

International Student Advising: A Primer

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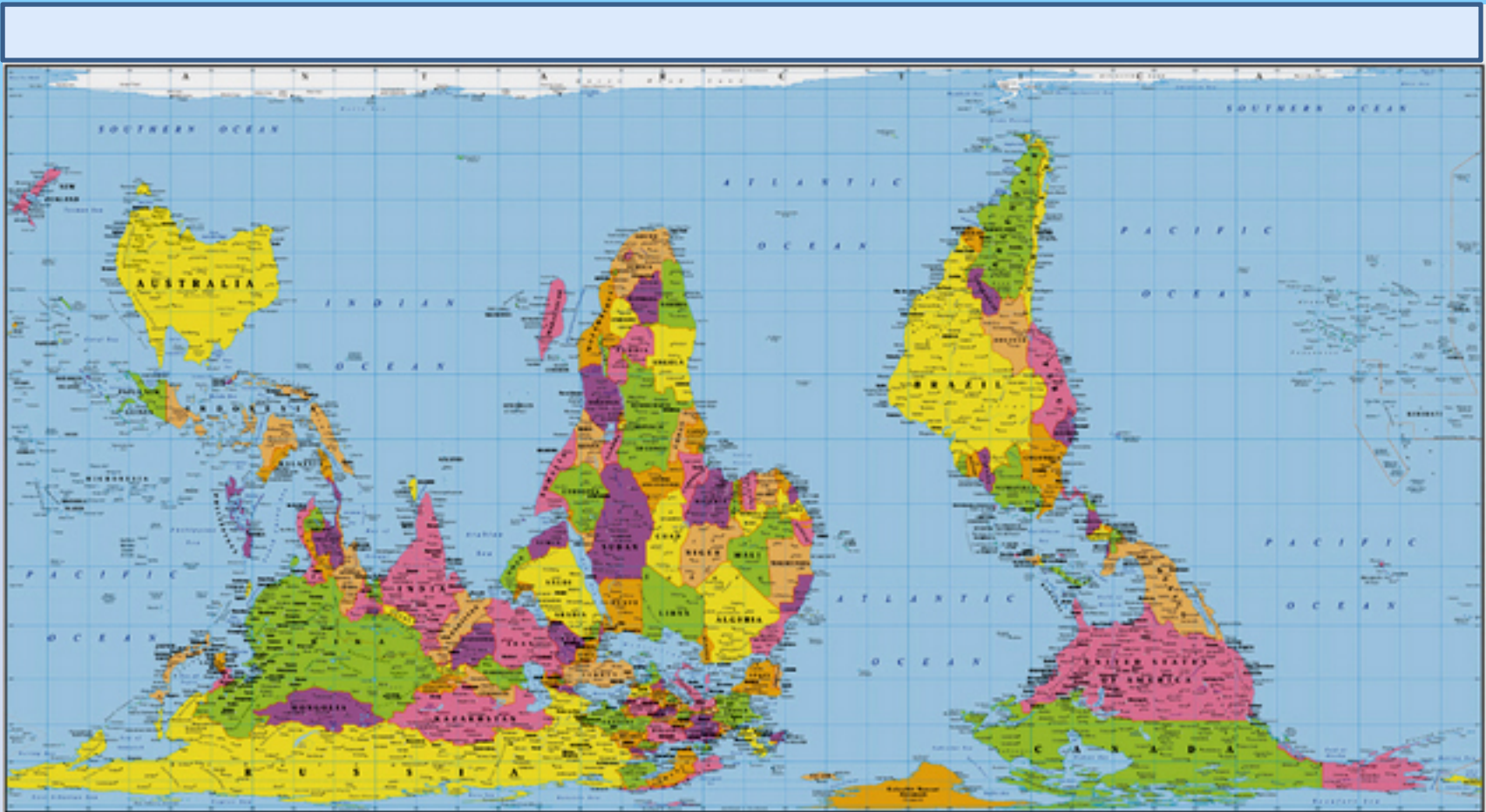
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TLC Education Planning for Global Learning

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Objective



NEW INTERNATIONALIST

ni

www.newint.org

The New Internationalist magazine reports on issues of world poverty and inequality, change in the first world, the Third World and the struggle for justice.



The Black African Population

The world's population is now about a billion and a half. This is not a billion and a half of the way back, but also from the responsibility of population control. The world's population is now about a billion and a half. This is not a billion and a half of the way back, but also from the responsibility of population control. The world's population is now about a billion and a half. This is not a billion and a half of the way back, but also from the responsibility of population control.

The Asian Population

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The White European Population

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TLC

Theresa Leary Consulting

EDUCATION PLANNING FOR GLOBAL LEARNING

Overview

- Context
- Culture and Language
- What should international students look for?
- What are colleges looking for?
 - Application Process
 - Financial Aid
- Resources
- Conclusion and Questions

Top 10 host institutions for international students in the U.S. in 2006/07

Doctoral/Research Institutions

1. U of Southern California
2. Columbia University
3. New York University
4. U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
5. Purdue
6. U of Michigan - Ann Arbor
7. U of Texas at Austin
8. UCLA
9. Harvard
10. Boston U and UPENN

Baccalaureate Institutions

1. Brigham Young U - Hawaii
2. SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology
3. U of Hawaii at Hilo
4. U of Dallas
5. Mount Holyoke College
6. Calvin College
7. Daemen College
8. U of Maine at Fort Kent
9. Middlebury College
10. Wesleyan U



Top 10 host states

1. California (77,987, up 3.5%)
2. New York (65,884, up 2.5%)
3. Texas (49,081, up 5%)
4. Massachusetts (28,680, up 2%)
5. Florida (26,875, up 3%)
6. Illinois (25,594, up 2%)
7. Pennsylvania (23,182, up 3%)
8. Michigan (21,143, up 1.5%)
9. Ohio (18,607, up 3%)
10. Indiana (14,450, up 3%)

All of the top 20 leading hosting states experienced increases in foreign student enrollments, with North Carolina (6%), Maryland (5%) and Texas (5%) having the largest

The top ten most popular fields of study for international students in the U.S. in 2006/07

1. Business and Management (18% of total)
2. Engineering (15%)
3. Physical and Life Sciences (9%)
4. Social Sciences (8%)
5. Mathematics and Computer Sciences (8%)
6. Fine & Applied Arts (5%) Health Professions (5%)
7. Intensive English Language (4%)
8. Education (3%)
9. Humanities (3%)
10. Fields experiencing growth include Intensive English Language (up 30%) and Social Sciences (up 6%). Undeclared majors are excluded from the rankings of top fields of study

Top 10 Countries of Origin

1. India (83,833 up 10%)
2. China (67,723 up 8%)
3. Korea (62,392 up 6%)
4. Japan (35,282 down 9%),
5. Taiwan (29,094 up 4%)
6. Canada (28,280 up less than 1%)
7. Mexico (13,826 down 1%)
8. Turkey (11,506 down 1%)
9. Thailand (8,886 up 1%)
10. Germany (8,656 down 2%)

Saudi Arabia comes in at #12 with the largest increase of all sending countries. (7,886 up 129%)

Culture and Language: Why confusing?

- Academic Philosophy
- Academic Calendar
- Academic Practices
- Academic Load

Culture and Language: Fluent English?

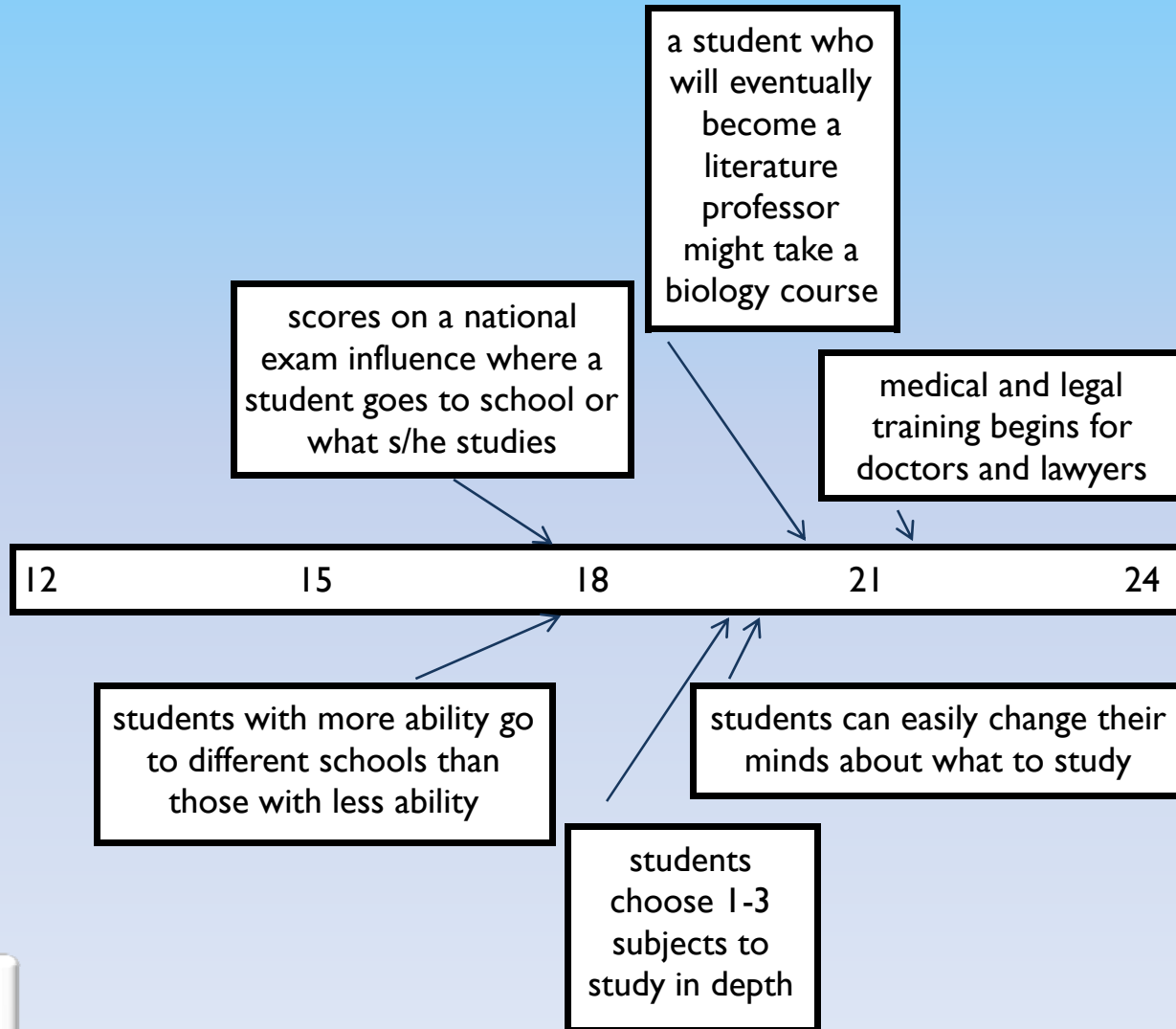
Define Terminology

- college vs. university, public vs. private, community colleges
- liberal arts philosophy of education
- Major/Minor
- general education requirements
- BA, BS, MA, MS, MBA, PhD, EdD, JD, MD
- Early decision, Rolling Admission, Waiting List

Culture and Language: Different Systems

- The American educational system is highly decentralized
- U.S. Universities are characterized by flexibility for the student
- University admissions tests are designed and administered by private organizations
- Funding is by both
 - federal and state governments (public schools)
 - tuition, as well as funds from endowments and gifts from alumni and other benefactors (private schools)

Late Educational Specialization



Is U.S. Student the Best Option?

- Major, career path
- Is a US degree recognized in your country?
- How is a US degree treated?
- Does it work for professional qualifications?
- What is the availability of a particular job with your intended major?
- Research what people in your dream career really do.
- Look for 'outcomes' indicators: PhD production, Career Services activities, experiential education, etc.

International “Mission” Clues

- School’s mission includes international diversity
- Percentage of international enrollment
- Selectivity of International vs. Domestic pool
- Diversity of international enrollment
- School location
- Certain geographic regions desired
- Financial aid budget
- Average international student aid award?
- Special scholarships? (What? Who? How?)
- International recruitment specialist in admissions
- Strong international students services office
- Cross-Cultural/International student organizations

Application Extras

- Separate application forms and/or supplements for international students
- Application deadlines may differ
- Early decision rules may be quite different or disallowed.
- Application fee methods of payment(check for fee waiver)
- Comprehensive Academic Record
 - Transcripts from non-U.S. secondary schools (Year 10 equivalent exams, i.e. O-levels)
- English Proficiency Exams (TOEFL, IELTS)
 - Check for waiver policy
- Keep copies of everything

Intangibles

- Challenge/Opportunity of being “International in the U.S.”
- Know who your competition is specifically
- Consider ‘academic diversity
- Any National/cultural generalizations to contend with?
- Financial Need

Productive Relationships

Cultivate relationships with those who can help with research and those who may have influence in aid decisions. Via email, school visits, interviews, talent submissions. Stop short of 'virtual stalking!'

Important Individuals

- School counselor
- High School Teachers/Coaches
- International Admissions Counselor
- College Financial Aid staff
- College Faculty
- College Coaching Staff
- Current International Students
- International Alumni

Financial Aid Forms

International Student Financial Aid Application (ISFAA) College Board form or institutional variant that collects relevant income, asset, expense information, also asking families to estimate their EFC for 4 years.

Institutional Aid Application (Supplement)

School-specific form that may ask for further financial info/clarification that the ISFAA omits

Certification of Finances – Short form of ISFAA (Section F) sometimes required at the deposit stage in order to refigure and verify the student's final contribution. Used by some schools to verify financial info on the initial I-20 form.



Financial Aid Terms and Conditions

Scholarships and Grants

- Four-year renewable awards?
- Subject to a minimum GPA renewal requirement?
- Are awards indexed to annual tuition increases?
- If so, at what percentage? What is average annual increase?
- Scholarships typically cannot increase based on stellar academic/talent performance
- Flexibility/Willingness of aid office to make aid adjustments in response to international financial/exchange rate crisis?

Financial Aid Terms and Conditions 2

Campus Employment

- BCIS limits to international students to 20 hrs/week during term – 40 hrs/week during the summer
- Hourly pay rates? Competitive positions for more \$\$?
- Guaranteed initial job for internationals? If no, student job search process?
- Availability of summer campus jobs, costs of living?

Student Loans

- US citizen co-signer required?
- Interest rate? Deferred interest?
- Installment plan (for loans and or tuition/comp fees)?

The Decision

- Go where there is the best possible mix of fit with manageable cost. Sometimes you will have to go where the best aid offer is.
- Resist the urge to overextend your budget by enrolling a more 'prestigious' school whose package might be less affordable.
- Never assume or hope that once you get on campus, you will be able to secure more financial aid simply by the sheer force of your personality and circumstances.
- Once you've decided, shift your focus to how to best prepare academically, mentally, and culturally for your new life as a US college student.

Financial Aid Websites

Overseas ACAC:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/infousa/education/studyteach/docs/intfinaid.pdf>

www.finaid.com

www.iefac.com

www.iefc.com

www.ncaa.org

www.collegeboard.com

www.internationalstudent.com

www.internationalscholarships.com

www.studyabroadfunding.org

Resources for International Educators

- Education USA. Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State <http://www.educationusa.state.gov/>
- Institute of International Education <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/>
- American Colleges and Universities <http://www.acuinfo.com/acu/articles.do>
- Association of International Educators <http://nafsa.org/>
- Edupass <http://www.edupass.org/>
- *Understanding American Schools*. Anne P. Copeland and Georgia Bennet. The Interchange Institute. Third Edition.
- ODT Maps. www.odtmaps.com
- TLC Consulting www.theresaleary.com



