



College Admission and Career Guidance

From the desk of Marie Assir, Head of College Admissions and Career Guidance

Dear IC Community,

It's an exciting time in the college counseling office as grade 12 students have completed most of their applications and are now eagerly awaiting decisions. Grade 11 students are now starting to prepare for applications next fall while planning their testing calendar and scheduling their job shadow days. Grade 10 students will head out for work on March 8th for their first job shadow. IC is proud of all your achievements!



Upcoming Events

March 8 – Job Shadowing for Grade 10

March 8, 9 – Job Shadowing for Grade 11

March 23 – CIS Tour

IC Parents share their experience about their involvement in the college process

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-Rezan Jaroudi

Alumni Panel

Six alumni who are currently in local colleges and universities abroad led a panel discussion for current 11th grade students on Tuesday, January 9, sharing their experiences and giving some advice.

Important Announcement

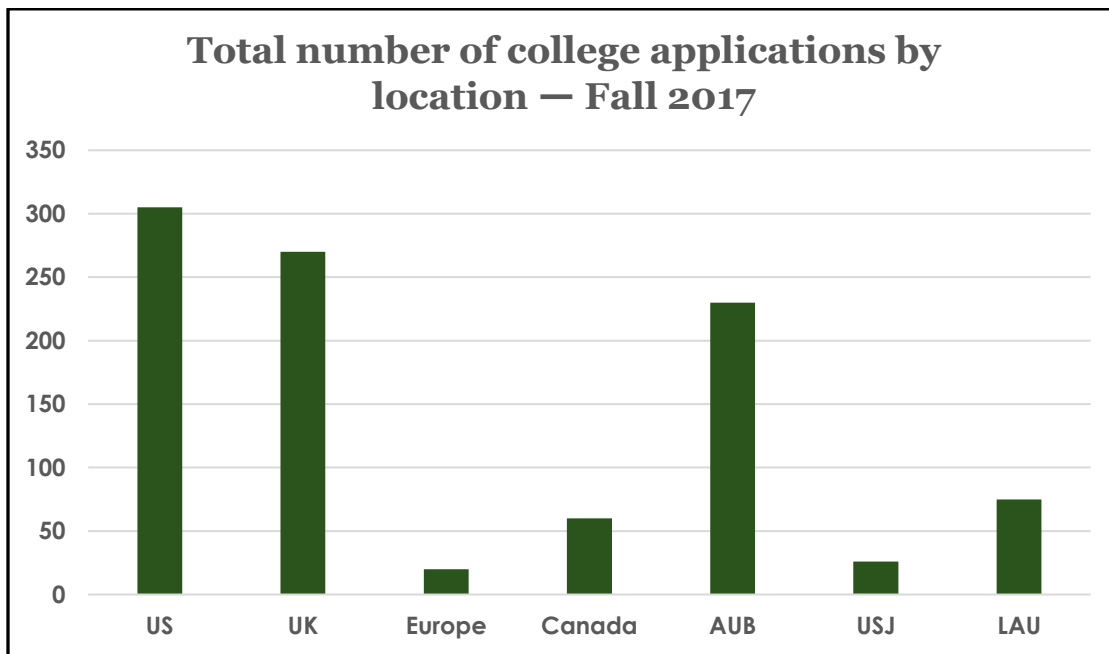
Students should be working on securing their placement for the Job Shadow.

College Applications

Students who want to successfully complete the college application process and make themselves as competitive for college admission as possible, will be directly or indirectly working on their applications well before the deadlines approach. Some students begin their research and planning in Grade 9 and ideally students should have completed their research and comprehensive plan prior to the start of Grade 12.

There are many components of the application that require team work between the students, teachers, parents and the college counseling office. Parents will continue to support their children to help them stay on track to meet deadlines. Students are often surprised at the level of work involved in completing applications while simultaneously maintaining their academic responsibilities. A critical piece of an international application is the teacher recommendation. Many teachers are writing 10, 15, or 20 recommendations. Students must provide the teacher with a timely request so that recommendations can be completed by the deadlines.

The IC College Counseling Office supports 250 students with their applications to universities in Lebanon, the US, the UK, Europe and Canada. Each university and each country has different criteria and requirements for the admission process. Documents such as transcripts, recommendations, predicted grades, etc are gathered, processed and sent for students worldwide.



Alumni Talks

The Alumni Panel

Six alumni who are currently in local colleges and universities abroad led a panel discussion for current 11th grade students on Tuesday, January 9, sharing their experiences and giving some advice.

The group of IC graduates addressing grade 11 students was very interesting and diverse. Each alum has an intriguing case and has experienced a different path in their college journey. They emphasized the importance of college research and the need to start early in the application process. Among other topics, alumni also discussed writing essays, how to stand out, how to choose the right fit and how to make the final decision after receiving admission offers from different colleges.

The six alumni were: Lina Charafeddine ('2016 – AUB), Khalil Chahine ('2017 – AUB), Karen Abdallah ('2017 – University of Edinburgh), Sam Kebbe ('2017 – University of Manchester), Sarine Tutunjian ('2017 – NYU), Dalia Barazi ('2017 – Yale-NUS, Singapore).

What Lina Charafeddine had to share with the IC community

“When Ms. Assir contacted me on the 19th of December to invite me to the Alumni Panel, I spent every day until the day of the event thinking what I would say. It’s definitely not easy coming face to face for the first time in our lives with a decision that is entirely up to us and that will dictate how our lives will follow for at least the next decade to come. My main aim for sharing my experience was to tell the students that they really had to look at what kind of person they wanted to become and what kind life they wanted to lead. I told them that when I was applying, I wanted to make sure I went somewhere that would help me grow to be the best version of myself while pushing me academically to reach the highest of my potentials. I wanted them to know that it’s never too late, that it’s okay to make mistakes, that success has no one path and if they fall into a road they don’t like, they can most definitely jump onto another one. I wanted them to understand the importance of a vision in life. To set an ultimate goal and understand that by putting this goal, the decisions we take, the failures we face, the demotivation we feel, the paths that we construct, and the people we become can be focused. Even when we take breaks, it doesn’t mean that we can’t move forward anymore. Sometimes, we need to sit down to regain our energy and get back up stronger than before. The point of my whole message

was for us to look at the bigger picture and the words I conveyed that day are words I echo to myself daily. It was important for me to let them know that they are not the first people to be facing this equally confusing and exciting decision in their life and that they really have every ounce of potential to make it.”

An IC Alum Story of Success

Karim Karouni – Class of 2013

“I graduated from IC in 2013 and completed the Lebanese Baccalaureate with a focus on Economics and Sociology. My decision to study at EHL (Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne in Switzerland) was based on several important factors such as its unique program structure with both academic and practical courses, the school’s dual accreditation, its international environment and the unique opportunities after graduation.



As for my highlights, I have discovered the different areas of the industry that interest me and have had the pleasure to work on several large-scale projects that have a direct impact on a company or brand.

During my first year, I completed my operational six-month internship in Dubai at the Mövenpick Hotel as a Guest Relations Intern. As for my second internship, I went to New York to work for The Carlyle, A Rosewood Hotel in Public Relations, which has allowed me to be involved in many exciting projects such as the launch of new partnerships and work for large scale events such as The Met Gala. Following my graduation next month, I will be moving to Hong Kong where I have accepted a role at Rosewood’s corporate office in Brand Communications. I do plan on discovering new countries and cultures while staying in the luxury sector, and I am lucky to be in an industry that allows me to do so! During high school, I wish I would have known the importance of completing work experience through an internship, not only on a professional level, but on a personal level as well. My suggestion to all senior students is to take some time and get some work experience as it will develop your skills and give you an insight to the industry of your choice.”

Parent Talks

Rezan Jaroudi – Mother of Wajih Jaroudi, Class of 2017, University College London

What did you find difficult as a parent?

Wajih being my eldest child, it was my first experience as a parent. Honestly, I found the whole process to be somehow a little difficult. Since we were applying to two different countries, with different processes, requirements and deadlines, we needed to be very organized in order to make sure the applications were done properly and timely.

But the most difficult part was bridging the gap between my generation's expectations and pre-existing thoughts of what's best for our children, and my son's own ambitions and dreams.

How did you help your son through the process?

I was very much involved with my son throughout the process, from selecting the colleges, the majors, applying for SAT, IELTS, opening the online accounts and filling the online applications. I met on several occasions with his college counselors to make sure that we were on the right track.

What kind of support did you provide him?

It is a very stressful time for the students as they need to juggle both their school work load and go through the application process and sitting for the different tests. It is a time when they need both our practical and emotional support. I tried to help him the best I could while trying to avoid stressing him out. I tried to off load him with tasks that he didn't have to do personally or sometimes I would sit with him to help with the applications. Keeping him well organized and on time was the one most important support I could provide. But the best support I found out was to comfort my son and show him positive acceptance of his choices.

What do you wish you would have known more about?

I wish I had known better the consequence of the choices between Lebanese Baccalaureate and IB program for international applications. As it turned out, my son opted to go to the UK, and our choice for the Lebanese Baccalaureate wasn't the best suited for this country. He is currently studying for his foundation year and going through

the whole process of applying to colleges in England, as the foundation differs from the American freshman year.

What are some of the challenges when your child studies abroad?

The biggest challenge, as a parent, is learning to let go. Not in the emotional sense of course. Letting go of the day to day life management: where are you going, what time will you be back, who, where, did you study.... We talk on a daily basis of course, but I need to trust him with his daily living choices and education choices.

What are some of the positive aspects of an international education?

I visited my son 6 weeks after he started his independent journey in London. The change was so palpable in so little time. He became more responsible and organized. He was on top of his college life as much as his daily life and financial life. He already has a wide diversity of friends, from the 4 corners of the earth, with so many stories and anecdotes to share. This visit made me lose my last doubt about the choice of having an international education.

To be brief about all the above, I realized one thing, we, as parents do everything we can to make sure our children are successful. I finally paused, took a step back, and decided I want to do everything I can to make sure my son was happy.

The Importance of Parents' Involvement with the College Application Process

It's incredibly hard to believe that our kids are heading off to university soon. As parents, we need to be involved at an early stage as choosing the right college for our teens will have a direct impact on their future!

Things to Do:

- Attending events created by school counselors
- Meeting up with visiting representatives from different colleges and encouraging our teens to ask questions
- Keeping discussions open about different colleges and their requirements for admission.
- Visiting colleges' websites

- Working with your child on setting up a timetable. Writing down all application deadlines
- Getting ready for SAT & IELTS Exams
- Reviewing student’s applications before they are submitted
- Backing up your child with guidance and support whenever necessary

Wishing them all the best!

Dr. Wissam El Solh

Proud Father

CIS Tour

The CIS tour traditionally made an annual visit to Beirut. Due to instability in the region, the tour has been absent from Lebanon for several years. IC is proud to welcome this group of colleges back to our country!! This is a wonderful opportunity for students to meet university representatives and find out more about different universities across the US. The college fair will be held during the day but students and parents are welcome to attend!

<u>School/Institution Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State/Province</u>	<u>Country</u>
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Daytona Beach, FL 32114	Florida	United States
Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management	Dubai		United Arab Emirates
Indiana University - Bloomington	Bloomington	Indiana	United States
Lynn University	Boca Raton	Florida	United States
Marist College	Poughkeepsie	New York	United States
Otis College of Art and Design	Los Angeles	California	United States
Susquehanna University	Selinsgrove	Pennsylvania	United States
The University of Tulsa	Tulsa	Oklahoma	United States
University of California, Davis	Davis	California	United States
University of Colorado Boulder	Boulder	Colorado	United States
University of Vermont	Burlington	Vermont	United States
Wentworth Institute of Technology	Boston	Massachusetts	United States