

# **MANAGING GLOBAL UNIVERSITY ADMISSION TIMELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS**



**REGIONAL INSTITUTE**  
**The Americas 2025**

Successfully working with global nomads, means you:



KNOW THE HATS  
YOU NEED TO WEAR.  
AND WEAR THEM  
WELL.

-KAVI ARASU

## Our Role:

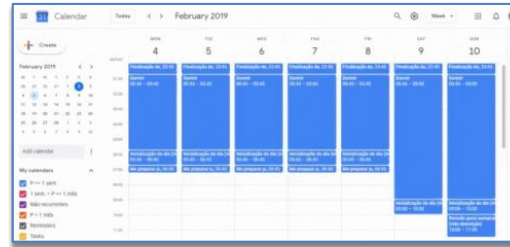
- Academic/Career Advisor
- Cultural Interpreter
- Strategist
- Mediator





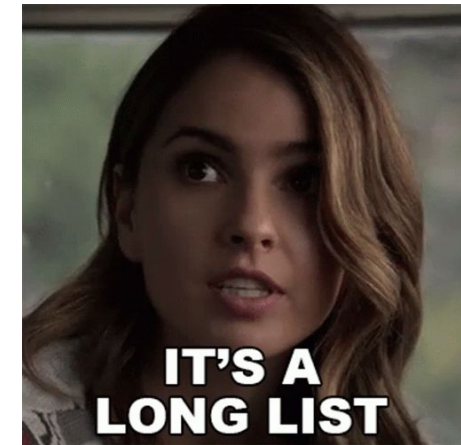
## Globalization of Higher Education

As students increasingly explore university options beyond their home countries, understanding global admissions is crucial.



## Diverse Academic Pathways

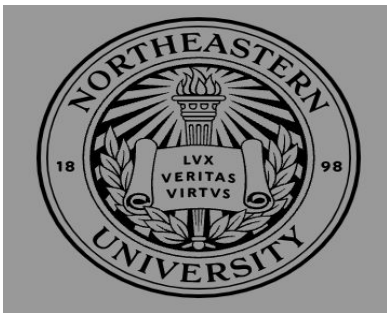
Different regions have varying high school graduation timelines, university start dates, and application deadlines.



## Unique Requirements

Each country or region has specific language, curriculum, exam, and visa requirements that we must be aware of to guide students effectively.

# Building a Global List....



# Entry Requirements

- Students (and parents) don't always realize that the student will need to have studied specific subjects depending on the course they apply to.
- Some universities might have language proficiency test waivers while others will require a language proficiency exam.
- It can be hard to keep track of which universities have unique exam requirements or require standardized test scores.

# Application Timelines

- Make sure student knows the specific deadlines for each institution.
- Suggest that the student make a spreadsheet to keep track of everything
- Remember that nothing is standardized.
- Help students plan out their work schedule as international timelines do not always align with curriculum demands.
- There are early application deadlines (Oxbridge, Bocconi, U of T), regular deadlines, and rolling. It will take time for the student to track them all down.



# Offer Dates and Enrollment Deadlines

- When a student has clear priorities in regards to where they want to study, they can more easily build an application submission timeline.
- Students must keep offers and enrollment (or deposit) deadlines in mind to build a strategy of when to submit each application. If not, a student might receive an offer that requires a faster, or larger, deposit than their family is willing to commit to.



# The Young Business Person - Student Profile

Curriculum: IB Diploma Programme

HLs:

Mathematics AA

English Language A

Economics

SLs:

Spanish Language and Literature

Global Politics

Environmental Systems and Societies

Test Scores:

SAT: EBRW - 730 ; M - 680

IELTS (or waiver): 7.5

Extracurriculars:

- Internship at family business
- Community service - fundraising for displaced Ukrainians
- Chess Club
- InvestIN internship in the UK
- Georgetown University Pre-college Program

Student Preferences:

- Co-op or hands-on experience
- Located in a city
- International student population
- Brand recognition

# The Young Business Person - The List

## UK

- University College London
- King's College London
- University of Bath
- University of Warwick
- City University of London

## SPAIN

- IE University
- Comillas (ICADE)
- Universidad de Navarra

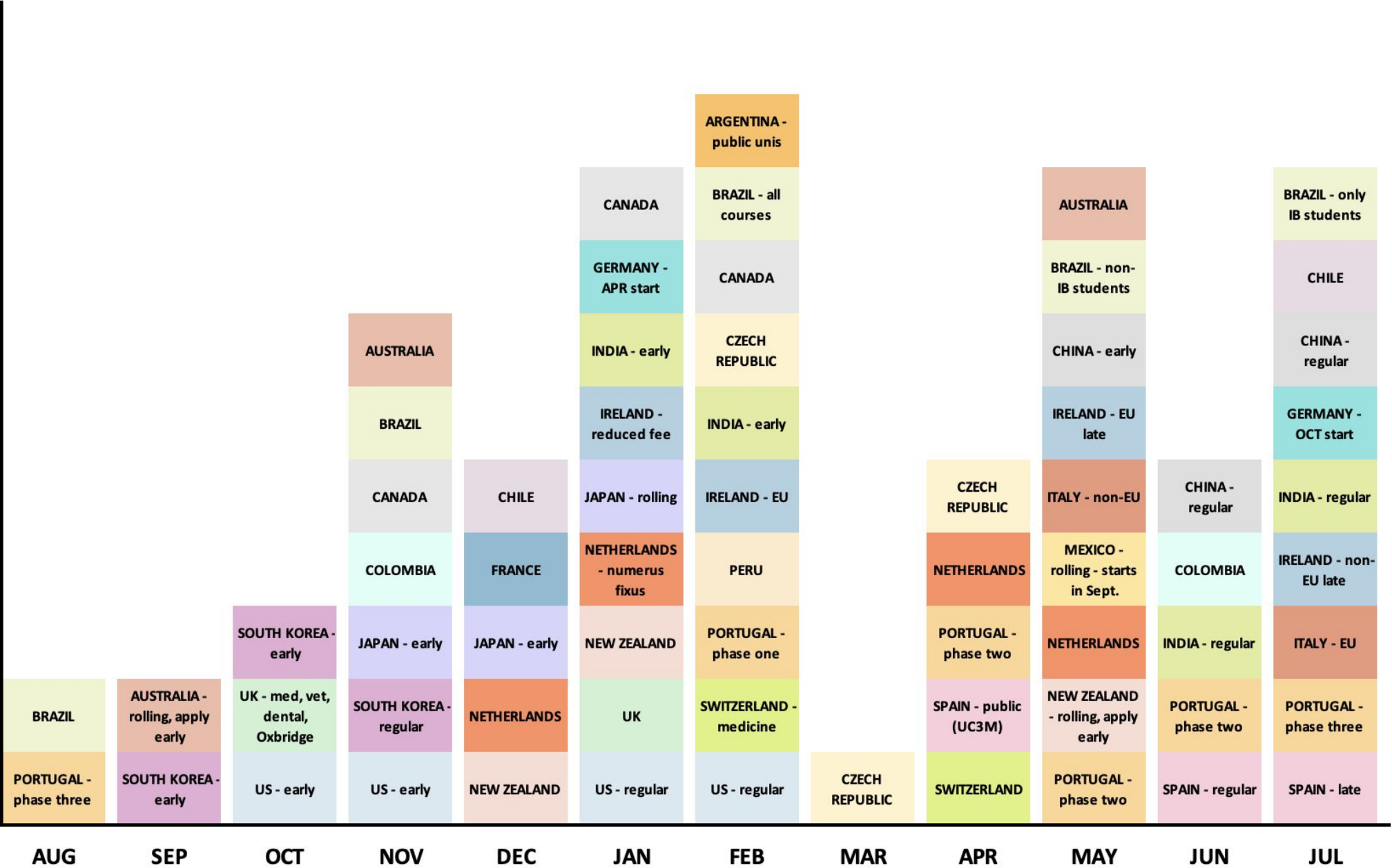
## U.S.

- Babson College
- Boston University
- Northeastern University
- Boston College
- New York University
- Georgetown University
- American University
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Miami
- University of Southern California
- University of San Diego

# The Young Business Person - The Issues

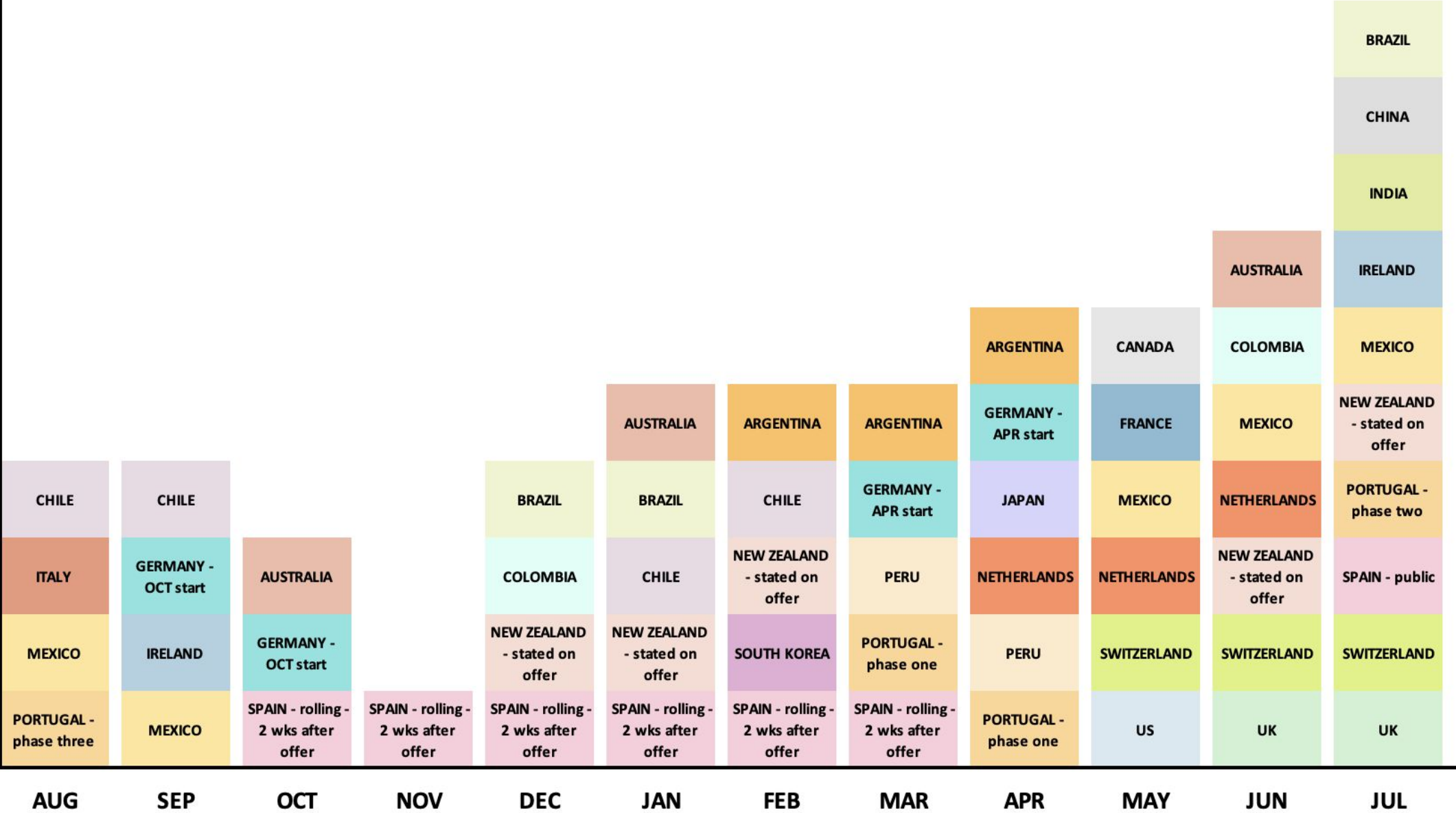
- Families come around knocking too late
- Families have an outdated understanding of the admissions landscape
- Priorities must be established between school calendar, academic work, extracurriculars, and standardized test prep
- Entry requirements in Europe vs. the US

APPLICATION DEADLINES BY COUNTRY AND MONTH





ENROLLMENT DEADLINES BY COUNTRY AND MONTH



# The Young Business Person - Timeline





# The Explorer: Student Profile

## Curriculum: U.S. HS Diploma

- AP Literature (5)
- AP Language (5)

## Test Scores:

- SAT: EBRW - 780; M - 750

## Extracurriculars:

- Creative Writing Club
- School chorus
- Local choir
- Musical Theatre Club
- Independent Japanese lessons

## Student characteristics:

- Non-binary
- 160+ IQ
- Expelled from private school
- Educational gaps
  - Residential treatment
  - Graduated early - too many credits, but only two APs
- Does not feel safe in the U.S.

## Student Preferences:

- Outside of the U.S.
- Very focused on Japan
- Major: Asian Studies

# The Explorer: The List

## JAPAN

- Waseda University
- Temple University, Japan

## CANADA

- Bishop's University
- Mount Allison University
- Concordia University

## NETHERLANDS

- University College Roosevelt

## UK

- University of Manchester
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Sheffield
- SOAS
- University of Leeds
- Durham University

## U.S.

- University of \_\_\_\_\_

# The Explorer: The Issues

- Student graduated early because they had too many credits but only has two APs and wants to study abroad. How will international universities feel about that? Will international universities accept their honors classes as qualifications?
- Can the student find the necessary emotional, social, and academic supports in the countries that they are interested in?
- Student is focused on studying outside of the US. It's important to honor their wishes while also dealing the challenges of what studying so far away from home might look like.

[illegible]

# Final Words of Wisdom

- Keep an eye on global politics. Events will affect college lists.
- Know the cultural "norms" of your families (family time, plagiarism, contract negotiations)
- An international student population does not equal diversity. Research! Are there strong ethnic or cultural concentrations to be aware of?
- Form strategic partnerships with local consultant or counselor if you lack knowledge.

# Country-Specific Resources

(generously compiled by colleagues across the globe)

THANK YOU to our collaborators:

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# ARGENTINA



**HS graduation:** DEC

**University start date:** MAR/APR

**Typical admissions deadlines:** FEB for public universities (all students start in ciclo basico (CBC) and must complete this first year to continue

**Centralized admission portal:** No, institution by institution

**Admission release dates:** By law, students who meet the basic requirements can study for free at any public uni

**Admissions deposit dates:** ASAP

**Typical language exams:** B2 Spanish

**Entry requirements:** - Public unis: no national exam; certain programs may require an entrance exam, interview or portfolio (medicine or arch, as examples); compulsory foundation year for UBA; Private unis: require preparatory courses with final entrance exams. May be direct admission for students with exceptional academic records.

**Typical time to secure student visa:** one month

**Common pitfalls:** Student must complete certain paperwork to enter Argentina (criminal record certificate, university acceptance letter, and address); English-language programs are rare



# BRAZIL



**HS graduation:** DEC (majority); JUN (int'l private schools)

**University start date:** FEB (all courses); AUG (not all courses and not all universities)

**Typical admissions deadlines:** NOV; MAY (non-IB students) or JUL (only for IB students)

**Centralized admission portal:** No, institution by institution

**Admission release dates:** DEC/JAN; JUL

**Admission deposit dates:** 1 wk (student must look at their Edital which is the document with all admission process rules)

**Typical language exams:** Vestibular

**Entry requirements:** Vestibular and ENEM (Brazilians); Processo Seletivo Internacional: IB/SAT/BAC/ABITUR (int'l)

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 1 wk

**Common pitfalls:** Law and medicine must be studied in Brazil in order to practice later (although they can later be consultants).

For law, there is one agreement with Portugal for validation in Brazil. Engineering studied outside of the country is difficult to validate in Brazil but foreign-educated engineers can work as consultants in companies.

**Other info:** FGV: Business School - most prestigious (all programs in English); PUC-PR: American Academy - dual degree programs with Kent State University

**Note:** Students can withdraw a deposit and re-deposit elsewhere. They will get some kind of refund but not 100%.

# CHILE



**HS graduation:** DEC

**University start date:** MAR

**Typical admissions deadlines:** Tied to PAES testing (happens 2x/yr in July and December). Students apply in specific rounds based on their scores and preferences

**Centralized admission portal:** No, institution by institution

**Admission release dates:** 3-6 wks after application

**Admissions deposit dates:** 5 business days

**Typical language exams:** DELE

**Entry requirements:** PAES exam (mandatory); HS grades

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 1-3 months; students should apply ASAP to allow time for visa approval; required documents typically include proof of enrollment, financial documents, and no criminal record.

**Common pitfalls:** PAES is biggest challenge. Many student rely on specialized centers to prep.

# COLOMBIA



**HS graduation:** NOV/DEC; JUN

**University start date:** JAN; JUL

**Typical admissions deadlines:** Dependent on when national exam (ICFES) results released (2024 was JUN and NOV)

**Centralized admission portal:** No, institution by institution

**Admission release dates:** Rolling from AUG-AUG

**Admissions deposit dates:** DEC; JUN

**Typical language exams:** SAT for some classes taught in English; B2 Spanish

**Entry requirements:** Domestic: Saber 11 (ICFES) and national high school diploma; International: national leaving exams from Europe accepted at some; interview (for some programs)

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 3 business days

**Note:** All students must take an English-language proficiency exam to graduate from university; students study 8-9 subjects each semester; difficult to get to know professors or to get assistance from them for internships ; rare for a student to graduate "on time" as programs all penalty-free withdrawals until last weeks of course (students protect GPAs by dropping courses)

# MEXICO



**HS graduation:** MAY/JUN

**University start date:** SEP

**Typical admissions deadlines:** Rolling, closes in MAY

**Centralized admission portal:** No

**Admission release dates:** 2 weeks (TEC de Monterrey) to 4 months

**Admissions deposit dates:** 30 days after decision

**Typical language exams:** B1 or B2 Spanish

**Entry requirements:** PAA or SAT; GPA min.; HS average of 80; resume for some

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 1 month

**Common pitfalls:** Student must apply to course; any student who studied high school in Mexico must have Mexican high school diploma to enter a Mexican university, no exceptions; programs reach capacity so apply early; deadlines mean everything needs to be approved, not just submitted; must be mindful of scholarship deadlines

# PERU



**HS graduation:** NOV/DEC

**University start date:** MAR/APR; AUG

**Typical admissions deadlines:** FEB (there are different rounds depending on a student's curriculum so a student must keep track of deadlines)

**Centralized admission portal:** No, institution by institution

**Admission release dates:** Varies by institution, but typically 2-6 wks after deadline unless part of a specific round

**Admissions deposit dates:** 2-6 weeks

**Typical language exams:** B2 Spanish

**Entry requirements:** High school GPA, essays, interviews, university-specific entrance exams (each university has its own)

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 1-2 months; students should ensure they have all necessary documentation ready before applying, including proof of enrollment and financial support.

**Common pitfalls:** The interviews can be challenging; entrance exam formats can vary so students must focus preparation efforts wisely to not spread themselves too thin

# AUSTRALIA



**HS graduation:** DEC

**University start date:** FEB/MAR; JUN/JUL; NOV

**Typical admissions deadlines:** NOV; MAY; SEP (rolling, apply early)

**Centralized admission portal:** No

**Admission release dates:** Rolling, 8 weeks after application

**Admissions deposit dates:** 48 hrs to 2 weeks (stated in offer letter)

**Typical language exams:** IELTS; PTE; CAE; OET; TOEFL iBT

**Entry requirements:** Australian Senior Secondary Certificate of Education (Year 12) or equivalent (U.S. HS diploma + SAT)

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 2 weeks

# NEW ZEALAND



**HS graduation:** DEC

**University start date:** FEB; JUL

**Typical admissions deadlines:** DEC/JAN; MAY (rolling, apply early)

**Centralized admission portal:** No

**Admission release dates:** 2-4 weeks

**Admissions deposit dates:** Stated on offer letter

**Typical language exams:** IELTS; PTE; TOEFL

**Entry requirements:** Course dependent: 2-4 APs; SAT/ACT; HS diploma; min GPA

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 3 weeks



# CZECHIA



**HS graduation:** JUN

**University start date:** SEP

**Typical admissions deadlines:** FEB-APR (Masaryk University: NOV-FEB for Czech-taught programs)

**Centralized admission portal:** No

**Admission release dates:** End of JUN (Masaryk: Economics & Administration: within 2 months of app)

**Admissions deposit dates:** Varies by institution

**Typical language exams:** Main language of instruction is Czech (CCE at B2 or C1 req'd); English-taught programmes are expanding (B2 level req'd)

**Entry requirements:** High school completion (student must meet Czech high school course requirements with their high school diploma); check specific requirements on each uni website; submit certified copies of diplomas, transcripts, and may need to provide letters of motivation, recommendation, or portfolios, depending on program. All students go through "nostrification" or will qualify through institutional accreditation or recognition of secondary education - see list [HERE](#)

Note: Some universities have institutional accreditation and may recognize foreign secondary education as part of admission process (valid only for the particular university and faculty)

# CZECHIA



**Typical time to secure student visa:** 60-90 days, but better to apply in advance

**Common pitfalls:** Missed deadlines; not providing required documents (certified transcripts or proof of language proficiency), high school coursework that isn't equivalent to Czech high school; starting visa process too late

**Resources:** [STUDY IN CZECHIA](#) and [Study in Prague](#)

# FRANCE



**HS graduation:** JUL

**University start date:** SEP

**Typical admissions deadlines:** DEC 15

**Centralized admission portal:** Parcoursup for undergraduate programs for French, EU, and some int'l students; private unis require direct application; EEF platform in local Campus France office for all others (opens OCT 1)

**Admission release dates:** Within 1 month for program that requires an interview

**Admissions deposit dates:** MAY 31

**Typical language exams:** B2 min and C1 for competitive courses; TCF DAP recommended; DELF and DALF accepted

**Entry requirements:** HS Diploma equivalent to French Bacc; SAT/ACT, 3-5 APs, or IB DP (for U.S. students)

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 1-2 months, but 3 months recommended

# GERMANY



**HS graduation:** MAY to JUL depending on state

**University start date:** OCT (most common intake); APR (fewer programs)

**Typical admissions deadlines:** JUL 15 (for OCT start); JAN 15 (for APR start); verify deadlines as some int'l programs may set earlier deadlines

**Centralized admission portal:** Uni-assist.de is used by many institutions for int'l applications

**Admission release dates:** 4-8 wks (public); within a few weeks (private); add 4-6 wks if applying via uni-assist.de

**Admissions deposit dates:** SEP-OCT (for OCT start); MAR-APR (for APR start); no deposit for public universities while private universities may have different requirements, including deposit payments.

**Typical language exams:** German-taught programs: DSH (Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang), TestDaF (Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache), Goethe-Zertifikat C1 or C2, Telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule; English-taught programs: IELTS (6.0–7.0), TOEFL iBT (80–100)

# GERMANY



**Entry requirements:** High school diploma equivalent to Abitur (requirements vary by country); US: 16 academic units min; three AP tests (3+); Numerus Clausus (NC): limited spots and requires high grades for admission; student can do a Studienkolleg (preparatory course) if their diploma does not meet the direct entry requirements

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 6-12 wks after document submission; students should apply at least 3 months before program start; required documents are: admission letter, proof of financial resources, health insurance, and proof of language proficiency.

**Common pitfalls:** Missed deadlines; submitting incorrect or incomplete documents (many need to be officially certified); not factoring in additional processing time with Uni-Assist applications; misunderstanding admission requirements; applying too late for a visa

**Resources:** [Abroader.EU](#) (search engine for English-taught public university programs); [DAAD](#) (German academic exchange service); [Uni-Assist](#) (central application platform for many universities) [Study in Germany](#) (official guide for international students); [Anabin](#) (check if diploma is recognized in Germany)

# IRELAND



**HS graduation:** MAY

**University start date:** SEP

**Typical admissions deadlines:** JAN (reduced fee); FEB (EU); MAY (EU - late); JUL (non-EU - late)

**Centralized admission portal:** Central Applications Office (CAO) for first year EU/EEA/UK applicants; direct admissions (non-EU)

**Admission release dates:** JUL; AUG

**Admissions deposit dates:** JUL; SEP

**Typical language exams:** Irish Leaving Certificate in English, GCSE English Language, University of Cambridge – Use of English Examination, TOEFL, IELTS, PTE

**Entry requirements:** Irish Leaving Certificate examinations, A levels, IBDP, US High School Diploma with SAT or ACT

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 4-8 weeks

**Common pitfalls:** Housing crisis in some areas (Dublin) and late decision date in relation to other countries

# ITALY



**HS graduation:** JUN

**University start date:** SEP/OCT

**Typical admissions deadlines:** Non-EU - MAY; EU - JUL; important to check each program as some universities will have slightly different deadlines; some unis offer rolling admissions; privates as early as SEP

**Centralized admission portal:** EU - No, institution by institution; Non-EU - Universitaly should be used for pre-enrollment apps, but not all unis offer it

**Admission release dates:** APR-OCT , depending on rank

**Admissions deposit dates:** As early as mid-Aug (can be as short as 2 wks)

**Typical language exams:** B2 Italian; IELTS

**Entry requirements:** HS diploma; TOLCs, TILs, or TILCs (entrance exams for degree programs with limited spaces); IMAT - Non-EU medical school exam;

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 1-3 months

**Common pitfalls:** Some universities ask for fairly large deposits within 2 weeks of the decision release.



# ITALY



## Entry Requirements

**Admission Tests:** In addition to private universities that require admission tests, many public universities have admission tests for degree programs with limited spaces such as engineering, architecture, etc. These are often called TOLCs or TILs or TILCs. In addition to the high school diploma, they form the basis of the ranking that decides who is admitted and who is not.

**Medical:** Private medical school exams take place from Jan-Mar. The public medical school entrance exam for EU citizens is currently under discussion and dates have not been finalized for 2025. Non-EU citizens wishing to study in public medical schools must take the IMAT in September 2025. Some public universities require pre-registration in February 2025, in addition to the University pre-enrollment. It is a university by university process.

**Exceptions?** For Bocconi, Luiss, Politecnico di Torino, Politecnico di Milano, and a few other public universities, SAT scores can be an alternative to a university's entrance exam. Minimum scores are often indicated (1300 Politecnico di Torino, 1400-ish Bocconi, 1200 Luiss). Some very competitive AI and CS degree programs at public universities also look at SAT.

# ITALY



## Entry Requirements

**Foreign Diplomas:** Any foreign diplomas, including IB, have to go through a process called the Declaration of Value to be approved as a credential. Some private universities skip this step, but there is no guarantee. The process is usually done through [CIMEA](#).

**US Diplomas:** A student's HS diploma alone is not enough. They must have passed three Advanced Placement exams (IBs certificates are not accepted). In some cases, specific APs are required. Some universities allow a year of university study in lieu of the 3 APs.

**Foundation Year Programs:** These have begun to appear in English across Italy at state and private universities (Tor Vergata, La Sapienza, Pavia, Ca Foscari, Luiss Foundation Year, RUFA, ...).

# ITALY



## Typical Application Deadlines for Italian Public Universities (English-Taught programs)

University	Deadline for Non-EU Students	Deadline for EU Students
La Sapienza Rome	March-May	July
University of Bologna	April - May	July
Politecnico di Milano	March – May	June – July
Politecnico di Torino	April – May	June – July
University of Milan	April – May	July
University of Florence	April – May	July

**Note:** Each uni has an admission portal so always check the uni page for exact dates.

**Non-EU Students:** Non-EU students generally have earlier deadlines due to visa processing and other documentation.

**Specific Programs:** Some unis or programs may have slightly different deadlines. Verify with the university's website!

**Rolling Admissions:** Rolling admissions or add'l deadlines may exist if there are available spots after the main rounds.

# ITALY



## What is Universitaly?

- A centralized pre-enrollment portal required for non-EU citizens who need visas
- Searchable database of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs across various Italian universities
- Filter by language of instruction (e.g., Italian or English) and discipline.
- Information on tuition fees, scholarships, and visa procedures is available
- Be patient with the filters - it is a work in progress

## How to Use Universitaly:

- Create an account on the Universitaly website
- Search for your desired program
- Submit your pre-enrollment application with the required documents
- Wait for the university's approval and then proceed with the visa process if necessary

**Note:** Some universities might also require direct applications through their own portals or systems. Always check the specific admission requirements for the university and program you are interested in.

# ITALY



## Which English Proficiency Tests are Necessary for English-taught Programs in Italy?

SHORT ANSWER is a B-2 or IELTS 6.5, but some have slightly lower (Cattolica 6.0) and some higher.

### Accepted English Proficiency Exams and Common Score Requirements:

- IELTS - Overall band score: 6.0–7.0 (minimum 5.5 per section)
- TOEFL iBT - 72–100
- Cambridge English Exams - Cambridge B2 First (FCE): Grade B or higher; Cambridge C1 Advanced (CAE): Grade C or higher; Cambridge C2 Proficiency (CPE): Pass; PTE Academic - 59–65; Duolingo English Test - 95–120 (accepted by some)

**Exemptions:** Many universities waive the English proficiency requirement if:

- The applicant has completed previous education in English.
- The applicant is a native English speaker from countries like the USA, UK, Australia, or Canada.

**Validity:** English test scores are generally valid for 2 years from the test date.

# ITALY



**Is an Italian university right for a student?**

**Assessment Methods:** Examinations (Oral and Written)

**Oral examinations:** significant part of the Italian system, especially in theoretical subjects like humanities, law, and some social sciences; typically involve face-to-face discussion where professor asks questions, and students respond verbally; Students assessed on understanding of material, critical thinking, and ability to articulate answers clearly

**Written Exams:** common for STEM and some social sciences; formats may be multiple-choice, problem-solving, essays, or short-answer questions; often test factual knowledge, application of concepts, and analytical skills

**Project Work:** required for many programs, particularly in fields like engineering, business, or IT; may involve research, group collaboration, or practical application of skills learned in the course

**Written Papers (Essays/Reports):** less common but some may require; more typical in humanities, social sciences, or PBL

# ITALY



**Continuous Assessment:** More common in modernized or internationalized programs

**Final Thesis or Capstone Project:** Most bachelor's programs in Italy conclude with preparation and defense of a final thesis (known as the tesi di laurea); demonstrates student's ability to conduct research and present findings effectively; usually shorter and less complex than a master's thesis

# ITALY



## Yearly Tuition Costs at Public Universities:

**EU Citizens:** Tuition fees for EU students at public universities typically range from €500 to €4,000 per year. The exact amount often depends on the specific university, program of study, and the student's family income. Many institutions offer income-based reductions, requiring students to submit financial documentation to determine the applicable fee.

**Non-EU Citizens:** Non-EU students may encounter different fee structures. Some universities implement a flat-rate system based on the student's country of origin and chosen field of study. Other institutions might have higher fees for non-EU students, sometimes reaching up to €6,500 annually, depending on the program and university.

## Yearly Tuition Costs at Private Universities:

- Bocconi: approx €16,500
- LUISS: approx €12,500
- Cattolica: approx €6,000

\*Not included: room, board, books, supplies, transportation, health insurance, visa costs, etc.



# ITALY



## **Private University Tuition Due Dates:**

Ones that offer early admission windows, often have an enrollment deposit deadline that can be as early as mid-autumn. This is the case for LUISS and Bocconi early admissions. Deposits are around 1200 euros and 3500 euros respectively, and are not advertised as refundable. Families often they pay the deposit to secure the spot. Other payment due dates are spaced throughout the year.

## **Public University Tuition Due Dates:**

Tuition is commonly divided into multiple installments throughout the academic year.

# NETHERLANDS



**HS graduation:** JUN/JUL

**University start date:** SEP

**Typical admissions deadlines:** Numerus fixus: JAN 15; Reg: APR 1 /MAY 1 (EU); DEC 1 and onwards for some university colleges

**Centralized admission portal:** Studielink

**Admission release dates:** APR 15 Ranking Day (numerus fixus); Reg: MAY/JUN

**Admissions deposit dates:** Within 2 weeks of an offer

**Typical language exams:** TOEFL, IELTS, CAE

**Entry requirements:** Check country requirements in [NUFFIC](https://nuffic.nl)

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 1-3 months

**Common pitfalls:** Some programs require submission of application within 14 days after registration with Studielink (UvA). Begin accommodation search early; don't wait for offer.

# PORTUGAL



**HS graduation:** JUN

**University start date:** SEP

**Typical admissions deadlines:** 1st phase (EU) - FEB; 2nd phase (if spots avl) - APR-JUN; 3rd phase (still spots phases 1 and 2) - JUN/JUL

**Centralized admission portal:** No, institution by institution and then course by course

**Admission release dates:** 1st phase (EU) - FEB;/MAR; 2nd phase - JUN; 3rd phase (still spots phases 1 and 2) - JUL/AUG

**Admissions deposit dates:** 1 month

**Typical language exams:** Letter from Portuguese teacher confirming level; CAPLE; CELPE-BRAS

**Entry requirements:** 1st phase - Exame Nacional Portugal (EU passport holders) - [equivalency chart for Exame Nacional Portugal](#); ENEM (Brazil); IB (international or EU); 2nd phase - many more options

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 1-3 months

**Common pitfalls:** If an int'l student does not have a final HS transcript they have to apply in phase three, or gap.

**Notes:** Private universities tend to be a little more flexible with entry requirements

# SPAIN



**HS graduation:** MAY

**University start date:** SEP

**Typical admissions deadlines:** Early: APR (public-UC3M); Rolling (private); Regular: JUN (public)

**Centralized admission portal:** Public: (step 1) [UNEDasiss](#); (step 2) by region. Private: (step 1) university by university; (step 2) UNEDasiss

**Admission release dates:** JUL (public); Rolling (UC3M early, private)

**Admissions deposit dates:** JUL (public); within 2 weeks of an offer (UC3M & private)

**Typical language exams:** DELE, SIELE B1 level of Spanish (even for English-taught degrees); TOEFL 100-105; IELTS 7-7.5; Cambridge Advanced (C1) or Proficiency (C2); Duolingo (130)

**Entry requirements:** If no bilateral agreement/outside EU, UNEDasiss + EvAU/PCEs

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 1-3 months

**Common pitfalls:** If no agreement in place, long evaluation process for int'l students; admissions exam in Spanish; different application process in every region; short deposit window

# SWITZERLAND



**HS graduation:** JUN

**University start date:** SEP

**Typical admissions deadlines:** Varies by institution (important to verify each one), but typically APR

**Centralized admission portal:** No, institution by institution, canton by canton

**Admission release dates:** Up to 3 months

**Admissions deposit dates:** Weeks to a few months, check offer

**Typical language exams:** B2 (accepted)/C1 (preferred); few programs offered entirely in English

**Entry requirements:** Abitur; entrance exam (medicine); generally varies by university and student origin; CV; passport photo

**Typical time to secure student visa:** Visas are approved by each canton, so it varies

**Common pitfalls:** Application dates and admission process is highly variable due to cantons, so verify all dates and requirements; easier to get in than it is to graduate.

# SWITZERLAND



## Swiss Education System

- There is no centralized Swiss system or curriculum. The country is comprised of 26 cantons (10 of which have universities) and each manages its own education system, entry requirements, and school calendar.
- [Universities](#)

**Note:** To enter university students have to earn a cantonal or federal maturité gymnasiale/Abitur.

## Switzerland has two academic powerhouses, the two national universities:

- EPFL – the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (Lausanne)
- ETH Zürich – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (Zurich)

# SWITZERLAND



## EPFL Entry Dates and Requirements

**Deadline:** Mid-November to April 30th, documents required by April 30th

**Requirements:** EPFL limits the number of students in the first year of the Bachelor's programs to 3000. Students repeating the first year, holders of a Swiss maturité gymnasiale, and those who have successfully completed the CMS or entrance exam are guaranteed to be accepted. [Consult the website](#) for the long list of requirements. Upper secondary school certificates from a country that is not a member of EU, EFTA, nor UK have to take a [difficult entrance exam in French \(sample\)](#).

**Language:** B2 French accepted, C1 preferred

**Notification:** Holders of an upper secondary school-leaving certificate from a country that is a member of EU, EFTA, or UK or of an International Baccalaureate (IB) will be accepted at the beginning of August within the places available. The general average (or total number of points scored) of the school-leaving certificate will be used to rank and select the applicants.

# SWITZERLAND



## ETH Entry Dates and Requirements

**Deadline:** Without entrance exam: Dec 1 – Mar 31st; With exam: Take the exam Dec - Jan

**Requirements:** Requirements by country of origin can be found [here](#).

**Language:** B2 German accepted, C1 preferred

**Notification:** Within 8 weeks



# SWITZERLAND



## Swiss University Entry Requirements for US Students:

### General Provisions

Recognition of foreign upper secondary school-leaving certificates

Language skills and/or exams under reserve

### Recognised upper secondary school-leaving certificate

High School Diploma with general education subjects determined directly by each university, see below.

**Non-recognised AP-subjects:** Art and Design Program, Art History, Comparative Government & Politics, Environmental Science, Music Theory, Psychology, Statistics, U.S. Government & Politics

# SWITZERLAND



## Swiss University Entry Requirements for US Students for 2025/26:

### EPFL

Upper secondary school-leaving certificate + Entrance Examination EPFL

### ETHZ

Upper secondary school-leaving certificate + reduced entrance examination if high school diploma is accompanied by at least 3 Advanced Placement tests, each one with a minimum score of 3 in: 1. mathematics; 2. biology or physics or chemistry; 3. one language. In addition, four of the following subjects must have been taken during the last three years of high school: physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, another language, geography, history, economics.

Otherwise: Comprehensive Entrance Examination ETHZ

# SWITZERLAND



## Basel

Upper secondary school-leaving certificate + Advanced Placement tests including 6 independent general education subjects, each with a minimum grade of 3: 1. First language (native language); 2. Second language; 3. Mathematics/calculus; 4. Natural sciences (biology, chemistry or physics); 5. Humanities and social sciences (geography, history or economics/law) and 6. Elective: one subject from category 2, 4 or 5 or computer science or philosophy. Computer science and philosophy can only be chosen as a sixth subject. All required achievements must have been acquired entirely and exclusively within the US American education system.

## Bern, Fribourg, Geneve, Lausanne, Luzern, Neuchâtel, St Gallen, USI and Zürich

Upper secondary school-leaving certificate + Advanced Placement tests including 6 independent general education subjects, each with a minimum grade of 3: 1. First language (native language); 2. Second language; 3. Mathematics/calculus; 4. Natural sciences (biology, chemistry or physics); 5. Humanities and social sciences (geography, history or economics/law) and 6. Elective: one subject from category 2, 4 or 5 or computer science or philosophy. Computer science and philosophy can only be chosen as a sixth subject.

**Note:** St Gallen additionally has HSG selection procedure

# SWITZERLAND



## **Applied Sciences and Arts Universities (UASAs)**

The ten applied sciences universities require the specialized maturité. Most also require one year of work experience or apprenticeship prior to entry.

<https://www.studyinswitzerland.plus/university-types/studying-at-a-swiss-university-of-applied-science-and-arts/>

## **Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Masters & Ph.D only)**

<https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/master-phd-programmes>

## **Universities of Teacher Education (UTEs)**

<https://www.studyinswitzerland.plus/university-types/studying-at-a-swiss-university-of-teacher-education/>

**Note:** No public universities, applied sciences, or teacher universities provide housing. Come early and use the apartment posting boards to find accommodation.

# UNITED KINGDOM



**HS graduation:** JUL

**University start date:** OCT

**Early admissions deadlines:** Oxbridge/Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Medicine: OCT 15

**Regular admission deadline:** JAN

**Centralized admission portal:** UCAS

**Early Admission release dates:** Oxbridge/medicine: mid to late JAN

**Regular Admission release date:** FEB-MAY

**Admissions deposit dates:** With 4-6 weekends of an offer

**Clearing round:** JUL- OCT

**Typical language exams:** IELTS, TOEFL, PTE, CAE

**Entry requirements:** 3 A Levels, T Levels, or Scottish Highers,+ (I)GCSE-English/Math; 3-5 APs, or IBDP (for US students), UCAS Tariff Points, Admissions test for certain programs LNAT (law), UCAT (medicine/dental), TMUA (math), ESAT (engineering/science)

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 3 weeks

# CANADA



**HS graduation:** End of JUN

**University start date:** SEP

**Typical admissions deadlines:** Early: NOV; Reg: JAN 15-FEB 1, Rolling

**Centralized admission portal:** Some provinces: Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia

**Admission release dates:** Early: End JAN/FEB; Reg: rolling from FEB-MAY

**Admissions deposit dates:** MAY 1

**Typical language exams:** TOEFL, IELTS, DET, IB, IGCSE English\*, CAE, PTE, CAEL

\*Quebec unis require intermediate level French by graduation

**Entry requirements:** High school diploma; min GPA, US HS Diploma + SAT + APs\*, A Levels, IBDP, French Bac, etc.

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 3 months

**Common pitfalls:** Check each university's program requirements as it all depends on the program (not the university); be mindful of ethnic concentrations

# U.S.A.



**HS graduation:** JUN

**University start date:** AUG/SEP

**Typical admissions deadlines:** Early: OCT/NOV, Reg: JAN, Rolling

**Centralized admission portal:** Common App, Coalition App, UC App, Cal State Apply, Questbridge, Texas, SUNY

**Admission release dates:** Early: Mid- DEC-JAN, Reg: MAR/APR

**Admissions deposit dates:** May 1

**Typical language exams:** TOEFL, IELTS, DET, CAE, PTE

**Entry requirements:** HS Diploma, min GPA, APs, A Levels, IBDP, French Bac, etc., SAT/ACT required by some unis

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 2-5 months depending on the country

**Common pitfalls:** Admission data can be misleading

# INDIA/भारत



**High school graduation date:** MAR

**University start date:** JUL/AUG

**Typical admissions deadlines:** Early: FEB/MAR, Reg: JUN/JUL

**National exams:** JEE (for Eng), NEET (for Med), CUET (for undergrad)

**Admission release dates:** Early: APR/MAY, Reg: JUL

**Admissions deposit dates:** Early: JUL 1

**Typical language exams:** TOEFL, IELTS

**Entry requirements:** High School Diploma (Class 12), JEE/NEET/Other Exam Scores

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 1-2 months

**Common pitfalls:** High competition for top universities; exam results play a major role in admissions



# SOUTH KOREA/대한민국

High school graduation date: FEB



**University start date:** MAR

**Typical admissions deadlines:** - Early: SEP/OCT; Reg: NOV

**National Exam:** 대학수학능력시험 (Daehak Suhak Neungnyeok Siheom) = College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT)

**Centralized admission portal:** Korean University Admission System (Korean Universities generally use a common portal)

**Admission release dates:** Early: NOV, Reg: JAN/FEB

**Admissions deposit dates:** Early: FEB 1

**Typical language exams:** TOEFL, IELTS, TOPIK (for Korean language proficiency)

**Entry requirements:** High school diploma, TOPIK scores for Korean language programs, English proficiency test scores for English-based programs

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 1-2 months

**Common pitfalls:** Language requirements for non-native Korean speakers; understanding the competitive

# SOUTH KOREA/대한민국



South Korea offers several English-language undergraduate programs at top institutions, such as:

## **Seoul National University (SNU)**

Offers degrees in international studies, economics, and business.

Website: <http://uic.snu.ac.kr/>

## **Korea University**

Offers English-language undergraduate programs through the "Underwood International College" in fields like business, economics, and international studies.

Website: <http://uic.korea.edu/>

## **Yonsei University**

Offers a number of programs in English like international studies, business, and economics.

Website: <https://uip.yonsei.ac.kr/>

# SOUTH KOREA/대한민국

**Ewha Womans University**



Offers several undergraduate programs in English through the "International Exchange Program," including in international studies, business, and the humanities.

Website: <https://www.ewha.ac.kr/ewhaen/index.do>

## **KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology)**

Offers undergraduate programs in English in the fields of science, engineering, and technology, such as the "International Program for Science and Engineering" (IPSE).

Website: <http://www.kaist.edu/>

## **POSTECH (Pohang University of Science and Technology)**

POSTECH offers several undergraduate programs in English, particularly in science and engineering.

Website: <http://postech.edu/>

# SOUTH KOREA/대한민국

Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU)



Offers the "Global Business Administration" and "International Studies" programs in English at its International College.

Website: <https://www.skku.edu/>

## **Hanyang University**

Offers undergraduate programs in English through the "Global Institute of Technology" and in international studies, business, and engineering fields.

Website: <https://www.hanyang.ac.kr/>

# CHINA · 中国



**High school graduation date:** JUN

**University start date:** SEP

**Typical admissions deadlines:** Early: MAY; Reg: JUN/JUL

**National Exam:** Gaokao 高考: 3-day test (extremely competitive; covers Chinese, mathematics, foreign languages, and sciences)

**Admission release dates:** Early: JUN; Reg: JUL

**Admissions deposit dates:** Early: JUL 1

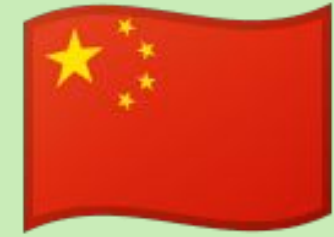
**Typical language exams:** TOEFL, IELTS, CET-4, CET-6

**Entry requirements:** Undergrad: Gaokao. Exception: English programs such as [NYU Shanghai](#), [Duke Kunshan](#), [Nottingham Ningbo](#); Graduate: College transcripts + ESL; ESL degrees limited to MBBS (Medicine) or MBA

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 1-2 months

**Common pitfalls:** Gaokao results are critical; foreign students may find the application process bureaucratic

# CHINA·中国



## Undergraduate Programs in English in China

Typically joint programs with Western institutions (Duke Kunshan, NYU Shanghai, Nottingham Ningbo) or special English-language tracks:

[The Shanghai Jiao Tong University - Antai College of Economics and Management \(ACEM\)](#) - business administration and economics

[The Beijing Foreign Studies University \(BFSU\)](#) - several undergraduate programs in English related to international relations, business, and other disciplines

[Zhejiang University International College](#) - engineering, international relations, and environmental studies

[South China University of Technology](#) - business, engineering, and architecture, among others

[Soochow University \(Suzhou\)](#) - business and management courses

[Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University \(XJTLU\)](#) - engineering, business, and computer science

Note: You'll need HSK level 5 (highest levels) + 2 months in China to feel confident in these programs and in life.

# CHINA·中国



**Applying for a visa is complex. Here is a list of the required documents:**

- Int'l Student Application Form for Undergraduates - SUMC
- Guarantee of financial support - Shantou Medical College
- Mental health report - Shantou University Medical College
- Guarantor's passport
- Financial guarantor certificate
- Bank statement
- No Criminal Record certificate (local police/FBI)
- Medical examination form
- Recommendation letter
- English language certificate
- Highest academic transcript (in English)
- Graduation certificate (in English)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Personal Statement or Study Plan
- Photograph
- Copy of passport

# JAPAN/日本



**High school graduation date:** MAR

**University start date:** APR

**Typical admissions deadlines:** - Early: NOV/DEC; Reg: JAN, Rolling

**National Exam:** 大学入学共通テスト (Exam of Japanese University Admissions for Int'l Students)

**Admission release dates:** Early: JAN/FEB; Reg: MAR

**Admissions deposit dates:** Early: APR 1

**Typical language exams:** TOEFL, IELTS, EJU, JLPT, TOEIC

**Entry requirements:** HS Diploma, Japanese language proficiency, EJU or JLPT scores (if applicable)

**Typical time to secure student visa:** 1-2 months

**Common pitfalls:** Language proficiency is essential (JLPT 1 or 2), ESL programs limited to social sciences (econ, etc.)

**Sources:** JASSO: [Japan Student Services Organization](#)





# Questions?

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