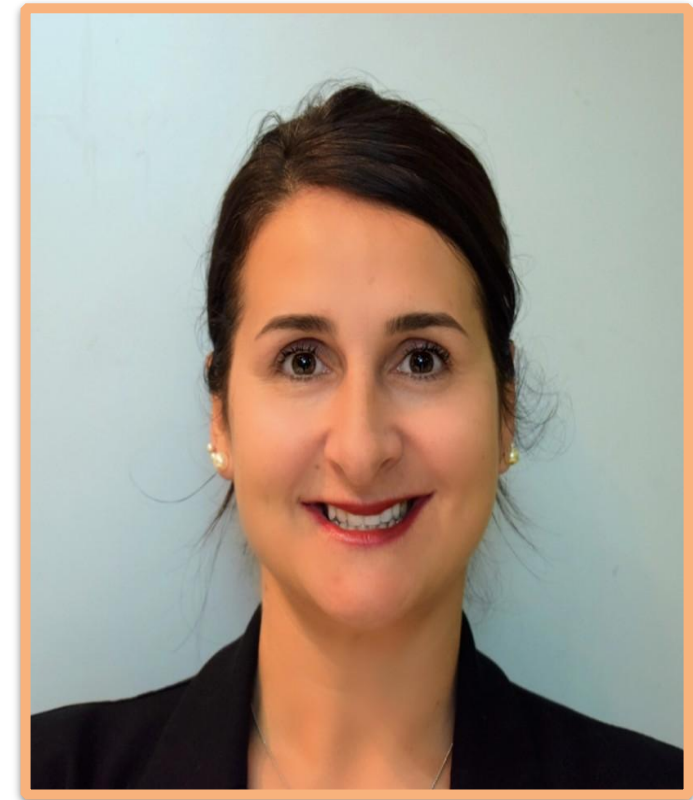


Navigating the European Experience: A Practical Guide for European Counsellors



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WHY EUROPE?

- **High quality education** for a **fair tuition fee**
- Programs in a **large variety of disciplines**
- **Affordable living costs** with a **high standard of living**
- A **truly international** student experience, which includes easy, affordable and safe **travel** across the continent
- Strong student mobility with EU scholarships
- **Easy access** to the global job market, with many companies and organizations headquartered in the EU
- Ability to work during studies as well as upon graduation, made easier by a **visa upon graduation**



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WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW AS COUNSELOR?

- **University reps** (admissions/recruiters) are uncommon, and if available, generally cover more than one territory.
- Where University Reps do exist, they are generally seen as **marketeers**. They **do not read files** and generally have no impact on admissions decisions.
- Universities are often **decentralized**, meaning that you would need to reach out to the particular faculty a student is applying to. This also leads to **different levels** of service within one university.
- Systems are build for national students, meaning that some things might not make sense from an international perspective. Reach out! Ask!



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RESEARCH

While there are a lot of similarities between the different European countries, and the overall student profile is similar, there are quite a few **differences** between countries as well. This is what students should be looking at.



Academics



Student Life



Housing



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ACADEMICS

- While many European destinations are predominantly known for **STEM** or **Medicine**, there are actually **far more fields** on offer in English. So, it doesn't matter what a student is interested in, somewhere will offer it in English.
- There are many **different types of institutions** in Europe such as comprehensive research universities, business schools, hospitality schools, universities of applied sciences. All of them educate in a different manner, which students should look in to.
- It is important to look at the differences between **public** and **private** institutions
- **Degree length** will be different from country to country



ITALY

Ancient academic tradition;
high rankings in Biological
Sciences, Humanities, Medicine
and Business;
Growing internationalization

HUNGARY

big public "city" universities.. The
structure of the study programs and
the teaching methods will be similar,
but each university has its own
specialty: Pécs is a bit stronger in
business, social sciences and arts,
Debrecen is in engineering, etc.

NETHERLANDS

400+ programs in English

Three types of institutions
Universities of Applied Science (4y)
Research Universities (3y)
University Colleges (3y)



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STUDENT LIFE

- Most universities are predominantly educational institutions, not focused on student life as much. As such, student life tends to be **student driven**
- That said, most universities will have numerous **student and/or study associations** organizing activities and events
- Greek life is not common, and where fraternities/sororities do exist, they may not be international
- There are **cross-border student associations** such as the European Student Network and the International Student Network



ITALY

Students live the **city**

The concept of “**vita universitaria**” is very popular

Students are **independent**

HUNGARY

Very diverse international community, lots of self-organised events, many opportunities outside of the campus

NETHERLANDS

Work-life balance
International society
Well-connected with Schiphol and extensive rail network



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HOUSING

- Dorm life the way it happens in North American universities is not common in Europe
- In many cases, cities have been built around university buildings, and as such, the **entire city center is the university campus** (shared with other citizens of course)
- While universities may offer **some housing** for (international) students, this is not the norm. Students need to be **proactive** in arranging housing according to the guidelines and timelines provided by the university.



ITALY

Not directly provided by university;

Dorm with limited space/private dorms;

We love to share flats as well!

HUNGARY

Same as Czechia.

NETHERLANDS

Universities not allowed to own housing, student is responsible

Universities mostly provide resources, while some have (some) housing available



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PROCESS

Once students have determines which country/countries suit them best, it is important to look at the practicalities of applying to and studying in that country. Time for practicalities.



Admissions



Fees & Funding



Visa



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ADMISSIONS

- Processes are different in each country. Students should make sure to start their **research early**
- Identifying the **process, required documents** and **deadlines** for each country students are applying to is essential.
- Ideally this research should take place during their **junior year** at the latest, so that the senior year can be used to submit applications and to keep track of the different processes



ITALY

Every university/programme has its own process and entry requirements.

Important:

academic background and
language proficiency

HUNGARY

Separate admission systems for every university. Strong focus on the entry test, motivational letter and interview.

NETHERLANDS

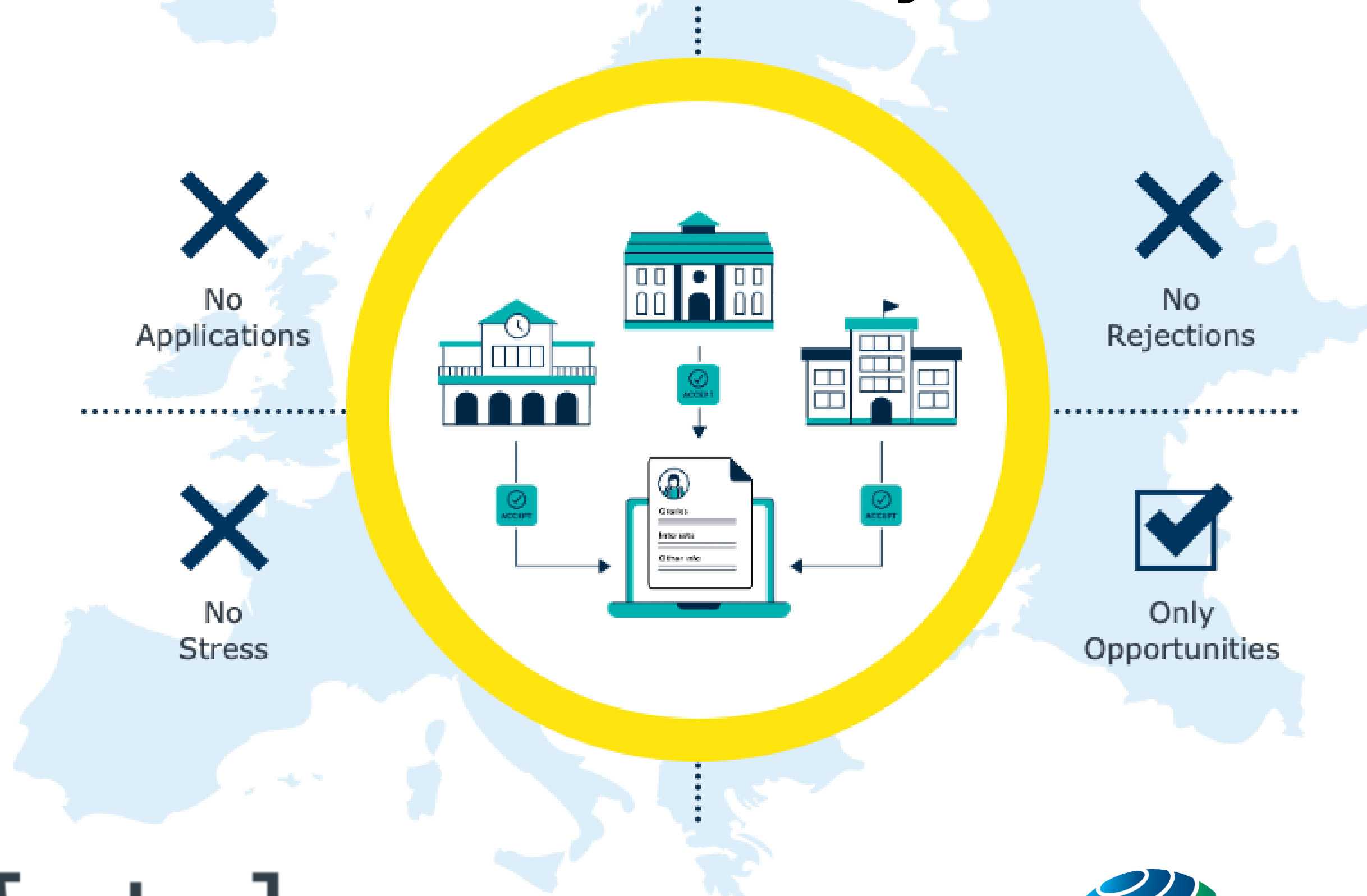
Generally admission is based on diploma equivalency, only 15% of programs has a selection process

Applying is a two-step process:
Studielink + University Portal



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Or... You Can Start Your University Search with an Offer



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FEES & FUNDING

- Tuition fees are generally **affordable** across the continent, though there is a difference between public and private institutions
- Tuition fees for public institutions vary between €0-€20,000 per year. For private institutions, this is between €10,000-€35,000 per year
- **Fee status** may be determined on passport, but this is not the case everywhere. Students should research which fees they will be paying.
- **Scholarships** may be available, but are not as prevalent as in the North American context.



ITALY

Fees: 2000 - 20 000
depending on the programme,
institution and residency;

Partial scholarships, merit
based

HUNGARY

Non-medical programs are
around 6,000 EUR, medical
programs are around 16,000
EUR, Stipendium
Hungaricum full scholarship
is available

NETHERLANDS

Fees based on passport only
EU: 2601
non-EU: 6,000-18.000

Only a handful of scholarships
(usually for specific program)



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VISA

- Despite the existence of the **Schengen** Area, the immigration laws are organized by national government. Each country has **different application processes**
- As any other policy, visa systems are subject of changes in time. Always verify the information you collect from previous cohorts.



ITALY

- visa + permit of stay
- non-EU students are allowed to work up to 20h per week
- after graduation, visa can be extended 9/12 months

HUNGARY

Visa application takes about 6 weeks, the best is to apply in early June.

NETHERLANDS

University applies for visa on behalf of the student, so generally no issues

Students are allowed to work on student visa (up to 16 hrs/week)

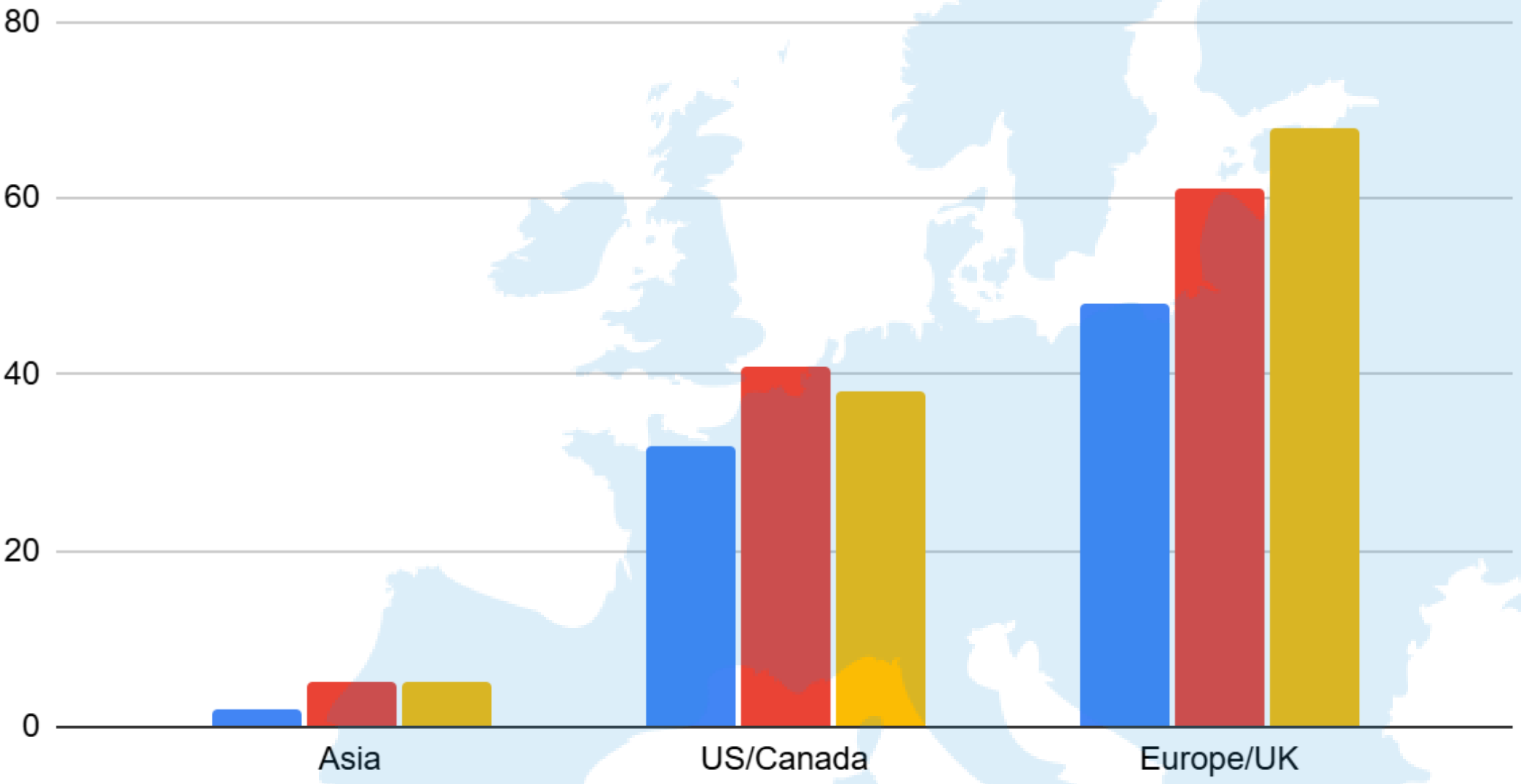


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STUDENT TRENDS

Matriculations-NOVA International School Skopje

2018-2022 2019-2023 2020-2024



- STEM
- Psychology
- Business
- International Relations and Politics
- Architecture



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BALANCING CHALLENGES WITH SUPPORT

- **Diverse admission system**
support -structured classes, modules, comparison charts
- **Language barriers**
support-English language taught programs vs. non-English, language proficiency requirements
- **Navigating different admission platforms with different timeline and deadlines**
support- individual meetings or application trackers, roadmap spreadsheets, checklist, senior year calendar for major deadlines
- **Academic classes selection**
support-course selection meetings, mini-workshops, admission interviews for transfer students
- **Financial planning**
support- parent workshops, understand student's status (citizenships, scholarships students), highlight specific scholarships
- **Know your student**



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WHAT TYPE OF STUDENT WILL THRIVE IN EUROPE?

- Students should not be afraid to make a choice that might be different from that of their peers and as such have a bit of a **pioneering spirit**
- Students are treated like **adults**, and as such need to be able to self-advocate, seek-out help and generally be quite **independent**
- Students should be **inquisitive, curious, motivated** and looking to make the most of all opportunities on offer (research, internships student leadership, etc.)
- Students who are **budget conscious**, and/ or who emphasize **safety** and a **healthy work-life balance** in their conversations with you as their counselor would likely enjoy Europe



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THE VALUE FOR STUDENTS

Global experience (study and work)

Learning a new language or gaining mastery in additional one

Personal growth



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PROVEN STRATEGIES FOR COUNSELORS

- Professional development and networking;
- Host university visits and arrange session with university representatives;
- Alumni network - info sessions, blogs, house swapping;
- Engaging different stakeholders - community building organizations and embassies/visa officers , exchange professionals;
- University fairs;
- Resource Library



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RESOURCES

Netherlands

www.studyinnl.org
www.studyfinder.nl
www.duo.nl
www.universitycollege.nl

Italy

<https://studyinitaly.esteri.it/>
<https://uni-italia.it/>
<https://international.unicatt.it/>

Hungary

<https://studyinhungary.hu/>
<https://stipendiumhungaricum.hu/partners/>
<https://international.pte.hu/>



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