

Strategies for Successful University Transitions

A University Transfer Applications Guide

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Meet the Speakers



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Why this Guide Matters?



Helps students understand global transfer systems.



Simplifies credit mapping and application processes.



Supports successful academic transitions.



Understanding Academic Structures: India and UK



India

AT A GLANCE

3 → 4 yrs

program length (4 yrs from 2024)

30

credits per year

- Traditionally 3 years, now transitioning to 4 years for certain programs (from 2024 onwards).
- 30 credits per year; grading primarily percentage-based, though GPA systems are emerging.



UK

GRADING CLASSIFICATION

70%+

First Class

60–69%

Upper Second (2:1)

50–59%

Lower Second (2:2)

40–49%

Third

- 3-year programs, 120 credits/year.
- Grading classification: First Class (70%+), Upper Second (2:1) 60–69%, Lower Second (2:2) 50–59%, Third 40–49%.



Understanding Academic Structures: US and EU



US

AT A GLANCE

4 yrs

programs

30

credits / year

4.0

GPA scale

- 4-year programs, 30 credits/year.
- GPA on a 4.0 scale; students take 4–6 courses per semester (3 credits each).



Europe

EUROPEAN CREDIT TRANSFER AND ACCUMULATION SYSTEM (ECTS)

180

credits · 3-year programs

240

credits · 4-year programs

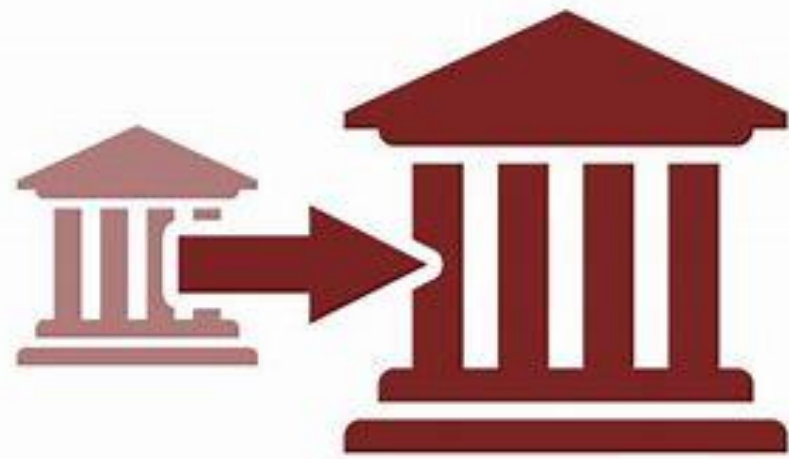
25–30

study hours = 1 ECTS

- European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS): 180 credits (3-year programs) or 240 credits (4-year programs).
- 1 ECTS = 25–30 study hours.



Why Students Transfer?



Top Reasons for Transfers



Academic Fit

Better program alignment with career goals.



Reputation

Desire to attend a university with a stronger ranking or specialization.



Personal Circumstances

Relocation, family, or financial considerations.



Improving Prospects

Addressing low GPA, switching to a more competitive program.



India to India Transfers



Liberal Arts to Liberal Arts

2nd / 3rd year entry

Transfers into 2nd or 3rd year possible based on credit compatibility.

EXAMPLE

Moving from Ashoka University to FLAME University.



Traditional to Liberal Arts (New Age) Colleges

Partial credit transfer

Partial credit transfers are common; entry to 2nd year possible but not very common.

EXAMPLE

NMIMS to Ashoka University



Liberal Arts Colleges to Traditional Universities

Difficult

Difficult; mostly entrance exam based. Students often need to restart in Year 1.

EXAMPLE

KREA University to University of Delhi



Transferring from India to the UK



Tier 1 Universities

(e.g., Oxbridge, LSE)

Typically require starting from Year 1 due to stringent academic expectations.



Tier 2 Universities

2nd-year entry possible with strong Year 1 performance and mostly when it is from a traditional Indian university to a UK university; from a liberal arts university to a UK university, entry is more common into Year 1, UK.



Application Process

- Use UCAS for all applications.
- Include Year 1 grades or omit if not completed.
- Rolling admissions available for many Tier 2 universities.

Traditional Indian university → UK

Year 2 entry

EXAMPLE

DU BA Hons Economics → University of Westminster
BA Economics, second year

Liberal arts university → UK

Year 1 entry

EXAMPLE

Ashoka University BA Hons Economics → University of Westminster BA Economics, first year



India / UK to US Transfers



Eligibility

- Year 2 entry possible after completing Year 1 in India / UK

FRESHMAN VS. TRANSFER CATEGORY

Freshman

For students without completed Year 1, or in some cases, less than 12/15 credits.

Transfer

For students with completed or ongoing Year 1 with more than 12/15 credits.



Considerations

- Prerequisites vary by major (e.g., lab sciences for STEM).
- Not all credits transfer; additional courses may be needed.
- Transcript evaluation needed by WES in most cases.
- F1 visa could be an issue (high rejection rate).

EXAMPLE

SRCC College (DU student), completed Year 1, transferring to Babson College Year 2

EXAMPLE

University of Warwick BSc Management student dropped out in 2 months, transferring to Babson College Year 1



Transferring from the UK to India



Traditional Colleges

2nd-year entry possible for equivalent programs.
Example: University of Warwick to Delhi University.

Year 2 entry



Liberal Arts Colleges

Students often need to restart in Year 1 due to structural differences.

Restart Year 1



Design Schools

Easier pathways with credit mapping (e.g. CSM to ISDI).

Credit mapping



UK to UK Transfers

1 First Year Transfers

If switching courses or GPA is low in the former institution.

EXAMPLE

Year 1 Warwick BSc Management (55%) → Year 1 BSc Management Exeter

OR

Year 1 BFA Fashion Design at UAL (80%) → Year 1 BSc Digital Media at King's College London

(Grade 12 scores of high school could be considered here)

2 Second Year Transfers

Possible if you're moving from a higher tier to a lower tier university for the same course with a stellar / above average GPA.

EXAMPLE

University of Warwick BSc Management Year 1 (70%) → Nottingham Trent University Year 2

3 Third Year Transfers

Rare (exceptions like HULT London because of four year degree programs).

EXAMPLE

Coventry University (Business) Year 2 → HULT London Business Year 3



PS: YOU CAN ONLY SPEND 5 YEARS ON A TIER 4 UK VISA FOR THE SAME QUALIFICATION!



US to UK Transfers



Challenges

4 yrs

US degree

3 yrs

UK degree

- Structural differences between US (4 years) and UK (3 years).



Pathway

Year 1 US → Year 1 UK

- Year 1 US to Year 1 UK is the most common (possible at tier 1 UK universities also, provided grade 12 scores from high school are good).
- Report Year 1 grades via UCAS; omit if Year 1 is incomplete.

EXAMPLE

Freshman at University of Michigan transferring to Year 1 of King's College London. However, transfer to Year 2 might be possible for universities such as Regent's, Coventry, etc.



US to US Transfers



Eligibility

30–60

credits required for transfer eligibility

60

max transferable credits (Year 3 entry)



Deadlines

SPRING INTAKE

October 15

FALL INTAKE

Feb 1 – Mar 31

UC DEADLINE

November 30

of previous year



Considerations

- Mid-year transcript required.
- Some universities restrict major changes for transfer students.
- LOR from college professor strongly recommended, especially if transferring into Year 3.
- SEVIS records to be transferred; new F1 visa may not be required.
- Additional prerequisite classes may be needed based on new university's course / department requirements. Even otherwise, to demonstrate rigour.



Transfer to Europe / Singapore



Europe

Popular institutions in Europe where Indian origin students studying elsewhere transfer to:

IE University Madrid, Trinity College Dublin

Do have second year entry but tough, and subject to similar course mapping

Hospitality Schools

Do accept lateral entry (if transferring from other hospitality schools, else from Year 1)

University of Amsterdam / other research universities in Netherlands

First year entry only



Singapore

Popular institutions in Singapore where Indian origin students studying elsewhere transfer to:

Public universities such as NUS, NTU, SMU

Year 1 entry only as a freshman

Private universities: SIM

Offers top up / second year programs

Private universities: ESSEC and EDHEC

Mostly accept freshman year students only



Common App / Transfer Application for the US

1 “Why transfer?” essay

Same Essay (cannot be changed) “Why transfer?” (unlike freshman, where different Common App essays can be used for different colleges, and the essay then is not about “Why US?”)

2 More activity slots

Freshman application = 10 activities; Transfer application = Unlimited (at least 15 activities recommended)

3 Post-school activity focus

Freshman application focus = activities done over grades 9–12. Transfer application focus = at least 50% activities post school to the period when applying. OK to use past activities up to 50%, but for a strong application.

4 Activity list is locked

Activity list cannot be changed once one app is submitted

5 Referee list is locked

Referee list cannot be changed once one app is submitted

6 AP credits: a caveat

APs can be later claimed for credit, but AP credits don’t count in the minimum credits required for transfer



Common App / Transfer Application for the US (contd.)

7 SAT relevance by year

SAT can be taken up to Year 2 entry at some colleges; for Year 3, SAT has no meaning. For most universities, optional (exceptions: Georgetown)

8 College grades come first

Main academic focus = grades obtained in college, not in high school. If terrible grades in high school and not the best grades in semester 1 of university, then Year 3 is a better transfer prospect than Year 2

9 GPA and rigour

Both GPA number and the quality / rigour of classes taken matter

10 Final-term grades matter

Sometimes universities wait for the last term grades even after having submitted the application; watch out for GPA

11 Demonstrate interest

It may be a good idea to visit some universities and demonstrate interest

12 Use transfer data

Watch out for last 3 years' transfer application data to strategise college list (e.g. NYU has a reasonably good transfer acceptance rate; Brown has even lower than what it is in freshman year)



Visa Regulations to Keep in Mind



US F-1 Visa

Update SEVIS, obtain new I-20 form for transfer. If US to US, a new visa need not be obtained.



UK Tier 4 Visa

Maintain compliance with sponsorship requirements. UK to UK: a new CAS needs to be obtained and in most cases the visa also needs to be obtained.



Real-World Challenge

Really difficult to get US visa appointments. Take that into consideration.



Deadlines



US Deadlines

SPRING

October 15

FALL

February 15 – March 31



UK Deadlines

2–3 months

decision time for Year 2 entries

- UCAS deadlines vary.
- Decisions take 2–3 months for Year 2 entries.



Thank You

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