everything there is to know about gaining admission into US and UK universities, so this is your chance to get answers to all your burning questions. (Seriously, ask them anything! Even questions you have about this eBook, which they helped us write.)

In the early sessions, your Academic Advisor will work with your child to create specific education goals and strategies to achieve them. They'll assess what your child needs to bridge the gap between where they are now and where they want to be, including improving their academic performance, developing extracurricular and leadership experiences, or standing out in the admissions process.

Following your initial discussions, your Academic Advisor will design your child's personalised education program and give you a bird's eye view of your child's pathway to university admission.

Phase 02: The Strategy

Then, it's time to hand over to a Strategist, who will create and execute on the actual strategy.

Crimson Strategists are our most experienced admissions professionals. They have attended the most prestigious universities in the world and have assisted hundreds of students to gain entry into their best-fit programs at competitive institutions.

Clearly, only the best will do for our students.

Don't believe us?

Take Senior US Strategist, **Melina Gehring**, as an example:

Melina has a Master of Philosophy in International Affairs from the University of Cambridge, and a PhD in American Studies from the University of Hamburg! She has extensive experience supporting university students as a writing lecturer and a scholarship advisor at Ivy League university, Dartmouth.

Melina has helped hundreds of students with college selection, improving their essays, theses, and grant proposals. Her wealth of knowledge of UK and US academia is particularly useful when guiding students through the stylistic differences between writing for a British and an American audience.

The first port of call is university selection. Matching your child to the university where he or she will fit in best and thrive is the Strategist's most important task, as the strategy will be determined by the university - or universities - to which your child is applying.

Your child's Strategist will help them identify dream, realistic and backup schools and craft the right application strategy for their university wishlist.

These Strategists know exactly what it takes to get into your child's preferred universities and into your child's intended career, and will map out the steps your child needs to take to achieve these goals.

Below is an example of one of our student's roadmaps as it appears on the Crimson App (our online Learning Management System). He has signed up for a comprehensive US admissions package, which consists of standardised test tutoring, extracurricular advising and leadership mentoring, personal essay support and interview training. This image shows a six month portion of his roadmap.



Phase 03: The Team

Your child will first be assigned an Education Coordinator who serves as the main point of contact for your family.

From there we will connect your child with a team of tutors and mentors, handpicked to align with their goals, personality and interests. Your team may be made up of any number of people, depending on the support you require. A wholly personalised team just for your child – how good is that?!

Your child could be tutored or mentored by:

- + A Harvard student who's studying their desired course
- + A Cambridge alumnus who graduated with first class honours

- + A Division I NCAA soccer player studying at Stanford (in the case that they are going for a sports scholarship)

You name the university, the course, the scholarship, the level of study... somewhere in our network of over 2,000 tutors and mentors we have the perfect person to guide your child; it all depends on what they are hoping to achieve.

Here's an overview of the team structure:



As well as demystify the college admissions process, your child's customised team will help them to:

- + Translate their passions and interests into potential careers
- + Uncover talents they never knew they had
- + Plan and achieve personal, academic, and career goals
- + Develop the invaluable leadership skills that universities look for
- + Build greater confidence in their abilities
- + Become the best version of themselves!

What's not to love?!

Phase 04: Success!

Now your child is ready to take over and push themselves to success. The hard work will pay off and your child will be ready to accept an offer to their dream university and beyond!

When those acceptance letters roll in, your Education Coordinator will help you compare programs and financial aid packages to ensure that you make the best decision for your family.

Components of Admissions Support

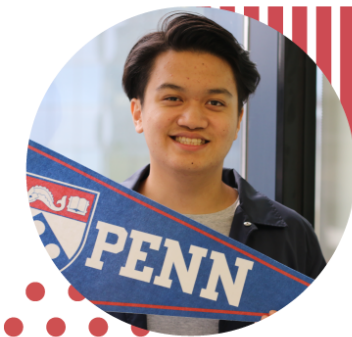
Academic Tutoring: High School Curriculum and Standardised Testing

Academics are the foundation of a strong university application. We have tutors who specialise in every national and international high school curriculum to help our students achieve the grades they need to get into their preferred universities.

Most of our tutors and consultants are based at top 30 colleges in the US and UK. This is because the highest performing students end up attending these universities.

We pride ourselves on being able to connect our students with the brightest minds, and these connections are made possible through the power of technology. Tutoring sessions are delivered online via video call, meaning your child can receive tailored support at a time and location that suits them.

In the US, a high standardised test score is one of the first things admissions officers look for. Your child will be guided by an SAT or ACT tutor who has aced the respective test themselves and knows the tricks to scoring well.



Crimson alumnus, [Nathan Huynh](#), saw a marked improvement in his grades with SAT tutoring. With the goal of attending an Ivy League college, he knew he couldn't afford to take any chances when it came to standardised testing.

Nathan was tutored by an Ivy League SAT expert whose professional teaching style and unmatched knowledge of the SAT curriculum made tackling the test a much less stressful experience. Nathan sat the test three times, improving each time and applying with his best score. He was accepted to University of Pennsylvania.

In the first tutoring session, your child will be given a clear plan. Tutors then record and document each session to ensure that progress is being made. This is worlds apart from the traditional model where your child physically meets with the tutor and you have no idea what has been covered.

If your child does require tutoring in more than one subject, the tutors will be coordinated to ensure that progress is shared and everyone is on the same page. Again, this is different from the traditional model, where you would hire independent tutors.

Extracurricular Advising and Leadership Mentoring

Admissions officers can tell the difference between authentic involvement in extracurricular activities and involvement for the purpose of a university application. We work with students to identify activities and develop projects based around their passions that will help them grow on a personal level and enable them to make impactful contributions to their community.

An extracurricular mentor will guide your child in strategically selecting a portfolio of activities to pursue with purpose and help them become the kind of candidate their target university is looking for.

Crimson alumnus, [Jennifer Wright](#), was so determined to stand out as a candidate to her dream college, New York University (NYU), that she took a year off after school to develop her extracurricular profile and leadership skills.

With Crimson's help, Jennifer scored a role as a UNICEF Youth Ambassador, and then founded UNICEF Youth For Change, a national network of youth clubs that now has over 500 members.

Enlisting Crimson's support with other aspects of her application, Jennifer was able to make NYU admissions officers an offer they couldn't refuse, and she is now happily studying economics and business and continues to volunteer for UNICEF from her base in New York City.





Extracurricular involvement can also be an asset in UK university applications, but only if the activities relate to the intended field of study. **Crimson alumnus**, [Christine Deng](#), is one student who benefited from extracurricular and leadership advising for the purpose of UK admissions.

Christine came to Crimson with the goal of studying international relations at an elite university in the UK, hoping to channel her passion for world affairs and youth issues into her tertiary studies and ultimately a career. To be a competitive candidate in the tough UK admissions game, she needed to find a way to demonstrate her global mindedness.

As part of her leadership package, Crimson helped Christine organise a volunteering trip to aid teachers in Fiji in which she assisted in developing sustainable teaching methods.

With Crimson's application support, Christine then applied to five top British universities: University College London, King's College London, University of Manchester, University of Edinburgh and London School of Economics, and was accepted to all of them.

The leadership project strengthened her application and made it easy for Christine to convince admissions officers that she was deserving of a spot in a top international relations program.

Christine chose London School of Economics (LSE) and, true to form, is now acting as President of the LSE United Nations Society.

Personal Essay Support

Great US college admissions essays are clear, evidence-based, and yet personal and emotional in nature. Students need to show their passion, tell an engaging story and be different from other candidates at the same time.

With our guidance, **Crimson alumnus** [Soumil Singh](#) wrote his application essay about his experience playing cricket with kids in his hometown village in India, focusing on a Muslim child whose family was



socially isolated in a Hindu dominated community, and how cricket, the sport he loves, helped break down the social barriers.

Soumil was able to present some of his passions – playing cricket and travelling – and discussed these in a way that portrayed him as a compassionate and genuine person. As a star academic (at one point [being named “New Zealand’s smartest teen”](#)), it was particularly crucial that Soumil was able to convey these “human” qualities to admissions officers and round out his application with the personal narrative.

The approach certainly worked, as Soumil was accepted to five of the eight Ivy Leagues – Harvard, Columbia, Brown, Dartmouth and University of Pennsylvania – as well as Stanford, Williams College, Amherst College and the University of California campuses at Berkeley and Los Angeles (UCLA). Soumil went with Harvard, and will graduate with the class of 2020.

In the UK, the personal statement is less of a creative endeavour and less central to the application, but is still a make or break part of the admissions process. The bulk of the essay needs to be academic, and any extracurricular pursuits must be carefully selected and framed so as not to distract from the core goal of demonstrating interest in a particular field of study.

Every university in the US and UK is unique, and candidates must understand and appeal to these idiosyncrasies in their application essays to get noticed. We pair your child with a mentor who has an intimate understanding of their target university (having been accepted there themselves) and who will help them tailor their narrative to each school accordingly.

Financial Aid Applicant Support

We help families navigate the wide-ranging and multifaceted US financial aid system by:

- + Identifying funding sources
- + Managing academic, athletic and performing arts scholarship applications
- + Assisting with financial forms and aid eligibility

While US universities are very generous, they will always prioritise domestic students, so it’s important to be strategic about applying for financial aid so as not to jeopardise your child’s chances of acceptance.

Because we have tried and tested strategies for applying for funding, families who work with us usually end up securing bigger financial aid packages or scholarships they otherwise wouldn't have known about.



For example, **Crimson alumnus**, [Antonia Young](#), was last year awarded the Robertson Scholarship, a full-ride scholarship to the prestigious Duke University in the US. Valued at over \$300,000 AUD, it covers tuition, board and a living allowance for up to four years.

This scholarship includes access to world class academic and athletic facilities and is granted to those who exhibit purposeful leadership, intellectual curiosity, strength of character and collaborative spirit; qualities Crimson helped Antonia develop, refine and convey in her application.

We also assist in assessing and securing funding and scholarships for students wishing to study in the UK.

Interview and Information Training

This part of the admissions process can make or break a student as it's when the university screens candidates for cultural fit. It is crucial that your child has a strong understanding of the each university to be able to make themselves as appealing as possible to the interviewer.

We train students to show rather than tell an interviewer that they're interested in the college, and pair them with alumni so they can gain an insight into the line of questioning and what the interviewer will be looking for. This kind of help eliminates any uncertainties heading into the interviews.

Crimson alumnus, [Seyoon Ragavan](#), greatly benefited from our interview training, in which we helped him structure how he presented his experiences. Scoring interviews with Princeton, Harvard, Stanford and UCLA, Seyoon was paired with students and alumni from each university who helped him to understand their respective idiosyncrasies. He is now studying mathematics at Princeton.



The fees: Sample Crimson student packages

Alright, alright, let's get down to business. What is all of this going to cost you? Just as there is no formula for gaining admission into a top US or UK university, there is no formula for our packages. Your child is unique, and that uniqueness will determine the mix of services and level of support they receive.

As such, it's best to apply for a consultation with us so we can provide you with a more accurate pricing estimate.

However, for now it's only fair that we give you an indication of the costs involved in securing your child's future success. Here are three sample Crimson packages:

- 1. Student A** is in year 10 and wants to build a solid foundation for future US college applications. He purchased a one-year personalised program consisting of 25 hours of SAT Tutoring and 20 hours of Extracurricular and Leadership Consulting for **\$5,100** (inclusive of access to Crimson's online Learning Management System as well as a dedicated Education Coordinator).
- 2. Student B** is in year 11 and wants to go to university in the UK. She purchased a personalised program consisting of comprehensive application support for up to five UK universities for **\$7,950**. Support covers all elements of the application, including UCAS, personal statement, interview training and advice on teacher's recommendations.
- 3. Student C** is in year 12 and wants to go to university in the US. He purchased a personalised program consisting of comprehensive application support for up to five US universities for **\$14,950**. Support covers all elements of the application including the Common App, personal essay, school specific applications, supplementary essays, reference letters and interviews.

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Final Thoughts



The process of applying to top universities in the US and UK is complex and daunting, but with this eBook, you have everything you need to navigate the process successfully with your child.

There is no one-size-fits-all strategy for US and UK university admissions; each family's journey is very personal. As a family, you need to set clear goals and lay out the steps to achieving them.

Parents usually find it easier and more effective to have a third party with experience help their children through the process. Ultimately, though, parental support and guidance are the going to benefit your child the most and help them make the best decisions.

Education is a collaborative effort and starts in the home – the values, the philosophy and the ideals that are in place shape a student early on. After that, finding passions and giving your child a toolkit to develop their interests is important.

The earlier families take action on career planning, candidacy building and university exploration, the less overwhelmed your child will be as they approach the end of high school.

Overseas university applications do not have to be an ordeal. A clear understanding of the process can empower you and your child to make good choices and allow you to maintain your sanity at the same time.

Now you can begin the admissions process confidently knowing that this eBook is the most up-to-date and complete source of information available for parents.

Keep calm, follow the steps and stick to your family's guiding principles. You and your child can do this – together!



About The Author

ANDREW STORRIER

Andrew is Crimson's "king of content". He works with academic advisors and admissions experts to bring you the most relevant and up-to-date information about top universities around the world.

We hope you enjoy his latest masterpiece!

What We Do



IVY LEAGUE ADMISSIONS

Gain admission to your preferred university



MED SCHOOL CONSULTING

Get into your preferred medical school



MBA/POSTGRAD CONSULTING

Get accepted to your MBA/postgrad program of choice



SPORT SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Compete and learn in the best US athletics programs



EXTRACURRICULAR ADVISING

Helping you select and excel in the right activities



CAREER MENTORING

Receive hands-on mentoring from experts in your field



INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Land yourself a competitive internship



LEADERSHIP MENTORING

Get help creating and leading your own projects

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