

STUDY ABROAD ————— UNDERGRADUATE

COMPLETE HONEST GUIDE
TO STUDYING ABROAD
AFTER GRADE 12TH

Everything you need
to know about under
graduation abroad



EXPLORE MORE



VOL 1



The end of education is character



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About Founder & Education Street Inception:



My name is Ankita Thakker, an IT Engineer, worked as Software Developer, later pursued MBA in UK, did Diploma in Counseling, worked in British Petroleum UK and returned and Founded Education Street (ES) in Mumbai, a study abroad organisation.

I started ES in 2010 and since then I have been counseling and coaching several students to go abroad. USA, Canada, UK, Australia, NZ, Ireland, Germany and Europe have been most popular study destinations. I have mentored around 7000+ students both for UG and PG courses.

My service leaves many of my students so happy that their genuine feedback is rewarding and it resonates about ES and my effort of clean counseling. We are the first to call a spade a spade. Parents and students from day one are honestly explained what expectations and hopes to keep.

As there was no exhaustive information and no right guide to take me through my application process, to apply to universities in UK and USA, I struggled with malicious people misguiding students for their commercial interest. Despite having great grades, GMAT score and work experience I was suggested very poor universities. Luckily I did my own process and I happen to choose the right fit course and university. Hence this laid the foundation in my mind that I would certainly like to do something for student community and particularly for the ones going abroad.



About Founder & Education Street Inception:



I started my MBA and the very first day the Dean before greeting us announced Lehman Brothers have crashed and we start with recession. The MBA went very well but always with a fear how would the job market be. Keeping myself grounded i put efforts on finding solutions. I worked on my profile by doing good academically, building on certifications, upgrading skills, networking and internships. This was my success formula. Even in recession I happened to get best company, best job role and best pay in UK. British Petroleum in London recruited me as a Management Trainee.

I apply this mantra when i counsel my students with my ES team. We give utmost importance and provide customised solution to each student and engage them in profile building. I strongly believe, however bad times you experience, you reap fruits if you've worked towards it. Studying abroad exposes you to your strengths, weaknesses and brings the best out of you. END of EDUCATION is CHARACTER.

Hope you like this Blueprint to your UG Journey Abroad!!

Introduction to Under Graduation Abroad



Don't you agree, studying abroad broadens the horizon of the student?

I do not demean Indian Education in any ways but education abroad surely has its advantages and holds a shining armour over it. Top 4 reasons why you should consider studying abroad after Grade 12th:

01

Education of your Match: From the huge choice of subjects offered to you, you decide and tailor your course.. The subjects are highly updated and meet the market trends. Professors don't spoon feed and hence student has no choice but understand, explore and prepare assignments. Assignments are very carefully monitored for plagiarism so you cannot actually pass someone else's work as yours. Therefore inculcating practical approach and creating habit of working hard. This mantra hence definitely brings best from the student. The Teachers, are world class, well researched and expert in their subject matter. Therefore the learning's are top notch

02

Inter disciplinary Education: Because there is flexibility to choose the course of their choice from the varied subjects offered student who likes Computers can also study English or Economics along. Or they can also pursue Music/ Dance with their Major. Hence this brings the best out of the student.



03

Networking: The cohort that you give your child is priceless in studying abroad. Students across the globe meet on the campus. Therefore learning different cultures, lifestyles, life hacks, food, music etc. all come along with this experience. This teaches your child to learn to accept differences of the diversity, making your child strong in embracing human values.



04

Independence: One thing all parents worry is How spoiled or Depended their children are? And why wont they be I ask ? We give and protect them from everything. Hence they are not equipped to face the world. This thwarts them and incapable to flourish to the fullest capacity. When you send them overseas they get exposed to different lifestyle and alongwith their studies they have to do their own chores, and multiple tasks . They learn to organise and time management. Going through mixed emotions they stumble, fear, cry but face it on their own. That's how they learn from their mistakes. But finally they shine with confidence and become RISERS. Am sure every student wants to RISE AND SHINE !.



As you reading through you've learnt the advantages. Let me now throw some light, direction and guidance which no one will share with you.



When to Start the Process?



The best time to start is when your child enters 9th Grade. This is the right time to expose and explore him. 10th is for some certifications. After 10th grade student appears for SAT/ACT. Student in 11th Grade should work on projects, internships and applications. Once you start early the student can build their profile, learn what they want to do and study ahead. Sounds like a Bonanza right? This will be the outcome when you start early profile building for your child.

We understand all not aware about it. Whenever you start, the first thing is to evaluate “what we have” and “what we want”? And then proceed into this entire process to apply to universities..



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“What we have” is basically are credentials so far –

- 1) Grades so far. Universities scrutinises from 9th, 10th 11th grades mainly when you applying for UG.
- 2) Test Scores – SAT/ACT and IELTS/TOEFL. SAT is not required by all countries. It's very dominantly required by USA and, some universities in other countries.
- 3) Profile – Extracurricular & Co-curricular activities. I am sharing later in this guide.



“What we want” is basically are need like –

- 1) Student area of study and interest
- 2) Country and University, which we are aiming for
- 3) Cost of Education
- 4) Deadlines and application process



To build your profile strong these are some uppermost activities :



01

Sports – State or National Level

02

Foreign Languages

03

Internships

04

Projects

05

YouTube Channel showcasing his passion – e.g. Dance/Music/Cooking

06

Blogging about his interest e.g. – Travel/Book Reviews/Painting

07

Technical certifications

08

Online Courses

09

Competitions and Participations

10

Summer Camps



Step-by-Step Application Procedure

Now let me give you Step-by-Step procedure to embark your UG Study Abroad Journey:



Step 1

Set Your Target

Identify what you want to study and why you want to study abroad.

Step 2

Identify Your Support

Talk to parents and your support group. Look for a Counselor who is clean or whoever in your family who would support you dedicatedly. This is a time consuming process but not difficult. So weigh your options.

Step 3

Invest on Profile Building

If you start early you have more avenues to build your fort. If not, whatever is done and whatever can be done should be identified and implemented. Prepare a sheet of all small and big things you have achieved. Do not shy and do not feel demotivated here. Everybody has his or her time to shine and you will with or without this. I have listed above all that needs to be done. It requires personal assessment and as counsellors we extend help. We offer Profile Building Mentoring to students who start early.



Step 4

Set a Roadmap

If there is time, set 3 months “things to do” plan. And remain firm. This is important as you need to explore new pathways. This will help you figure out what you want to do further when you going abroad.

Step 5

Preparation for Test Scores

SAT/ACT both are aptitude test. Though difficult, with practice you impel it. SAT is for students who can take up Math’s and English. ACT is plus Science. As per your interest and comfort you may pick one. As both these tests are conducted only 5-6 times in India with a validity of 5 years one has to be well planned. These tests are US focused tests most other countries do not require you to appear them.

IELTS/TOEFL is compulsory and is an easy test for most students but requires exposure to the test pattern. Approximately 15 to 20 days of preparation is sufficient. The universities comprehend students understanding of English language with the help of these scores. This test is conducted every month and has enough dates. Validity of this test score is 2 years. IELTS and TOEFL have same content of study, only the test pattern varies marginally. So any one can be opted.

Step 6

Choose the course you want to study

Universities abroad provide variety of courses and wide options for majors and minors. You could be studying Economics with Computer Science. During the first year normally we need to identify what you want to opt for ? Science / Business / Humanities ? Thus giving huge flexibility to you to tailor your own course according to your interest.This is powerful. It’s unfamiliar here where we need to choose the professional degree at first step without being exposed to it..

Step 7

Choose the Country

Most of the students have idea as they keep researching which country they would aspire to go to. But if not aware do not worry, once you identify few basic questions like course, cost of education and long term prospects you come to this conclusion. You may also opt to apply to multiple countries and then identify this answer once you have admits in your favour. ES has immense experience in this to help you choose the right destination.



Step 8

Cost of Education

Students should first sit with your parents to identify the budget and requirement before pursuing or taking any decision. Though studying abroad is a huge investment it gives immeasurable returns after some years. Hence you require strong support from them. . Parents need to be practical and understand the complete process. Country and course-wise loan assistance is explained and available, hence this gives great relief to the parents. To service the loan you need to have provision. Once you chart out the main expenses like Tuition fees, Living Cost, Health Insurance and Travel, then look into it what support you have and what support you require. To acquire scholarships which can be huge respite for parents one has to apply on time and be meritorious. There are many scholarships available at every level which the expert will be able to guide and make you aware off.

Step 9

University Selection

Once we have identified few basics we start looking for universities suitable to you. The. Coursework, University Reputation, Location, Weather, Cost of Tuition fees and Weather are few primary reasons which help you to identify them from zillion of options. This critical step of selecting the university you do with efforts and research. There are several websites giving University rankings but none of them are full proof and not necessary they are clean. You may try USnews.com, FT rankings and QS rankings to search the university ranking. As each university has application fees from 50-100\$ we suggest you limit to 7-10 max. It's an expensive affair. You need to be sharp and apply various permutation combination. Screen SAFE, MODERATE and AMBITIOUS universities.

Step 10

Get Transcripts

Universities require transcripts from 9th, 10th and 11th grade. As you may apply the 12th results might not be out as deadlines are mostly a year prior. If you have changed school you need to seek from them. Eg You may be in 9th and 10th from one school and 11th from other Institution / College. This is fine. Transcripts are score records but different from mark sheets. Your High school prepares this. Most of them are aware, so you need not worry to apply as soon as possible as they take time.



Step 11

Essays

Every university abroad requires an essay to understand you better. This essay is basically your story. So we have to work well enough to share several instances of this phase. With a thoughtful mind and good writing skills we can portray and weave a strong and impressive story without diluting important aspects of our achievement. Universities want to know how you handle adversities and challenges you faced. No Ghost writer is accepted or practiced.. With all our heart at this stage we play important role. We help in enhancing and enriching the student profile.

Step 12

Letter of Recommendations (LOR)

University require three LOR from set off teachers and counsellor. While selecting the teacher and counsellor,. Identify ,availability, your ease with the teacher, subject of interest and flexibility which need to be added to the content of the letter. These 3 recommenders need to submit LOR online. Eg, If you choose to apply to 8 universities abroad then you need to submit 8 LOR online. No one else besides the recommenders can submit LOR once you have made your choice of recommenders and hence you have to be very cautious here.

Step 13

Resume

This is going to be a basic resume as you are young and inexperienced. Incaseyou have invested your time in profile building this will turn to be champion. Even if you have very few achievements on your resume there is no reason to worry. We all learn, grow and progress with time.

Step 14

Online Application and Deadlines

Prepare a chart with all deadlines of your selected universities. Each University has lengthy online forms to be filed which is not difficult but cumbersome. So we require and have to meet deadlines.

Step 15

Accepting the Offer

Once you finish application there is a long waiting period, which normally ranges from 1-2 months. If all above things done right, you would have several admits in your hand. You choose which suits you the best after going through the terms and conditions and requirement carefully. Some university are fine you paying them initially half semester tuition fees and while some require you to pay full deposit money. Each country has different policy and you need to comply with accordingly. The universities guide you on this.



Step-by-Step Application Procedure



Step 16

Visa Application

All countries have different visa requirements and hence documentation preparation has to be met accordingly. We have to plan for Visa form filling, Visa File, Finances and Visa Interview at this stage. As this is your final stage there should be no lapse. We guide you to face the Visa officers for your visa interview. If you meet their requirements there's no looking back. Crossing this stage will give you wings to fly. Planning your finances properly is very crucial. Normally they prefer liquid funds, like money in savings accounts and fixed deposits. Additionally, educational loans are widely acceptable and they do not take it negatively. So parents need to be aware of this and they can plan for the education loan timely.

After going through all this you absorb and believe you are finally going abroad. You will realise how lengthy a process it is which requires hard work and an expert's help is much needed.

I want to highlight about getting scholarships too. This is a very critical financial support.



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GETTING SCHOLARSHIP



Everybody aspire for scholarships and yes why not? But do not fall prey to false commitments, to those who provide 100% assurance. You need to understand how scholarship is granted, which is as follows..

Normally there is no separate process to apply for scholarship. Every student who applies with varied application materials discussed above is considered for it. Typically the meritorious in the pool gets it. This result defers each year with how many meritorious application university has received. Scholarships are granted as per the budget allocation each university sets aside for the students. UG students receive more scholarship as compared to PG students, as the duration of the UG is higher. Very few universities give to everybody and those who give hike their tuition fees. Typically the counsellors, who promise you of scholarships, try to get you admission into these kinds of universities. So I want to emphasise here, no one can guarantee you scholarship, assess the efforts of the counselor to get them. Yes, several with experience have garnered the trick and also gauged suitable universities for suitable profile and they hit the reward for you. This is surely an effort from clean counsellor and that is what you need. Tall promises but no show will disappoint you and your career ahead.



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WHY PROFILE BUILDING MENTORING FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS?

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PBM PROCESS

Firstly let us understand who all are High School Students. Students in grades 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th. Most of these school students and parents have primary questions related to stream after 10th grade and career choice after grade 12th. There is no magic formula to map this.

Conducting a Psychometric test on these young minds is like asking a computer about your future forecast and progression. It is highly unlikely and disapproved by us as we believe your child has limitless possibilities which a simple test cannot gauge. Hence we at Education Street do not conduct or approve any such test patterns to give the parents a fixed-fed result from the computer.

However, what we offer High school students and parents is Profile Building Mentoring. It works on two principles - Exploration and Elimination. These two **EE's work** marvelously and bring us closer to the child's career choice. So we offer this service to students from 9th to 12th grade. The earlier you start the better you can utilize the precious time.

We conduct the first round of sessions with your child to discuss the following: subjects, communication skills, interests, dislikes, admiration, social skills, technical skills, sports, weaknesses, strengths, awards, and many more. This primary session is conducted by Mrs. Ankita Thakker who is the founder of Education Street and with experience of 10 years in Guiding and Mentoring students abroad. This session follows with a "to-do" list. Mapping it astutely with your child's interest and strengths we offer few readings, videos, certifications, internships, technical courses, or projects.



After three months again there is a repeat of this session with new to-do's. This way whatever the child explored he would figure out whether he liked it or disliked it. Hence with an exploration of different concepts and elimination of things we get closer and closer to what a child is looking forward to.

So this is a continuous process for all high school students. Keeping in mind we cannot bombard them with several actionables hence sharpness and focus are required from our side. We keep checking in with them on the progress.

THIS PROCESS HAS TWO OUTCOMES

1

Strong Profile - with a good list of certificates, internships, skills, etc which designs a good resume

2

Career Selection - The student has the answer to "What he would like to pursue post 12th grade?"



It is tried and tested and with experience and powerful results. Parents are always worried about what career would be best suited among the huge array of options we have today. If you choose to send them abroad then a well strong profile attracts huge scholarships and admissions from the best universities in the world. If you choose to study and continue in India the clarity on what career you should choose for your child becomes crystal clear and helps you to plan accordingly.

Profile Building Mentoring is a very customized service for young minds to explore several careers and eliminate what they do not like. Brings them confidence and helps them to strive harder in the career chosen by them and no one else.





Final Word

The process to apply is very long and cumbersome but the outcome is very satisfying. Studying abroad lays the foundation for your career ahead. A strong head starts to know yourself better and achieve your passion.

It's expensive but it is an asset and hence an investment worth it. It brings confidence in the student and is a witness to what a confident person can achieve. The sky is the limit and if dark clouds come they have the power to slide them away. Because they have handled things on their own in the past and overcome their fear. The major reason why a lot of the young population is lost and indecisive today about what they want to do ahead in life is that they have never explored or been exposed to reality. When they study outside the comfort of their home they learn to conduct themselves well, work hard, balance varied assignments, learn to cook and do household chores, and how manage everything on their own. One year into doing things on their own they become a completely different personality with great IQ and EQ developed.

Hence the outcome is far more priceless than the investment. Post studying abroad ideally they should work for a few years to gain professional experience. With education qualification and work experience together you become a powerful machine with full energy. You are now competent to achieve all that you want in your life.

I hope this ignites your mind and you believe in yourself. Wish you decide on the right fit for you. As a counselor, I do not fit in a student's mind that he or she would go abroad as I understand there is various support required. Financial support is the most important one. And if you do not go abroad due to whatever reason you are now charged to carry and achieve the best for yourself wherever you are as you have learned the art of building your fort each year. Learn, Grow and Flourish anywhere everywhere. BE THE RISER! If you looking to study abroad we would love to counsel you and welcome you in our ES achievers community. EDUCATION STREET is a gateway to solve all your dilemmas regarding study abroad ethically. We are not recruiters for universities we are in true sense counsellors working for you.



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