

Best Fit Approach to Global Opportunities

Many will chase acceptance to an 'elite' university. But what does that really mean? While some might think immediately of Ivy League schools in the US, there are many others around the world, such as the UK Russell Group universities, that offer the best-in-class education. Regardless of placement on a 'Top' list, our goal is to find the *best fit* for our students, taking into account factors such as the teaching and learning approach, programme of study, student body size, geographical location, and more.

The following offers some insight into global university placements:

Canada

Canadian universities present incredible value, in particular for undergraduate study. With a global reputation for quality of education, schools across our country offer a wide variety of programmes and set students up well for the next steps locally or internationally.

Recently, a group of Canadian universities has emerged, known as the **U15**. This association of fifteen leading research universities optimises research and innovation policies and programmes that advance knowledge and develop highly qualified leaders for all sectors. They boast impressive statistics - for example, 1,000 start-ups have come out of this group in the last decade, and 75% of Canada Research Excellence Chairs are at these universities.

United States

Probably best known, Ivy League and Ivy Plus (such as Stanford, Johns Hopkins, and Rice) encompass research universities known for academic excellence, high selectivity, and history. It is important to note that Ivy League acceptance rates globally for the Class of 2026 reached historic depths, falling as low as 3.19% per school.

While these universities get the most profile, it is very important to keep in mind that many excellent schools in the US are not included on these lists. Many other private and public universities (such as the University of California schools) outperform Ivy League institutions in specific fields, offering equivalent career outcomes, rigorous academics, and robust alumni networks.

United Kingdom

In the UK, the most prestigious universities are part of the Russell Group. These 24 research-intensive UK universities are committed to high-quality teaching, research excellence, and strong industry links. Their alumni networks and reputational currency are on a par with Ivy League and Ivy Plus institutions. Included on the list are Imperial College London, University of Edinburgh, King's College London, University College London, University of Manchester, London School of Economics, and University of Warwick.

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Are Canadian (and non-US) students at a disadvantage when applying to Ivy and Ivy Plus schools?

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A: There are a lot of constraints in the US application process which favour students with US citizenship, legacy (those whose parents and relatives attended the university), significant donors, and high-performance athletes. These factors make the opportunities for other Canadian students very few in number and therefore even more competitive than what admissions numbers tend to reveal. If the headline figure is only 3.19% acceptance, then this number will be reduced again significantly if you are Canadian and NOT in one of the categories above.

Europe & Asia

Students will also look abroad for specific programmes offered with excellence in various cities throughout Europe and Asia. For example, the Atlantic Bridge offers Canadian students excellent opportunities in Ireland for direct entry medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy, and pharmacy. Students will turn to Asia to hone their studies at rigorous universities while also leveraging their language skills and connecting with cultural opportunities. European and Asian university destinations are the biggest 'on the rise' applications for North American students.

Specialist Programmes

Students who excel in the creative arts, such as film and design (fashion, game, industrial, etc), will often look to highly specialised post-secondary experiences that offer both theoretical and practical learning. Conservatory programmes for the performing arts are also highly sought after. Institutions in this category include Parsons School of Design, Eastman School of Music (University of Rochester), Boston Conservatory at Berklee College of Music, and Pratt Institute.

Mulgrave's University and Career Counselling Department has the experience and capacity to support students applying to universities around the world and with a myriad of different areas of focus.