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University Advising Office

2025 - 2026
Travels & University Updates

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Meet the University Advising Team







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| *Bocconi University* |





Bocconi UPDATES

- ***Early Action*** has become far more competitive than even last year.
  Highly recommended if Bocconi is a top choice.
- GPA average has climbed dramatically in the past ten years (from 11/20 to 17–18/20)
- Average admitted IB score: 36/45
- 45% of admissions are GPA-based (requiring a 6 or 7 average); 55% are testing-based (SAT or BT)
- ***There will no longer be a third application round***

Test	Notes
SAT (General)	Class of 2026 EA average: 1390; recommended minimum going forward: 1400+
Bocconi Test (BT)	Simulation available via The Faculty App — highly encouraged before the official exam
SAT for HEC Dual Degree	Average in the 1490s; SAT only (no BT required)

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World Bachelor in Business Program (WBB)

Program

- 4-year program across 3 locations: Los Angeles, Hong Kong, and Milan (4th year is student's choice)
- Students earn 3 bachelor's degrees
- Only 50 students admitted per year

Entry Requirements

- ***Apply through Common App only***
- ACT or SAT (optional but highly recommended)
- Transcript
- Activities summary
- Personal Statement & Supplemental Essay
- Letters of Recommendation

Bocconi HEC Dual Program

Program

Double Degree BS in International Politics & Government

- First year: Bocconi
- Second year: Bocconi then HEC Paris
- Third year: HEC Paris
- 50 to 100 students admitted per year

Entry Requirements:

- Video Interview
- Reference letter
- Letter of motivation
- SAT or Bocconi Test

Target careers: consulting, marketing, finance; ideal for students seeking global exposure

UNITED KINGDOM





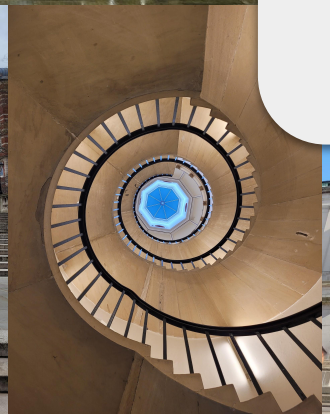




Universities Visited

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
University of Edinburgh
University College of London
Queen Mary University of London
King's College London
Imperial College
Cambridge University
Oxford University









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The UCAS System — How It Works

Up to 5 Universities

One application, one fee — submitted through UCAS, the central portal for all UK higher education.

The exception is for medicine and veterinary studies:
4 applications maximum

✍️ Single Personal Statement

One essay sent to all 5 universities. Courses should stay in similar subject areas — this is a critical factor (55% weight at Cambridge)

The essay is divided into three questions:
- Why do you want to study this course or subject
- How have your qualifications and studies helped you prepare for this course or subject
- What else have you done to prepare outside the classroom

Application Requirements

1ère grades
Predicted Terminale grades*
Personal Statement
Letter of Recommendation

* It is a key requirement in the application, and counts just as much as the known grades from 1ere.

Additional Requirements

Some universities & programmes require supplementary tests or essays. Check each institution individually.

Example:
UCAT: University Clinical Aptitute Test
LNAT: National Admissions Test for Law
TMUA: Test of Mathematics for University Admission
ESAT: Engineering and Sciences Admissions Test

IB / BF / BFI:
What You Should Know

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Predicted Grades

IB: 43–44 / 45
BF: 17/20 Mention Tres Bien

Average of admitted Cambridge Students

Every university and program holds different entry requirements.
These are provided by each university on UCAS, so make sure to do your research !

💡 Don't just apply to the obvious programme.
International Development, for example, covers nearly identical ground to Economics but with a fraction of the competition.

Always compare the actual syllabi of neighbouring programmes before you submit, because the smarter application might not be the one everyone else is making.

International Development - Entry Requirements

International Baccalaureate Diploma
36 points overall or an aggregate score of 18 from three Higher Levels.

Diplome du Baccalaureat General
Award of the Diplome du Baccalaureat General with 15 overall

Economics - Entry Requirements

International Baccalaureate Diploma
38 points overall or an aggregate score of 19 from three HL.
Must include grade 6 in Higher Level Mathematics.

Diplome du Baccalaureat General

Award of the Diplome du Baccalaureat General with 16 overall

King's College of London : Example





US Exams - Yes or NO?

UK universities treat French BAC and IB qualifications as a standalone — it is not recommended to combine with AP scores or any other system to build an application profile.

For SAT, tread carefully: they can serve as proof of English fluency, but Oxford and Cambridge require you to submit all your scores, not just your best, which means a weaker sitting can work against you.

⚠ AP Applicants — Important

AP students face a DOUBLE disadvantage:

1. Difficult to predict the right combination of AP exams to satisfy university subject requirements
2. ***A single score of 4 in any AP*** — even with 5s in everything else — can be grounds for outright refusal





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The Application Process

May 2026

UCAS opens for the 2027 Application

Register on UCAS, the central portal for all UK higher education applications. This is how students can explore programs, requirements and universities

October 15

Oxbridge - Medicine - Veterinary Studies Deadline

Hard deadline for all listed programs and universities. Oxbridge regardless of major, and medicine & vet studies regardless of university.

January

Final Deadline

All applications should be submitted by 6 PM UK time. It's a hard deadline, and no exceptions can be made.

May, 2027

Decisions are all released

UCAS requires all universities to release their decisions by mid - May. Dates may very. May 6, 2026.



Oxbridge

Universities

25%	International Students
43–44	Average IB Score (out of 45)
25%	Interview Offer Rate
60%	Shortlisted for Interview

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Oxbridge — What You Need to Know

Application Requirements

- UCAS application + admissions exam (sat in-person)
- Letter of recommendation — counselor advocacy is critical
- All SAT scores submitted — low scores are penalizing
- Supplemental essay ('My Cambridge') — effectively required
- Only 1 course per application; 11 courses have no subject prereqs

Admissions Process & Interviews

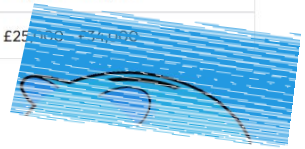
- Applications read 4 times by at least 2 professors who will teach you
- Admitted by college — professors justify every decision to a panel
- Interviews held in December — a scholarly discussion, not Q&A
- Being challenged is a GOOD sign — adaptability & curiosity are assessed
- Strong interview can override a bad exam; poor interview can override perfect grades
- No interview = almost always insufficient personal statement (9/10 cases)

FEES & Tuition

- EU nationals who do not live in the UK are to be charged Overseas fees
- Not eligible for a UK government tuition fee loan.
- Annual tuition fees ***typically*** range from £11,400 to £38,000 (depending on the university and the program)
- Oxford & Cambridge can go up to £70,554 for Medicine and Veterinary Science.

Living costs on top of tuition can add another £12,000–£20,000+ per year depending on the city (London being significantly more expensive).

Field of Study	Undergraduate (GBP per year)	Postgraduate (GBP per year)
Business and Management	£26,000 - £41,000	£31,000 - £56,000
Engineering	£31,500 - 48,000	£30,000 - £42,500
Medicine	£30,000 - 70,000	£30,000 - £65,000+
Social Sciences	£25,000 - £37,500	£25,000 - £34,000
Arts and Humanities	£25,000 - £37,500	£25,000 - £34,000



Key Takeaways & Resources

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Start Early

UCAS opens May 2026. Oxford/Cambridge/Medicine deadline is Oct 15 — months before general Jan deadline.

✍️ Personal Statement is Critical

Cambridge weights it at 55% of decisions. One essay goes to all universities — make it exceptional.

Know Your Grade Standards

Check each university's specific requirements.

Check Fee Residency Rules

Scholarship are available, but are quite limited

Everything Goes Through UCAS
The Advisor sends the final application

Interviews Matter

No interview almost always means your statement was insufficient. Prepare to be challenged and debate.

🔗 **Resources:** ucas.com · undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk · ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate · ucas.com/advisers

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Dutch Universities

Higher Education Overview



By Maggie Martin









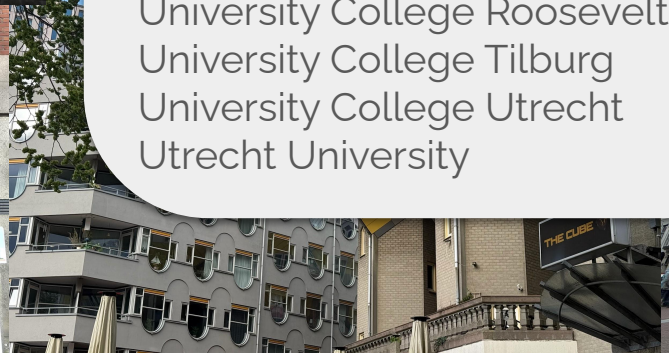




Universities Visited

Eindhoven University
Erasmus University
Erasmus University College
Hotel School the Hague
HZ University of Applied Sciences
Leiden University
Leiden University College
Maastricht University
Tilburg University
University College Maastricht
University College Roosevelt
University College Tilburg
University College Utrecht
Utrecht University







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Types of Dutch Institutions

UNIV. OF APPLIED SCIENCES (HBO)

DEGREE

Bachelor of Applied Science

DURATION

4-yr Bachelor

FOCUS

Practice-oriented, career-ready. Internships built into the program.

EXAMPLES

HZ, Hanze, Hotelschool The Hague, Fontys

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (TU)

DEGREE

BSc · MSc · PhD · EngD

DURATION

3-yr Bachelor (all in English except TU Delft UG)

FOCUS

Engineering & technology. Hands-on, challenge-based, industry-linked.

EXAMPLES

TU Delft, TU/e Eindhoven, University of Twente

RESEARCH UNIVERSITY (WO)

DEGREE

Bachelor · Master · PhD

DURATION

3-yr Bachelor

FOCUS

Academic depth & original research. Theory-heavy, leads to graduate study.

EXAMPLES

UvA, Leiden, Maastricht, Utrecht, Erasmus

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (UC)

DEGREE

BA or BSc (Liberal Arts & Sciences)

DURATION

3-yr Bachelor

FOCUS

Small, residential, US SLAC-style. Holistic admissions. Broad interdisciplinary curriculum.

EXAMPLES

UCU, UCR, AUC, EUC, UCT, UCM, UCG, LUC

Netherlands has an open education system — acceptance rates do not reflect course quality

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Numerus Fixus - Limited Seats Programs

What is Numerus Fixus?

- Government-set cap on enrollment driven by popularity or job market signals
- Apply via Studielink by January 15 (hard deadline, no exceptions)
- Maximum 2 NF applications per academic year
- Selection procedure set by each institution and may include extra exams, interviews, or rankings
- Results released April 15 via Studielink ranking number
- 2 weeks to accept your place after results or it is forfeited
- If accepted places go unclaimed, the next-ranked student is offered the spot
- Even if fewer applicants than seats, all receive a place student must still accept by deadline!

Common Numerus Fixus Programs

MEDICINE & HEALTH

– Medicine (all research universities)

– Dentistry / Dental Hygiene / Physiotherapy

– Psychology (UvA, Tilburg, Maastricht, Erasmus)

SCIENCE

– Nanobiology — Erasmus / TU Delft

– Brain Sciences — Maastricht

ENGINEERING & TECH

– Aerospace Engineering — TU Delft

– Computer Science & Engineering — TU Delft

– Biomedical Engineering — TU/e (possible)

– Some architecture / CS programs

BUSINESS & LAW

– International Business Administration — Erasmus

– International Business — Maastricht

– European Law School — Maastricht

– PPLE — UvA (very competitive, ~300 places)

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University Colleges - A Closer Look

What is a University College?

- A US liberal arts college merged with a UK college — but Dutch
- Small, selective, fully residential (most guarantee housing all 3 years)
- Interdisciplinary: students design their own curriculum across Humanities, Sciences & Social Sciences
- Holistic admissions including CV, motivation letter, interview, demonstrated interest
- Average class size: 20–28 students
- Very international cohorts (50–80+ nationalities)
- Award BA or BSc from the parent research university
- Students are highly encouraged to pursue a Master's after
- Typically require additional essays
- Often more expensive than other Dutch options
- Learn more: https://universitycollege.nl/

The 8 University Colleges

Amsterdam UC (AUC)
Joint UvA + VU · Science Park · ~300/yr · 3yr guaranteed housing

University College Utrecht (UCU)
Most US-like SLAC feel · 750 students · 22% acceptance · Guaranteed housing

University College Roosevelt (UCR)
Middelburg · 500 students · Beaches · Most flexible curriculum

Erasmus UC (EUC)
Rotterdam · 12 interdisciplinary majors · Requires interview

Leiden UC (LUC)
The Hague · 200/grade level · Embedded in Leiden University

UC Groningen
Part of University of Groningen

UC Maastricht
Problem-based learning · Has residential options

UC Tilburg
~300 students · Part of Tilburg University

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Admissions Requirements

International Baccalaureate (IB)

Univ. of Applied Sciences	Full IB diploma accepted. Lower point thresholds (e.g. HZ: any passing IB; Hotelschool: 24 pts). Math A&I SL often sufficient for engineering at HBO level.
Research Universities	28–33 points (varies by school & program). Math AA HL typically required for science/tech/econ programs.
Technical Universities	Math AA HL + Physics/Chem HL required (TU/e, TU Delft). Points not always the deciding factor, passing is key.
University Colleges	Full DP required. Typical range: 30–32+ pts. UCU: 32 pts (w/o TOK+EE). UCR: 30 pts. AUC: top 30% of grade distribution. EUC/LUC: check program pages.

French Baccalauréat

Univ. of Applied Sciences	Passing Bac accepted broadly. Requirements are more flexible
Research Universities	Generally accepted with a passing Bac. Some programs specify minimum grade (mention on program page). Math-heavy programs expect math specialization.
Technical Universities	Accepted with relevant math & science specializations. TU/e: FB 13.5 minimum noted. Check individual program pages for subject requirements.
University Colleges	Generally: passing Bac accepted. UCU: FB 13.5 minimum. UCR: passing Bac is sufficient. AUC: assessed holistically alongside other criteria. Always verify with each UC.

Always verify exact requirements on each institution's program page — thresholds vary by program, not just by school type.

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Degree Matching

What is Matching?

A mandatory or strongly recommended **"study choice check"** for non-selective (non-NF) programs. Designed to verify that a student's interests and skills genuinely fit the chosen program and to reduce high first-year dropout rates.

WHO	WHEN	BINDING?
Students applying to non-NF programs. International students especially to help bridge foreign education to Dutch academic expectations.	Usually between May and August for a September start. Must apply by May 1 to participate.	Advice is NOT automatically binding but a negative result allows you to switch a choice in Studielink. You must act on it; universities will never switch for you.

What to Expect

- Online questionnaires or modules assessing interests and skills
- Mini-lectures, reading assignments, or written assessments
- Potentially a CV, motivation letter, interview, or graded assignments
- Outcome: positive or negative advice on program fit

How It Works at Specific Universities

Utrecht	Fill out a form + attend tailored activities based on your study choice
Amsterdam (UvA)	Mandatory online matching for international students in non-NF programs
Tilburg	Tailored activities with positive or negative advice to help assess fit
Groningen	Matching activity offered after application through Studielink

Key Reminder

Matching is used to gauge fit, not as a gatekeeping tool. A negative result is not the end: you can switch your Studielink choice, but you must do it yourself. Universities will never make the switch on your behalf. Read your emails and respond promptly.

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The Application Process

NOV 1

Studielink Opens

Register at studielink.nl the central portal for all Dutch higher education applications. Apply to up to 4 programs (max 2 may be Numerus Fixus).

JAN 15

Numerus Fixus Deadline

Hard deadline for all NF programs. Some Selection / Small-Scale programs also require this earlier deadline.

FEB–APR

Matching & Selection

May include CV, motivation letter, interview, graded assignments, or exams. Used as advice — not automatically binding — but you must act on negative results.

APR 15

NF Results Released

Ranking numbers issued via Studielink. You have 2 weeks to accept your place or it is forfeited.

MAY 1

Regular Deadline

Deadline for most non-NF programs (EU/EEA). Non-EU students are often advised to apply by April 1 for visa and housing.

Fees are based on PASSPORT only (not residency). EU does not include UK. Non-EU students must show sufficient funding. · No deferrals (general rule). · START EARLY — Read your emails!

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Costs

Fees

- Tuition fees are set by the government
- For the 2026-2027 Academic Year
  - EU/EEA Students €2,694 per year
  - Non-EU/EEA Students from €6,000-21,000 per year
- Some Institutions, like University Colleges, may charge higher tuition fees.
- For Dutch passport holders, the government provides a grant and a free student travel card
- In addition to government funding, some universities offer scholarships for both EU/EEA and non-EU/EEA students
- All students can work part-time alongside their studies, although there are some restrictions for non-EU/EEA students.

Housing

- Accommodations cost between € 400 - €1,175 per month
- Students should plan on spending from €350 - €450 a month on food and other living expenses

Context

- Tuition based on passport only, not residency
- EU does not include UK

University	Annual EU/EEA Cost	Annual Non-EU/EEA Cost
Eindhoven University of Technology	€ 2,694	€ 18,600
Hotel School the Hague	€ 4,519	€ 17,816
Maastricht University	€ 2,694	€ 13,000 - € 32,000 depending on program
University of Amsterdam	€ 2,694	€ 13,900 - € 34,700 depending on program
University College Roosevelt	€ 5,105	€ 12,045
University College Utrecht	€ 5,591	€ 16,484
Utrecht University	€ 2,694	€ 13,415- € 28,416 depending on program

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Key Takeaways & Resources

Choosing Your Institution

- Applied Sciences → practical, career-ready, 4 years
- Research Uni → depth, research, grad school path
- Technical Uni → engineering, all English (except TU Delft UG)
- University College → broad, small, residential, holistic
- All types offer strong pathways to Master's Degrees

Application Musts

- Register on Studielink (opens Nov 1)
- NF deadline: Jan 15 **no exceptions**
- Max 4 programs total; max 2 NF
- Start housing search in January
- IB students: complete the full diploma — no mixing AP
- Some universities, like Leiden and UvA will consider SAT scores

Important Context

- Tuition based on passport only, not residency
- EU does not include UK
- Programs CANNOT legally look at nationality
- 5 yrs study/residence → can apply for permanent residency
- Visa process is largely handled by the university
- No deferrals (general rule in NL)
- Housing is a challenge across the country. Students are encouraged to start searching early!

studielink.nl · studyinnl.org · studyinnl.org/plan-your-stay/how-to-apply · https://universitycollege.nl/

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Universities Visited

EHL Lausanne
EHL Passug
ESADE Barcelona
IE Segovia
IE Madrid






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Why Study in Spain?

🎓 QUALITY EDUCATION

Globally recognized universities with strong academic programs and career outcomes.

🌍 INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Diverse student communities from around the world create a truly global experience.

💰 AFFORDABLE

Lower tuition and living costs compared to many other study destinations.

🌆 BIG CITY TO SMALL TOWN

Choose from vibrant cities like Madrid and Barcelona or charming smaller towns.

ES STUDY IN ENGLISH, LEARN SPANISH

Many universities offer English-taught programs while giving students the chance to become bilingual.

💂 STUDENT FRIENDLY

Spain is the #1 destination for EU exchange students and #3 for US students abroad.

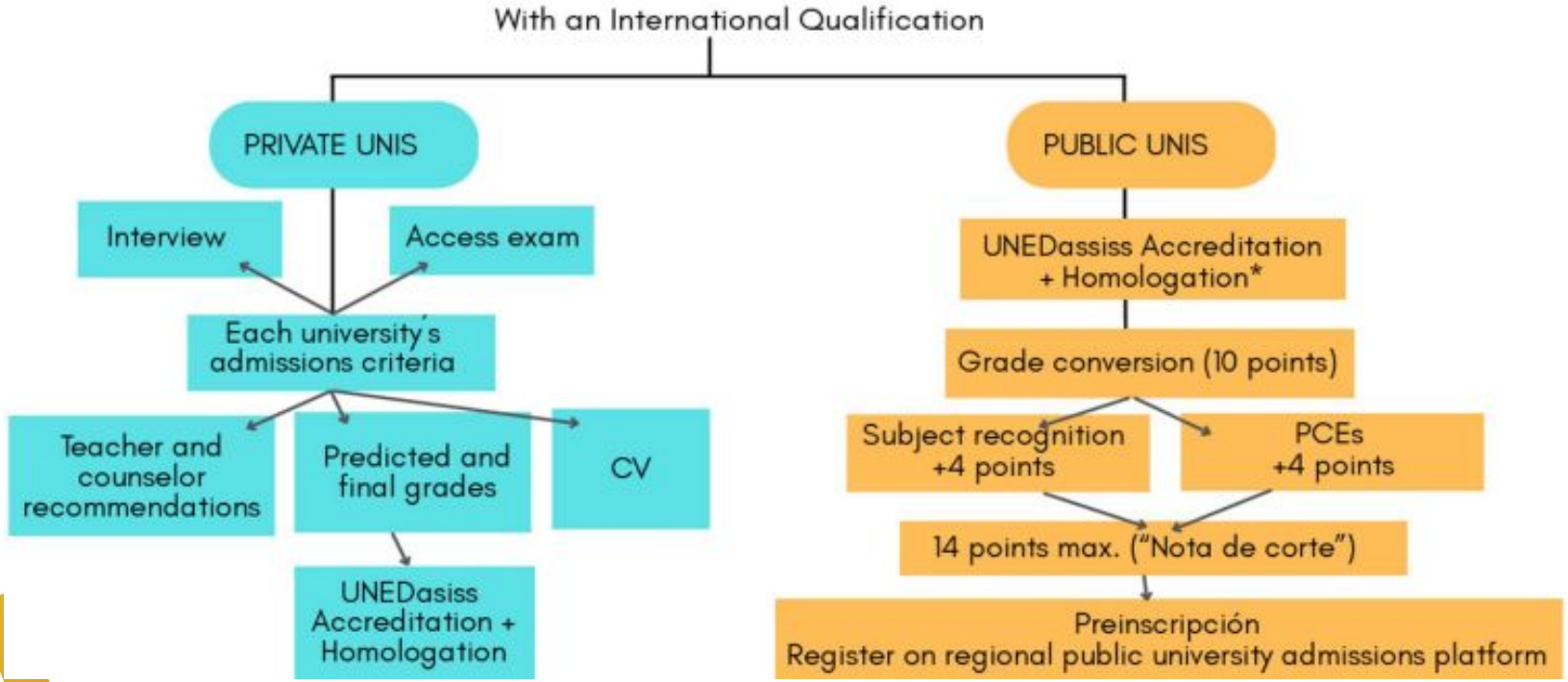
🏛️ PUBLIC & PRIVATE OPTIONS

Find the right fit with a wide range of public and private universities.

🍤 FOOD & LIFESTYLE

Incredible food, sunny weather, relaxed lifestyle, and strong social culture.

Accessing Spanish Universities



What in the world is UNED?

- UNED assis is the website that does the grade conversion to a 14-point scale from any system to Spanish scale
- Opens in February
- Grants university access to public universities in Spain



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Spanish Language Tests

If non-Spanish citizen, you will need a B2 Spanish qualification (take the DELE in May, July, October or November)

Private Universities in Spain

- Degrees are 4 or 5 (law and architecture) or 6 years (medicine)
- 100% English
- Most applications are similar to the USA (transcript, letters of recommendation, essays, language proficiency, and interviews)
- Study abroad programs
- Career Office
- Alumni networks
- Housing
- Clubs, teams, activities

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A Focus on the Top Three Private Universities

IE (Instituto de Empresa) Segovia & Madrid

- Highly international
- Strong Reputation in Business and Entrepreneurship
- Focus on Innovation and Technology
- Campuses in Madrid and Segovia
- Study in English in Spain
- Prestige comes with high tuition

ESADE Barcelona

- Highly international
- Top Business and Law school
- Located outside Barcelona
- Known for innovation and social justice in all programs
- Competitive
- Application includes heavy writing
- Prestigious with high tuition

Universidad de Navarra

- International with traditional values
- Strong reputation in Medicine and Business
- Located in Pamplona
- High employability and strong alumni network
- Strong student experience
- Higher price

Study in Spain link

Costs

Fees

- *Average cost for public uni is €700 - 2,500/year*
- *Average cost for private uni is €20,000 - 30,000/year*

Living

Madrid/Barcelona €1,500/month

Valencia €1,100/month

Granada €900/month



Scholarships

Available to IB and French Bac students



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Switzerland - Home of Hospitality



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Why study in Switzerland?



96% employability rate

- One of the most developed countries in the world.
- Private and public universities are some of the best
- Experts in business, management, luxury goods, and hospitality
- Industry access
- Alumni networks
- Study in French, German, or English or combinations
- Quality of life, civil liberties, economic competitiveness, and human development
- Classical European universities - teach and research in a wide range of disciplines
- Politically neutral

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Being a student in Switzerland

Swiss lifestyle
Housing
Clubs, sports, and activities
Career Center
Learning Support

Oldest university in Switzerland is in Basel, founded in 1460

Types of Institutions

Public

- 🎓 Recognized diploma
- 📊 High grades required
- 📚 Required subjects
- 🌍 Local language needed
- 📝 Exams sometimes required
- 🧠 Very competitive
- 📄 Strict diploma recognition
- 🚫 Limited spots (e.g. medicine)
- 🎯 Academic focus

Private

- 🎓 Flexible diploma
- 📊 Lower grade thresholds
- 📚 Flexible subjects
- 🌍 Mostly English-taught
- 📝 No exams (usually)
- 🧠 More accessible
- 📄 Flexible recognition
- 🚫 Few/no quotas
- 🎯 Career focus
- 💬 Interviews matter

The Application

- Transcript
- Essay
- Interview*
- Aptitude tests
- English proficiency test
- People skills
- International mindset
- Possible: letters of recommendation and predicted grades

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Costs

Fees

- *Average costs of public unis CHF 1,000/year*
- *Average cost of private unis CHF 50,000/year*

Living

Cost of living aprox. CHF 1,500/month

Scholarships

Available to IB and French Bac students



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QUESTIONS?

