Berlin British School

– Internationale Ergänzungsschule –
– genehmigte bilinguale Integrierte Sekundarschule –

BBS University GUIDE

Info for BBS students and parents

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Introduction

University and career counselling

Students receive guidance in identifying their skills and interests and match these with a suitable career path attuned to each student's unique strengths and individual personality. They receive advice when choosing their IB courses in Grade 10; Grade 11 students explore academic programmes and university destinations and engage with professionals to build networks and hands-on experience. They are encouraged to build their own personal brand and to acquire first professional expertise through workshops, internships, and self-study, based on which they develop their CV and prepare personal statements and motivation letters during their PSHE classes. This way, they are well prepared for their final IB year, during which they receive personal support in one-on-one meetings throughout their application process.

The counselling programme includes:

- Provide information on how to access **university information**.
- Introduce students to different university systems and their respective **application requirements and procedures**.
- Invite **guest speakers** from a range of university systems, subject areas and countries.
- Take students to some **college fairs** in Berlin and provide notification of others taking place.
- Guide students on how to write **application statements** such as CVs, personal statements, and motivation letters.
- Write accompanying **references** and **provide supporting documents** for applications (*it is the student's responsibility to notify the school of exactly what documentation is required within an adequate time frame*).
- Organise **interview practice** with designated staff members.

What the counselling programme does <u>NOT</u> include:

- Choosing places for students (although we do advise them on where to find information and on the suitability of their choices).
- Writing personal statements on behalf of students. We require that students (using the guidelines given) produce a completed draft, which we will advise on.
- Coaching for external exams or making recommendations for tutors.
- Providing supporting documentation at short notice – It is expected that students give relevant staff 3 weeks' notice for any supporting documentation required.
- Contacting German universities to ask for application requirements, as there are 16 federal states in Germany and education is not centrally coordinated. Each state has its own state government and higher education laws. Public universities in Germany are largely self-regulatory. Therefore, it is of great importance to ask which particular regulations apply at your chosen university.

IBDP Recognition

University entrance

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) is widely recognised by universities worldwide because of the wide breadth of skills and subject knowledge it develops in students. However, some countries and universities require specific subject combinations and levels of study for entry. In many cases, these requirements only apply for entry to certain courses.

It is the responsibility of students and their families to ensure that they have selected the correct subject combination to remain eligible for any university systems they may later wish to enter. However, you can use this guide to help you identify suitable IB courses for some of the most common university destinations.

This page offers general information about university admissions and the recognition of the IB programme in many different countries. It details *general requirements*, but no subject-specific requirements.

Popular University Destinations

Some global advice

Students are encouraged to consult the UNIFROG platform to explore courses by geographic region. After logging into their accounts, they can use the *Searching for Opportunities* function on the home screen. It provides an overview of admission requirements, tuition fees as well as general university information and allows students to assemble a shortlist of university choices.

University Destinations in Europe

The official website of the European Union offers general information about studying in Europe, country profiles and a list of higher education fairs all across Europe.

This information page provides a database to browse courses and universities by subject area. It lists admission requirements as well as country profiles.

Deadlines vary across countries, ranging from October for some British universities to mid-July in Germany or even continued rolling admissions until September in the Netherlands. Private universities and some academic programmes often set earlier deadlines than the national application portal.

Studying in the UK

DEADLINES:

OCT 02	Conservatoires
OCT 15	Oxford, Cambridge, and courses in medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy
JAN 31	General UCAS deadline

Useful information about studying in Great Britain and a research tool to explore academic programmes is provided by the *British Council*.

UK university applications

Students who wish to apply to a British university will have to create a UCAS account. All applications are submitted centrally using this platform. All students will have to write a personal statement of 4 000 characters and submit a reference of 3 500 characters directly relating to the student and the courses applied to . Note that UCAS only allows five course choices.

UCAS provides useful information about studying in Great Britain as well as an expansive search engine to explore universities and academic programmes, including admission requirements and tuition fees. UCAS is a very user-friendly site that details every location within the UK and the minimum entry as well as specific entry requirements for each university and course.

IB requirements in the UK

The IB is universally accepted in the UK, but often with specific requirements that vary from subject to subject. Please pay particular attention to subjects required for courses such as medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry and some engineering courses!

Tuition & financial aid in the UK

International students, including EU nationals, pay international tuition fees. Some universities offer a stipend that is automatically granted to international students to reduce international tuition fees to some degree. However, international tuition fees remain significantly higher than UK national tuition fees and vary widely across universities. Some merit-based scholarships are offered, but overall, financial aid and scholarship options remain rare at British universities.

UK branch universities in Europe

There are few British universities with branch campuses in the European Union, offering degrees from British universities. Their tuition fees on the continent are much lower than international student fees in the UK.

University of Central Lancashire in Larnaca, Cyprus

Lancaster University in Leipzig, Germany

University of Sheffield in Thessaloniki, Greece

University of London in Paris, France

Studying in Germany

DEADLINES:

NOV 30	Studienkolleg/Propädeutikum for summer entry
JUN 30	Studienkolleg/Propädeutikum for autumn entry
MAY 15 (JUL 15)	General *uni-assist* deadline *Note that some programmes and private universities have earlier deadlines and require entry examinations!*

Hochschulkompass is the main site for information about German universities. It is available in German and English.

Hochschulstart is the information and application portal for students interested in medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy. Note that the site is only available in German.

This database provides a search engine for English-taught programmes in Germany.

German university applications

Unless applying through *Hochschulstart* for a course in medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry or pharmacy, students holding an IB diploma apply using *uni-assist*. It is available in German and English.

The applications should be filed at least **eight weeks before** the deadline on July 15 if students are applying with an international degree. Please be aware that this deadline is after school ends for Grade 12.

Since final grades and the IB certificate are only issued in early July, students will have to submit the school reports of the past two school years and a written statement by the school confirming their expected graduation date. All of these documents must be stamped by the school before uploading them.

In addition, students must make sure to make their results available to *uni-assist* through the IB Coordinator. Once you receive your final results, applicants will have to notify *uni-assist* of the release through the contact form and upload their documents. It is advisable to submit an additional document confirming that there are no reports issued for term 03 in Grade 12.

IB requirements

Generally, the recognition of the IB Diploma for admission to a German university requires a particular course constellation, regardless of the subject students want to study at university.

Each of the 16 federal states in Germany and education has its own state government and higher education laws. Public universities in Germany are largely self-regulatory, therefore it is of great importance to ask which particular regulations apply at your chosen university.

Many private universities have much more flexible subject requirements and we would recommend that you look these up individually rather than referring to general sites.

For students graduating before or in **2024**, students must fulfil the following requirements:

- two languages at Level A or B
- at least one of these languages must be a foreign language at Level A (Standard or Higher Level) or B (Higher Level)
- at least one natural science (Physics, Biology, Chemistry)
- Mathematics (the BBS is on the list of schools providing recognised Standard Level Mathematics courses)
- either Mathematics or a natural science must be at Higher Level
- social sciences (History, Geography, Economics)
- additional subject (one of the above or Arts, Music, Theatre)

For students graduating in **2025** or later, the following requirements must be fulfilled:

- two languages at Level A or B
- at least one of these languages must be a foreign language at Level A (Standard or Higher Level) or B (Higher Level)
- at least one natural science (Physics, Biology, Chemistry)
- Mathematics (the BBS is on the list of schools providing recognised Standard Level Mathematics courses)
- either Mathematics, a natural science, or a language at Level A or B must be Higher Level
- social sciences (History, Geography, Economics)
- additional subject (one of the above or Arts, Music, Theatre)

The IB grade is converted into the German grade system using the following equation:
$Y = 1 + 3\ ((42 - X)/18)$
X = IB Grade Y = German Grade

A score of 42 to 45 will be immediately graded with a 1,0. These IB grades are associated with the following German passing grades:

45	1.0	39	1.5	33	2.5	27	3.5
44	1.0	38	1.7	32	2.7	26	3.7
43	1.0	37	1.8	31	2.8	25	3.8
42	1.0	36	2.0	30	3.0	24	4.0
41	1.2	35	2.2	29	3.2		
40	1.3	34	2.3	28	3.3		

If you want to have the IB Diploma officially recognised as *Abitur*, you will have to apply at the *Zeugnisanerkennungsstelle* of the respective federal state where you are currently living.

Foundation courses & language requirements

If the IB course constellation does not allow for a direct entry into a German university, students can attend the *Studienkolleg*. A prerequisite to attend is a German language proficiency level of B2 by the time the student applies. It is advisable to choose IB courses wisely from the beginning to avoid any inconvenience.

Well-prepared students can sit for the *Feststellungsprüfung* (subject-specific university entrance exam) without attending the *Studienkolleg* or at least skip the second semester of this foundation course.

For German-taught courses, a language proficiency level of C1 is generally required. Please note that entry requirements and language requirements are two separate concerns. Hence, if a student does not fulfil the IB course requirements, then a *Studienkolleg* must be attended in German, even if the course applied to is taught in English.

If the IB Diploma is recognised, but the language proficiency is insufficient, then students can attend a *Propädeutikum* for one semester. A prerequisite upon application is a German language proficiency certificate at the B2 level.

Language courses and exams for the B2 and C1 certificates can be scheduled at the *Goethe Institut* in Berlin.

Tuition & financial aid in Germany

While students pay no tuition fees at public universities, fees for the social insurance fund and the public transport ticket arise, amounting to about 350 Euros per semester. Private universities vary widely in their tuition and financial aid schemes and must be researched individually.

To cover living expenses or tuition fees at private universities, a number of scholarships and financial support are available in Germany. The political parties each have their own foundation offering scholarships for students as well as the Protestant and Catholic church. There are three main scholarship programmes without a political or confessional affiliation:

The *Deutschlandstipendium* is available for undergraduate and graduate students and amounts to 300 Euro per month.

The *Studienstiftung* offers scholarships of 300 Euro per month, which can be increased according to social need. Students are usually suggested by their school.

The *DAAD* offers a range of scholarships for international students planning to study in Germany or students wishing to study abroad.

The public financial aid scheme *Bafög* is available to all students. It is based on their actual financial need and helps pay for university and living expenses. It is organised as a partial loan the student will have to repay after graduation.

Even though *Bafög* is also available for international students with an EU passport or a residence permit, the information site is only provided in German.

Dual education in Germany

A special system of apprenticeship called *Duale Ausbildung* (dual education) which allows pupils in vocational courses to do in-service training in a company as well as at a state school. Please note that this will require students to be fluent in German. Accordingly, information sites are provided in German only.

The *Stiftung Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung* provides a good introduction to the concept of dual education.

The *Wegweiser* provides a good overview structured along subject areas.

A list of vacancies students can apply for can be found on the information page about apprenticeships *Ausbildung.de*.

Studying in Switzerland

DEADLINES:

JAN - APR	application deadlines vary across institutions

There are ten universities and two technical universities in Switzerland. While most degrees are taught in German, French, or Italian, some are also offered in English.

IB requirements in Switzerland

The Swiss national universities do not accept an Arts subject (Group 6) for entry. Therefore, students intending on making an application to a Swiss university must replace a Group 6 subject with either an additional language, humanities or science subject. They must also select their higher level courses carefully to comply.

In addition, the Swiss universities do not count the TOK and Extended Essay towards their points requirements. Again, Switzerland's many private universities are an exception to this and are considerably more flexible about entry requirements.

Studying in The Netherlands

DEADLINES:

JAN 15	Numerus fixus programmes (psychology, medicine, some business and international relations programmes)
FEB-APR	general application deadline varies by university

General information about studying in the Netherlands, finding programmes, financial aid and the application process is provided by this official guide.

Dutch university applications

Check the institution's websites for the programme of your choice to find information on the application process. For most programmes you first need to register via the *Studielink* tool. It is the official registration and application portal for programmes at Dutch higher education institutions.

Please be aware that some universities require preliminary graduation statements listing predicted grades and the graduation date. Most universities provide their own templates the students will have to get filled out and stamped by the university counsellor before uploading them in the admissions portal.

Some universities require additional exams or lecture days during the course of a selection process to determine a student ranking list. However, often, Dutch universities provide a conditional offer fairly quickly.

Students will have to provide the final grades and the graduation certificate once these have been issued in July in order to secure the offer. They should let the IB coordinator know which universities the IBO should send results to directly in July and also upload the final grades and graduation certificate via their admissions portal as soon as possible to secure their offer.

IB requirements in The Netherlands

The IB is universally accepted in The Netherlands. Competitive universities such as Maastricht and Amsterdam may require 36 points to have a good chance to get admitted.

Tuition & financial aid in The Netherlands

EU nationals pay between 700 and 2 500 Euros per academic year, non-EU international students pay between 6 000 and 15 000 Euros per year. Dutch and EU/EEA, British and Swiss nationals may also be eligible for financial aid, consisting of grants as well as interest-bearing loans.

Student housing in The Netherlands

Since universities are not allowed to own student housing facilities, they can only provide very limited student housing. However, there is a multitude of housing waitlists. Students are strongly encouraged to sign up for these lists as soon as possible to sort out their housing arrangements before coming to The Netherlands.

Studying in Ireland

DEADLINES:

FEB 01	General deadline

The Ministry of Higher Education runs an information site for students interested in studying in Ireland.

Irish university applications

Students wishing to apply need to open an account on the official admission portal *CAO*, as all applications are submitted and processed centrally.

IB requirements in Ireland

Each university has very specific IB point requirements for their academic programmes as well as specific course requirements regarding Mathematics and English, so students will have to check their eligibility for each university and even academic course individually.

The following table lists the IB equivalency scale for the Irish Leaving Certificate. Please note that *bonus maths* is achieved if students have at least grade 4 in Mathematics Higher Level.

IB Diploma	Irish Leaving Certificate	Bonus Maths
25	335	360
26	345	370
27	360	385
28	375	400
29	385	410
30	400	425
31	415	440
32	425	450
33	440	465
34	455	480
35	465	490
36	480	505
37	495	520
38	505	530
39	520	545
40	535	560
41	545	570

Tuition & financial aid in Ireland

Tuition depends on the university, course, and resident status. Irish and EU nationals pay reduced tuition fees, while international students pay significantly higher tuition fees.

The Government of Ireland offers the *International Education Scholarship* for postgraduate students from outside of the EU. The Ireland Fellows Programme offers scholarships for international students from select countries at the postgraduate level.

University Destinations in North America

Studying in the US

DEADLINES:

NOV 01	Early decision, early action
JAN 01	Regular decision

Undergraduate studies in the US generally take four years to complete. The US Department of State has set up a network called *EducationUSA*. It runs international student advising centres in more than 175 countries and territories and provides general information about studying in the US, student visas, financing your studies and much more.

US university applications

Students generally apply centrally using *CommonApp*, which also offers a database of all US colleges and universities as well as general information about studying in the US. However, do be aware that some universities provide their own application portal instead and do not accept applications from *CommonApp*.

Deadlines vary depending on the commitment a student wants to make with the application: Early decision and early action have deadlines in early November. Please note that an offer MUST be accepted if the student applied through early decision. Consequently, each student can only apply to ONE university using early decision.

Early action, on the other hand, can raise chances of being admitted without binding the student to this one choice. Sometimes, though, the number of early action applications is limited by universities themselves.

While admission decisions for early applications are published in mid-December, regular decisions come out in late March. Since regular decisions for US applications are due on January 01, it is advisable to file these applications before the Christmas break.

Students have to submit a motivation letter and a reference letter by the university counsellor. Sometimes up to three teacher references are required in addition to the general reference. Students must make sure to ask their teachers well in advance to write a recommendation for them.

In February, the university counsellor will add the mid-year report to the *CommonApp* portal. In July, the final grades will be uploaded.

IB requirements in the US

The IB is well accepted in the US, generally with few specific requirements. If students wish to provide a GPA in their application or at least know it to judge their chances of being accepted, the following table can be used as reference. Due to their advanced academic level, IB courses are usually weighted, adding an extra point to each GPA to account for the academic rigour of the programme. This may help meet the requirements of the more prestigious universities in the US.

Percentage	Letter Grade	IB Grade	GPA (unweighted)	GPA (weighted)
100-93%	A+/A	7	4.0	5.0
92-90%	A-	6	3.7	4.7
89-80%	B	5	3.0	4.0
79-70%	C	4	2.0	3.0
69-60%	D	3	1.0	2.0

External exams: SAT & ACT

Please note that most colleges require students to sit for an external exam such as the SAT or ACT to supplement their application. It is advisable to take these exams at the end of Grade 11 or early in Grade 12. Due to registration deadlines, it makes sense to reserve an exam date as soon as the spring of Grade 11. The SAT can be taken online and amounts to about USD 100 for international students outside the US.

If students prefer to take a paper and pencil exam, they can register for SAT exam dates at the John F. Kennedy Schule in Berlin. Costs may be slightly higher due to test centre fees.

Alternatively, students may wish to take the ACT instead. It is more thorough and more course-specific, while the SAT measures a general aptitude instead. For international students applying from outside of the US, this exam can only be taken online. If students take the full ACT, including the optional writing part, the costs amount to about USD 100 as well.

Tuition & financial aid in the US

Tuition at US universities is relatively high. However, a multitude of merit- as well as need-based scholarships is available, usually directly offered by the university. Students are encouraged to apply for financial aid, but should be realistic about the feasibility of accepting an offer without financial aid and be sensible about the financial commitment a student loan may impose on them if they decide to accept a loan-based financial aid package.

The initiative *Scholarship America* provides an extensive database of scholarships for national and international students.

US branch universities in Europe

Alternatively, students can study towards an American bachelor's degree without actually studying in the US. This has two major advantages: first, students whose IB course constellation may not meet KMK requirements to study in Germany, some US universities located in Germany may provide access to high quality education without having to attend the foundation year in the German university system. Second, tuition in Europe is about half the cost students would encounter if they enrolled in the same university on US ground. Even as exchange students on the US campus, they will continue to pay the European tuition fees.

John Cabot University in Rome, Italy

Franklin University in Lugano, Switzerland

American College in Dublin, Ireland

Richmond American University in London, UK

American College in Athens, Greece

Schiller University with campuses in Paris, France, Madrid, as well Heidelberg, Germany

Saint Louis University in Madrid, Spain

Anglo-American University in Prague, Czech Republic

Bard College in Berlin, Germany

McDaniel College in Budapest, Hungary

The New School Parsons in Paris, France

Studying in Canada

DEADLINES:

DEC-MAR	September intake
SEP-NOV	January intake
OCT-FEB	May intake

Provinces in Canada approve universities that can enrol international students. They are called *designated learning institutions* (DLI). International students have to apply for a study permit; if the acceptance letter is not issued by a DLI, the permit application will be refused. This site provides a search engine that lists all DLI institutions in Canada by province.

Canadian university applications

The Canadian government runs the information portal *EduCanada*. Ir provides general information about the Canadian school system, scholarship directories, guidance about visa requirements as well as a database listing programmes and universities. Students must apply at each university individually, as each university has specific entry requirements.

IB requirements in Canada

The IB is generally accepted by Canadian universities. Often, the IB diploma can be beneficial when applying to more prestigious institutions. Some universities offer extra credit or scholarship assistance for IB graduates. For some academic programmes such as engineering or medicine, it may be useful to have higher level courses relating to the aspired field of study.

Tuition & financial aid in Canada

Tuition varies widely across universities. While residents often pay between 5 000 and 15 000 Canadian dollars per academic year, international students may encounter tuition fees up to 5 times as high. Hence, seeking tuition assistance or scholarships may be advisable. The Canadian government offers international scholarships and can be browsed following the QR code.

University Destinations in Asia & Australia

Studying in Australia

DEADLINES:

OCT 31 - JAN 15	February intake
APR 30 - JUN 30	July intake
AUG 15 - SEP 30	November intake

Please note that deadlines vary by university and should be ascertained individually!

There are three intakes in Australia each year: winter intake in February, summer intake in July, and autumn intake in November, whereby course availability varies by intake time. Please note that there are usually fewer programmes offered for the autumn intake in November. The Australian government offers a well-structured and informative page for prospective international students in Australia.

Australian university applications

Students can either apply directly at a university or use the *SATAC* (South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre) for applications to universities in the South and North or *TISC* (Tertiary Institutions Service Centre) to apply to universities in the West.

It is possible to apply to several universities and programmes. However, application fees will have to be paid for each application filed.

Acceptance letters are usually sent within four to six weeks after the application deadline.

IB requirements in Australia

The IB is generally accepted in Australia. Entry requirements vary across universities and subject choice and are structured along different entry levels. For standard entry, IB students usually need to have a minimum aggregate score of 26. Higher entry requirements range from H1 (minimum aggregate score of 28) to H6 (minimum aggregate score of 39). Hence, students must research the entry requirements for their respective course of study individually.

Tuition & financial aid in Australia

Tuition for international students starts at about 20 000 Australian Dollars (about 12 000 EUR), whereas law and medicine may cost twice as much.

There are a small number of merit-based scholarships that students may be eligible for:

The *Australia Awards* programme is offered by the Australian government. It addresses students from select developing countries with strong leadership skills and a passion to drive change.

The *Destination Australia* programme is for domestic and international students who wish to study in regional Australia, i.e. universities outside of major cities in Australia.

Studying in New Zealand

DEADLINES:

MAY 01 - NOV 15	Semester 1 beginning in February
MAY 01 - APR 30	Semester 2 beginning in July

New Zealand has eight universities. They have two intakes every year. The academic year starts in February. A second intake for the summer semester is in July. The Government of New Zealand provides an informative website for prospective international students.

New Zealand university applications

Students apply at each university individually by selecting an academic programme. Documents are submitted through the application portal of each university. Even though each university has different requirements, students will almost always be asked to submit a motivation letter.

IB requirements in New Zealand

The IB is generally accepted in New Zealand. Each university lists specific entry requirements for each academic programme individually, so students will have to research the entry requirements for their respective studies prior to applying.

Tuition & financial aid in New Zealand

Tuition for international students starts at about 25.000 New Zealand Dollars (about 15 000 Euros) per academic year. Universities may offer merit-based

scholarships, so it is advisable to check each university individually.

The government page provides a search engine to browse scholarship options in New Zealand.

Studying in Hong Kong

DEADLINES:

SEP	Application round opens
NOV	First round applications close
	Deadlines vary across institutions. After the first round, rolling admissions may be offered according to availability.

There are twenty-two institutions in Hong Kong offering tertiary degrees. The government of Hong Kong provides a comprehensive information site for international students interested in studying in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong university applications

Students interested in studying at a university in Hong Kong must research which institution they wish to attend. After selecting the academic programme they would like to apply for, they need to get in touch with the university about the specific entry requirements and documents needed for the application process. Students then apply at each university individually.

IB requirements in Hong Kong

The IB is generally accepted, but each institution has different requirements that students will have to inquire about individually.

Tuition & financial aid in Hong Kong

Tuition for international students varies by institution and choice of programme and ranges between 90 000 and 265 000 Hong Kong Dollars (about 10.000 to 30.000 EUR).

The government of Hong Kong provides a number of scholarships for international students. Follow the QR code to a database of scholarships offered.

Popular Academic Programmes

The majority of students chooses one of the following academic programmes each year. Hence, this section lists popular universities offering interesting degree courses in these areas of study.

Business & Entrepreneurship

LEINN International is the *Travelling University*. During a course of four years, students spend time on four different campuses in four different countries, progressing through an innovative curriculum to develop entrepreneurial skills and enabling them to create their own start-up.

Audencia is the oldest business school in France and top-ranked in the world with campuses in Nantes and Paris. It offers a management programme and a hybrid engineering programme focusing on big data and management.

The **EU Business School** offers innovative business courses in artificial intelligence, digital communication, tourism and much more on four campuses across Europe.

ESCP is a prestigious business school based in Paris, ranked as one of the top 4 in Europe. Their academic programmes cover entrepreneurship, audit and controlling, consulting, and management. Some programmes are taught in English and offer study abroad options in Turin, London, Madrid and Berlin.

St. Gallen offers rigorous training in law and economics as well as an innovative bachelor in IT for digital leadership. Students have to pass an assessment year after which about 50% of students are admitted to the actual degree course. The university is bilingual and expects students to be proficient in both German and English, while the assessment year in economics can be taken in English.

The **LSE** is a leading social science institution, offering over 40 academic programmes at undergraduate level.

Medicine

Students interested in studying medicine in the UK apply through *UCAS*. They can make up to four choices and must apply by **October 16**.

The platform *Medical Doorway* offers guidance for students interested in studying medicine in Europe, particularly in the East and South of Europe.

Students interested in studying medicine in Germany apply through *Hochschulstart* by **July 15**.

PPE/PPLE (Politics, Philosophy, Law & Economics)

"European liberal arts" were launched in **Oxford**: "Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) was born of the conviction that study of the great modern works of economic, social, political and philosophical thought would have a transformative effect on students' intellectual lives, and thereby on society at large. This conviction remains as firm today as it was then. As the world has evolved, so has PPE. The course brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding the world around us, developing skills useful for a wide range of careers and activities."

The **EBS University** was founded in 1971 to transform tertiary education for future leaders. The university offers an English-taught programme in Law, Politics, and Economics. It is located in the South-West of Germany.

The **i.e. University** offers a bachelor degree in Philosophy, Politics, Law, and Economics on their campuses in Segovia and Madrid.

The **Karlshochschule International University** is a private university in Karlsruhe, Germany. Among other innovative bachelor programmes, the university also offers Politics, Philosophy, and Economics.

St. Gallen offers rigorous training in law and economics. Students have to pass an assessment year after which about 50% of students are admitted to the actual degree course. The university is bilingual and expects students to be proficient in both German and English, while the law assessment year can only be taken in German.

The **Charles University** in Prague offers Politics, Philosophy, and Economics based on Oxford-style PPE.

Liberal Arts

Liberal arts studies originate from the Roman tradition and shaped medieval universities in Europe. Today, liberal arts are mainly found in the Anglo-American university environment. For a list of liberal arts courses in the UK, use the *UCAS* search engine.

In the US, liberal arts are more common at the undergraduate level. *US News* provides a university ranking every year. This QR code leads to a list of the best 200 liberal arts colleges in the US.

In the Netherlands, many universities run university colleges where English-taught liberal arts programmes are offered, such as Amsterdam, Groningen**,** Tilburg and Utrecht:

The **University College Groningen** offers a BA as well as a BSc in Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The **University College Tilburg** offers liberal arts education through an interdisciplinary approach. Students attend lectures in a multitude of professional fields to study complex global issues.

The **Amsterdam University College** offers an English-taught liberal arts degree with specialisation in sciences, social sciences, or humanities.

The **University College Utrecht** offers an English-taught multidisciplinary and internationally oriented liberal arts programme.

The **University College Roosevelt** in Middelburg, The Netherlands allows students to build their own liberal arts curriculum.

The **KU Leuven** in Belgium offers a BA Philosophy with liberal arts as an option to choose as a minor.

At **Bard College Berlin**, students tackle crucial contemporary questions in a local and a global framework, learning about a variety of traditions and disciplines, and pursuing opportunities for professional development and civic and social engagement.

Engineering & IT

The **Karlsruhe Institute of Technology** (KIT) is one of the leading institutions in applied research in the natural sciences and engineering. Students must meet the KMK requirements, but most courses are taught in English.

Audencia is the oldest business school in France and top-ranked in the world with campuses in Nantes and Paris. It offers a management programme and a hybrid engineering programme focusing on big data and management.

The **Hasso Plattner Institute** in Potsdam runs the Faculty of Digital Engineering. It offers a bachelor degree in IT Systems Engineering, which is unique in Germany.

The **University of Applied Sciences KdG** Antwerp offers an innovative bachelor in Creative Technologies.

Architecture

The **i.e. University** offers a bachelor degree in Architectural Studies on the mediaeval Segovia Campus, Spain. The course takes five years to complete and is taught in English.

The **TU Berlin** has a strong programme in architecture. It is organised in different workshops, offering students practical experience and a high degree of specialisation. Please note that the IB course constellation must adhere to KMK requirements. The course is taught in Germany, so a language proficiency of C1 is necessary.

The **New School** in New York City offers the BFA Architectural Design programme. During their studies, students choose electives in the liberal arts.

International Law

For students interested in legal studies, this section lists a number of innovative academic programmes in international and comparative legal studies:

Students can study International and European Law at **The Hague University of Applied Sciences** in The Netherlands. Here, they are right at the centre of international judiciary practice with many great internship opportunities and practical experience.

The BA in Globalisation, Governance, and Law offered by the **Karlshochschule International University** in Karlsruhe, Germany takes a global perspective on justice, responsibility, and society.

The **Free University Amsterdam** offers a law degree (LLM) called Law in Society. This is a unique training for lawyers, taking a multidisciplinary, global, and practical perspective.

The **University of Turin**, Italy offers a BA in Global Law and Transnational Legal Studies. It focuses on comparative law studies with a global and transnational approach.

The **LUISS Guido Carli University** in Rome runs an English-taught programme in Global Law. The focus is on global and cross-border settings to prepare students for careers in multinational business, non-government organisations or international institutions.

The **Anglo-American University** in Prague offers a dually accredited programme in International Business Law, awarding a European and American BA degree with a focus on international trade and intellectual property law.

The **Riga Graduate School of Law**, Latvia, runs the Law and Diplomacy programme to prepare students for diplomatic service or work in international organisations. The curriculum involves electives in the liberal arts to provide a well-rounded education.

The **Mykolas Romeris University** in Vilnius, Lithuania, runs the Law and Global Security programme. It deals with contemporary global challenges like cyberattacks, money laundering, human rights violations, and terrorism and prepares students be be independent and resilient leaders.

Financing your Studies

Financing education can be daunting. Students and their families will have to decide individually how much they are willing to spend for a bachelor degree. It may prove cost-efficient if students **compare** tuition and living expenses before applying, as equally prestigious universities in different countries may charge very different fees.

Taking out a **loan** to cover tuition or even living expenses while studying may be a sensible option. Again, students must decide how much debt they are willing to bear upon graduation. If a loan can be repaid within three to five years at tolerable monthly rates, then it may be worth considering this option. Sometimes, parents also agree to support their children by assuming the interest part of the loan. Additionally, students are advised to check the scholarship and **financial aid** options offered by the university they want to apply to.

Students may be eligible for **scholarships**. The *BachelorsPortal* provides an extensive search engine to research scholarships across the globe.

The *German Academic Exchange Service* (DAAD) offers a number of scholarships. Prerequisites vary by programme, destination and degree level. Hence, it may be worthwhile to browse the scholarship database of the DAAD.

Last, the German government provides a financial aid programme known as *Bafög* if parents cannot support their children's university studies. The loan students take on is limited to about 10.000 Euros; any support beyond this amount is provided as a grant. Eligible students do not necessarily need German or EU citizenship. However, studying abroad is only supported in the EU or in Switzerland. Other destinations are limited to one year.

Taking a Gap Year & Volunteering

Students often choose to travel or work for a year before going to university. Sometimes this is a good option if they want to save up for their studies or if they are yet undecided about their future career path.

Students are encouraged to arrange jobs or internships within their private or professional network. Sometimes, such opportunities arise from summer internships. Alternatively, there is a multitude of institutionalised or structured gap year options:

"The **Voluntary Social Year** is a form of the state-regulated youth voluntary service that enables young people aged 16 to 27 after completing school to gain knowledge and experience that offer important guidance for their own career and life. In addition, through a youth voluntary service, young people learn to better assess their own abilities. They use their interests and strengths for the common good and often experience this as an enrichment for their own lives."
(Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family, Berlin)

The *Deutsch-Französische Jugendwerk* (DFJW) offers the internship programme **PRAXES** to gain practical experience in France. Interested students can apply directly through their information page.

Students interested in environmental and ecological topics can join the *Freiwillige Ökologische Jahr* (FOEJ). Please note that language proficiency is required. This site provides a search engine for FOEJ opportunities in Germany.

There is a limited number of FOEJ opportunities abroad. This link leads to an overview of cooperation partners abroad.

The platform *raus-von-zuhaus* has a search engine for students who are still undecided about which opportunity they want to pursue after their graduation. Please note that the site is run in German only.

The platform *weltwärts* provides a search engine for a variety of opportunities abroad. Students can choose by subject area they are interested in. Please note that international opportunities can only be searched if the page is set to German.

Summer Schools

Attending summer school is a great way of exploring university life and making connections prior to the application process. Some universities also offer tuition reductions if their summer school was successfully completed.

Summer schools are ideal in the summer after Grade 10 or Grade 11 or both. Most application **deadlines are in early spring**, so it is advisable to start thinking about summer schools after the midyear reports at the latest.

Independent & Online Opportunities

A good choice for those who would like to explore a topic not covered by the curriculum or extracurriculars without travelling. These courses can be taken in the summer as well as during the school year.

Pioneer Academics is a fully-accredited online research institute for high school students.

In the **Lumiere Research Scholar** programme, students work with a researcher from a top university to produce an independent research project.

The **Ladder Internship** programme runs two cohorts each year: one in the spring, the other in the summer. The programme is completely online.

Students can enrol in a variety of individual courses offered via live Zoom sessions by the **UCI Division of Continuing Education**. In small classes, students will learn practical skills and gain experiences to enhance their college applications.

Here are 450 **Ivy League** courses you can take online anytime at no charge.

Explore your interests using the Cambridge **super-curricular suggestions** list. All resources can be accessed for free.

The **Harvard Business Publishing** for Education offers online courses at low costs in the field of finance, management, mathematics, and computing.

European Programmes

Choose to study one of the following subject areas: Engineering, Physics, Medicine, Entrepreneurship and much more at the **Imperial College London.**

The **LSE** offers a summer school with a wide range of subject choices.

Join the international summer school, enjoy Scotland, and take interesting courses at the **University of Glasgow**.

Spend the summer at **University College Dublin** and enjoy Ireland.

A summer of academic and cultural enrichment at the Oxford Royal Summer School at **Oxford University**.

Students take core courses in the social sciences, including Master Classes and tutorials taught in English at the summer school of the **Sciences Po**.

Explore different fields of study during the three-week course at **Warwick University.**

Students interested in economics, business, or law are encouraged to join the summer school of **Bocconi** in Milan, Italy.

i.e. University offers summer certificate programmes on its campuses in Spain.

For students interested in applied programming, the **Hasso Plattner Institute** offers summer camps on its campus in Potsdam.

Canadian Programmes

UBC Geering Up: Junior Instructor Opportunity

Facilitate STEM education in week-long camps or weekly clubs; gain teaching and leadership skills; work with a diverse team of like-minded individuals; mentor youth in STEM.

The University of Toronto

Enrichment and Academy programmes by the Faculty of Applied Science (Engineering), Faculty of Law, and Faculty of Medicine.

The University of Waterloo

Courses include Engineering, Leadership, Cryptography, Technology, and Entrepreneurship.

Western Ivey John F Wood Summer Leadership Programme

Four-day residential programme in August focusing on leadership and business, including Ivey's case studies.

McGill Summer Academy

Take courses in Pathways to Neuro and Health Sciences or Perspectives on World Politics: International Law, Development, and Organizations". Note that applications are due by **December 01**.

US Programmes

National Student Leadership Conference

Stay on a college campus. Campuses include UC Berkeley, Yale, Georgetown, and more. Many topics to choose from.

NYU Tisch Summer High School Programme

Offers workshops in filmmaking or screenwriting for college credit. Applications are due early in the year.

Parsons Summer Academy

Open to ages 16-18 to study art (drawing, painting, illustration, etc), design (fashion, graphic etc), or portfolio prep for college admissions. Available online or in-person in New York or Paris.

Boston University Summer Journalism Academy

Study Journalism at the Boston University College of Communication online or on site. Teachers are working journalists.

Berkeley M.E.T. (Management, Entrepreneurship and Technology)

Combines programming from the Berkeley Haas School of Business and College of Engineering with local entrepreneurs.

UCLA Pre-College Summer

Offering summer institutes such as Acting and Performance, Camera Acting, Computer Science, Economics, Game Lab, International Development, Model UN, and College Writing.

University of Chicago Summer Session

Residential and online options in Paleontology, Molecular Engineering, History, Literature, black holes, game theory, and much more.

The Summer Science Programme

Students choose one of two programs, Astrophysics or Biochemistry, and participate in classroom work, lab sessions, guest lectures, and field trips. Admission to SSP is competitive, with an acceptance rate of around 10 percent.

CyberMath Academy Summer Math Camp

A selective summer program for students who would like to sharpen their Maths skills in the inspiring and motivating atmosphere of Harvard College.

Stanford University Mathematics Camp
SUMaC invites all students who seek to be challenged in mathematics and who would enjoy three weeks of intensive, in-depth, mathematical pursuits.

Stanford Summer Pre-Med Internship
The Stanford Clinical Summer Internship (CSI) is a program for rising high school juniors (age 16 or older), seniors, and undergraduate pre-med students designed to empower and energise diverse learners as they delve into the art, science, and joy of practising medicine.

University of Washington Youth & Teen Programmes

Courses on a variety of topics, ranging from coding to writing to photography. This link leads to a search engine to browse the programmes available.

Eastman Experiences

The Eastman School of Music offers online and in-person programmes in classical music and jazz.

New York Times Summer Academy
Take a front row seat and get ready to pursue your passions, seek new challenges, embrace new adventures, and think critically and creatively.

Sotheby's Pre-College Programmes

Sotheby's Summer Institute invites high schoolers who are curious and passionate about the arts to immerse themselves in one of the most vibrant art capitals in the world: New York City.

USC Viterbi SHINE Next-Generation Engineering
At USC Viterbi's Summer High School Intensive in Next-Generation Engineering (SHINE)students can join a USC Viterbi professor's research team for seven weeks to discover how engineering addresses our real-world problems in various fields, including biomedicine, robotics, aerospace, and more.