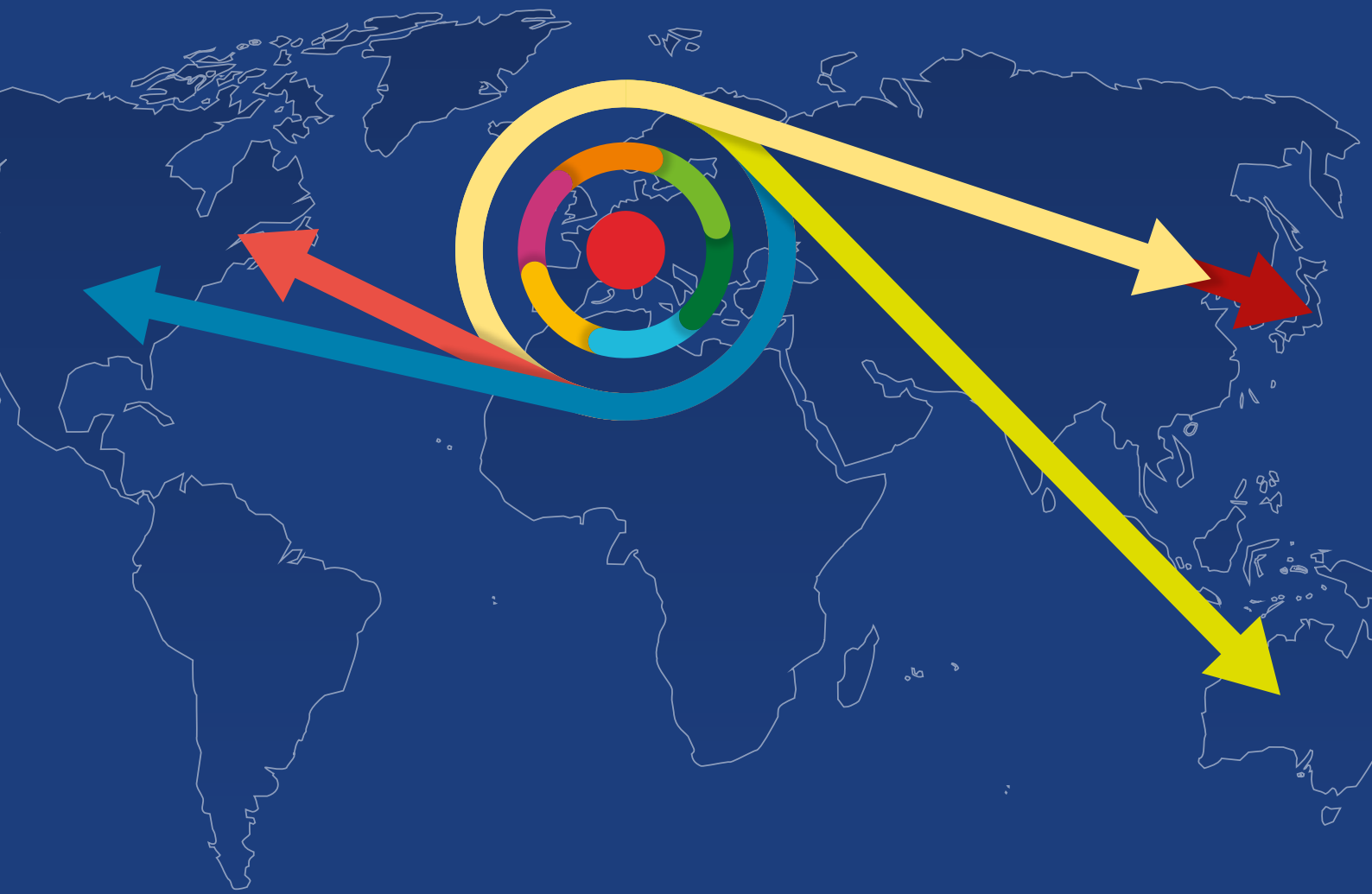


Your Future

The journey to university



COLLÈGE DU LÉMAN
International School · Geneva



‘Tomorrow belongs
to the people who
plan for it today’

African proverb

Introduction

Entering and navigating High School can be a challenging journey. This guide is aimed at CDL students and their families as they begin this journey and start considering their options and post-High School possibilities.

Our teachers and University Advising Team are here to explore together your personal options and destinations and help with your navigation through the array of opportunities based on your strengths and aspirations.

The journey starts right here, with this guide. It allows you to come up with the necessary and important questions and to start reflecting on the best solutions that fit you and your future.

Exploring options and possible destinations is an experience shared between you, your family, your teachers, and the University Advising Team. We look forward to helping you define the right path to your future success!



Start planning today
university.advising@cdl.ch

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A message from our Executive Principals



Dear Students,

The journey through High School and beyond is an exciting one. We are here to support you in the steps you take to achieve your goals.

Here are some questions you may want to ask yourself along the way:

“What do I like doing and learning about?”

“What subjects at school do I appreciate the most?”

“Which subject areas do I wish I could learn more about?”

“What can I do beyond the classroom to discover new things and learn more about what I enjoy?”

“What do I need to do well, to take me where I want to go?”

“How can I improve in my subjects?”

You can find the answers to these questions through conversations with your peers and family, home room advisors, teachers, examination coordinators and University Advisors.

Having a conversation about your High School goals can guide you towards achieving them or uncovering new ones. If you have any questions, please feel free to visit the University Advising Office.

James Bearblock and Emmanuel Coigny

”

Your University Advising Resources

At Collège du Léman you can participate in a range of opportunities to find out more about higher education in general.

- Career Exploration
- Skills and Interests profiling assessments
- Access to a University & Career Planning platform: MaiaLearning
- Application workshops
- Grade meetings on university preparation and application
- University Fairs
- Alumni Panels
- Opportunities to meet university admissions representatives
- Information and support with testing (PSAT, SAT, language examinations and UK University entrance examinations)
- 1:1 meetings with University Advisors
- Support with essay and personal statement writing

Students and parents are regularly invited to grade-specific events, which intensify during the last two years of High School.



Getting prepared

Grades 6-8

Preparing for High School

Middle School Secondaire is the perfect time to discover your interests, strengths, and passions by exploring the courses on offer within the curriculum, testing new activities and delving deeper into extracurricular interests.

This is also a perfect time for you to have conversations with the adults in your life about careers. Our curriculum is designed to help you discover different areas and find new interests which may surprise you.

Student checklist

What can you do?

- ☐ Explore activities through the REACH programme.
- ☐ Reflect on what you enjoy, are good at, and what you can do to improve.
- ☐ Participate in activities and opportunities through extracurricular and club involvement.
- ☐ Reflect on your strengths and interests to select a programme and subjects to study at High School.

Parent checklist

How to support your child(ren) at this stage?

- ☐ Ask them regularly what they have enjoyed doing at school or in their other activities.
- ☐ Ask them to reflect on an experience they have had, that did not go well and how they could do things differently when facing similar situations.
- ☐ Help them reflect on how they best learn and areas in which they may need further support.
- ☐ Talk to them about your career journey.
- ☐ Give them opportunities to explore different areas of work or fields of study / talents through extracurricular opportunities.
- ☐ Attend academic presentations to support your child(ren) in their selection of a programme and subjects for High School.

Grade 9 / IG1

Advice when entering High School

The academic journey in High School is crucial as you take these next steps towards university. Many university systems will require you to provide your academic record for each year of High School, so you must do your absolute best by choosing a programme and subjects at which you can excel, which match your academic interests and which meet the requirements and expectations for your post-CDL plans. It is particularly crucial at this stage to think about the subjects you are selecting to study and the doors they open for future academic exploration while at High School.

Student checklist

What can you be doing?

- ☐ Do your best in all your classes as your grades throughout High School matter.
- ☐ Join clubs, sports, and other extracurricular activities.
- ☐ Think about what school subjects you like and do well at.
- ☐ Choose your options carefully, seeking advice to make sure you are prepared for a future course of study at university.

Parent checklist

How to support your child(ren) at this stage?

- ☐ Review their academic performance with them regularly, ask them how they are doing and what they are enjoying.
- ☐ Support them in reviewing any changes in programme or subjects they may wish to make to better align with their goals, university plans and expectations.
- ☐ Give them opportunities to explore different areas of study and expand their talents and interests through extracurricular opportunities.





Grade 10 / IG2

An important year for selecting programmes, options, and identifying plans.

During the year, you will have the opportunity to select programmes and subjects for your final two years of High School. This is the time to explore strengths, interests, and opportunities as well as reflect on a direction to take.

Student checklist

What should you be doing?

- ☐ Continue to develop your academic strengths.
- ☐ Keep pursuing extracurricular activities and consider aspiring to a leadership role.
- ☐ Participate in career exploration activities in advisory class.
- ☐ Consider taking an 'interest assessment' if you want support or reassurance in identifying the direction you want to take.
- ☐ Start to investigate university requirements to make an informed choice of programme for the following year (G11 or IB1) and subject options.
- ☐ Check the entry requirements for your programme of choice and make plans to meet these requirements, seeking advice and support as necessary.
Not sure how to go about it? Ask for an appointment with a University Advisor at university.advising@cdl.ch or visit the University Advising Office.
- ☐ Plan for the summer before G11 / IB1 by taking courses, attending a camp and reading to further your interests in topics you enjoy.
- ☐ Consider first taking the PSAT (Preliminary SAT / National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) if you are thinking about the SAT to apply to universities in the US or other countries where testing will be required
- ☐ Choose your options carefully, seeking advice to make sure you are prepared for a future course of study at university.

Parent checklist

How can you support your child(ren) at this stage?

- ☐ Review their academic performance with them regularly. Help them to identify areas they excel at, those that may require further support and possible changes of direction that may be needed in the future.
- ☐ Continue to encourage them to explore different areas of study and expand their talents and interests through extracurricular opportunities.
- ☐ Talk to them about your career journey and encourage conversations and meetings with other professionals in their fields of interest.
- ☐ Attend academic presentations to support your child in their selection of a programme and subjects for the last two years of High School.

Grade 11 / IB1

Identifying post-High School plans and preparing your applications

During the year, you will be exposed to many preparation activities to discover post-High School options and prepare for university applications, should you plan to attend university. We intensify the opportunities to embark upon the university application journey during the second semester of Grade 11. At this time, you will take part in grade meetings and a university fair, as well as be invited to university visits, presentations, and workshops. All students are also asked to start working on elements required as part of the university application which will be reviewed, and feedback given by your assigned personal University Advisor.

Student checklist

What should you be doing?

- Make full use of the resources on offer (university leaflets in the library, application handbook from the University Advisory team, websites).
- Spend time researching universities, different countries, and systems. Talk about different possibilities with your family.
- Identify university entrance requirements for the qualifications you are preparing, to ensure you are on the right academic track to achieve your goals.
- Register for the SAT if you have identified the need to take this test to support your university aspirations (for example, for students applying to the US).
- Request official transcripts from your previous High Schools to be sent to university.advising@cdl.ch if you transferred to CDL after grade 9 / IG1.
- Meet with your personal University Advisor in the spring of the second semester.
- Complete your senior portfolio assignment.
- Expand and explore your academic interests beyond the classroom through reading, projects and extracurricular commitment.

Parent checklist

How can you support your child(ren) at this stage?

- Review their subject option choices before the start of the year to help them identify and plan their study and extracurricular involvement, making sure they are taking the right subjects to meet potential university entrance requirements.
- Support them in identifying post-High School goals and preparing to achieve them.
- Support them in exploring activities, projects, and work experience to confirm their interests and strengthen their curriculum vitae.
- Attend the university advice presentation in the spring to support your child(ren) in their university preparation.
- Encourage them to book a meeting with their University Advisor before the end of the academic year and make contact yourselves should you need further clarification or have additional questions about how to best support your children through this journey.





Grade 12 / IB2

Putting post-High School plans into action

This year is key for you both academically and for acting on your plans for your next steps beyond CDL. Starting the year with clear goals in mind and identifying a timeline to complete these steps will help you have a successful and fulfilling year. Your plans for the following year must be finalised, whether you wish to apply to university, take a gap year, secure work experience or undertake a military service requirement. If you are planning to apply to university, it is important to approach this process early, completing tasks ahead of the deadlines.

Student checklist

What should you be doing?

- ☐ Plan ahead and give yourself time to complete all aspects of your applications.
- ☐ Arrange a meeting with your assigned University Advisor to discuss your plans and confirm your understanding of the process, prepare questions on the aspects you are unsure of.
- ☐ Participate actively in all events, workshops and activities suggested by the University Advising Office.
- ☐ Attend the CDL University Fair
- ☐ Look up university websites to review admissions requirements, forms and required application items.
- ☐ Engage in all school and university expectations regarding the use of their application forms / portals and timeline.
- ☐ Identify teachers who you may like to ask for a recommendation and follow the CDL procedure for requesting teacher recommendations, if required (two advised).
- ☐ Make sure the University Advisory Office has copies of your transcripts from G9 onwards if you attended High School elsewhere.
- ☐ Submit and track your applications, communicating with your personal University Advisor for support.
- ☐ Take tests and submit scores for required examinations as part of the application process.

Parent checklist

How can you support your child(ren) at this stage?

- ☐ Support your child(ren) in searching for information, connect with their University Advisor at school and identify their timelines for applications.
- ☐ Be honest about what is possible or not in terms of geographic destination and financial contributions towards the cost of study, supporting your child(ren) in identifying best-fit institutions which meet both your and their criteria.
- ☐ Support your child(ren) in registering for external examinations (if required), pay application fees and complete any financial / parental documentation required as part of the application process.
- ☐ Attend University Advising presentations in the fall and spring to support your child(ren) in their university preparation and / or arrange to meet with their University Advisor.
- ☐ Encourage them to book regular meetings with their University Advisor so they may best support them through this journey.
- ☐ Help them complete the necessary steps to apply for a visa should this be required as part of the enrolment process.
- ☐ Support them in transitioning to their university by enabling them to develop life skills such as cooking, budgeting, setting up meetings and appointments, researching the university they expect to be attending and town / transport facilities.

Alumni

The Collège du Léman family extends beyond the gates of the school.

The Association of Collège du Léman Alumni (ACLA) is an exclusive community of former CDL students across the globe.



Collège du Léman currently has more than 10,000 Alumni from all over the world, representing over 180 countries in total. Our youngest Alumni members are 19 to 20 years old, while our eldest are the Class of 1961, now in their 70s.

This diverse and successful network of CDL Alumni offers an excellent portal to recent graduates. As a part of a larger international family, CDL graduates share the lifelong value of the memories that they have with their former school and with each other.

The ACLA actively brings together CDL Alumni from all over the world for events and class reunions.

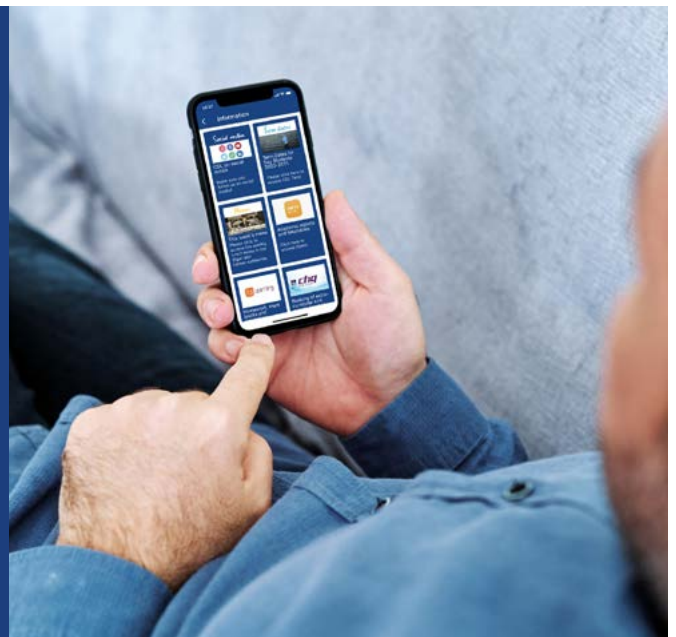
Charles P. de Boissezon
ACLA President

CDL Family Alumni Portal and Mobile App

Our CDL Alumni platform is a dedicated place for CDL Alumni to come together.

The platform is a way to find:

- 1 Friends and connections
- 2 News and stories from Alumni and CDL
- 3 Photographs from the past 60 years
- 4 A full calendar of Alumni events around the world
- 5 The opportunity to be a mentor for CDL students and Alumni, choosing their university or career path.





From our Alumni



Haya Al-Halabii

Class of 2019 – University of Bath

What's your study major and why does it motivate you to study this subject?

I'm currently in the final year of an integrated Masters course in Psychology at the University of Bath. Psychology is a very interesting broad topic that dives into many other fields, so in a sense you have a huge variety of career options to choose from. I started the first and second year with many different options in social, clinical, and cognitive psychology, and then dove into my main interest through that, which is mainly social and criminal psychology. What motivated me the most is how relevant what I was studying is to real life and how you can apply what you are learning to what is currently happening in the world.



Faisal Alsuhaimi

Class of 2019 – Michigan State University

What's your study major and why does it motivate you to study this subject?

My major is Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in energy (class of 2023). I chose this major because it's a very challenging subject as it connects both math and physics to develop an open mind to tackle many real-world problems. I have always loved physics and green energy so I thought Mechanical Engineering would be the right fit for me as it will help to develop and research new and unique energy technologies for the future!



Cayetana Lanchas

Class of 2020 – University of St. Andrews

What's your study major and why does it motivate you to study this subject?

I am studying Business (Management) at the University of St Andrews, and the reason I pursued this subject is because, as the world is growing more interconnected, business opportunities are growing simultaneously and it is up to students like us, with international minutes and multilingual capabilities to take on such challenges and take leading positions worldwide. I am also motivated to study business in order to change the way companies direct their activities and hopefully take part in the transition towards a more sustainable, ethical and inclusive future.

How did the University Advising Team provide support during your decision-making process at CDL?

HAYA The University Advising Team along with my teachers gave good advice in deciding what Universities to go for and the application process. I was given a lot of guidance on writing the personal statement and CV structure, and the fact that we were advised to write it early on is helpful in making the process less stressful. I personally was very unsure on what course to apply for, but their guidance helped me apply for what interested me the most and what was most suitable based on my IB options.

FAISAL Without the University Advising Teams I would not have even thought of studying in the US. I am glad that I made this decision! UA team also advised me to start researching universities very early on which helped tremendously in understanding my options and ultimately choosing the right university for me.

CAYETANA The University Advising Team helped me to narrow down the universities with the best business programs in the UK, US and Europe. They provided support by guiding me through the prerequisites that each university demanded, helping me choose the ones which were right for my degree, but also that matched my preferences in terms of campus size, location and extracurricular activities.

What are your top 3 tips for students preparing for their transition to university/higher education?

HAYA

- 1 Learn to work more independently. It's very different from CDL where you're guided and encouraged by the teachers. In universities it tends to be the case that you have a lot of independent reading to do for assignments.
- 2 Make the most of your first year. The first year is about adapting to the education system in university, and it may seem intimidating at first. It's easy to get lazy and stop showing up to lectures, but attending classes helps adapt faster and meet people in your course, which means you can also have a better social life outside of studying.
- 3 Don't be afraid to socialise. Whether it's a city or campus university it tends to be that everybody is in the same boat of starting fresh, so it's likely that if you're nervous so are they. Take a chance, and you'll have no regrets and will make university a well-rounded experience.

FAISAL

- 1 Don't forget to participate in student-led groups/student clubs. That's where you meet people outside of your classrooms!
- 2 If you are in the US, try to attend sporting events people are passionate about. Especially, college sports like American football.
- 3 Try not to be afraid of a bad grade in one of your first assignments. It happens. Do not get worked up about it, because many classes are based on a curve, so if you think you didn't do well there are probably people who did even worse than you!

CAYETANA

While university may seem daunting academically and in terms of your newly found independence and responsibilities, CDL definitely prepared me for the next chapter of my life. Having been in university for 2 years now, my top three tips for your transition to university life include:

- 1 Ensure that you are able to stay on top of all your deadlines from the very beginning, including your accommodation applications, class sign ups and fees. This way, you will learn to be organised academically all throughout the year, as professors and tutors will not be holding your hand anymore!
- 2 Be open to change, willing to try out new extracurriculars and meeting different people. Although it can be scary to leave one's comfort zone, university is filled with all kinds of people, clubs and events, so there is always going to be something for everyone!
- 3 Don't stress! Transitioning to university is hard for everyone, and although it may seem like you need to keep up with all the events going on, make sure you do it at your own pace. This way, you will make of your university experience what you wish it to be!

What's next? Any plans for after university?

HAYA I'm currently working as a chef part-time and applying for internships in the summer before my Masters year. After graduating, I will likely stay in the UK to apply for graduate schemes and internships to figure out what career path best suits me but am happy with sticking to psychology related careers.

FAISAL I plan to continue in the academic route to become a professor or become a mechanical engineer researcher in the renewable energy development sector for the sustainability of our planet.

CAYETANA I chose to go on a year abroad to experience the American university life, but also to take different classes related to my Business major that would complement my Scottish education in St Andrews. I am really excited to meet new people, hopefully continue dance and cheerleading, and even join a sorority to really get a taste of what we see in the movies :)



Decisions to make

Should you decide to go to university, there will be several things to consider and make decisions about.

Subject

You may want to ask yourself which area of study you are the most interested in and wish to pursue at university, taking into consideration what you have studied so far at school and explored beyond the classroom. You should also aim to research new areas of study by looking at information online and participating in University Advising activities at school.

Language of instruction

This aspect of post-High School study is undeniably crucial in the decision-making process since, depending on which language(s) you are academically proficient in, you may be able to pursue your studies in more than one system / country. If you choose to study in a foreign language there is often a required level of expertise to be demonstrated through entrance and language examinations. For example, most bachelor courses at state universities in Switzerland will have programmes offered in the language of the region; in Geneva, this would be French and you would be expected to have reached a B2 level of proficiency on the Common European Framework.

Country

One thing to assess and decide upon is where you wish to pursue your further studies. You can identify countries with which you have a connection or that teach in the language you wish to study in. The key is to ask, investigate and discover opportunities whilst considering which environment will be the best fit for you. It is important to discuss this with your family so that everyone agrees and can invest in the best types of applications for you. There are always opportunities to study abroad for a semester, or even dual degrees if you want to merge and combine experiences abroad.

Location and environment

Ultimately, you should feel that you will be in the best learning environment for you, whether this is a very competitive and selective institution, a more supportive community or one that leads to more independence. Ideally, you should also be somewhere you can feel at home and return home easily. This may have an impact on geographic location as well as campus size and environment (rural, urban, large, small...).

How many universities should you apply to?

For many students, this is an essential question that will have a tailored answer.

For some it may be one, while others may apply to over 15 institutions worldwide. Commonly, it falls somewhere between five and ten universities, should the system selected by the student require several applications to maximise the chance of being selected.

Depending on where you apply and how many countries / systems are involved, the University Advisors will work with you to balance your applications with the right amount of reach, target and safe universities. If you apply within only one system, such as the UK, the University Advisors can determine which universities would qualify as the reach, target and safe choices.

Considerations to take into account when selecting a university

Academics (Grades)

As a student, where do I fit in at this university? Am I going to be rigorously challenged by the students and faculty at the university I anticipate attending? Would this level of academics be appropriate for me?

Once you have answered these questions for yourself, it is a good idea to look at the entrance requirements or admitted student profile to see whether the university is a fit for you.

Test-Optional

Many US universities are test-optional as part of their review process. Test-optional may be something that stays until universities officially discard it. If you decide that test-optional is for you, then your application would need to reflect, and be better balanced in, other areas to share the best “you” with the admissions committees.

Extracurricular Activities

These are activities which take place after or outside of school and are not academic in nature. The key to extracurricular activities is balance i.e. quality versus quantity. Some application platforms allow a student to list up to ten activities, but this by no means indicates that you need to list ten or are expected to.

Entrance criteria

Different universities, country systems, faculties and courses will have varying levels of selectivity. Taking this into consideration is essential when you come to build a list of institutions to which you wish to apply. It may be that all students who meet the published requirements and follow the application procedure are admissible, yet a competitive selection process takes place at the end of the first year, with the first set of examinations. This is typically the case in many European state higher education institutions. Other systems may have a limited number of universities to which you can apply, and it is therefore important to include enough secure options within the original application. This is typically the case of universities in the UK. Additionally, some systems may apply a holistic selection process where each required element of the application is considered in building a class and community, from students' grades for the past four years of High School, to their scores and extracurricular involvement or even special talents. The holistic approach is often applied by US institutions in their student admission process, which leads to it being less predictable and the need to consider a wider pool of institutions.

Entrance examinations

There is a large panel of examinations which may be required of students in the university application process from the SAT or ACT examinations, which are typically advised for students planning to apply to US institutions or who are preparing a High School Diploma at CDL and are planning to apply to selective programmes outside the US. Through our extracurricular offering, we have SAT preparation classes available to students and is an SAT test centre. Students will also be invited to consider taking the PSAT / NMSQT as preparation and exposure to the SAT in 10th and 11th Grade.

Students may also have to consider additional entrance examinations if applying to Oxford, Cambridge or Medicine in the UK and can find more details on the respective institution's website. Students must register with their University Advisor in September of their senior year to take the examinations in November at CDL.



Terminology

In your research you may come across the following terms that may need further explanation and context:

- Undergraduate Degree: This is the first post-high school level of study. You may also come across the term 'Bachelor's' degree and several acronyms to refer to that level of education, for example, BA (Bachelor of Arts); BSc (Bachelor of Science), BEng (Bachelor of Engineering). It may also be possible to apply for a course that integrates a Master's degree.
- Foundation Year or Pathway programmes: Some students may consider the option to apply to a Foundation Year or Pathway Programme. This will usually be an opportunity to add an initial year of study to a degree, before starting a Bachelor's degree, to increase either their level of English or their overall academic strength and attainment. These programmes are not available in every country or system and typically can be found in the UK or US, to increase access to higher education for international students.

English language testing

You may come across many different testing acronyms during your research in terms of required testing.

- The IELTS examination is a test of English language proficiency run by the British Council and is accepted globally. Students applying for a Bachelor's degree taught in English may want to consider taking the IELTS exam if they are not already preparing for an external examination displaying their English language proficiency. Students planning to apply to study a foundation year in the UK will be required to take an IELTS or UKVI academic (SELT test) which is a required aspect of the visa application process.
- Students may also consider the TOEFL examination which is the US counterpart of the IELTS examination. Many universities will accept a variety of English proficiency tests from DuoLingo to Cambridge or Pearsons. Students can assess whether this is a required part of the application process by discussing it with their University Advisor and plan to take the examination they prefer. Through our extracurricular offering, IELTS preparation classes are available to students.

Getting down to details

Choosing a country

By researching opportunities in countries and systems with which you are familiar or attracted to, you will be able to decide which options are best for you. You will be exposed to opportunities to discover international institutions and their programmes by participating in university fairs, virtual or in-person visits by university representatives and by completing the encouraged research tasks as part of your university preparation.

It could be that you may choose to disregard a country based on the language of instruction or the lack of programmes in your subject of interest. It may be that a teaching style or educational system suits you better. Typically, Bachelor's degrees in North America and Scotland are four years in length and usually include flexibility in the course selection and opportunities to discover different fields of study. In Europe, most Bachelor's degrees tend to be three years in length and very prescribed in the subject and academic path available.

Different countries will also differ in the offers and acceptance after you have applied. Many will make a conditional offer (often the case in the UK higher education system), which will list the conditions with which you must comply in your final leaving qualification to confirm your place. Other institutions may have a conditional acceptance system by which you need to remain on track academically or meet general entrance expectations to matriculate (often the case in European state systems and Canada). Some institutions may accept you before the end of your academic year as long as you graduate and maintain good academic standing until the end of your High School studies (US institutions).

Choosing a course

Whether your goal is to become a health professional, a lawyer, an engineer or any other career you have yet to discover, your University Advisor is here to support you.

With so many Bachelor's study options available, finding the right fit may be overwhelming.

While some students are quite sure what subject areas they would like to continue studying, for those who are undecided, what matters is to choose an area you enjoy day-to-day. You may also wish to consider your career goals or current qualifications and how these fit into the overall picture.

The major or subject area you choose does not predict or guarantee your future career. Graduates often enter careers in fields unrelated to their university studies!

Specialised degrees

Medicine / Veterinary / Law / Architecture

For those who are considering specialised degrees in medicine, veterinary medicine, law or architecture, your current qualifications play a role in your application. For example, if you want to study medicine at the Bachelor level you would need to consider which countries offer this opportunity for international students in their preferred language of instruction. Additionally, designated higher-level sciences are necessary as well as math. A student seeking this outcome should take the highest level of biology, chemistry and math. All students are encouraged to seek and complete clinical shadowing and experience.

While there are no prescribed courses you must take to apply for Bachelor of Law programmes, a candidate for these programmes normally chooses and takes the highest level of English (normally literature), history, philosophy and other writing-oriented courses at the secondary level. Having extracurricular activities such as debating, participating in mock trials or even paralegal experiences would help bolster an application for such programmes.

Lastly, for those seeking to obtain a degree in architecture, it is worth noting that physics and chemistry are necessary sciences, together with higher-level math. Such a programme of study would also require art and many programmes will require a portfolio.



Choosing a university - what to think about

Fit versus Match

These two terms are sometimes used interchangeably, but what do they mean?

“Fit” extends beyond purely academic considerations to encompass your other interests. Fit takes aspects such as social, emotional, and financial into consideration. It is more of an art than a science. Likened to putting on a shirt, figuratively, how does it hang? For example, apart from being able to pursue your academic interests, you would have the opportunity to find the clubs, sports and extracurricular activities that would be deemed a suitable environment for your growth and social experience.

“Match” often refers to a college or university’s academic suitability for you. Based largely on academic considerations, “match” describes the degree to which your academic credentials match the selectivity of the college or university in which you enrol. It is more of a science than an art.

Admission to Highly Selective Universities in the US



In general, highly selective universities in the United States tend to accept under ten percent of all applicants, where accepted students typically place in the top two to five percent of their entire class and possess median SAT/ACT scores of 1450/32 or higher. The 'Ivy League' is a group of eight US institutions, which are amongst the most selective of all universities. Additionally, institutions such as Caltech, MIT and Stanford can be placed in this category.

Given their selectivity, applying to these universities would mean you should put together a diversified list including not just the most selective universities but others that meet your target and safe categories.

What is the Ivy League?

Established in 1954, primarily for fostering amateurism in athletic sports, these eight institutions are Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton and Yale.

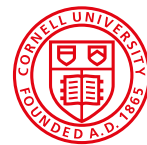
The Ivy League



BROWN



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



DARTMOUTH

HARVARD
UNIVERSITY



PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY

Yale
University

in the UK



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



The most selective institutions for admission in the UK are the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge, commonly known as “Oxbridge”. For their undergraduate studies, you can apply only to Oxford or to Cambridge, but not to both. Many universities other than Oxbridge will also be very competitive for some of their courses (Medicine at all institutions, London School of Economics and Imperial College London, for example, for most of their bachelor courses). Applications to Oxford or Cambridge are particularly competitive and, for most courses, you are required to take additional entrance examinations which, in most cases, can be administered here at CDL. You must register with your University Advisor in September of your senior year. For all bachelor courses you will also be required to participate in an interview should you be invited to the final stage of the selection process.

Admissions tutors are looking for academic passion and talent for a particular course of study. You can nurture your interest through your academic readings (suggested reading is available on the university course pages), questioning your academic readings, participating in research opportunities within your field of study and extracurricular exploration. The deadline to apply is early October, with an internal CDL deadline in September.



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



Different countries' requirements



Switzerland

There are many different options for international students wanting to study at a university in Switzerland, depending on language as well as your academic ability. There are 12 state universities in Switzerland, most teaching exclusively in the language of the canton for undergraduate studies. These comprise ten cantonal universities and two Federal Institutes of Technology. There are also many private universities in Switzerland which teach in English. Always check that your degree is recognised outside the institution to which you are applying. Webster University in Geneva canton and Franklin University in Lugano are both fully accredited.

Most Swiss state universities have an application deadline of April 30th (unless you are applying to Medicine, which has a different application process, with a February 15th deadline) before admission in the autumn. The Universities of Applied Sciences, private universities and hotel management schools all have different deadlines and procedures.

Swiss private university programmes can offer flexibility to students should the public route not be an option due to language skills or academic entrance requirements.

Entrance requirements for Swiss public institutions are listed on the swissuniversities.ch website and are strict, thus enabling students who meet these requirements and have pre-registered, to enrol. Students will know whether they are finally confirmed to enrol after the publication of their external examination results, should they meet the outline academic requirements and required language skills.

Hospitality

Switzerland has a world-class reputation for the quality of its hotel management institutions. The pre-professional training combined with an academic study is demanding and Switzerland's hotel management graduates are highly sought after. Entry requirements vary by institution.



United Kingdom

For applications to Bachelor programmes in the United Kingdom (UK), which are usually three years in length, you apply via a portal called UCAS. You may apply for up to five different universities but to only one course or programme of study.

In applying to the UK using the UCAS portal, you are expected to write and submit a personal statement indicating why you have decided to pursue your chosen area of academic study at the university level. This is your chance to tell universities what you intend to study with them as well as demonstrate your skills and experience.

Whilst the deadline to submit applications to the UK through UCAS is in January, CDL has an internal deadline in November, except for Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry. Students are expected to adhere and submit their application materials by the CDL internal deadline date.

You could also seek alternate entry to the UK via Foundation Year programmes, thus resulting in a programme length that is often four years or more, offered through study programmes such as INTO or Kaplan International Pathways.

Offers made for courses in the UK are usually 'conditional' and specify the terms and conditions you must meet to matriculate. The University Advisory team can assist you in making these choices by taking into consideration your academic performance to date.



When to apply

CDL has an internal application deadline of November

Links



UCAS



United States of America



The US university system reviews the entire student, not just standardised test results.

Whether public or private, the US university system tends to look at candidates who apply holistically. This refers to the admissions review process whereby colleges and universities strive to evaluate the entire student, such as academic strength, extracurricular activities, athletics, applicant experiences and other attributes, rather than only by the numerical elements of their academic record and standardised test results.

For selective universities, you may be required to submit multiple essays which will differ from one institution to the next, hence, spending time investigating universities and balancing the number of applications is key to completing the application process successfully.

University acceptances made from institutions in the US are normally unconditional. The attainment of a secondary qualification and maintaining the academic trajectory at the time of application is expected of you to matriculate to university in the US.



ED, EA or RD

Early Action and Early Decision are application plans that you take up, indicating your wish to apply to one college or university for which you clearly have a preference, with the deadline usually in November.

It may be beneficial for you to do so if you feel ready and have taken steps to prepare your application materials for submission.

There is a distinct difference between EA and ED plans. If you wish to undertake an EA plan to apply to your university of choice, this plan means you will learn the outcome of the university's decision earlier and this is non-binding, i.e. if admitted, you do not have to commit to attending the university. If you apply using the EA plan, you will have the choice of submitting additional applications to other universities at a later date, should you choose to do so.

An ED is also an early plan and means that you (and your parents) must sign a binding agreement that you plan to attend if admitted. If admitted using the ED plan, you must withdraw all pending applications to other universities.

Students can also apply through Regular Decision, which means they submit their applications by the regular deadline, usually in early January.

Parents and students must take note that deposits are due on 1st May.

Applications to universities in the US are usually made via the Common Application, better known as Common App, or the Coalition Application. It is best to always double-check with the university, as to how the application should be submitted and which application portal they utilise as this may vary. For applications to the different campuses of the University of California, applications are made within a narrow window time period and using the University of California's own system.

Unlike in the UK, there is no maximum cap or limit to the number of applications that can be made within the Common App or Coalition App portals so you can apply to as few as one university or more if they so wish.

When to apply

Application deadlines vary by University and by choice of RD, EA or ED.

Links



commonapp.org



Canada

Popular as a North American university destination and slightly less expensive than the United States, Canada offers programmes similar to that of its southern cousin.

Usually four years in length, Bachelor's programmes are offered at universities, which tend to be large in size. Most universities in Canada are public and major / course offerings are extensive. You apply by indicating the course or major of study.

Applications are submitted using the university portal or OUAC if the university is located in Ontario.

You must apply by February 1st or 15th. Acceptances are made conditionally upon satisfactory completion of your secondary education diploma or equivalent.

When to apply

Deadline February 1st or 15th

Links

Find out more about
Canada's universities:





The Netherlands

Bachelor programmes in the Dutch system are typically three to four years in length. This often depends on the type of university you apply to (research universities, university colleges or university of applied sciences).

Applications to the Dutch university system are made using a portal called Studielink. Many programmes will have application deadlines in January and some will be as late as May. With the admissions calendar opening in October, you may select to apply to a Numerus Fixus programme (which means these applications and admissions are capped). Numerus Fixus has an earlier deadline (usually January) and accepts students according to how they ranked in the selection process.

Acceptances are made conditionally upon satisfactory completion of your secondary education diploma or equivalent.

When to apply

Between January and May, depending on the programme.

Links

Studielink:





Spain

There are many universities in Spain to choose from and a significant number of universities offer programmes of study in English. Bachelor's degrees range in length or duration but typically the programmes run for four years. Spain is popular for its business programmes at the undergraduate level.

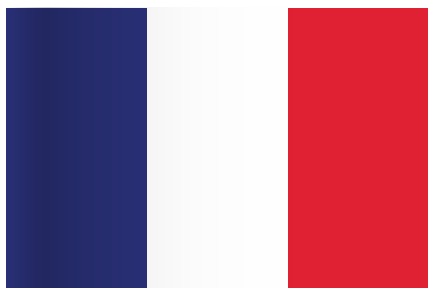
Spanish university applications are made directly to the university on its website since Spanish universities do not have a centralised portal for making applications. If matriculating to a university in Spain is planned, this should be communicated early to the University Advising Team since the acceptance process following graduation will involve very specific steps to enrol and to have the education record to date verified by the Spanish Ministry of Education.



Italy

Long considered a budget-friendly destination, Italy is home to some of the oldest universities in Europe. There are many options taught in English at private and public universities, however, English is not often used outside of academia. Therefore, students seeking university options in Italy should expect to learn or attain fluency in Italian.

Bachelor's programmes in Italy are typically three years in length though this can sometimes differ by university and degree requirements. Deadlines, commonly from May until July, are later than most other systems and countries, with admission decisions communicated in August.



France

Many students from CDL may choose to pursue their studies in France, perhaps to continue learning in the French language or to benefit from some of the exciting international programmes available. There are two main streams of higher education in France, the competitive instituts and the state universities. Entry to the competitive instituts (Grandes Écoles) is selective and highly competitive with candidates sitting a series of examinations. Specialisations in engineering, commerce, civil services and teaching are offered in these prestigious institutions, traditionally applied to after a two-year preparatory programme, and the duration of studies varies from three to five years.

Many of the business and engineering schools have now developed an entry path to Bachelor's degrees directly after High School for their international programmes, and some offer courses entirely taught in English. Applications to these programmes are competitive and you must usually have one to several letters of recommendation as well as sit an interview and / or entrance examination to qualify for entrance.

In state universities, while a student who has completed the secondary school diploma may qualify, offers of study are confirmed later on in the cycle (July) after your graduation. Typically, these applications are completed through a portal called parcoursup.fr.

When to apply

January

Links



parcoursup.fr



Other countries

You may choose to apply to several other countries around the world and the University Advising Team looks forward to supporting you with your plans, wherever these may take you around the world.

Though parts of North America and Europe, such as the UK, Switzerland, Spain and The Netherlands remain popular and commonly applied to destinations, our University Advising Team is well versed in providing support for students applying to destinations such as Australia, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, or South Korea, as well as other countries. Should you have any questions or concerns about applying to and matriculating to your destination of choice, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at university.advising@cdl.ch.

Contact us

university.advising@cdl.ch

Looking for inspiration?

Here are some of the universities your peers have attended previously.

Canada

HEC Montréal
McGill University
Queens University
Ryerson University
University of British Columbia
University of Toronto
Wilfred Laurier University

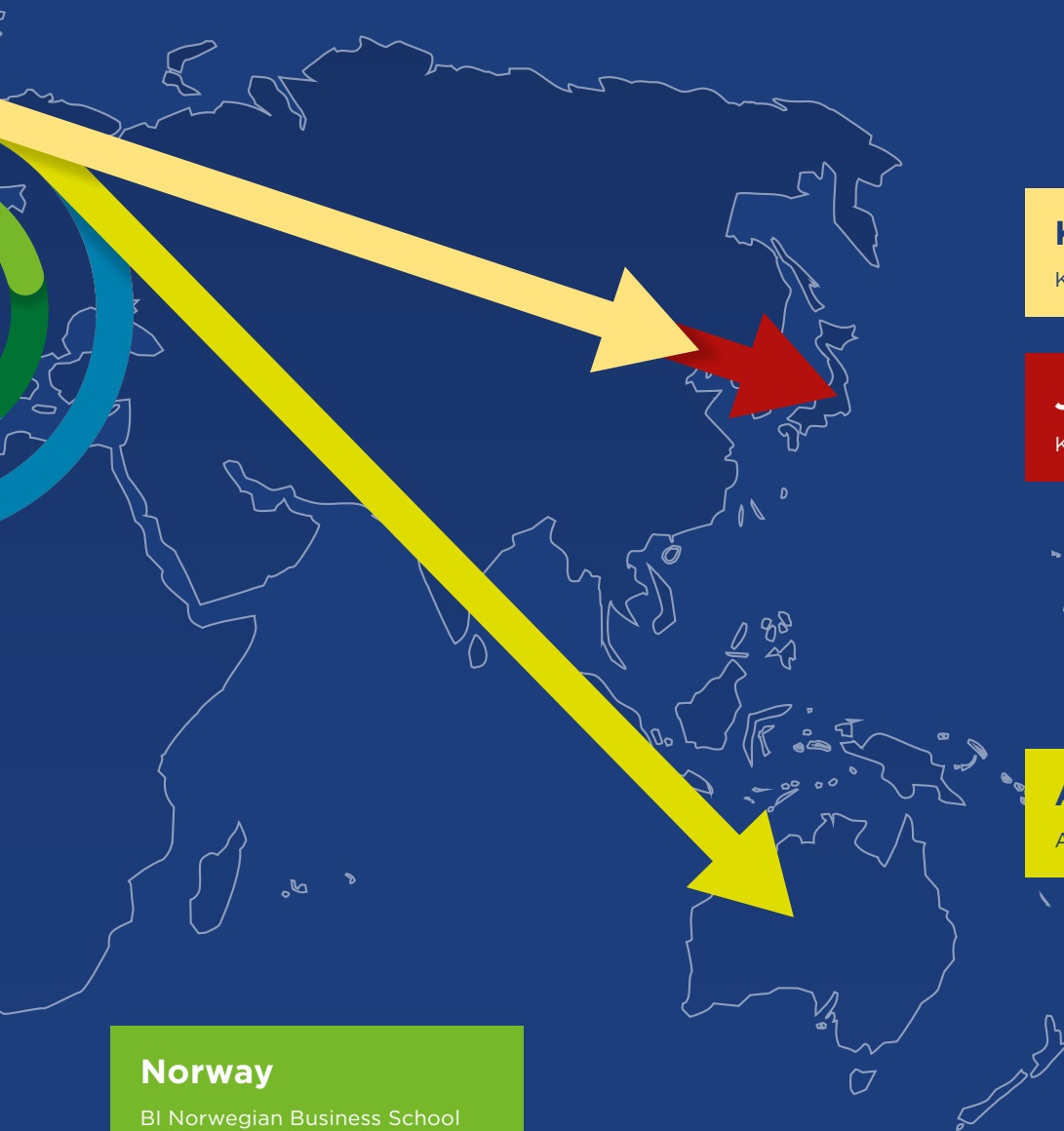
US

American University
Babson College
Barnard College
Boston University
Brown University
Carnegie Mellon University
Chapman University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Duke University
Eugene Lang College
The New School
George Washington University
Georgetown University
New York University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Rutgers University
Syracuse University
University of California
Berkeley, Davis
Los Angeles
San Diego
University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign
University of Miami
University of Pennsylvania
University of Southern California
University of Wisconsin-Madison

UK

City, University of London
Durham University
Imperial College London
King's College London
London School of Economics
and Political Sciences
Queen Mary, University of London
University College London
University of Bath
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter

University of Glasgow
University of Leeds
University of Manchester
University of Oxford
University of Reading
University of Southampton
University of Sussex
University of Surrey
University of St. Andrews
University of Warwick
University of the Arts London
University of York



Korea

KAIST (Korea)

Japan

Keio University (Japan)

Australia

Australian National University

Norway

BI Norwegian Business School

Netherlands

Delft University of Technology
Erasmus University College
Rotterdam School of Management
University of Amsterdam

France

ESSEC Business School
EDHEC
Sciences Po

Switzerland

Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne
École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
Franklin University
Glion Institute of Higher Education
Universität St.Gallen
Université de Genève
Université de Lausanne
Webster University

Italy

Bocconi University
Humanitas

Spain

ESADE
IE University

In conclusion

Communication

You are encouraged to communicate openly with your University Advisors and parents to share your plans, questions, concerns and progress towards meeting your post-High School goals. It is normal not to know everything about what is ahead, and to seek support and guidance discovering options and understanding the steps to take. We encourage you to meet individually with University Advisors starting from Grade 11, but you are always welcome at the University Advising Office earlier to seek answers to your questions beyond those answered in class and through the option choices process at CDL.

An exciting process!

Identifying one's goals and understanding the subtleties of the university application process can be a daunting task, yet we hope an interesting one too! Having many opportunities ahead is a privilege and a chance to contribute positively as global citizens of the future.

Graduating from High School marks the end of a chapter for you, your parents, and your educators. However, starting higher education is an exciting new chapter, with the pages yet blank, but ready to be written upon by each and every one of you fortunate enough to be able to aspire to such a wonderful opportunity! We wish you well in your final High School years here at CDL as you prepare for what lies beyond!

Remember

*It's normal not to know
everything about
what is ahead!*

But help is always here.



Made for *You*

www.cdl.ch



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