

'Studying Abroad Key to a Promising Career'

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Rohan Ganeriwala and Adarsh Khandelwal, Co-founders, Collegify, talk about the checklist for students looking to study abroad

Do you think there is more pain than gain for Indian students studying abroad?

Leaving home and going miles away while still a youngster is always difficult as Indians, we are used to closeknit families and the constant reassuring presence of relatives and friends. But we can also see that each challenge is an opportunity. By studying in top universities abroad, students gain immediate global exposure to multinational cast of fellow students, professors, and others. Resources are often cutting-edge and unparalleled. Twenty four-hour computer labs, independent research opportunities, industry experience and multi-million volume libraries are some of them. By balancing vibrant academics with tremendous personal growth opportunities, study abroad prepares students for life not just in the classroom, but outside it too.

Which are the most favoured nations to study abroad and why?

The US and UK are still considered the best. The UK boasts of a thousand year tradition of academic excellence, symbolised by colleges like Oxford and Cambridge, and is also reassuringly familiar in its organisation to Indian education. The US, with its plethora of choices and open curriculums, offers the 21st century student the widest global exposure and greatest opportunities. Canada is lower-priced, but colder alternative to the US, while the Singapore government's tremendous investment has seen colleges like NUS Singapore University, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University rise to rub shoulders with the other top universities of the world. New Zealand, Germany and Hong Kong also offer great courses and career opportunities for students.

Tell us about the students' most preferred colleges and universities?

Of course, there are certain colleges with great brand value like Harvard, Stanford, Yale, MIT, Oxford and Caltech. All students have heard these names. But there are many great colleges that do not have the same exposure in India, but are famous worldwide. For example, US 'liberal arts colleges' like Amherst, Swarthmore, Pomona, etc are supposed to have even higher standards than the Ivies, while in the UK, St Andrew's, Bristol and Bath are excellent. There are also

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specialisations to take into account business students might prefer Babson, Notre Dame, or NYU Stern, while engineers are always partial to Purdue, UIUC and Georgia Tech.

What is the eligibility criteria for students, who aspire to study abroad and does it seal a promising career?

Anybody, who has completed Class XII, is eligible to study abroad. Depending on academic prowess, extracurricular achievement, social service, etc., students can look for colleges matching their abilities. With hard work and consistency, studying abroad can become the key to a promising career.

What is the visa arrangement for students, who opt to study outside India?

Depending on the country, visa arrangement might be a little bit different. For most countries, students are awarded a student visa that is sponsored by the college. If students continue along with their studies and make required payments on time, the visa keeps them in good standing. In many countries, students are allotted a work visa for a specific period of time upon completing their studies.