



Uncovering Hidden Gem Courses at UK Universities



The Dhirubhai Ambani International School Admissions Journey: Insights for Counsellors and Parents



Navigating the UCAS Clearing Process



Hold Your Drink: Helping Students Enter University Life with Awareness and Safety



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Editor's Note

The AI Disruption of Entry-Level Jobs: A Call for Reinvention

Remember when entry-level jobs were the training wheels of your career? Yeah, those wheels are coming off—fast. AI is crash-landing into offices everywhere, and it's not just taking notes or fetching coffee. It's writing code, reviewing legal docs, and charming customers in chat windows. The kinds of tasks that used to belong to fresh-faced grads? Poof. Gone in a cloud of algorithms.

Just as Gen Z is rolling up their sleeves to join the workforce, the floor is shifting beneath them. College grad unemployment is up 30% since 2022, and confidence is tanking harder than your favorite crypto coin. Meanwhile, executives are pretty chill about it—63% admit AI's coming for the grunt work they used to give the newbies.

And it's not just tech bros feeling the squeeze. Entry-level gigs in finance, food, travel—you name it—are starting to vanish. It's not just AI, of course. Global trade drama and economic jitters aren't helping. But the robots aren't waiting around politely.

Worse still, fewer starter jobs means fewer chances for people without fancy connections to break in. That's how inequality grows teeth. And if this sounds like *déjà vu*, it is—remember what happened when manufacturing collapsed? It wasn't just paychecks that disappeared. It was entire communities.

But here's the twist: we can flip the script. Some schools are already plugging AI into their curriculums. Some companies are giving rookies real-deal responsibilities, powered by AI tools. Turns out, new hires can handle way more than spreadsheet sorcery if you actually let them.

So if we don't want to end up with a talent vacuum and a generation stuck waiting for their big break, we've got to redesign entry-level work. Make it smart. Make it human. And most importantly—make it count.

Neeraj Mandhana
Founder & Editor-in-Chief
Aiiyo

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UNCOVERING HIDDEN GEM COURSES AT UK UNIVERSITIES: A PATH TO UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

How Interdisciplinary and Specialist Programs Unlock New Opportunities

By

Sarah Hales

Senior Regional Manager, S. Asia and MENA
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Sarah Hales

When considering a university course in the UK, prospective students often gravitate toward well-known subjects like law, medicine, or engineering. However, beyond these mainstream choices lies a treasure trove of lesser-known courses—hidden gems – that offer unique perspectives, interdisciplinary learning, and career paths that stand out. These courses, though not as widely known about, can provide intellectually stimulating experiences that broaden horizons and carve distinct academic journeys.

A hidden gem course is one that is academically enriching but often overlooked by students due to lack of awareness, niche appeal, or unconventional subject matter. These courses typically feature:

- **Interdisciplinary Learning** – Combining two or more subjects for a fresh academic approach.
- **Specialised Focus** – Deep dives into niche topics that few other universities offer.
- **Strong Industry Links** – Courses tailored to emerging industries with excellent job prospects.
- **Innovative Teaching Methods** – Courses with practical learning experiences that differ from traditional classroom settings.

At the University of Cambridge, we offer a wide range of subjects, grouped under 30 courses, known as a 'tripos', allowing students to really tailor their learning experience to those areas they find of particular interest. All courses benefit from the supervision style of teaching, allowing very small group learning and academic discussion with leaders in the field.

Examples of Hidden Gem Courses at the University of Cambridge

1. Anglo Saxon Norse and Celtic

While history and literature degrees are common, ASNaC – as it is affectionately known at Cambridge – is an exceptional blend of historical, linguistic, and mythological exploration. Students study ancient texts, Nordic sagas, and the impact of Viking culture across Europe, learning Old Norse to engage with primary manuscripts directly. This course suits those passionate about archaeology, medieval studies, or cultural history.

2. Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Interested in exploring a range of different languages and cultures? From Chinese and Korean to Arabic, Sanskrit or Hindi, then this is the course for your students! This is a flexible course where you can study a broad range of subject areas. From Japan in the East to Morocco in the West, and from classical times to the present day. Students spend a year overseas to really immerse themselves in their language skills and bring an additional international outlook to their studies.

3. Design

The Design course combines architecture, engineering, and material science in one degree. It challenges students to think about global issues in the built environment, like climate change, and how to address them. Research may include such areas as refugee camps, studying the effect of earthquakes on structures, or the use of new sustainable building materials. Our Design graduates gain the knowledge and skills needed for careers in the built environment and a range of technical and creative sectors but also get a strong grounding in programming and mathematics, opening up fields such as AI and finance.

Of course, some students are very keen to follow a more recognised degree title course, but even within these it is possible to explore more personal interests according to a student's own academic interests or chosen career pathway. Many of our courses allow for a choice of 'papers' within them. Whether that may be choosing to study 'The History and Philosophy of Science' within the Natural Sciences tripos, or 'Law and ethics in Medicine' during the Law tripos. Where appropriate, students can also 'borrow' papers from many other degrees or departments allowing them to tailor their own learning experience and perhaps pick up some lesser-known topics of interest alongside their main study.

Why Choose a Hidden Gem Course?

Opting for a lesser-known but deeply engaging course has distinct advantages. These courses often have smaller class sizes, allowing for personalised learning experiences and close interactions with academic mentors. They can also offer unique employment opportunities, leading to specialist roles where competition is lower but demand is high.

Moreover, they cultivate curiosity and passion, offering intellectually enriching experiences that differ from traditional degree structures. Students often graduate with a skill set that distinguishes them from peers who studied more conventional subjects.

Supporting Students into Hidden Gem Courses

For prospective students eager to embark on an unconventional academic path, researching niche subjects and exploring university specialisations is key. Checking university websites, speaking to academic advisors, and attending open days can help uncover these lesser-known opportunities. Additionally, platforms like UCAS offer detailed insights into unique degree programs across the UK.

Encourage students to think about their own passions and interests. In the UK it is very unusual to change major after starting to study a subject, so whatever pathway a student chooses they should understand that they will be studying the subject at great depth for at least 3 years. They need to enjoy it!

Help students to look beyond the course title and the content of a degree. Linguistics, for example, is not only the study of language but encompasses aspects of Philosophy, Literature and even Physics and Engineering!

Work with the student and families to look beyond the most 'popular' courses to identify their own passions and potential career pathways that study of these subjects can lead to. At Cambridge we have plenty of examples of what alumni have gone on to do from Investment Banker to TV Researcher.

Choosing a hidden gem course might not be the typical route, but it can lead to a deeply fulfilling and career-enhancing academic experience. Whether driven by personal passion or the pursuit of a distinct career path, these courses prove that sometimes, the road less travelled leads to the most rewarding destinations.

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THE DHIRUBHAI AMBANI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ADMISSIONS JOURNEY: INSIGHTS FOR COUNSELLORS AND PARENTS

Breaking Down the Application, Testing, and Interview Process at DAIS

By
Varnika Agarwal
Founder and Head Counsellor
My Big Leap



Varnika
Agarwal

Dhirubhai Ambani International School (DAIS), based in Mumbai, is one of the top 20 IB schools globally. The admissions process at DAIS is one of the most competitive in India, drawing interest from elite professionals, entrepreneurs across India, as well as globally mobile families. The school offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme and Middle Years Program from Grade 1 to Grade 8 under the Nita Mukesh Ambani Junior School (NMAJS), transitions to the IGCSE curriculum in Grades 9 and 10, and then offers the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) in Grades 11 and 12 under the DAIS umbrella. As both a counsellor and a parent who has navigated this journey, I've gathered critical insights that may help fellow counsellors support their students and families more effectively.

Admission Timeline & Deadlines

DAIS typically opens its application window in August – early September for the following academic year. It's crucial for students and families to begin preparations at least six months in advance, particularly for high-demand entry points such as Grade 8 and Grade 11. Since there are just a handful of seats available for these grades, the process is highly competitive. In this article, we will be focusing on admission to Grade 8 and Grade 11.

Key stages in the admission process include:

- **Application release and submission:** September
- **Entrance test (stage 1& 2):** October
- **Interview:** December
- **Final decision:** March

The difference between the admission process to grade 8 and grade 11 is the entrance test stages. While grade 8 admissions entail only one entrance test that happens in October, grade 11 admission process requires a deeper dive and a rigorous 2 stage entrance test. The grade 8 entrance test involves a multiple-choice test: Logical Reasoning, Mathematics, English Language and Science. However, grade 11 admission test entails the following:

Duration of Admission Tests	Subjects / Areas
Stage I of IBDP Class XI Admission Test: 1 hr 30 mins	Multiple-choice test: Logical Reasoning, Mathematics, and English Language
Stage II of IBDP Class XI Admission Test: 3 hrs	Descriptive test: English, Mathematics, and an Elective Paper (Social Studies or Science)

After Stage I of the Admission Test, the students who are shortlisted are invited for Stage II. After Stage II of the Admission Test, the students who are shortlisted are invited for an Interview.

Application Process

The application is extensive and holistic. It requires:

- Academic records from the last 3 years
- Co-curricular and extracurricular profile with supporting documents
- Personal statement

The evaluation focuses not only on the academic aptitude of the student but also on motivation and alignment with the school values and ethos along while keeping in mind the IB learner profile. DAIS is known for seeking students with curiosity, integrity, and resilience, and they assess this through scenarios, reflections on past experiences, and discussions about ambitions during the interview stage.

Applicant: Preparing Strategically

My advice to aspiring applicants is to start early and think broadly. DAIS looks beyond scores. It's like a mini application to US universities. Here are a few strategic tips:

- **Build a Profile:** Encourage participation in debate, MUNs, coding competitions, sports, or service projects.
- **Reflect Deeply:** Your personal statement and your reason to join the school should reflect who you truly are and why joining DAIS will help you grow as a person, and how that aligns with your long-term goals.
- **Prep for the Test:** While there is no formal material available, being thorough in your current grade syllabus and practicing from general international school aptitude test material helps.
- **Mock Interviews:** These help students organize their thoughts, build confidence, and express themselves clearly.

Accepted: What Makes a Candidate Stand Out

Unlike the popular belief, to my understanding, no influence works to get admission in this school. The process itself is quite straightforward, comprehensive and respectful. The school communicates clearly and maintains a high level of professionalism throughout. The school values authenticity, independent thinking, Indian values, with international mindedness and strong communication skills. Maintaining academic consistency while also showcasing versatility is something that will surely make you stand out.

I also noticed that children who were not "coached" into artificial personas fare better. Authenticity, passion, and preparedness always shine brighter than over-rehearsed perfection.

Final Thoughts: Counsellors as Guides, Not Gatekeepers

For counsellors, supporting families through the DAIS admissions process is about balancing ambition with realism, and competitiveness with perspective. Encourage your students to aim high, but also to develop a strong backup plan. The process at DAIS is intense, but also a profound opportunity for growth for students and parents alike.

Above all, help families see this not as a "make or break" moment, but as one of many meaningful steps in their much longer educational journey.



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LEGENDS OF ADMISSIONS



Grant Gosselin

Dean of Undergraduate
Admission & Financial Aid
Boston College

Grant Gosselin brings nearly three decades of experience and heart to the world of college admissions. As Dean at Boston College, he's known for his personal approach, whether recalling students' counselors by name or building global connections through outreach in places like India. With a background in finance and a passion for service, Grant embodies the Jesuit mission of educating men and women for others. In an often misunderstood field, he reminds us that admissions professionals are not gatekeepers—they're advocates, cheering students on every step of the way.

1. An Unforgettable Travel Memory

My first recruitment trip to India is one I'll never forget. For 18 days, I traveled to 8 cities, from Dehradun in the North to Bengaluru in the South – and many cities in between. The country has so much beauty and the people I met were so warm and welcoming. I've returned many times since.

2. Most unexpected question a student has ever asked you.

A student once asked me if I moisturize my skin because of how youthful he felt I looked. Many people are surprised to know I've been working in higher education for nearly thirty years.

3. If you weren't in admissions, what job would you secretly love to have?

I studied finance at university. Had I elected to go into that field, I feel I would have enjoyed working as a personal financial advisor, helping families achieve their financial goals in life.

4. What's a totally random skill you've picked up because of your job?

Prospective students are surprised at how often I can name their school counselor upon hearing where they attend secondary school.

5. What's one thing you wish students knew about admissions, that they often don't?

Admission officers are real people who root for the students who apply to our colleges. We often have a reputation as "gatekeepers" who look for ways to turn students away. Just the opposite is true. We passionately advocate for the students we meet and get to know through reading their applications. The most difficult element of working at Boston College, one of the nation's most competitive universities, is entering each cycle knowing that we will not have room to admit many of the talented and qualified candidates who honor us with their applications.

6. If your college were a person, how would you describe their personality in three words?

I'll cheat and use five – Men and Women for Others. This phrase is at the core of a Jesuit education at Boston College. We bring the world's best minds to Boston College each year and prepare them to lead a life of meaning and purpose. Our alumni go on to become successful business people, scientists, engineers, teachers, nurses and more. While they are here, however, we also help them understand the responsibility we have to share our talents and gifts with those in need – in our communities, in our country, and around the world. Education should not be a selfish endeavor, rather one that enriches the lives of all we meet.

7. What's the most oddly specific club or organization on campus?

4Boston is BC's largest weekly service organization. Volunteers serve four hours each week of the academic year with community partners in the city of Boston. Students serve in the social service, healthcare, or education sectors and engage in one hour of group reflection each week, centered on community, social justice, and spirituality. Boston College students volunteer more than 350,000 hours each year in the city of Boston.

THE UNEXPECTED SIDE OF KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

7 Things About King's College London You Won't Find on the Website

By
Ravisha Maheshwari
Senior Editor
Aiiyo



Ravisha Maheshwari

Founded in 1829, King's College, London is one of the oldest and most renowned universities in England and has been part of the academy journey of numerous remarkable figures from literary icon Virginia Woolf to renowned politician and poet Sarojini Naidu. Through its exceptional education and world-leading research, the university is dedicated to maintaining its prestige and holds the 8th rank in the QS World University Rankings: Europe 2025 list. However, the student experience is shaped by factors that are not as easily accessible on the internet as these facts and figures! From secret recreational zones to fascinating societies that start unique to King's – here are seven facts that prospective students may not know about until they attend.

1. Personal Tutor and Study Buddy

Sometimes all you need is a helping hand – or two, in this case! Every student is assigned a Personal Tutor, a member of the faculty who offers guidance on coursework and career planning, along with a Study Buddy, a fellow student from the same program who gives student-oriented advice and hosts informal sessions. Together, these resources provide students with a space to ease their career-related stress through sessions with their tutors, while also gaining camaraderie and peer support with their buddy.

2. The King's Time System

If you're perpetually late don't worry, the King's Time System has got your back. The university operates on a unique schedule, King's Time, where all lectures and seminars start five minutes later than the advertised time. This academic quirk is designed to help students navigate the busy campuses and the London Transport system delays. These classes usually end 5 minutes before the given time to ensure that students have a packed schedule to ensure that they reach their next class and make the best of both modules.

3. Reggie Ritual

December 1923 marked the birth of the university mascot, Reggie the Lion. This majestic red lion is seen as a symbol of good luck, and so rubbing his paw before important exams and presentations is a tradition that students participate in since they believe it will bring them high grades. Whether this works or not is uncertain, but this cute ritual brings students of every department and year together to bond over their stress and love for Reggie during exam season – creating a sense of support and community.

4. Bhangra and Horse-Riding

One moment you're in class and the next you're riding a horse in Central London, backpacking across the globe, or performing Bhangra in front of the campus. The societies at King's encourage students to participate in unique and fun activities and explore their interests on a personal and academic level. Some unique ones include the cheese, coffee, surfing, equestrian, mani-pedi, jiu jitsu, and bhangra societies, bringing different cultures together.

5. The Race for Space

If you think getting a job is hard, try finding a seat at the Round Reading Room. This domed study space located in the Maughan Library of King's is well-known for its architectural beauty and books that cover each inch of the wall. Students often race to secure a place in the limited seating area, and their failure to do so has created an extensive inside joke with peers who experience the same.

6. Architectural Secrets

The underground labyrinth tunnels beneath the Strand Campus dating back to World war II or the hidden rooftop bars at Guy's Campus are prime examples of the architectural secrets at Kings. Many of these spots are hidden away in the large campus and are converted into recreational zones like underground gyms and bars which are used by the lucky few who know they exist.

7. King's Writer? Free Access!

As a King's student, you can easily access exhibitions that are hosted at Somerset House, The Southbank Centre, and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre at low or no cost at all. The university's esteemed magazines including STRAND, HER Campus, and ROAR news that feature the events of these locations alongside the university's collaboration with the venues allows students to experience the cultural and art life of London. The KCL ID is the key to escaping inflation prices in London!

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NAVIGATING THE UCAS CLEARING PROCESS

Step-by-Step Through the Clearing Process: From Eligibility to Offer

By
Keshav Chandak
NM Squad

You did not meet the final Grade 12 academic condition, and are now stuck?

You are rethinking your course, and are now looking at that top-tier University?

Move over Shaadi.com, the UK Clearing process is here.



Keshav Chandak

The UCAS Clearing process is an integral component of the UK higher education admissions system, designed to support students who find themselves without a confirmed place at university after the release of exam results. It operates as a supplementary route that offers flexibility and opportunity for those whose academic or personal circumstances have shifted during the admissions cycle. Clearing allows universities to fill any remaining vacancies on their undergraduate courses for the forthcoming academic year. For students, it provides a crucial second opportunity to gain admission to higher education.

The Process

The Clearing process typically begins in early July and remains open until mid-October. However, it reaches its most active phase in mid-August, coinciding with the release of A-level results in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Students who are not holding any offers, whether due to not receiving any, having declined them, or having failed to meet the required conditions, become eligible for Clearing. Those who apply after the UCAS deadline of 30 June are automatically entered into this process.

Upon becoming eligible, a student will receive a Clearing number visible through their UCAS Hub account. This number is essential when contacting universities, as it allows admissions officers to access and assess the student's application. The student must then research available courses—published in real time on the UCAS website—and initiate contact directly with universities offering relevant vacancies. Discussions with admissions staff may lead to an informal offer, which the student can then confirm by adding the course as their official Clearing choice in the UCAS system. The university subsequently formalises the offer, thereby completing the admission process.

The timeline of Clearing is significant in shaping how students approach the process. Although it opens in early July, many students do not engage with it until after results are published in July/August, when they first discover whether they have met the conditions of their firm or insurance offers. From this point, universities begin actively updating their course availability, and admissions teams prepare to handle a high volume of inquiries from prospective students. The process concludes in October, by which point most courses have been filled and the academic year is about to commence.

Who Is Clearing For?

Clearing is available to a broad and diverse range of applicants. It serves not only those who have not secured offers or failed to meet academic requirements but also those who have had a change of heart about their course or university. It also provides a practical pathway for international applicants who decide to enter the UK higher education system closer to the beginning of the academic year. Curiously, in recent years, many of our high-achieving students have used Clearing strategically to reconsider their options following unexpectedly strong exam results, taking the opportunity to apply to more competitive institutions or different courses better aligned with their long-term goals.

Closing Message

Choosing whether to enter Clearing is a decision that requires careful thought. Students must evaluate their academic interests, career aspirations, and personal circumstances to determine whether an available course through Clearing aligns with their ambitions. The availability of desirable courses, the location and reputation of institutions, and the structure of individual programmes are all important considerations.

The Clearing process is not merely a contingency plan for students who did not meet initial expectations; it is a vital and dynamic part of the admissions landscape. It facilitates mobility, provides second chances, and reflects the realities of academic assessment and personal choice. In this sense, Clearing represents the resilience and adaptability of the UK university admissions system—qualities that benefit both institutions and students struggling alike.

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Industry Leader SPOTLIGHT



Dhara Gandhi

Admission Counselor
Texas Christian University

In this section, Aiiyo brings you insights from counseling trailblazers who have made a significant impact with their work. Through candid interviews, we explore their journeys, passions, and personal philosophies. This month, we sit down with Dhara Gandhi, the India Desk Representative of Texas Christian University, to uncover what drives her success, how she balances the demands of work and life, and the mantra that keeps her moving forward.

What was your college degree?

My college degree was a Bachelor of Commerce.

Your Favorite Book

I do not particularly have a habit of reading books, but I enjoy learning through experiences and conversations.

Your Comfort Food

My ultimate comfort food is a simple, hearty plate of dal and rice.

A School/College you really enjoyed visiting

I thoroughly enjoyed visiting Indian School Bahrain.

What's on top of your bucket list?

At the top of my bucket list is my dream to travel around the world.

If you could give one piece of advice to your high school self, what would it be?

If I could give my high school self one piece of advice, it would be this: Focus and discipline are the true foundations of success.

Your Life Mantra

My life mantra is to enjoy life as it unfolds and always remain grateful for the little things.

One thing you would most like to change about the world

One thing I would most like to change about the world is to cultivate greater peace and a deeper sense of shared humanity.

What inspired you to do what you do?

I am self-motivated and firmly believe in doing what you love. This inner drive has always inspired me to follow my path.

A secret to balancing work & life

The secret to balancing work and life is to stay happy and content in the present moment.



THE TALENT ESSAY: SHOWCASING SKILLS WITHOUT BRAGGING

By
Bhupender Bhardwaj
NM Squad

For many students, when faced with the question "What is your greatest talent or skill?" the primary instinct is to hesitate. They think aloud, "I am not talented at anything," or "I have not been gifted with any faculties at all." The mistake here is to think that everyone must be possessed of marvelous attributes. Yet, each student has something fresh to bring to the table. It may not be grand in stature, and in fact, it is often the smaller, more specific skills that can turn out to be the most interesting.

When we think about talent, immediately the domains of art, music, writing, sport, and science spring up in our minds. This is exactly the trap. These are all subjects that are so commonplace that, unless your experience is out of the ordinary, it won't cause the essay to shine. Instead, think of the things that people will casually compliment you about, those unique, eccentric characteristics that make you, 'you'. Possibly, you are good at remembering your friends' birthdays, or imparting personal or creative flair to your belongings, or modifying any dish in the kitchen to yield a spicy taste. These are formidable treasures if you explore them properly.

However, what makes an essay memorable is depth, not superfluities. Go microscopic. Avoid stating "I'm great at cooking." Instead, describe how you turn leftover Maggi noodles into a gourmet. Don't say "I'm good at organizing." Talk about the secret cabinet in your house that only you can make sense of and why it matters to you.

Before you write, ask yourself these five questions:

1. What am I genuinely awesome at?
2. How did this talent begin or develop?
3. Why do I care about it?
4. What does it say about the way I think, connect, or contribute?
5. What are some moments or examples that show me living this skill?

When you sit down to write your essay, break it into three essential parts. These aren't strict paragraphs, but building blocks that enable your story to develop in a way that's natural and complete. Think of them as layers: your beginning, your meaning, and your outcome.

1. Your Journey

Start with a quiet or a surprising tangible activity. Maybe you didn't see it as a "talent." Perhaps it commenced as a side hobby, a curiosity, or because you were bored, or just a dare. If that's the case, it's all good.

What matters is the flame that became a fire. What happened next? Did it take away stress, or make you feel proud or challenged? Did you do it because you thought it was fun, or out of sheer frustration, or even sibling rivalry? Details are important here. Let us feel what it was like to fail so many times, get a little better, laugh at your failure, and feel the slow satisfaction of improvement.

2. Why does it Matter to You?

Now that we've covered your talent in the "what," let's talk about the "why." Why does it matter to you? Why do you go back to it again and again without anyone watching?

This is your space to reflect. What has the process taught you? Has it given you patience, observation, and empathy? Avoid broad statements like "It made me grow." Be specific and say how. If you have organized things, maybe it helped you achieve order from disarray. This paragraph gives us character, not through adjectives, but insight.

3. Where has it Taken You?

It doesn't need to be an award or anything extraordinary, but it can be. What it means is that there was a shift in your perspective that occurred due to this talent.

Perhaps your ability to cook helped bring your family together during a difficult time in your lives. It could be that your love of animals motivated you to volunteer, to comfort, or to simply observe the world with more compassion.

Whatever you select as your theme, just make it your own. A talent does not need award recognition. It needs to demonstrate your authentic side. And the more individualized it is, the more power it will have. And above all, remember that you are the story.

HOLD YOUR DRINK: HELPING STUDENTS ENTER UNIVERSITY LIFE WITH AWARENESS AND SAFETY

Why Peer Pressure Around Alcohol Feels Bigger Than the Drink Itself

By
Soumya Ramaswamy
Founder & Parenting and Teen Coach
Shaping Futures

"Just one drink..."



**Soumya
Ramaswamy**

That's often how it begins whether in university or beyond. A quick cheers at a freshers' party, a sip to blend in, a way to take the edge off the newness. For many students stepping into college life, drinking feels like a rite of passage a passport to friendship, fun, and freedom. The pressure may not always be loud, but it's there in the side glances when you say "no," in the unspoken rules of fitting in, and in the internal voice whispering, "Come on, just this once. Don't be that person."

But what if we reframed this moment? What if it wasn't about belonging to a group, but about belonging to yourself? Because how a young adult holds their drink often reflects how they hold themselves, their choices, limits, values, and self-trust.

When "Fitting In" Feels Like a Test

Students often say, "Everyone was drinking, and I didn't want to be the odd one out." Or, "I wasn't even sure I wanted it, but it felt easier to go along." These aren't uncommon thoughts. The transition to college is overwhelming. There's freedom, yes but also unfamiliar spaces, shifting identities, and a longing to be seen and accepted. Alcohol often becomes a shortcut to that feeling.

As parents, it can be tempting to panic, lecture, or warn. But what teenagers need more than advice is understanding. Try asking: "What does drinking mean in your group? What are the situations where you feel pressure? What helps you say no when you want to?" Holding space for these answers, without judgment, is the first step toward supporting them.

The Culture Around the Cup

When drinking becomes normalized as the only way to celebrate, socialise, or feel "cool," we stop noticing the red flags. No one questions "pre-gaming" every night, encouraging friends to keep going even when they've had enough, or brushing off blackouts as "just another wild night."

From a teen's voice: "Sometimes I don't even want to drink. But I feel like if I don't, I'll be left out or worse, judged." This is where our role as mentors, educators, and parents becomes vital not in shutting it all down, but in helping them slow down enough to choose consciously. Remind them: it's okay to say no. To leave early. To be the only sober one. You can hold your drink and still hold your ground.

What Students Really Need

Instead of giving students a list of do's and don'ts, let's offer them tools for awareness and self-trust. Start with conversations, not commands. Encourage simple practices like staying hydrated, not drinking on an empty stomach, going out in pairs, having a clear exit plan, and checking in with each other through the night.

But more importantly, ask them: "How do you want to feel at the end of the night?" This one question can guide many quiet, personal decisions in loud, social spaces.

For Parents and Educators: Be a Soft Landing

Conversations around alcohol aren't just about risk—they're about identity, autonomy, and emotional regulation. Avoid lecturing. Instead, stay curious. Ask what their experiences have been. What do they fear? What makes them uncomfortable? What moments made them proud of how they handled themselves?

Create space for reflection: "What version of yourself do you want to bring into this new chapter of life?" Give your teen or young adult the gift of being heard before being advised. When they feel safe in your presence, they are far more likely to make safer choices in your absence.

University is a chaotic, beautiful stretch of becoming of trying, failing, growing, and finding your place. Drinking may be part of that experience but it should never cost someone their dignity, boundaries, or well-being.

So, let's shift the message.

Not just: **"Drink responsibly."**

But: **"Live consciously."**

"In a world that urges you to lose yourself in the crowd, the boldest thing you can do is stay connected to who you are, even with a drink in your hand."

Hold your drink.

Hold your values.

Hold your power.

Holding Your Drink = Holding Your Boundaries

Drinking, in itself, isn't the enemy. The real risk lies in unconscious, unaligned, or unsafe consumption. Helping students identify their "why" behind the drink can shift their relationship with it. Are they drinking to enjoy, or to disappear? To connect, or to conform? Do they know what their body can handle? Have they made a plan for getting home safely?

And perhaps the most overlooked, but critical reminder of all: never leave your drink unattended. Even for a minute. Sadly, drink tampering is real. Substances can be slipped into drinks, leading to memory loss, impaired judgment, and sometimes, deeply traumatic consequences. Safety here isn't paranoia it's protection.

And beyond the physical and emotional risks, there's the law of the land to remember. What may seem like "just one reckless night" can lead to police cases, disciplinary actions by the university, or even permanent records that affect future education, job opportunities, and visas. Many students don't realise how easily a blurry evening can turn into a serious legal or academic crisis especially if consent is violated, property is damaged, or someone gets harmed. The law doesn't bend for youth or inexperience. So remind them: Your future is not worth risking for a moment you didn't even fully choose. Drinking is a choice, yes—but so is protecting your life and career.

LEAD ONSM TO A BRIGHT FUTURE.



Ranked among the nation's top universities by *U.S. News & World Report*, Texas Christian University is a powerful academic community made up of passionate and ethical leaders, all striving to become a force for the greater good.

With a choice of rigorous academic programs in 115 undergraduate areas of study, TCU offers the resources and opportunities of a major university and the intimacy and feel of a small college. Horned Frogs are equipped and empowered to leave a positive imprint on the world, each in his or her own way. TCU enlivens the soul.

27 average class size

13:1 student-to-faculty ratio

86% faculty hold a PhD or terminal degree

99% faculty teach undergraduate classes

9,445 undergraduate students

10,918 student population



LOCATION

Fort Worth, Texas (pop. 874,000), is part of the thriving Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area; the nation's fourth largest. The urban city is popular, due in part to its welcoming spirit and moderate climate. DFW International Airport is close by, and Dallas is less than an hour's drive away.

INDEPENDENT

Founded in 1873, TCU is historically related to, but not governed by, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a Protestant denomination that values social justice and inclusiveness. All values and viewpoints are welcome with more than 60 faith traditions and denominations represented on campus.

FACILITIES

At TCU, you'll discover sparkling new facilities for most academic areas, along with a spacious recreation center and completely renovated sports venues. Similarly, all residence halls are either new or recently renovated. Most upper-class dorms feature suite-style living with full-size beds in private bedrooms, bathrooms and living areas. Wifi covers the entire campus.

The University Union offers multiple food stations and an all-you-can-eat meal plan, so going hungry is not an option. Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options are available.

When it's time to hit the books, you'll find millions of resources at the campus library (open 24 hours a day during the school week), along with a huge computer lab, coffee shop and comfy chairs.

CAMPUS

Our 291 beautifully-landscaped, tree-lined acres are nestled in a residential neighborhood near parks, museums and shops, and just a few minutes from downtown Fort Worth.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

The Wall Street Journal ranks TCU #3 in the nation for student engagement. More than 200 student groups including community service, leadership development, religious clubs, ROTC, national sororities and fraternities, intramural sports, student media, Phi Beta Kappa and the Honors College keep students busy outside of classes. NCAA Division I athletics competing in the Big 12 Conference make for plenty of school spirit and a contagious sense of pride.

APPLYING TO TCU

While the statistics show that TCU students are far from ordinary, admission to TCU is not a numbers game. We consider the whole picture - grades and scores, yes, but you too: your goals, your potential, your ability to communicate, your leadership and work experience. To apply to TCU, visit admissions.tcu.edu/apply.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

TCU offers merit scholarships to high academic achievers. For need-based financial aid consideration, submit the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE (cssprofile.org). U.S. citizens and permanent residents must also submit the FAFSA (fafsa.gov).

TCU

MISSION: To educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community

DEADLINES

Freshman Deadlines

November 1	Early Action, non-binding decision by January 1
November 1	Early Decision, binding decision by January 1; Enrollment deposit required by January 15
October 1	Application deadline for spring semester
February 1	Regular Decision, non-binding decision by April 1

Transfer Deadlines

November 1	Spring Final Deadline
February 1	Fall Early Action Deadline
June 1	Fall Final Deadline



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AREAS OF STUDY

Actuarial Science	Interior Design
African American And Africana Studies*	International Economics
Anthropology	Italian*
Applied Geoscience	Jewish Studies*
Architectural Lighting Design*	Journalism
Art Education	Latin American Studies
Art History	Mathematics
Arts Administration*	Middle East Studies*
Arts Leadership & Entrepreneurship*	Movement Science
Asian Studies*	Music
Astronomy	• Brass
Biochemistry	• Church Music
Biology	• Music Education
Biophysics	• Organ
British & Colonial/Post-Colonial Studies*	• Percussion
Business	• Piano
• Accounting#	• Strings
• Business Information Systems#	• Theory/Composition
• Entrepreneurship and Innovation#	• Voice
• Finance#	• Woodwinds
• Finance/Real Estate#	Neuroscience
• Management and Leadership#	News & Media Studies
• Marketing#	Nursing
• Supply and Value Chain Management#	Nutrition
Chemistry	Philosophy
Child Development	Physical Education
Chinese*	Physics
Cinema & Media Studies	Political Science
Classical Studies*	Political Science - International Relations
Combined Science	Pre-Health Professions Track
Communication Studies	• Pre-Dentistry
Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies	• Pre-Medicine
Computer Information Technology	• Pre-Optometry
Computer Science	• Pre-Physician Assistant
Creative Writing*	• Pre-Pharmacy
Criminal Justice	• Pre-Podiatry
Cultural Awareness in Health and Healthcare*	• Pre-Veterinary
Dance	Pre-Law Track
Data Science*	Pre-Major Track
Design of The Built Environment*	Psychology
Digital Culture and Data Analytics*	Ranch Management
Economics	Religion
Education	Reserve Officers' Training Corps
• Accelerated Masters Program	(U.S. Citizens & Residents)
• All Level: Early Childhood-12	• Aerospace Studies (Air Force)
• Early Childhood Education	• Military Science (Army)
• Middle School Education	Social Work
• Secondary Education	Sociology
Educational Studies*	Spanish and Hispanic Studies
Energy Management and Technology*	Spanish for Business Professions*
Engineering	Spanish for the Health Professions*
• Electrical	Speech-Language Pathology
• Mechanical	Sports Broadcasting
English	Strategic Communication
Environmental Science	Strength & Conditioning
Fashion Merchandising	Studio Art
Film/Television/Digital Media	Sustainability*
Food Management	Theatre
French	• Acting
General Business*	• Design
Geography	• Musical Theatre
Geology	• Production
German	• Theatre Studies
Graphic Design	Urban Studies*
Habilitation of the Deaf	Women and Gender Studies
And Hard of Hearing	Writing
Health & Fitness	Youth Advocacy & Educational Studies
Health Communication & Media*	
Healthy Aging*	
History	
Human-Animal Relationships*	
Interdisciplinary Inquiry	

available with Global Business minor

* available as minor only

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR OF THE MONTH



Sabreena Bazaz

College Placement Counsellor
G.D.Goenka Public School, Vasant
Kunj, New Delhi

From chalkboards to college lists, Sabreena Bazaz has journeyed from teaching English to expertly guiding students through the maze of college admissions. Known for her calm, structured approach—and her uncanny ability to decode even the most chaotic essay drafts—Sabreena is the kind of counselor who balances tough love with heartfelt support. Whether she's fielding questions about cricket and the Ivy League or receiving joyful messages from students thriving on campus, she brings humor, heart, and a touch of magic to everything she does.

1. What's the weirdest/funniest thing you ever heard a student or parent say?

"My son will study in Harvard. He's already so good at cricket no college will refuse his application!"

It was such an earnest statement, I didn't even have the heart to explain that cricketing skills don't quite impact Ivy League admissions!

2. If you had to write a college essay about yourself, what would your topic be?

"From Chalkboards to Checklists: My Journey from Classroom to the Counseling Desk."

I would explore how being a English teacher helped me connect with students, decode their dreams, and this in turn helped me covert the chaos of college applications into a calm, structured path as a College Placement Counsellor.

3. What's the most oddly satisfying part of your job that no one ever thinks about?

When the students message me from the college campus, just to let me know that this was the right decision for them and how happy they are. It is the most satisfying and gratifying part of my job. Music to my ears.

4. What would your "Guidance Counselor Superpower" be if you were in a comic book?

Essay Whisperer.

I can read between the lines of a rambling draft and instantly tell what the student is really trying to say—then help them say it better, and with heart.

5. Which fictional character do you think would make a surprisingly great guidance counselor?

Professor Minerva McGonagall (Harry Potter).

Tough love, unshakable integrity, and the ability to see students for who they can be, not just who they are. Plus, the occasional magical intervention never hurts during the application season.

6. What's your go-to motivational phrase that even you roll your eyes at sometimes—but it works?

"Trust the process."

It sounds cliché, but somehow it always brings a little calm to the chaos—because at the end of the day, the process does work.

AT WE-LEARN, MYTH ISN'T JUST HISTORY, IT'S A CREATIVE SUPERPOWER

Bringing the Roast to Life through Art and Design

By
Neha Pandit
Founder
We-Learn



Neha Pandit

At We-Learn, we don't just teach art. We explore identity, history, and imagination through every stroke, sketch, and sculpture. And one of the richest sources of creative energy we've discovered lies in mythology, the stories and symbols that have lived for generations in our - culture, landscapes, and minds.

To us, creativity begins where mythology ends—at the edge of imagination. We don't just study ancient stories; we reimagine them through art, reflection, and bold new voices. Mythology is more than ancient tales. It's a toolkit for creativity.. And for our students, it's a powerful lens through which they express themselves in wildly unique ways.

Old Stories, Fresh Eyes

We believe that creativity ignites when old stories meet fresh perspectives. We often begin by asking: What does Mythology mean to you personally?

From there, it's incredible to see the diversity of interpretations that emerge.

Take Reya, for example, a detail-obsessed student with her love for miniature work. While most of her peers were drawn to bold colors and big canvases, Reya found her rhythm in clay. She started sculpting small figurines of mythological characters, as expressive characters full of personality.

Her version of Mahavir wasn't a towering stature of a saint but a curious, mischievous young figure sitting, thoughtful, observant, and full of life. "I didn't want to show him as a superhero," she explained, "I wanted to show his childlike

energy, because that's how I connect with him." She also worked on a clay figure of Saraswati, for weeks. But hers wasn't traditional, no veena, no swan. Instead, her Saraswati stood on a Lotus, surrounded by waves, "I try to put a little bit of me in all of my artwork," Reya said. "So the adaptation related to me in a way that the idol was still but kind of messy, just like me."

Her sculptures have now become part of a storytelling instillation we showcase during student exhibitions, each one as an artifact of myth, reimagined through personal narrative and modern style.



Drawing from the Divine

One of our youngest students, Priya, brought her own quiet passion to mythology through sketching. She filled pages with delicate line drawings of mythological characters. “I like making my own versions,” she said. “It’s how I see protection,” she explained.



Another incredible student, Anaira, joined our sketching course with a fascination for faces. “I’ve always been drawn to eyes,” she said. “There’s something powerful about gaze.” Anaira started sketching mythological figures with a deeply modern twist. One of her standout pieces was a pencil sketch of Lord Shiva but not the classical image. Instead, her Shiva was quiet, almost meditative, seated among clouds with closed eyes and floating hair. She said, “I wanted to capture what inner stillness might feel like.”

Her drawing is a quiet reminder of how mythology can become deeply personal and poetic when given space to breathe.



A Playground for Interpretation

A student artist reimagined mythological themes through minimalism—starting with a subtle depiction of Krishna, focusing on the symbolic peacock feather. The exploration continued with Hades, the Greek god of the underworld, illustrated on a traditional amphora. This fusion of Indian and Greek mythology reflects a thoughtful, cross-cultural narrative through form and symbolism.

Guiding Creativity with Freedom

The beauty of We-Learn’s philosophy lies in how we support and guide rather than dictate. Our mentors don’t hand out assignments, they offer themes, and gentle nudges. When students bring myth into their art, they’re encouraged to ask questions, mix media, and think about why a certain story appeals to them.

We often tell our students: Your art doesn’t have to be perfect. But it does have to be honest. When they use mythology as a medium, it becomes a way to explore not just the collective culture, but their individual voices.

At We-Learn, mythology is an invitation, not a template. We treat it as a creative inheritance rather than a historical study. And in doing so, we unlock an exciting blend of ancient narrative and modern expression that feels both rooted and revolutionary.

Conclusion: Rewriting Legends, One Stroke at a Time

In the end, what we see in our studios isn’t just art, it’s living storytelling. Mythology, at We-Learn, isn’t frozen in stone or stuck in the past. It evolves. It adapts. It inspires.

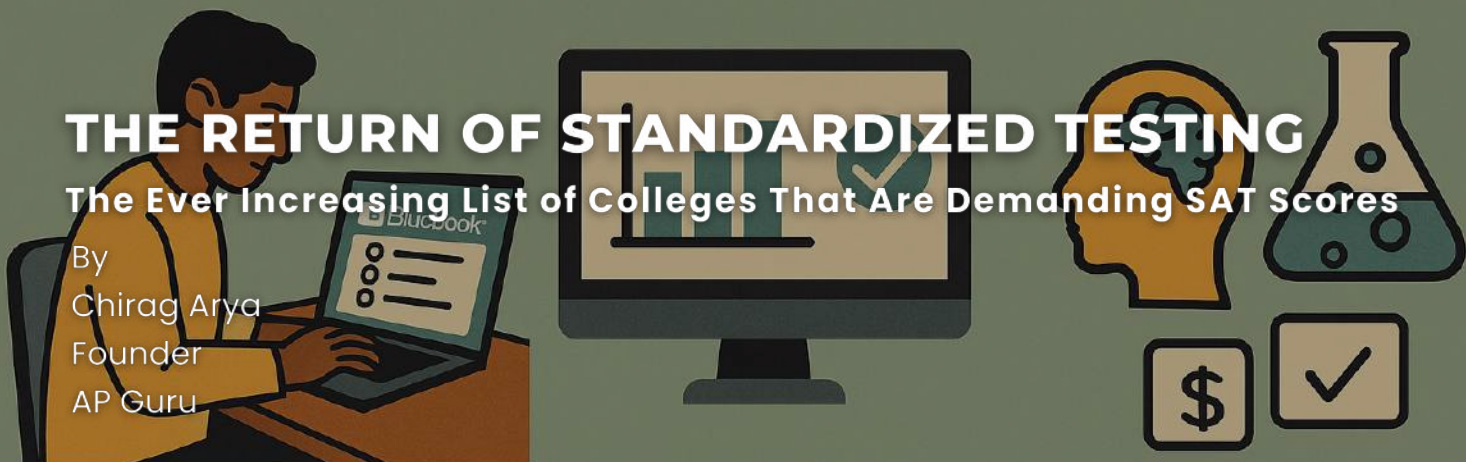
Here, we don’t ask students to paint what’s already been painted. We ask them to imagine what hasn’t yet been told. And in their sketches, sculptures, installations, and animations, myths come alive, not as relics, but as reflections.

Because in the hands of young artists, even ancient legends are just beginnings.

THE RETURN OF STANDARDIZED TESTING

The Ever Increasing List of Colleges That Are Demanding SAT Scores

By
Chirag Arya
Founder
AP Guru



Chirag Arya

Two short years ago it looked as though test-optional admissions might become a permanent feature of American higher education. More than 1,900 colleges waived SAT/ACT requirements during the pandemic's disruption of 2020 testing dates. Today the pendulum is moving decisively in the opposite direction. Since early 2024 at least a dozen high-profile institutions - including Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Brown, and Caltech - have announced that applicants for the Class of 2029 (and in some cases earlier) must once again submit standardized scores.

Why the sudden reversal?

Admissions deans insist the change is data-driven rather than nostalgic. Dartmouth's February 2024 statement cited "new research" showing that test scores helped identify students whose grades alone did not signal their academic potential. Harvard framed scores as expanding opportunity, arguing that SAT/ACT results "provide predictive information not available elsewhere" and thus help spot talent across socioeconomic lines. Yale reached a similar conclusion but adopted a test-flexible model that lets applicants substitute a full set of AP or IB scores.

These arguments rely on studies—including internal analyses—that show moderate-to-strong correlations between test scores and first-year GPA, especially for students from lesser-known schools internationally. Critics counter that the correlation weakens after Year 1 and that scores are tightly linked to family income.

The 2025–26 admissions landscape at a glance

Below is a snapshot of key colleges that will *require* (or have continued to require) scores for the upcoming cycles:

- **MIT** – reinstituted March 2022)
- **Dartmouth College** – Applicants for Fall 2025 entry and beyond
- **Yale University** – Applicants for Fall 2025 entry and beyond; AP/IB scores accepted as substitutes
- **Brown University** – Applicants for Fall 2025 entry and beyond
- **Harvard College** – Applicants for Fall 2025 entry and beyond
- **California Institute of Technology (Caltech)** – Applicants for Fall 2025 entry and beyond
- **University of Texas at Austin** – Applicants for Fall 2025 entry and beyond
- **Georgia Tech** – always required scores
- **Stanford University** – Applicants for Fall 2025 entry and beyond
- **Georgetown University** – Always test-required; applicants must send **all** SAT/ACT sittings (Score Choice not allowed)
- **Johns Hopkins University** – Applicants for Fall 2026 entry and beyond
- **Cornell University** – Applicants for Fall 2025 entry and beyond

Expect the list to lengthen.

What this means for Our Students

1. Testing timelines just moved forward again. Current rising 11th graders cannot assume their aspirational colleges will stay test-optional. Encourage them to sit for the digital SAT or ACT so they have score-report flexibility.
2. Plan for at least two sittings. Majority of the universities superscore the SAT and most do so for the ACT. Two carefully-timed attempts—one in December/March of Grade 11 and a retake in May/August/October—give you a stronger composite without jeopardising Early-Action deadlines in November

Practical next steps for Counselors

- **Build a test-inclusive college list.** Separate “test-required,” “test-preferred,” and truly “test-optional” schools. This clarifies priorities for score improvement.
- **Front-load preparation.** Because the digital SAT is shorter and section-adaptive, students unfamiliar with the interface risk losing points despite knowing the content. Encourage early diagnostics plus at least five proctored mock exam.

Looking ahead

The SAT’s comeback is unlikely to be a brief cameo. The conversation has shifted from *whether* colleges will use scores to *how* they will balance them against transcripts, essays, and the context of applicants’ lives. Your role as counselors is to translate these policy swings into clear, timely action plans that keep doors open for every student. The list of test-mandating colleges will keep growing; making sure your student’s testing calendars grow with it is now mission-critical.

Practical next steps for Counselors

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PASSION PROJECTS 101: WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, HOW?

How Small Ideas Become Systems, Solutions, and Change

By
Aashna Saraf
Founder
CreatED

WHY



Aashna Saraf

In every student, there's a question they can't stop asking. A problem they can't unsee. A cause they can't scroll past. That's where passion projects begin—not in classrooms, but in real moments of frustration, wonder, or urgency.

At CreatED, we help students transform those sparks into action. Not as resumé fillers, but as real-world interventions—projects that are bold, human, and deeply personal. Here's what we've learned from guiding hundreds of such journeys.

Who should start a passion project?

Any young person who's tired of waiting for permission.

You don't need perfect grades or a list of internships. You need ownership of a problem and the drive to build a solution. Like 14-year-old Aahana, who saw her autistic brother struggling with emotions and designed a board game to help neurodivergent kids navigate social cues. Or Dhruv, a national chess player who created a Braille-compatible PGN reader so visually impaired chess players could access games online.

If you care about something deeply—you're ready.

What counts as a passion project?

Not a hobby. Not a school assignment. A self-initiated, impact-driven solution that reflects who you are and what you stand for.

Some examples from CreatED students:

- **"Decode My Wrapper"** – A food literacy campaign where kids redesign junk snacks to protect gut health and reduce cancer risk
- **"Health for Her"** – A Hindi-language magazine demystifying India's government health schemes for low-income women
- **"Water Loop"** – A prototype system that recycles rinse water from pickling factories to reduce industrial wastewater

Each of these came from a student's lived experience. That's what makes it a passion project—not the format, but the why behind it.

When should you start one?

Now. Before you think you're ready. Before you have it all figured out.

We've seen students launch projects over summer break, during exam season, and even in the middle of moving cities. The truth is: you grow with your project. The earlier you begin, the more time you have to build, test, fail, learn, and evolve.

Where do you begin?

Begin with what's real for you.

Start where your world and your worries collide. If you're a dancer recovering from injury, maybe you create a virtual movement tool for others with mobility challenges. If you spend weekends at local farms, maybe you design a low-tech AI model that helps farmers sort compost from plastic.

Your "where" is often right in front of you—your home, school, community, or even your TikTok feed. Start there.

How do you actually do it?

At CreatED, we break it into six clear stages:

- **Spot the Spark:** What breaks your heart? What fires you up? Find a problem that feels close to home.
- **Dig Deeper:** Research with purpose—interview users, analyze data, talk to experts, map stakeholders.
- **Design with Empathy:** Think beyond solutions. Ask: What does my user feel? How can this intervention shift something meaningful?
- **Prototype and Test:** Start small. Test it. Break it. Fix it. Repeat. No project starts perfect—but each version gets sharper.
- **Document the Journey:** Capture everything—your wins, doubts, dead-ends. It's your story. And it matters.
- **Go Public:** Launch the app. Share the toolkit. Publish the zine. Run the workshop. Make it real in the world.

Final Thoughts

A passion project isn't a side quest. It's the main event.

It's how 16-year-olds end up presenting at climate forums. How school kids become inventors, researchers, founders. How you stop waiting and start leading.

At CreatED, we don't help students build "impressive" projects. We help them build necessary ones. And in doing so, they don't just build portfolios. They build character.

So if you've been waiting for a sign—this is it.
The world doesn't need more perfect students.
It needs more problem solvers.

Start now. Start here. Start with what's real.



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AMERICAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND AMERICA

What Are They and What Do They Offer?

By
Megan Mankerian-Stem
Founder & Executive Director
Global Leaders Collective



**Megan
Mankerian-Stem**

We often hear of global campuses, such as NYU Abu Dhabi, Northwestern Qatar, Duke Kunshan, and many others. As I talk to students and families all over South Asia about university options globally, these closer-to-home options are often overlooked. Maybe it's the perception of their programs or the return-on-investment, but is now the time to truly consider these options?

Some questions and comments I hear often are around the limited options in majors and minors, perception of the degree, and concern about giving up the American opportunity of OPT and CPT. However, when we immediately discount these campuses, we miss out on understanding what they can bring us during our studies.

Here are my five reasons why you should be considering American education opportunities outside of America:

Financial Savings

Inflation is a real concern around the world, and the cost of higher education in the United States is on the rise. In fact, there are several well-known universities that cost international students nearly \$100,000 per year. American campuses in other countries often offer lower tuition rates and some even offer opportunities to transfer. Take Rochester Institute for Technology Dubai. You can start your program in UAE for the first two years at a lower tuition cost, then transfer to the main campus in New York to complete your studies.

Additionally, you can save on living expenses, such as flight costs, housing, and food!

Become a Big Fish in a Small Pond

Many American campuses overseas offer smaller class sizes, with the ability to have more support from faculty and staff. This also opens up more opportunities on campus to be involved in activities, internships, and research on campus. Northwestern University in Chicago has around 22,000 students on campus, while their campus in Qatar has around 500 students. This allows students who want to study journalism and communication to be heavily involved in campus activities, such as the fully automated newsroom, where students can participate in every step of the broadcasting process.

Safer and More Stable Options

While the United States continues to catch up on the delayed visa cycle for this academic year and debates a new visa integrity fee and time limitations, studying in American universities overseas can be an answer to still getting the same education without the stress of constant political changes.

One great option is Spain! The visa process is similar to the US F-1 visa and you can study at great universities such as Saint Louis University Madrid. And as a bonus, you can work part-time in Spain as a student to help with your living costs!

Truly Global Experience

Did you know that NYU Abu Dhabi has students from over 120 countries? And, their faculty come from over 50 countries? This is truly a global experience in the classroom and across campus. As companies become more global each day, they are looking for talented students who have a track record of multi-cultural team work, communication, and problem solving. By living and learning in this diverse community, you'll naturally learn these skills and be prepared for any internship or job that comes your way.

State of the Art Facilities

With many of these campuses being newer than their American counterparts, it offers the luxury of having newer labs, facilities, technology, and design. Giving students these hands-on experiences allows for innovation and creativity in a truly future-focused environment. Take Duke Kunshan, for example. The research conducted on their campus ranges from usage of AI, to digital privacy, to mathematical modeling. They host several research centers, including the Environmental Research Center (ERC), founded in 2016, which has already published over 240 journal articles and 6 book chapters. The ERC works closely with Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, Sanford School of Public Policy, the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, the Energy Initiative, Chemistry Department, and Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science to serve as a hub for research cooperation.

As these campuses continue to expand throughout the world, I'm excited to see what happens next. With the announcement that Illinois Institute of Technology is the first American university to receive approval to open a degree-granting campus in Mumbai, and other universities expanding their footprint, such as the recent announcement from American University in Beirut opening a campus in Dubai soon, the global landscape of higher education is changing rapidly. Whether you want to study in the Gulf at any of the numerous options, to East Asia at Duke Kunshan or Temple University Japan, to the classic universities in Europe, like American University in Rome or American University in Paris, you can get the quintessential liberal arts curriculum of US universities anywhere you want to live!

Of course, there are many considerations in the college search and admissions process. We grow up dreaming of the quintessential American university experience, with the ivy-covered buildings at Yale, or the big city experience of UCLA, however, the American campuses overseas shouldn't be overlooked in this process. They can offer opportunities beyond what we think is available.

PREPARING FOR U.S. UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS **VIRTUAL SERIES**

EVENT SCHEDULE

23

JULY

**MOCK ADMISSIONS FOR AN
ENGINEERING/CS STUDENT
*FOR STUDENTS**

30

JULY

**MOCK ADMISSIONS FOR A
BUSINESS STUDENT
*FOR STUDENTS**

06

AUGUST

**ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR
SCHOLARSHIPS OR
FINANCIAL AID?
*FOR PARENTS**



**REGISTRATION REQUIRED
TIME: 7PM – 8PM IST
LOCATION: VIRTUAL**

***SESSION LINK WILL BE EMAILED**



GLOBAL
LEADERS
COLLECTIVE

FOR MORE INFO : HELLO@GLCOLLECTIVE.CO



Thank You, From Team Aiiyo

Thank you for taking the time to read Aiiyo. We're proud to bring you fresh, thoughtful perspectives—and it's your curiosity and engagement that fuel our work. At the heart of our mission is a desire to elevate the level of conversation around career choice and college admissions, helping readers navigate these decisions with greater clarity and confidence.

If you have any questions, feedback, or would like to contribute to a future issue, we'd love to hear from you—just drop us a line at contact@aiiyo.in. Until next time, stay sharp and stay inspired.

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