



Global University Choices

counselors to help them through the application process. This percentage has almost certainly increased as U.S. college admissions continue to become more competitive.

As an independent university adviser, I provide strategic consulting to students and their families about English language bachelor programs in Europe and North America.



Take Care with Rankings!

Before relying on university or college rankings, or league tables, investigate what specific factors are used to compare institutions. Most rankings do not attempt to measure how well a college or university educates students in its bachelor programs. Instead, many international rankings measure university research output in a variety of ways, which may have little bearing on undergraduate education.

So many amazing places to pursue higher education... Where will you study? Switzerland? The UK? Elsewhere in Europe? North America?

Helping students achieve their plans for higher education

We all know that where students go to university can significantly impact their futures. Switzerland? The UK?

Elsewhere in Europe? North America? While many paths lead to success, not every choice is a good match. For international families, the complexity of university decisions multiplies when students apply to more than one country or change educational systems between secondary and higher education.

Why engage an independent university consultant?

1. Because independent university advisers (or college counselors) are professionally trained educational consultants who provide your student with in-depth advising on a one-on-one basis. (Most school guidance counselors, if your student has one, only have time for occasional guidance.)
2. Because the quantities of information to sift through and absorb, details to get right, and deadlines to meet tend to be overwhelming.
3. Because some teenagers are more willing to take guidance and reminders from someone outside the family, reducing stress for both parents and students.

According to a 2009 report, 26% of high achieving students applying to university in the U.S. worked with independent

26% of high achieving students in the U.S. work with an independent counselor to help them with the application process

Services Offered

Comprehensive University Application Package

Flat rate package, preferably beginning at least 18 – 24 months before a student plans to start university, includes:

- Reflection and self-assessment to understand your goals, interests, values, and challenges and how those translate to criteria for university selection
- Develop plans for any required standardized testing.
- Plan extracurricular and summer activities.
- Identify specific universities likely to be a good academic, social, and financial fit.
- Application timelines and to-do lists to stay on track through the application process.
- Identify required personal statements and essays, help brainstorm topics, and provide feedback on drafts.
- Provide guidance on completing university application forms.
- Identify scholarship and financial aid options and provide guidance on those applications.

Meetings are held in person and via Skype or on the phone, depending on mutual availability.

University Plan Review

The best time for a University Plan Review is by early fall of the student's final year before university. It includes:

- A professional assessment of whether your university plans are on track.
- It helps catch mistakes or gaps in your planning while there is still time to make changes.

We discuss how your plan meshes with the student's goals, preferences, and academic qualifications, focusing on the context of the universities under consideration and their application requirements.

Based on the results, you can then continue with confidence or seek help as needed.

Short Consultation

Hourly consultations are available for limited and well-bounded university advising activities at any stage of the process. E.g., some parents of younger children may want to



understand how secondary school choices for their child influence university admissions.



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In 2006, I led creation of a college-counseling program at a new public high school in northern California. Since arriving in Switzerland in 2009, I provide private consulting services for students applying to university in Europe and North America. At the request of parent groups, I present overviews of university admissions, and I lead essay-writing workshops at a local international school. To stay current, I continuously monitor news about university systems and trends in higher education, attend professional conferences and trainings, and visit university campuses.

I earned a certificate in College Counseling from UCLA, and am a member of the Overseas Association of College Admissions Counseling (OACAC) and the National Association of College Admissions Counseling (NACAC).