

## The extra edge

May 27, 2013, 06.37AM IST  
By Devlina Ganguly & Irene Saha

Studying abroad offers opportunities to travel, meet and interact with people from different cultures and create a global network of friends and business contacts. In addition, international experience boosts your CV and makes it stand out. Students who have chosen commerce in class XII have wide ranging options to study abroad at reputed institutes offering different courses to give them the extra edge.

Karan Gupta, an overseas education consultant, says, "With a foreign degree, students can work abroad" this statement holds true mainly for students who plan to study at the US and Canadian institutes. Other than that, students get more variety in choosing their courses and learn through a practical approach." He adds, "US is a preferred destination among students because of the flexibility that universities offer. Students can major in business administration and finance or an unrelated subject such as psychology or even music." Some of the popular choices for commerce students are University of Pennsylvania, Kellogg School of Management, Sorbonne Graduate Business School, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California Berkeley, New York University, London School of Economics, National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University, and so on.

Courses that a commerce student can opt for post-class XII are several. The Bachelor's in business administration (BBA) is the most popular course. Papiya Chaudhary, HoD, commerce, Shri Shikshaytan College, however narrows down the choices as follows, "Finance is the most sought-after subject. Apart from that, marketing and HR also offer good exposure. There is a high demand for law in the UK and US."

While choosing an institute, financing your studies remains one of the most important considerations. Says Ratan Sen, HoD, department of commerce, Shivnath Shastri College, "The kind and worth of a scholarship you get is important while choosing your college as studying abroad is an expensive affair."

Anik Dasgupta, who completed BBM from Christ University Bangalore, feels that a foreign degree definitely gives students an added advantage. He says, "Foreign degrees give students an edge over their Indian counterparts because they have global recognition, thus leading to better placements. Also the teaching methodology is extremely practical and advanced as opposed to Indian classrooms, which employ a theoretical approach."

Students can also obtain a foreign degree by opting for an online course. Debomit Chakraborty, a CFA student, says, "The best part of choosing commerce as a subject is that it gives you the flexibility to get a lucrative degree from an institution abroad without really going anywhere. My course has the same advantage. The course is tough, but the degree that I would get at the end (from the CFA Institute in the US) will be worth it."

### Institute watch

University of Pennsylvania Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sorbonne Graduate Business School Kellogg School of Management London School of Economics National University of Singapore (Indicative listing).