

UK vs US Comparison Webinar 09.06.2020

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project access



Agenda

Introductions

Pre-University: Applications and Finances

Life at University: Teaching and Extracurriculars

Post-University

Mission to help untraditional students



Project Access is an **international non-profit** set up to provide **bright students from untraditional backgrounds** with personal mentors, who are currently university students at one of our target universities

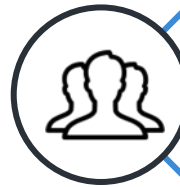
We have a network of

160+ team members

3,500+ mentors

We have supported

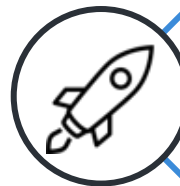
3,000+ aspiring students!



Mentees come from untraditional backgrounds and need resources and guidance



Mentors help students navigate the application process and offer 1:1 support



Once they receive an offer, mentees form part of our campus community

Introductions



Alexander Galouzis
Incoming 3rd year
Economics
University College London



Pooja Nair
Incoming 2nd Year
Engineering
University of Cambridge



Harrison Smith
Rising Junior (3rd Year)
History and Computer Science
Yale University



Sandhya Narayanan
Incoming 4th Year
Biological Sciences
Edinburgh University /
University of California,
Berkeley



UK Application Process



Your most important site is **UCAS**

1. Find a course you want to study
2. Search for the course on UCAS to find universities
3. Select up to 5 universities
4. Check which application deadline you need to meet
5. Write your personal statement
6. Fill out your UCAS application form
7. Get a reference from your teacher
8. Pay application fees and send in your application

UK Application Process

Important points to note:

- Application process for most UK universities other than Oxbridge, which may also have tests and interviews.
- UK universities give out conditional offers based on your final examination grades.

Post application:

1. Track your application through UCAS TRACK
2. Once you have received offers from all universities: choose your firm and back up choice
3. UCAS Track will update after you get your exam results

US Application Process



1. Standardized Tests:
 - ACT: Out of 36
 - SAT: Out of 1600
 - SAT Subject Tests
2. Common App essays
3. University-specific essays
4. Interviews
5. Open days

Project Access can help you at every step!



UK Finances



Accommodation on average is £125 per week



Tuition can vary between £10,000 to £40,000



Living cost is approximately £60 per week

US Finances



Most private universities have a need-based financial aid system that awards students a scholarship based on the amount the university believes they can afford to pay. This aid can often be applied to summer classes, too.



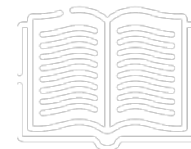
Tuition can cost around \$50,000 without financial aid. However, around 90% of students receive aid. All students have to pay for books and other materials.



Most universities are catered and you have to live on campus for the first two years



Most students at universities will have a part-time job – it is encouraged.



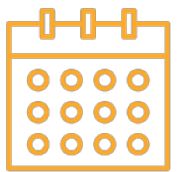
Teaching in the UK



- Teaching in UK universities is split up into **lectures, tutorial, seminars** (and other subject specific methods such as labs and practicals)



- Subjects tend to be more focused and in **more depth**.



- Fewer opportunities to study outside your department.
- Exam tend to be at the **end of the year**, with few mid-terms and assignments.



- The grading is through an **honours system**, from First to Third Class.

Teaching in the US



- Similar to UK universities, teaching is split into **lectures**, smaller group **discussion** sections (often lead by a PhD student) as well as some other **subject specific classes** (labs and practical classes).



- First two years: **range of subject choices** – no need to declare your major. **Broader** range of subject study and flexibility including breath requirements. Many universities have a set of classes that are prerequisites for graduating.



- **Continual testing system**: multiple midterms, continued class testing and end of semester exams. The **GPA** grading system goes from 0.0 to 4.0/5.0 dependent on university.

Extracurriculars in the UK



- There are a diverse range of societies and clubs to join. Ranging from **departmental societies, cultural organizations, and sports teams.**



- However, there is less of an emphasis on extracurriculars in the UK.
- Sports teams are less competitive, however there is a culture of 'socials' and 'sports nights' around them.



- There are also opportunities to volunteer for **charities** affiliated with the uni.

Extracurriculars in the US



- Range of **different extracurricular activities** to get involved in at university including academic societies, politics, cultural organisations and volunteering opportunities. Many opportunities to get involved as well as start new student organizations or learn new skills.



- **Greek life** – sororities and fraternities are another way to get involved in student life.



- **Athletics** and sports teams are a big part of campus life – you can participate competitively or recreationally as well as spectate huge varsity events.

Post-University in the UK



- There are a multitude of career pathways for graduates in the UK, many going into **finance, law and consulting**, as well as **public services and non-profits**.



- There are often **spring week** (week-long internships) opportunities in your first-year, **summer internships** in your second-year and **graduate schemes** when you finish your degree.



- Applications often comprised of CV, cover letters, tests, multiple stages of telephone and in-person interviews and assessment days.

Post-University in the US



- The US is the hub for many **international industries** and sectors, with finance centered in New York, technology in Silicon Valley, and energy in Houston.



- **Internships** are an important part of the US job-application system. Many people will be offered a job at the firm they work at over the summer between their junior and senior years.



- Applications are highly dependent on **networks**, which are often generated through **campus clubs** and **outreach teams** at top firms for each university.

Q&A



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