

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 Program are made in consultation with parents, counselors 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 counselors 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 programs, 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 programs 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 program 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:

- 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, Loughborough University, University of Manchester, University of Nottingham (UK) and University of Warwick (UK).

- Qatar - University of Aberdeen, Universities of Carnegie Mellon, Georgetown, Northwestern, Qatar, Texas A&M, Stenden, and Weill Cornell Medical College
- 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 college selection process begins in Grade 11's summer term. Students explore potential courses based on previous advice. They attend presentations by international universities and local career fairs. The website www.ucas.com offers detailed information about UK higher education institutions.

Our school's career library houses prospectuses from US, UK, Qatari, and other universities. We provide guidance on choosing a university and course, give application materials, and set clear deadlines. college counselors help students align their choices with their interests and abilities. Our academic staff also provide student references. Additionally, we assist students in crafting a crucial part of their application: the personal statement.

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