



Building a Well-Rounded University List: A Comprehensive Guide

Embarking on the journey of choosing the right university can be overwhelming, especially given that it is common for LAS students to apply to universities in multiple countries. With countless options available, starting early and making an informed decision is crucial. This guide will provide you with a checklist of key factors to consider when helping a student build their college list, ensuring a balanced selection that aligns with their preferences and aspirations.

Location: Urban, Suburban, or Rural?

Location plays a significant role in a university experience. Determine with the student whether they thrive in the vibrant energy of a city or the tranquility of a traditional campus surrounded by green spaces. Consider how the location can influence lifestyle and overall satisfaction.

Size: Finding Your Fit

Small, medium, and large campuses offer unique advantages. Besides considering the institution's size, students should reflect on their learning style and consider whether smaller class sizes or a larger student body align better with their academic goals.

Program of Study (Majors and Minors): Exploring Academic Opportunities

Ensure the university offers a wide range of majors and minors that align with their interests. Investigating if the institution provides flexibility for potential changes in their academic pursuits is equally essential.

Campus Life: Engaging Experiences

Discuss with them their desired campus experience. Research must-have elements include Greek life (typically at US universities), business clubs, service opportunities, study abroad programs, and resources for diversity and inclusion. To gain firsthand insights, explore university websites and social media platforms where current students and alumni share their experiences.



Athletics: School Spirit and Engagement

Athletics can be a significant part of campus life whether students plan to participate or not. Assess the sports culture and how it aligns with personal interests and values.

Extracurricular Activities and Clubs: Pursuing Passions

Engaging in extracurricular activities and joining clubs is a vital part of university education. Look for institutions offering diverse clubs where students can explore their interests and connect with like-minded individuals.

Food and Housing: Essential Considerations

Evaluate the housing options and determine if living on campus is the right choice for the student. Additionally, inquire about meal plans and the variety of dining options available.

Transportation: Accessibility and Convenience

Consider the ease of transportation to and from campus. Determine whether public transportation is readily available and if it aligns with their needs.

Internship Opportunities: Professional Growth

Investigate the proximity and availability of internship opportunities. Research the resources provided by the institution to support students in securing internships and gaining valuable professional experience.

Cost: Financial Considerations

Affording university can be a significant concern for students and families. While comparing tuition and fees between public and private institutions is important, consider the potential financial aid options that could alleviate some of the costs. Students should base their list on more than just the sticker price.



Acceptance Rate: Creating a Balanced List

To create a balanced university list, students should include a mix of "likely," "target/possible," and "reach/far reach or dream" schools. This approach ensures a range of options that align with their academic profile and aspirations and provides them with the best opportunity to maximize their chances of acceptance.

Research: The Key to Informed Decisions

Research is the cornerstone of the decision-making process. Students should begin by compiling an initial list of potential schools and then delve deeper. Students should consult their LAS university advisor for guidance and utilize university-search tools like [MaiaLearning](#), [UCAS Course Search](#), [Study in Holland](#), [Study in Australia](#), [Study in Canada](#), [Study in Spain](#), etc. Virtual tours offered on university websites provide valuable insights, but visiting campuses in person will provide a genuine sense of the institution's culture.

Finally, as students build their university list, they must remember to prioritize their needs and preferences. This process should revolve around finding the kind of institution that resonates with the student rather than being influenced solely by the opinions of friends or family. By following this comprehensive guide and conducting thorough research, students will be equipped to make an informed decision that sets them on a path to academic and personal success. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the LAS university advisors at universityadvising@las.ch.