

SECTION 18

CAREERS AND UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE

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18.1 Introduction

Career and university guidance takes place at ISL Qatar on an on-going basis as students enter G11. Specific sessions are also provided for students in G10.

18.2 Initial advice

Within the MYP curriculum, self-assessment and self-reflection exercises focusing on skills and interests, how students learn best and areas of learning that may need development are undertaken as well as initial discussions about possible career pathways and associated university courses.

18.3 Careers advice

Decisions associated with future course choices particularly in the Diploma Programme are made in consultation with parents, counsellors and teachers. Parents are encouraged to take a keen, open-minded interest in their child's dreams and aspirations.

- Grade 11/12 – The College Counsellors advise students about career and college choices through individual and group meetings. Topics include information regarding: career exploration, the international university application process, interviewing techniques, preparing an effective resume, writing personal statements and essays, and relevant tips to assist with higher education research.
- University/College Information Sessions – The College Counsellors host various information sessions throughout the year for parents and students. Topics cover the fundamentals of applying to universities and colleges around the world, including specific themes on medical programmes, summer opportunities and gap year options.
- University Visits and Fairs – numerous colleges and universities visit ISL Qatar each year to inform students and parents about their programmes and courses. Students and parents meet with representatives from the UK, US, Canada and other EU countries as well as from Qatar and other Middle Eastern countries.

18.4 University admissions

The programme for Grade 11 and 12 focusses on progression from school to university at the end of the IB or High School Diploma. ISL Qatar students have been highly successful in gaining places at universities in Qatar, UK and other countries. Places taken up by former graduates include:

- a. UK - Imperial College London, Royal Holloway London, London Southbank University, University of the Arts London, University College London, University of Bristol, University of Edinburgh, University of Exeter, University of Glasgow, University of Leeds, University of Loughborough, University of Manchester, University of Nottingham (UK) and University of Warwick (UK).
- b. Qatar - University of Aberdeen, Universities of Carnegie Mellon, Georgetown, Northwestern, Qatar, Texas A&M, Stenden and Weill Cornell Medical College
- c. Other countries - Royal College of Surgeons (Bahrain), University of Waterloo (Canada), University of British Columbia (Canada), University of Toronto (Canada), American University in Cairo (Egypt), Symbiosis International University (India), American University of Beirut (Lebanon), University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), Eindhoven University of Technology (Netherlands), La Salle University, University of Witwatersrand (South Africa), Barcelona (Spain), NYU (UAE), Brown University (US), University of California San Diego (US), Florida Institute of Technology, (US), New York University (US), Northwestern University (US), Purdue University (US) and the Savannah College of Art & Design (US).

The process of making college and university choices begins early in the summer term of Grade 11. Students start by exploring the course areas that they might be interested in, often building on the advice offered from Grade 10. During this term students will attend presentations held by visiting overseas universities and will have the opportunity to attend locally held careers fairs. The website www.ucas.com is an excellent resource, providing comprehensive information about every higher education institution in the UK.

In addition, the school receives many US, UK, Qatari and other university prospectii which are available in the careers library. Students are provided with guidance about factors that they may need to consider when choosing both a university and a course and are provided with all the materials that they require for making an application, as well as clear deadlines for different parts of the process. They will discuss the details of their application with the College Counsellors to ensure that they are making choices appropriate to their interests and abilities. Academic staff will also provide references for each student. In addition to this, students are supported in completing a personal statement. This forms a vital part of their application.

Students and parents also have online access to BridgeU (<https://bridge-u.com/schools>) which provides an intuitive, user-friendly, means of researching universities, tracking applications and honing application skills.