

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



UNIVERSITY...HERE I COME!



What's out there?

- Approx. 90,000 higher education institutions (HEI) around the world.
- Approx. 4000 post secondary degree granting institutions in the USA (4 year universities/colleges and 2 year community colleges)
 - 288 in the UK; 41 in Australia; 430+ in Canada
- 1/5 of English taught programmes are outside of the 'big four'

TYPES OF HIGHER ED INSTITUTIONS

English speaking...

- AUS, CAN, UK, USA
- New Zealand
- (Continental) Europe
- Asia
- Satellite/Global Campuses
- College: Foundation Courses
- College: Technical/Vocational/Trade



Keep in mind...

- Rankings won't tell you everything you need to know, especially when some universities choose not to be a part of rankings.
 - This is going to be your home for the next 3 to 4 years
 - All uni will tell you they are great, wonderful, etc.
 - Go into this with an open mind, as you don't want to be devastated; create yourself choices; uni are unpredictable bc they get thousands and thousands of apps
- Enjoy the process; be curious; you can still be excited about your future even if you don't know what will happen

ASSESS YOUR GOALS AND
FIT AS YOU BUILD YOUR LIST

ACADEMIC FIT

HOW WILL I LEARN AND DOES IT MEET MY NEEDS?

- Do I understand what educational experience I want beyond my possible major? What if I change my mind? Will this school still work for me?
- What elements are important to me in a learning environment? (Physical space, schedule, class size, etc.) What do these look like at this school?
- What do I notice about the examples of relationships between students and teachers I see here? Are there opportunities for mentorship and/ or advising that could lead to opportunity for me?
- What do I perceive about the spirit of collaboration or competitiveness between students at this school? What do I know about myself and the way that I work relative to this?
- What resources and opportunities for engagement (research, hands-on learning) beyond the classroom might be valuable to me?
- Are there shared/ required curricula and/ or first year experiences? Required capstone senior projects? Are they experiences that appeal to me?
- What data is available about graduate and professional school admission and the types of jobs held by alumni, especially young graduates?

PERSONAL & SOCIAL FIT

HOW WILL I THRIVE?

- Is this university a community where I would be known to many, or a place where I could be more anonymous? How do I feel about that?
- Are students actively involved in driving discussion around university policy and governance? Do they have the ability to influence decisions made on campus? What are students dissatisfied with?
- Is there a climate of political discourse and debate? Do I see myself fitting into that culture?
- Can you assess the typical balance of social life/ studying/ activities at this school? How do students spend their time? Does it match up with the way I want to spend my time in uni?
- How does the uni define diversity? Are there support/ interest groups and resources for students from a range of backgrounds? For me? How important is it for me to be around people with similar or a range of cultural backgrounds?
- What is the role of student activities (clubs, organizations, etc) on this campus? What can I learn about the access I would have to activities that are essential to me, and also to ones that I may be curious about?
- What do students at this uni say about the location and weather? What would it be like for me to go to uni outside of a major city? Realistically, how do I engage with the city now?
- How does this uni talk about safety and security?

ADMISSION & FINANCIAL FIT

AM I A SUITABLE APPLICANT?

- What is my profile (scores/grades, course rigour, standardised tests) compared to the middle 50% of students admitted?
- Why do I think this uni is a good option for me personally and academically? Can I put that connection into words?
- If this uni has supplemental essay requirements, are they prompts/questions where I have no problem writing about?
- Have I talked honestly with my family about financing university?
- If I am looking for merit-based scholarships, am I finding uni that fit my needs where my profile is in the top 25% of admitted students?

**Distance
from 'home'**

Size

Atmosphere

**Extracurriculars
& socials**

Costs



**Academics,
study abroad,
& experience**

**Admission
criteria**

**Geographic
setting**

What characteristics are you looking for?

Card Sort

64 of 138

⏮
Prev

⏸
Pause

⏭
Next



Must Have



Would Be Nice



Do Not Care



No Way

You enjoy learning by doing and prefer hands-on learning in a lab, in the field, or through an internship.

Academics Campus Culture Educational Culture
Extracurricular Activities Residential Life Student Resources

When approaching best/right fit...

- Put on your **TOK hat** and hear from **different sources**, not just one story/anecdote on social media as you discover your fit; **most will tell you the good, not the bad**; talk to me as I have direct connection to the uni reps, as I'm not an agent; **don't just follow your friends application**, there's going to be personal growth when you move on; **the right fit for someone else is not necessarily the right fit for you**; those that say they had a good time/fit may not be right for you; or **if they say they did not have a good time you may have a good time/good fit**
- **Pick the major/program you want/love/like**, don't expect to apply and switch; but you could end up with a double major and/or minor

FINDING 'BEST/RIGHT FIT'

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE IN DEPTH WHAT IS RIGHT FOR ME?

- Online tours – links accessible through uni website
- Online info sessions – link available through uni admissions visitor website
- 'chat rooms' with current undergraduate students
- Take advantage of any other online programmes a uni admissions office may offer, such as open houses with academic departments or sample lectures
- Third party websites that offer public reviews from current/former students, parents of current/former students, faculty/staff, etc. – use with caution!
- 'Day in the Life' videos on YouTube and TikTok
- Find a school publication/newspaper online. Read it to get a sense of the campus climate, what the "hot topics" on campus are, what energy the students have in their writing.
- View the campus calendar of events to get a sense of what is available to students at any given time.
- Visit academic department websites and read the bios of the professors. What are the backgrounds/experience of the teaching faculty?
- Read profiles of current students. What are they doing? Could you see yourself spending time with these kinds of students?

80% you...20% institutions

ACKNOWLEDGE

Admissions Requirements

- Current grades, previous grades, and/or IBDP Predicted Grades
- Test Scores e.g. SAT, ACT, IELTS, BMAT, LNAT
- Personal Statements/Essays
- Letters of Recommendation
- Special Requirements e.g. interviews, auditions, or portfolios



QUESTIONS

