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The Hindu Students at Education Fair

Thousands of foreign-education aspirants got an insight into education and employment opportunities in different countries, apart from advice on the visa process and educational loans at 'The Hindu Education Plus International Education Fair' held at Taj Deccan on Sunday.

Students were seen enquiring with officials of top-ranking universities like National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University, Dallas Baptist University, University of Aberdeen and University of New South Wales, apart from official education boards of countries like Holland, New Zealand and Britain. They were informed that the process of admission, eligibility and visa issuance were different for each country and that the capabilities and seriousness of candidates were given importance.

### **New destinations**

The aspirants evinced keen interest in countries like Holland, Singapore, New Zealand, Latvia, Dubai, Germany, Malaysia, Italy and other European countries, apart from popular

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destinations like USA, UK, Canada and Australia. Official boards of all the countries presented seminars on education opportunities.

Officials of the US-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) explained the care to be taken while applying for US varsities.

Apart from academic track record, scores in exams like GRE, GMAT and TOEFL, co-curricular interests and letters of recommendation mattered a lot, they said.

### **Advantage Baltic**

Kalyan Reddy of the Indo-European Educational Services said that Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia were gaining prominence.

The advantage of an education in Latvia was that its visa was valid in all 25 Schengen countries, and students could travel to those countries with the same visa and find employment there. The tuition fee would come to Rs.4-5 lakh, and living costs are low, he said.

Representatives of various countries said there was good demand for business management courses, apart from engineering.

Students said the information helped them to make informed decisions.

The State Bank of India, as the 'Official Education Loan Partner' for the event, offered consultation and advice on education loans to aspiring student and eager parents. Thomas Cook was the official Forex and Travel Partner and British Airways was the official Airline Partner.