



The Parent's Guide to Top US & UK Universities



A CRIMSON EDUCATION PUBLICATION

01. Introduction

As our children enter a new era of education and employment competition, the option of international university study as a viable alternative to domestic enrollment is something many parents are investigating as they consider the best options for their child's academic and occupational future.

This is true even in the uncertainties of COVID-19. Despite the challenges posed by a "pandemic application year", most top US and UK universities saw record high application numbers - for example, the application numbers at Harvard University for the class of 2025 was an unprecedented 57,000 - an increase of 17,000 from the year before. This indicates only that even in times of great global instability, the value of a top-tier university education remains unparalleled.

Of course, negotiating applications to top US and UK universities can seem daunting as their processes vary markedly from the university entrance procedures at home. But both application processes are more than doable with the right help and advice. The most important thing to remember is that these universities actively look for international students who will enrich their campuses with unique and enthusiastic perspectives – that your child has a truly legitimate chance of acceptance to a world class institution if they prepare in advance and submit applications that are competitive on a global scale.

The first and perhaps most important piece of information to take on board is that



applying overseas will not affect your child's high school results or the way they approach their academics in their final years at school. Rather, taking the US/UK application route can enhance their final year experience as they work alongside their peers to attain the best final marks possible and have the secondary motivation of attending a world-class university after high school graduation..

From choosing a study destination to financing your child's education, Part 1 of this eBook explores both the methodology of overseas applications and the benefits of taking this route. Part 2 of this eBook: "How To Make It Happen" analyzes the process in full, from applications, statistics, and Crimson Education's role in the process. For further information on our services, you can [visit the Crimson Education website.](#)

02. Why Studying At A US/UK University Could Be Right For Your Child

The numbers

When it comes to how international universities compare with local institutions, the proof of comprehensive world ranking systems highlights the superiority of US/UK universities. According to the latest [2019 QS World University Rankings](#) – rankings compiled using methodology based on a university's academic and employer reputation, faculty/student ratio and citations per faculty (internationally recognised research output) - US and UK universities dominate the world's Top 20 taking 15 of the Top 20 spots.



2019 QS World University Rankings

Ranking	University	Location
1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	United States
2	Stanford University	United States
3	Harvard University	United States
4	California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	United States
5	University of Oxford	United Kingdom
6	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
7	ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology	Switzerland
8	Imperial College of London	United Kingdom
9	University of Chicago	United States
10	UCL (University College London)	United Kingdom
11	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Singapore
12	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	Singapore
13	Princeton University	United States
14	Cornell University	United States
15	Yale University	United States

16	Columbia University	United States
17	Tsinghua University	China
18	The University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom
19	University of Pennsylvania	United States
20	University of Michigan	United States

Comparatively, most non US/UK universities do not enter the rankings until 20+ with ETH Zurich- Swiss Federal Institute of technology (6), National University of Singapore (11), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (13), EPFL (14), Tsinghua University (15), being notable exceptions. For example, the University of Tokyo (24), Australian National University, (31) and University of Melbourne (41) feature beyond the top 20.

As such, it is clear why many families are starting to consider a US/UK education for their child – as further statistics expose the exponential benefits of first class study.

Beyond their ranking superiority, US and UK universities also boast much smaller class sizes and lower student to faculty ratios to many domestic alternatives.

For example, the student faculty ratio at Princeton and Stanford is 5:1, at Harvard and Columbia it is 6:1, at New York University it is 9:1. While Oxford and Cambridge boast a student and faculty ratio of 10:1, their tutorial systems also see class sizes as small as 3 students. In comparison, the student faculty ratios at many domestic universities are double or sometimes three times as great as their top ranking international counterparts.

This further reflects the pure size of domestic institutions compared to top ranking universities abroad. While the University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales, Monash and the University of Auckland all have student numbers of 40,000-50,000, the University of Singapore NUS, 38,000 and the University of Tokyo 28,000, the number of students studying at Princeton is approximately 8,600 (5,500 undergraduates), at Yale 12,300 (7,000 undergraduates) and at Imperial College London 15,000.

Needless to say the above statistics add up to high application numbers and as a result low acceptance rates (as low as 4.65%). However, international students who have worked hard and prepared comprehensive applications to these universities have proven extremely competitive on the global stage – with Crimson Education students are defying international acceptance percentages and raising their chances of acceptance into at least one of their top university choices by nearly 100%.



The benefits

In order to take a closer look at the benefits of opting to study overseas, it is worthwhile breaking down the major differences between studying in the US and the UK.

US Education System

For the first four years of a student's US university education they attend 'college' where they undergo a liberal arts (or in some cases science and engineering specific) undergraduate degree. Determined to allow students to explore study options and be provided with a broad and comprehensive education during these four years, most universities do not require their students to choose a 'major' area of study until the end of their second year.

This process of academic variety and flexibility enables students to expand their high school knowledge and make an educated decision as to the course of their future career. While students in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the UK for example are asked to choose a profession from school – many changing their mind and transferring after a year of course sampling – US universities are dedicated to developing their students' broad intellectual capacities to, as Yale University puts it: liberate, educate and free the mind "to its fullest potential". Liberal arts courses are interdisciplinary and cover a range of topics, allowing students to explore different academic avenues which both expand upon their knowledge in favoured areas of study and uncover hidden passions before a decision on a major has to be made. Even then, students can take 'minors' or 'certificates' in other areas of study to both compliment their major and offer diversity in their final two years at college.

UK Education System

The UK educational system places more emphasis on in-depth knowledge in a specific area of study. But while they are more traditional and less concerned with a student's non-academic pursuits, they do want to see evidence of a student's passion - what matters to them, why it matters to them, and how they intend to pursue these passions to make academic progress and contribute to the university in question. By including a personal essay question, asking for a supporting reference and interviewing most of their candidates, top UK universities gain a greater insight as to the "human" qualities of applicants - qualities which are often key to gaining acceptance in an increasingly competitive academic field. More specifically, in the case of Oxford and Cambridge Universities, the tutorial system takes this desire to examine



a specific area of study in great detail to a new and highly individualised level. In these weekly tutorials – which are often as small as one faculty member to three or four students – students have the opportunity to explore, enquire, share and discuss their thoughts and ideas with world leaders in their chosen field of interest.

Making The Choice

Of course, both the US and the UK boast some of the most famous and respected educational institutions on the planet. In the US, there are the eight Ivy League universities (Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell, Dartmouth and Brown) as well as Stanford, MIT, Caltech and the University of California 'family' including UCLA and UC Berkeley. While in the UK there is Oxford and Cambridge, along with the 'Russell Group', which consists of 24 prestigious institutions, including the University College London, King's College London, London School of Economics and Political Science and Imperial College London.

However, both the US and the UK also offer a broad choice of universities beyond these more well known alternatives, many of which still feature highly in the world rankings stakes - for example: the University of Chicago – 9th, the University of Edinburgh – 18th, Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University – 21st, Duke University – 26th and the University of Manchester – 29th. Further there are universities beyond those at the top of the overall list that excel in certain areas, such as Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University which is ranked 3rd in the world for computer science.

The point is, unlike the sometimes 'ATAR or proximity' approach to a student's university application choices at home, US and UK universities offer a plethora of choice which Crimson Education helps



narrow for each and every one of their students. In fact, the 'best fit' university philosophy is key to Crimson's personalised application/ tutoring approach to overseas university acceptance (more on this later).

Despite this wide range in choice, there are some general observations that can be made about US and UK university alternatives – one of the most important of these being the high quality of education by these world class institutions and the benefits that follow post graduation.

A Quality Education

As mentioned, there are a variety of reasons why these international universities continue to out-rank our domestic counterparts on a global scale. Beyond their academic and employer reputations, their small class sizes and personalised approach to education, these universities also excel in areas such as faculty reputation, research opportunities, study abroad and internship offerings and world-class academic and sporting facilities.

In regards to faculty, the Ivies, Oxford, Cambridge, Stanford, MIT and other leading universities attract the world's best. Drawn by the top-class facilities and academic reputation, the aptitude of the students and the generously funded internationally renowned research projects, the world's most respected academia take up teaching positions where they guide all students - freshmen to post-graduates – to academic excellence.

For example, MIT's physics department boasts a faculty of nine Nobel Prize winners, Harvard's faculty includes Nobel Prize winners in Economics, Medicine, Chemistry and Physics, Oxford staff include multiple Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners while Princeton has approximately eleven Nobel Prize winners on faculty – including Nobel Prize winner in Medicine, Professor Eric F. Weischaus.

This calibre of staff, combined with the world's most generous research budgets, sees all students - including first years - taking part in and benefitting from, internationally respected research projects funded by substantial government and private enterprise grants and alumni donations.

Significantly, it is the latter – alumni donations - which also sees these universities able to build and maintain

world class facilities, fund athlete support, offer study abroad programs and most importantly increase the level of financial aid these universities are able to award to incoming students. (The issue of financial aid and other logistics is explored further below).

In fact, the world's largest alumni donation by a graduate to his alma mater was made in 2018 when billionaire businessman, Michael Bloomberg, who graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1964, donated \$US1.8 billion to the university he credits with 'opening doors that otherwise would have been closed and enabling him to live the American Dream'. The funds will be used to provide financial aid for talented, hard-working low and middle-income students who would not otherwise be able to afford a world-class university education.

Of course, just as students enjoy an endless number of course options on campus, these universities also provide hundreds of study abroad opportunities as part of their curriculum. Having established relationships with major international companies, medical research institutions, law societies and other places of business, they also help their students gain valuable work experience and networking opportunities via annual summer internship programs located in the UK, the US, and all over the world.



The Study Experience

Beyond the tangible benefits of US/UK university study described above, there are also numerous less tangible advantages associated with studying overseas. These benefits involve 'experiences' that cannot be duplicated at domestic universities ... challenges and adventures that increase independence, expose your child to the beauty of other cultures, enable your child to make a global network of friends and be exposed to communities, climates and traditions they would never have experienced at home.

Independence, Diversity and a Global Network of Friends

In regards to gaining independence, studying abroad offers students time to develop into their own; time to mature and grow not only as people, but as global citizens. Living overseas, meeting and dealing with all types of people and making independent decisions builds confidence, independence, strength, determination and respect for themselves and the world around them.

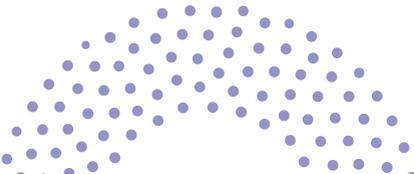
While these universities attract the best of the world's students, they are also determined, particularly in the US, to build campuses rich in diversity. Studying with a student body from different cultural, economic and religious backgrounds sees students gain a new appreciation and respect for people of all origins and circumstance. Perhaps even more importantly your child will gain, not just a new global perspective but an international network of friends – many of which will remain your child's friends for life no matter where their eventual location.



Alumni Networks and Employment Opportunities

Which brings us to the power of top university alumni. It is well known that universities such as Oxford and Cambridge, Harvard and Princeton, Dartmouth and the University of Notre Dame, just to name a few, boast powerful and generous alumni networks dedicated to both giving back to their alma mater financially and helping new graduates gain employment opportunities post graduation.

Many of these alumni 'recruit from within', meaning they actively visit and invite soon-to-be graduates from their former universities to intern and eventually work at their current places of employment. Facebook, Google, IBM, Microsoft, Goldman Sachs, Bloomberg and Amazon all actively recruit from top university campuses, while the University of Pennsylvania has more alumni working on Wall Street than any other university – it's highly respected Wharton School of Business graduates often courted by several top firms all fighting for the world's top graduate hires.



With these employment opportunities also comes the lifelong benefit of higher post-graduate salaries and accelerated rates of promotion. In fact, graduates from the world's best universities achieve salaries that are often over \$US40,000 (\$AU57,000, \$NZ59,500) more per year than the average post-graduate student salary.

Moreover, students who have studied and graduated from overseas universities overwhelmingly agree that the experience was a life-changing one that not only carved their future career path but also built them as people. The classes they chose, travels they took, hurdles they leapt, mistakes they made, the professors who mentored them, the room mates they shared with, the friends they made and kept...it is these experiences that change a high school graduate's life and opens their eyes to the world of opportunity available to them – both in their ability to grow themselves, and their chances to 'give back' to others.

03. What Does Applying To The US/UK Involve?

As previously mentioned, US and UK universities have different application processes compared to most domestic universities.

While domestic universities focus solely on final university entrance exam indicators such as ARBITAR, ATARS or NCEA scores, the UK, and more specifically the US, use broader application perimeters to gauge – not only a student's academic ability, but their extracurricular and leadership efforts, their life experiences and ability to express them, their teachers' recommendations and their performance in an interview. In



'the case of the US, they also require proof of academic background, asking students to upload their school reports or transcripts' from Years 9 to 12/13. While this final element might scare some students, US universities ask for academic history merely to get a sense as to how your child has grown. There are many B or C students in Year 9 who go on to excel in the later years of high school, and beyond the 'straight A student', it is this 'committed and improving' student that US admissions officers are looking for.

Of course, while different to domestic university admissions processes, the UK and US systems also vary significantly from one another – the UK focusing more solidly on academics and the US taking a broader, more holistic approach to admission.

Here is what you can expect from both application processes.

The Application Process



In the US, universities use a 'holistic' approach to student admission – meaning that while the academic component is obviously important, admissions officers are also interested in who each applicant is as a person. Beyond this approach being a much more humane way to consider a student's application, it also results in a more diverse student body where students from all walks of life bring their own special contribution to campus

In regards to the physical application, most US universities (over 750 schools) use the Common Application – an online application portal where forms are filled out and information uploaded. The great majority of the information in this Common Application goes to every university your child is applying to, but the Common App also allows for university specific information to be uploaded – including supplementary essays, recommendations and other relevant documentation.

Put simply, students applying via the Common App are asked to provide information on their 'profile', family, education, test results, activities (or extracurricular and leadership details), teacher recommendations and personal statement or essay. Individual schools then ask more specific questions on intended area of study (if known). They also provide areas in which the student can upload responses to their school-specific supplementary essay and short answer questions.

While the Common App is the most popular means of applying to US universities, some schools such as MIT and Georgetown use their own application processes available on their websites.

When it comes to deadlines, there are two options: applying in the Early Action or Early Decision round (in this case a student can pick one preferred school and apply typically by November 1 – the results of which are released in mid-December), or in the Regular Decision round when a student can apply to as many universities as they desire – the application deadline typically being January 1 and the notifications released in late March or early April.

A note on the education/ testing results that must be uploaded to the Common App- while the App allows for the upload of your child's school results (admissions officers are incredibly savvy when it comes to understanding international education systems and the meaning/value of the ATAR, ARBITAR or NCEA etc), it also calls for the upload of American standardised test results. This means your child will have to upload the results of their SAT or ACT along with the results of their SAT II Subject Tests (usually two or more).





Every applicant – American or international – must sit the SAT or ACT exam (held regularly in countries within and outside of the US across the year). The exams test basic knowledge in maths and English, and in the case of the ACT, science. While these exams are different to what a student might expect from their national exam experience, Crimson Education consultants and tutors are experts in helping their students achieve the best score possible – scores that are ultimately incredibly competitive against their US student counterparts.

Finally, once applicants are in, many students are offered the chance to interview with locally based alumni. While this may seem somewhat daunting, US applicant interviews are generally much less serious than those used in the UK process (often catch ups in a coffee shop!) and are simply an opportunity for the alum to ask questions of the student – and the student to ask their own questions about their interviewer's university experience.



In the UK, applications are conducted online through the Universities and Colleges Admission Service or UCAS. Once again the UCAS system requires the input of information into various sections including a section for personal details, course choices, details of the student's education to date, their employment/extracurricular history, personal statement and a teacher (or similar) recommendation.

Unlike the US system, and perhaps more in line with domestic universities, the UK system requires application to specific universities and courses with each applicant allowed up to five course/university choices. The key here is for your child to shape their application/profile to the specific courses they are passionate about and applying to – once again Crimson Education experts specialise in helping their students build their UCAS profile to maximum advantage – the application deadline for most courses being mid-January.

Oxford and Cambridge

While the great majority of UK universities have similar application demands and processes, it is worth noting that while Oxford and Cambridge universities use the UCAS system, they also have their own individual application processes and deadlines.



Firstly, a student must choose between the two, meaning your child can apply to Oxford, or Cambridge, but not both. Secondly, students must choose a course and a college to apply to (what they want to study and where they want to live).

Applicants are also required to sit tests associated with their chosen courses of study. (For example, the Biomedical Admissions Test or BMAT is required for all students applying to medicine, biomedical science and dentistry at both universities) and, when invited, attend a university course specific interview.

The deadline for applications to Oxford and Cambridge is mid-October and applications are advised whether they are successful by the end of January.

04. Finance And Logistics FAQs

The most important thing to remember when considering financing your child's US or UK education – and the logistics of negotiating their 'move' – is that overseas colleges do not want money or logistics to be a hindering factor in the application process.

These universities are used to receiving thousands of international student applications each year – many of whom gain admission – so they appreciate the needs of international applicants and the questions broached by their parents.

Given the two systems vary, following is a breakdown of common financial and logistics FAQ's for both the US and the UK. Crimson Education is also available to offer further information in one-on-one free consultations.

US - Finance And Logistics FAQs

1) Can I receive financial aid to assist in the payment of my child's US university application?

Yes, the great majority of US universities offer financial aid for international students who need it. There is a section on the Common Application that asks if your child would like to apply for aid from the university concerned – and if you tick this box you will be asked to fill in certain forms relating to this request. In short, these forms require details so that you and your family can be 'means tested'. This enables the university to gauge if aid may be available to your child, and if so, how much aid will be awarded.



2) Do we have to pay back this 'aid'?

No. The aid is not a loan – it is a 'grant' or 'gift' from that university which will enable your child to study free from the stress of having post-graduate debt.

3) Are there substantial merit and sporting scholarships available for students and athletes?

Yes. Beyond financial aid, US colleges and government initiatives offer a number of scholarships and awards to national and international students to help make studying abroad a possibility. Sometimes these are merit-based scholarships and other times they are athletic. One of the most famous US merit-based scholarships is the Robertson Scholarship, which is typically granted to approximately 30 national and international students a year – all of them receiving a 'full ride' or free education at either Duke University or the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. When it comes to athletes, hundreds of US universities are willing to subsidize the education of talented athletes regardless of their country of origin. These athletes, which compete in the NCAA college system not only receive assistance in funding but are also coached by some of the best coaches in the world in universities with unparalleled facilities and support mechanisms.

4) Will ticking the financial aid box in the Common Application affect my child's chances of admission?

Yes and No. In the US there are two types of universities – those that are 'Need Blind' for international applicants and those that are 'Need Aware'. If a school is Need Blind, it does not take your financial situation into account when considering your child's application (eg: Harvard, Princeton, Yale, MIT, Amherst). If a school is Need Aware, it does take your financial situation into account and will consider the bulk of your child's application with your request for aid in mind. That being said, it is worth noting that many international students gain successful entry to Need Aware schools and are awarded aid to cover their child's education. In some cases for example, Australian, New Zealand and other international students have attended top US colleges at costs lower than they would have incurred at a domestic alternative.



5) What forms do we have to fill in when applying for aid?

All US university applicants must create an account on the College Board website – and this account enables parents to build a financial aid application profile on the College Board site in the section relating to the CSS or College Scholarship Service profile. The CSS profile enables the universities you select to determine your eligibility for non-government – or institutional - financial aid. The CSS profile asks for information on your family's salaries, assets and costs and the upload of documents such as tax returns is sometimes required on an associated College Board service known as IDOC (Institutional Documentation Service). This service is easy to navigate – a simple login and upload with deadlines listed (for early round applicants the deadline is usually November 1, for regular round applicants - January 1).

6) Do all schools use the CSS Profile to assess my eligibility for financial aid?

No. Some schools – like Princeton, have their own financial aid application process. In these cases you are walked through the process on their own websites. Once again the upload of financial documents may be necessary.

7) We are separated or divorced...do the universities take these circumstances into account?

Absolutely. Both the custodial and non-custodial parent are asked to build their own CSS Profile and upload their own documents onto IDOC. If there are any issues with a non-custodial parent not being involved in the application process,



or not being able or willing to fund your child's university education, a form/letter outlining these circumstances can be submitted by the custodial parent and will be respected and taken into account in the financial aid application decision. It stands out from the competition.

8) How much do these universities cost maximum?

The word 'maximum' refers to the cost per year with NO financial aid and in this case the cost per year at a top US university is approximately \$US69,000 (including all education and residency costs). However, the great majority of students on campus receive some form of financial aid. (For example, at Harvard, where international students receive the same financial aid as Americans, 70% of students receive some form of financial aid.)

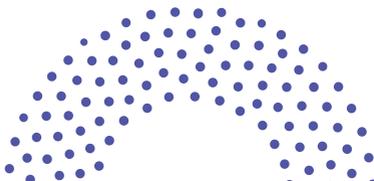
9) If my child is successful in gaining admission, do these universities help with logistics such as a visa, opening bank accounts, student employment opportunities etc. ?

Yes. The great majority of overseas universities provide a plethora of information to their new international admits. This includes advice on student visa (the university supplies documentation to assist and enable your child to gain their visa). Most universities also hold an international orientation program prior to standard orientation so that international students can mix as an initial group and attend talks and workshops on subjects such as opening a bank account, purchasing a local mobile phone plan and working while on a student visa.

UK - Finance And Logistics FAQs

1) Can I receive financial aid to assist in the payment of my child's UK university application?

While financial aid and scholarships to UK universities are rare compared to their US counterparts, the education itself is less expensive averaging somewhere between \$US13,000-\$US39,000 with Oxford and Cambridge at the upper end of the spectrum. Worth noting is that most UK degrees take three years as opposed to the US's four year undergraduate structure. This means the costs are spread across three not four years of tuition and residency.



2) Do some universities offer scholarships?

Yes, but unlike the US with its CSS profile system, there is no 'one size fits all' option as each university has its own policies on financial aid and other assistance. In saying that, funding for some UK institutions is available and Crimson Education consultants will have further information on which schools are more conducive to international student financial assistance compared to others.

3) If my child is successful in gaining admission, do these universities help with logistics such as a visa, opening bank accounts, student employment opportunities etc. ?

Yes. The great majority of UK universities provide a plethora of information to their new international admits starting with how to apply for the 'Tier 4 (General) Student' visa. These universities, like their US counterparts, also hold international orientation programs to educate overseas students on matters such as opening a UK bank account, purchasing a local mobile phone plan and working on the Tier 4 student visa.

05. What Does Having A Child Studying Overseas Mean For The Family?

Needless to say, contemplating farewelling your child to an overseas university can be a daunting prospect for many parents particularly in countries such as Australia and New Zealand where the overseas option is not commonplace. In the UK, and even more so in the US, moving out of home to study, grow and enjoy the residential college experience is not just the norm but viewed as an important part of a child's maturity and development.

This is why, unlike domestic universities, UK, and once again especially US universities, have strong parent contact policies and programs in place. They also understand and address common parent concerns such as student health, safety and individual living preferences. In short, they understand that while a university student is at an age where a certain level of independence is expected and encouraged, that in the absence of parents, the university is responsible for the student's health and well-being – issues they take very seriously. They are also aware that parents need reassurance, visiting access to their children and organised information as to when such access – including holidays and study breaks are scheduled.

Here is some specific information as to how these universities care for, protect, assist and communicate with both students and their parents:



Dedication To International Students

The great majority of top US and UK universities have centres and support bodies dedicated to international student and family support. These centers also act as bases for international student family communication. In the case of Princeton for example, the Davis International Center is dedicated to providing comprehensive advice, assistance and support to Princeton's international students and their families. At Yale there is the IOSS or Office of International Students and Scholars. Imperial College London runs a separate orientation for international students and offers continual support from their International Student Support team while Oxford and Cambridge universities have International Student Offices dedicated to providing specialist support to non-UK and EU students and their families.



Long-Term Calendars Enable Families To Plan Ahead

US/UK summer, fall break, spring break, winter recess ... Most universities provide students and their families with extremely detailed calendars as to what the student – and in turn, their families, can expect – not just in the first year of study but the entirety of their degree. Having a 3 or 4 year calendar enables families to plan their child's trips home, family vacations and also 'keeps parents in the loop' when it comes to their child's overseas schedule. While this may seem a rather moot point given the distance from home, knowing when your child has midterm or final exams helps parents support their child when necessary. It also means they can plan ahead for the exciting milestones – including graduation celebration events.

Student Safety

Universities who accept domestic and international students onto their campuses do not take their safety and well-being lightly. On the contrary, the entire residential college system is based around inclusion, checks and balances and a comprehensive system of police monitoring and safety measures. In other words, distance does not have to mean a compromise on safety, in fact it can often mean an increase on the protection mechanisms constructed around your child and their student peers. In regards to police forces, most universities have their own forces on campus and these forces are both substantial and proactive. For example, the University of Pennsylvania Police Force is the largest private police force in the



largest private police force in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Harvard's Police Department offers free self-defence classes for students. Police Departments also offer walking escorts for students returning to their dorms late at night, while a walk around campus further reveals streets and pathways lined with emergency telephones located under permanently lit blue lights. There are also constant campus alerts sent to students – and often their parents – regarding any possible compromise on safety, be it a fallen tree or a report of vagrancy on campus.

Student Health

From the outset, US and UK universities invite new students to engage with their on-campus health centres – be it inviting parents to send health records from home, asking for reports on immunization history or setting up appointments with medical professionals immediately following arrival. Student athletes also undertake a rigorous pre-training physical – in fact no student is allowed to train or compete without passing certain health criteria. In regards to health insurance, most universities offer comprehensive insurance policies – including policies with optional extras such as optical or dental – depending on the needs of the student. In short, these universities make it clear that the physical and mental wellbeing of all students is a major focus of their campus ideology.

The Residential College System

In both the US and the UK, students are housed in colleges or dormitories constructed on a system of camaraderie and support. These 'colleges' or 'houses' become the base, not just for your child's living, eating, washing, socialising routine, but also for the people they can access easily for advice, support and companionship. Most colleges and houses engage senior students as advisors and mentors who guide your child during their first year of study providing academic and emotional/social support. Heads or 'Deans' of these colleges also act as advisors and supporters for your child, and communication access points for parents. Needless to say, residential college or house pride plays a big part in your child's college experience with many inter-house competitions and social activities being highlights of the school year. Most importantly, your child also gains the experience of living in a dorm room with one or more students (or alternatively some colleges have individual rooms for students who prefer them). It is here that lifelong friendships are made.



Expanding the Family's World

While having a child leave home for university can be an adjustment, there is no doubt parents and siblings grow with the experience too – with international destinations moving to the top of planned vacation lists. At international orientation weeks, there are often events held especially for parents and families - and as such, opportunities for you to mingle and exchange details with other parents from all over the world – including your home country! Crimson Education also sees their students' parents and siblings as part of their own extended 'family', often putting applicant's families in touch with one another so that they might share their experiences and offer words of advice.



PART TWO

How to Increase the chances of your child getting Into Top Universities





Helping Your Child Prepare For Their US & UK University Applications

There is no doubt the final years of school can be incredibly busy. There are subjects to select, assessments to negotiate, exams to be studied for and taken. As a result, many students and parents think that including overseas university applications in their 'to do' list only 'adds' to an already crowded school schedule.

However, students who undertake the US and/or UK university application process agree that, while the time is tight, adding the possibility of studying at a world class university not only improved their time management but gave them a broader perspective beyond the 'tunnel vision' often associated with final Year 12/13, exams (not to mention their academic performance).

In many ways it is about the 'end game' – about looking at the bigger picture and where a student wants to study, live and make the most of opportunities beyond the high school classroom. It is this willingness to 'consider all options' – including studying at the world's best institutions with the world's most talented students – that results in success both in the final years of school and on US and UK campuses and beyond.

That being said, there is no doubt parents play a major part in supporting their child through the US/UK application processes. While your child is guided by teachers, coaches, careers counsellors and other professionals and mentors, it is you who they turn to for balance – to help them manage their time, their health, their sleep patterns, their diets, their stress and most importantly, their ability to imagine a wonderful life beyond school.

As such, there are many ways parents can help their child as they negotiate the demands of school along with the university application processes, starting very simply with getting the right information and support.

Parent Interest And Involvement

Whether the decision to consider overseas study begins with the parent or the child, a parent's interest and involvement is key to their child's ultimate admissions success. In the end, parents know their children better than anyone else, and in turn, children look to their parents for guidance. This means the more research you do together, the more university websites you scour and overseas study expos and presentations you attend, the more informed both you and your child become.

Crimson Education is dedicated to making sure parents remain very much part of the student's overseas study application preparation process. From a family's initial enquiry or seminar attendance, to the free initial consultation, and eventually the various steps of application planning. Crimson Education coordinators, strategists and tutors understand the importance of parents' input and support and enjoy including them in all aspects of the application process.

Helping Your Child Manage Their Time

As mentioned, the idea of negotiating two educational systems can sound overwhelming but it can be done – and with great results! Parents can help by keeping track of their child's school/exam/activities calendar – the aim being to plan ahead with forethought to prevent any overloaded weeks or unnecessary anxieties.

For example, parents can work with their child's Crimson Education team to make sure US/ UK application tests are not scheduled in the same week as major school exams or assessments. Taking the SATs during the holidays may be a better option. Thinking ahead about personal essay ideas might help reduce a last minute scramble as to what your child would like to express.



Leadership And Extracurricular Activities

As previously mentioned, overseas universities – particularly those located in the US - are looking for young people who live full, productive lives. While school exam results, SAT /ACT or UK course specific tests are important, university admissions officers are also interested in who your child is as a person and what they might bring to campus if they are admitted.

Every student has their own personal passions – activities that both build them as a person and reduce the anxiety associated with a busy academic calendar, and it is the pursuit of these passions, and a student's efforts to use them to grow, share and give back to their community that sets your child apart from other applicants. School-based or 'institutional' leadership positions provide an opportunity for your student to show how they can lead, but self-created leadership positions can be just as effective when it comes to demonstrating a student's leadership potential to admissions officers. Perhaps your child

started a club or charity that expanded to reach and assist others beyond their geographical area? Perhaps they are talented athletes who initiated a program to introduce coaching and facilities to other children in areas where access to such advantages was limited?

While there is the line of thought that any time spent away from the study desk is a moment lost, on the contrary admissions officers are looking for students who have a broader view of what it means to be a global citizen. With a parent's support, students can thrive both in the classroom and as leaders, creators, athletes, musicians and budding entrepreneurs.

Careers Advisor And Teachers

School careers counsellors and college advisors are dedicated to helping their students reach their higher education and career goals – but not all of them are aware of the intricacies of the US/UK application process. So as a parent, meeting with them, explaining your child's goals and letting them know as early as possible that this is the route your child wants to take always results in a more inclusive, supportive process.

Parents can also help their child choose the teachers who they will eventually ask to provide recommendations. Ideally these teachers have known your child for some time and can speak – not just to their academic curiosity and prowess, but also to their contribution to the classroom, their ability to work with a team, to take on roles of leadership and support others in need.

It is important to remember that the academic results already uploaded to UCAS and/or The Common Application already paint a clear picture as to your child's scholastic abilities – but it is the teacher recommendations that bring your child to 'life'.

International Tours Or Planning A Family Campus Visit Holiday

As the old saying goes – there is nothing like actually 'being there' when it comes to getting a true sense of what it would be like to live in a certain location. While the world's top universities share a reputation for excellence – they all have different personalities, even the eight Ivy League schools feel different when you walk onto their individual campuses.



Crimson Education runs a number of highly sought-after international tours every year – each of them constructed to meet the needs of different students. Tours are available for those interested in medicine, entrepreneurship, science and technology, global diplomacy, climate change ... all of them include campus tour visits where your child can experience their dream universities first hand.

Alternatively a family trip including university visits, campus tours and information sessions are great ways for both you and your child to get a 'feel' for exactly what it would be like to be part of that university community. Beyond the information gained, these trips can be true bonding experiences as parents share in the anticipation and decision making process about the exciting next chapter in their child's post-school life.

The Statistics- The Chances Of Your Child's Admission

With the vast amount of institutions in both the US and UK, acceptance rates vary immensely. Depending on the quality of academics and professors, universities have the ability to be as selective as they want.

Typically, the higher ranked a university is, the more selective they will be around acceptance time.

The Ivy League And Oxbridge

Inevitably, given the quality of education and accompanying reputation, Ivy League acceptance rates are low compared to the number of applications they receive, most schools with a rate below 10%. Harvard and Princeton are somewhere between 4.6 and 5.5%.



As for Oxford and Cambridge, acceptance rates are around 18% (this percentage is calculated after many students have already been 'rejected' for not meeting certain academic standards).

However, once again all universities understand the value of diversity and as such, a generous pool of international students are accepted into these top universities every year.

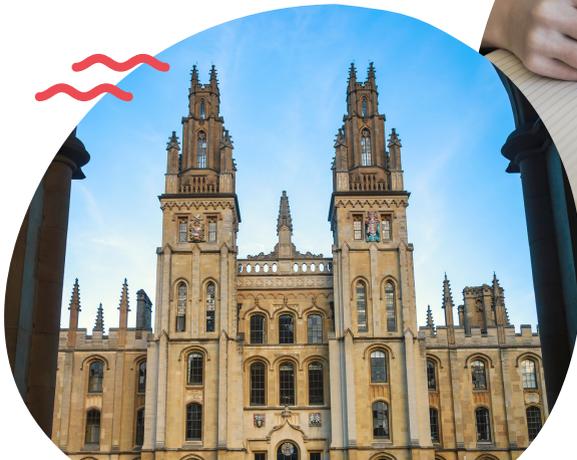
Beyond The Prestige

An important point to remember here is that students should not limit themselves to the Ivies or Oxford and Cambridge. In fact, for many students other universities are a 'better fit'. The Ivies for example are all located on the east coast of America, where the weather in winter is extremely cold. As such, perhaps your child would enjoy the sunshine of California? In this case the private University of Southern California is a great choice – as are the larger UC's or University of California 'family' of universities which includes: UCLA, UC Berkeley and UC Irvine for example.

In regards to the UK, your child might, for example, wish to explore studying in Scotland where the University of Edinburgh is a top choice or the University of Glasgow – established in 1451 - offers one of the richest university histories in the world.

The strategists at Crimson Education are dedicated to narrowing a university list for your child – based around a multitude of factors including academics, extracurriculars and most importantly who your child is as a person. Crimson's high student acceptance rate is largely due to this individual focus, as beyond their strategist's skill and knowledge as to what it takes to build a stand out application, they also believe in making sure your child gains acceptance to a university where they will thrive and be happy.

It is true that in starting along this road, parents and students need to know that the 'competition' will be substantial, but that does not mean acceptance is impossible, in fact far from it. By preparing early, mapping out goals and working closely with the experts, admission to some of the best universities need not be just a dream, but the next stage of your child's education journey.



Crimson Education- FAQs

Finally, the following section breaks down some commonly asked questions about Crimson Education.

Given, as mentioned, the US/UK university path is often a 'new' one for many international families, parents and students also inevitably have questions as to how Crimson actually 'works'. Following are some FAQ's which should cover the basics with further information available at www.crimsoneducation.org.

What is Crimson Education

Crimson Education is the most awarded admissions consultancy in the world having assisted hundreds of students to gain entry into the most competitive universities in the US and the UK. The Crimson team has a track record for helping their students gain admission to every Ivy League university, Stanford, MIT, Caltech, the University of Chicago, Duke, Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College London, University College London, the University of Edinburgh, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and many more.

How Does Crimson Work?

Every one of Crimson's students is assigned a team of tutors, strategists and mentors – many of whom have, or still are, studying at the very universities a student is targeting. Through the use of advanced 'best match algorithm' technology, a student is allocated a support group who help a student through every step of the application process – tutoring them for standardised tests, assisting them in building an extracurricular and leadership profile, giving them insight as to how to ace their personal statement and supplementary essays and helping them negotiate the eventual admissions interview.

As mentioned previously, they also help students build that all important university application list – including 'Reach', 'Realistic' and 'Safety' university choices based on a student's dream schools and calculated chances of admission.

MOST significantly, Crimson's process is highly personalised – the highly advanced Crimson App keeping students in touch with their team 24/7. Parents are consulted every step of the way as a clear strategy for admission is mapped out and followed the moment a student comes on board. This is known as the 'roadmap' which encourages a student to tick off milestones as they progress towards their final university applications.



What About Athletics?

Student athletes are provided exactly the same support as all other Crimson students but they are also provided specific assistance and support in gaining access to top US universities and the scholarships that accompany them.

In fact, Crimson has an entire division dedicated to athlete scholarships and admission – once again run by experts who have gained top athletic scholarships to world-class universities themselves.

As talented as an athlete may be, it is the way they approach their academics, liaise with coaches, their university sports program choices, NCAA calendar negotiation and recruitment videos that make them stand out above the rest. This is where Crimson Athletic's support team comes on board – helping to build an athlete's profile and guide them through the sometimes tricky territory of scholarship negotiation.

When Should We Start?

The short answer is ... as soon as possible. Some parents initiate contact and support from Crimson as early as Year 7, while others come on board in Year 9 or 10 and some through the more senior years of high school. But as with any important goal in life, preparation breeds success, so the earlier a student starts planning for an overseas education the better.

How Do We Get Started?

Simply by contacting Crimson! The first step will involve attending a free 1hr + consultation with an Academic Advisor where you and your child can sit down with a Crimson Education expert who will answer all questions relating to your child's individual situation, goals and aspirations. At this meeting you and your child can ask as many questions as you desire and the advisor will provide you with detailed information as to 'how it will work' and the cost of engaging Crimson to assist in your child's top university admissions process. Simply visit Crimson Education's website for a free consultation!



Crimson Education Results

Crimson Education was founded by CEO Jamie Beaton and COO Sharndre Kushor in 2013. Since its 'birth' in Auckland, New Zealand, Crimson has grown to become the world leader in US and UK admissions and tutoring, now employing a team of 2,300 expert tutors, consultants and mentors who support students from all over the world.

In regards to their student success stories, Crimson 'graduates' have gained access to every one of the world's best universities including all of the Ivy League universities as well as Oxford and Cambridge. Further, Crimson students have been accepted into Stanford, MIT, Caltech, UC Berkeley and Rice University, Vanderbilt, the University of Michigan, Northwestern, NYU, Swarthmore, King's College London, London School of Economics, University College London, Imperial College London and many more top universities in the US and UK.

Crimson has guided students to acceptance percentages in some cases over five times more than the average. In 2020, Crimson students achieved 85 offers to the Ivy League, 40 offers to Oxford and Cambridge, 97 offers to Top 10 US universities and 330 offers to top UK universities!

For example, while in the 2017/18 admissions rounds, Harvard's general acceptance rate was roughly 4.6%, Crimson students applying to Harvard achieved an acceptance success rate of 26.3%. As for Cambridge, while the average acceptance rate was 21%, the Crimson student success rate stood at 61%. Crimson has also helped their students receive over \$43 million USD in university scholarships.

In short, Crimson is dedicated to lifting their students above the talented and competitive international pool of applicants – by guiding every student along their US/UK application journey with dedication to personalised service and support.

Needless to say, when top university acceptance notifications roll in each year, it is not just the student or their family who are celebrating. It is also their team of strategists, co-ordinators, mentors and tutors who have believed in their ability and potential for success from the outset.



The Final Word

If your family is interested in supporting your child's pathway to the US or UK to pursue a degree, we suggest you get started as early as possible! Getting a head start on your application will give you time to help your child gather all the required materials and increase chances of acceptance.

The application process can be unfamiliar and daunting for some families.

But with Crimson Education, your family is provided with a support team to help you every step of the way.

For parents considering the world-class US or UK university path for their child, remember these closing points:

1. An education is the greatest gift you can give to your child.
2. The opportunity to study at a top international university usually only presents itself once in a lifetime.
3. If you decide to go down this road, be all in and do it well!

Interested in Crimson Education services? Sign up for your [free academic consultation](#), and begin your journey today.

Send us an email or call us - we'd love to connect with you!

□

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Ready to Get Started?

Book in a free one hour consultation with one of our expert Academic Advisors who can answer all your individual questions and create a plan for you or your child.

[Talk To Us](#)



[CRIMSONEDUCATION.ORG](https://www.crimsoneducation.org)