



Overseas Education

Financial Assistances

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A resume carrying colourful degrees, a lucrative job, a vibrant and a glittering career are nowadays the common dreams of any forward looking ambitious student. It is a demonstrated fact that study abroad broadens the intellectual horizons and exposes the individual to

further deepening of one's knowledge and understanding on international, political and economic issues. Study abroad is indeed an enriching and eye-opening adventure, where learning is not just an academic exercise, but as well extends to the world beyond classroom walls. At a time when workplaces are changing in the wake of globalisation and

liberalisation, our students also need to compete in the global job market where businesses keep moving across national and international borders. What more, employers even within the country now look for candidates having international study and experience, languages and an ability to adapt to changes in the new



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destinations and regret a lot about their lapses later. In this process, unfortunately many of our highly deserving candidates miss their ample opportunities.

We need to realise that studying abroad cannot be as easy as doing it in India where the government education is highly subsidised. Foreign education, in most cases, is prohibitively expensive and far beyond the reach of many of our students and parents. At the same time, for the most deserving candidate, this shall not pose much of a problem. What is of paramount importance is to identify the right destination, which includes the country as well as the university and then

Useful websites

- <http://www.education.nic.in/scho.asp>
- <http://www.education.nic.in/studentloans.asp>
- <http://forum.education4india.com/archive/index.php/thread-8291.html>
- <http://forum.education4india.com/archive/index.php/thread-8299.html>
- GRE General Test - <http://www.gre.org/>
- GRE Subject Test - <http://www.gre.org/pbstest.html>
- GMAT - <http://www.gmac.com/>
- TOEFL - <http://www.toefl.org/>
- TSE - <http://www.toefl.org/tse/tseindx.html>
- LSAT (Law School Admission Test) - <http://www.lsatsat.org/>
- MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) - <http://www.aamc.org/>
- DAT (Dental Admission Test) - <http://www.ada.org/>
- PCAT (Pharmacy College Admission Test) - <http://www.aacp.org/>
- VCAT (Veterinary Aptitude Test) - <http://www.aavmc.org/>
- USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Examination) - <http://www.usmle.org/>
- CGFNS (Council for Graduate of Foreign Nursing Schools) - <http://www.cgfns.org/>
- CPA (Certified Public Account Accountant Examination) - <http://www.aicpa.org/>
- SAT Reasoning Test - <http://www.sat.org/>
- SAT Subject Tests - <http://www.sat.org/>
- <http://www.srikumar.com>
- <http://www.infozee.com>
- <http://www.uniguru.com>

cross-cultural working environments. Though there are numerous merits and benefits one can attribute to foreign education, it is a fact that only a few make it to success and even within this few, very few only really make the best use of the facilities and supports available. It is just ignorance or lack of awareness and proper guidance that lead to these situations. Most of them realise their mistakes only after reaching their

selecting the right course based on the candidate's strength, talent and interest. For this, one has to have a proper understanding of the domain of subjects and courses offered by the foreign universities in particular, and the country's education system in general. A meticulous landscaping of the plethora of educational opportunities abroad which can meet, suit and perfectly match the candidate's educational goals and

ambitions is really a mammoth task. Now the next thing is the proper knowledge on the funding opportunities and the right method of approaching it.

It is easily said than done when the selection of the university is from the staggering thousands of universities and institutions and picking up of the course is from a massive 600 listings with a wide range starting from music therapy to nanotechnologies. This is the case of USA alone and it could be even more challenging when one wants to select these from multiple countries simultaneously. Here again, a well-planned and executed strategy would yield excellent results.

Being Qualified and Competent

The best strategy is to start the preparations quite early, if possible a couple of years ahead. One needs to set the goals first. Identify and approach the targets with pre-set deadlines. The process can then be started by step by step. Based on the country of choice, one should be aware of and meet the eligibility criteria for enrolment to undergraduate, graduate, post graduate, professional courses and to doctoral programmes. This is not a big deal these

days when the Internet and plenty of other resources available. Of course, awareness of Internet, basic computer skills and proficiency in English language are a must these days for any aspiring student.

Financial Aid

Careful planning on the financial front is highly essential. It is even more crucial when the funding received is partial or even less. One should know in advance how much would be the financial commitments for tuition, hostel/housing and other living expenses, at least for the first couple of years. Tuition costs alone can range between US \$ 10,000 and 25,000, depending on the nature of university, whether private or state funded and the nature of the course selected. Cost of living could differ from place to place within the same country. Students are required to show proof of sufficient funds to cover at least the first year of their college education while applying for a student visa.

It is good and encouraged to get in touch with a professor / lecturer in the department one is planning to apply and establish a strong professional network in advance. Most of the faculty has excellent research grants and in most cases



Scholarship Agencies in USA

Newcombe Foundation, 231-Nassu, Princeton, NJ-08540

Weiss Foundation, 745, Fifth Avenue, Room 116, New York-10151

World of Knowledge Foundation, 120, University Park # 150, Winter Park, Florida 32792, USA (For Indians & Americans).

Disney Foundation, 500-South Buena Street, Burbark, California-91521. (Arts & Science).

The Baruch Foundation, 274-Madison Avenue, New York-10019 (Forestry, Marine biology, Environment, Animal Husbandry).

American Nurses foundation, 10-Columbus circle, New York-NY19 (Nursing).

Hillman Foundation, 630-Fifth Avenue, New York-10111.

Kennedy Foundation, 75-Chestnut Ridge Road, Montavale, New Jersey-07645.

Avon Products Foundation, Nine West, 57th Street, New York-10019

Davies Charitable Trust, P.O. Box 45000, San Fransico-94145 (Performing art)

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they could work wonders. The etiquette here is that one should check the messages/letters very carefully before shooting to them, that you are not upfront asking for financial aid before you make a strong case of study before the faculty. Also, these types of approaches are more successful for PG and Doctorate studies.

It is always good to get a full scholarship, which will cover most of the expenses, but in most cases it may not work out easily. It is easier to get university funding, at least partial, in the United States than in U.K., Canada, Australia or New Zealand. Most students in the US manage to get assistantship during the course of the first semester itself and with a tuition waiver in hand they can sail through smoothly. There are different types of aids available and they are:

Tuition Waiver: In this case, the student does not have

to pay the tuition fees at the university. However, general fees like the library, computers, health services etc. do apply. A tuition waiver is frequently awarded in conjunction with a scholarship or teaching/research assistantship.

Scholarship / Fellowship: This is a grant administered based on the student's scholastic performance. These are awarded to outstanding students only. A full scholarship would pay for a student's entire living expenses at that university, whereas a partial scholarship would require additional funds from the student.

Assistantship : Students with assistantship will receive a cash stipend sufficient for their living expenses, and/or tuition waiver. In lieu of this, they will work for a maximum of 20 hours per week. This work normally consists of teaching, research activities etc.

Bank Loans

Unlike the early days, banks are now very flexible in terms of loans and they offer numerous schemes at reasonable interest rates and with minimal collaterals.

State Bank of India, State Bank of Travancore, Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Syndicate Bank and Canara Bank and many other banks have educational loan schemes that extend from schooling to research. The amount differs according to the course. Banks give a loan for studying abroad which is as high as Rs 10 lakhs. The first condition is that admission should be confirmed. Secondly, loans are not given for correspondence courses. And thirdly, the past academic record of the loan seeker should also be satisfactory. Anyone who fulfils these conditions is eligible for an educational loan which covers course fees, hostel fees, cost of books, equipment

Before hand one should meet the basic requirements of the selection criteria exercised by universities and get qualified for financial aids. Chances of getting financial aid are quite bright if they have the following:

- Demonstrate evidence of high level of academic achievement/excellence;
- Score high in the standard subject aptitude tests as well as English proficiency tests/examinations such as (GRE – Graduate Record Examination, GMAT – Graduate Management Admission Test, TOEFL – Test of English as a Foreign Language, TSE – Test of Spoken English, IELTS – International



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and one way fare to the place of study. Repayment has to start six months after the completion of the course or if the borrower gets a job immediately after completing the course. The maximum time given for the repayment is 15 years counted from the date of the first disbursement.

English Language Testing System etc.);

- Show evidence of financial need and also provide private funding to cover some of the cost, if found essential;
- Sign up for Teaching Assistantship if offered;
- Sign up for Research Assistantship if offered;
- Obtain outstanding letter of recommendation and an impressive statement of purpose. (Statement of purpose is most important which will bring out the salient features and strengths of the student which are not normally reflected in the resume/ CV). ■

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