

20  
23

ARE  
YOU

UNIVERSITY  
READY?



INTERNATIONAL PLACEWELL CONSULTANTS, GULF  
Since 2003



# What are universities looking for?

In addition to evaluating an academic fit, the admissions committee looks for ways a student may contribute to the community as a whole. The admission officer assess the level and type of involvement in each activity and evaluate the student on the following aspects: Has the student been a significant contributor or leader? How has the involvement contributed to the school or larger community? Does the student have a special talent in a particular area?

The university does not expect all students to be team captains, class presidents, or editors-in-chief; rather, look for meaningful involvement in their school and/or community. The profile of students that apply to top-ranked universities is impressively created through OUT -OF-THE-BOX thinking and execution. The application allows students to list several different activities, it is crucial to do this with care and identify the most meaningful activities. It is noticed that some of the most successful applicants are heavily engaged in a few activities that were meaningfully concentrating on QUALITY RATHER THAN QUANTITY. When you select the activities to list, keep in mind to mention those which have had the maximum impact.

Our mission as a university can be described in three words: education, research and service. We value students who seek academic excellence, get hands-on to solve problems and strive to give back to their community - UCLA Admissions

The admissions process is designed to consider all aspects of an applicant's record and experience and is not intended to admit applicants solely on the basis of grade point averages, test scores, or any other single criterion. - University of Michigan Admissions



# Measuring Application

The application to the university is adjudged on several aspects. It is imperative to understand the evaluation system to identify your' journeys.

The application is considered in its entirety and not as separate sections. The admission officers strive to see the student's **ACHIEVEMENTS** and accomplishments as a complete picture and use individual sections as building blocks. After a diligent enquiry into every aspect of the application, the admissions team determines the prospects for admission and estimates the student offering to the university. Each section should thus, complement each other and create a **WHOLESONE** picture.

## DOES YOUR APPLICATION EFFECTIVELY ANSWER THESE?

- ☐ What do you hope to gain by studying at this university?
- ☐ How do you respond to a challenging curriculum?
- ☐ What do you do outside the class?
- ☐ How and what may you contribute towards the society?
- ☐ What do you bring to the university as a student?
- ☐ What is your personal story?
- ☐ Have you supported an upward trend in your grades?
- ☐ How do your course choices align with your future goals?
- ☐ Does your Test Scores indicate your college readiness?
- ☐ Does the recommendation letter tells your story beyond the transcripts?
- ☐ What are your work ethics, class participation & collaboration with peers?
- ☐ Do your Extra-Curricular activities give an insight into who you are as a student?
- ☐ Does your personal essay qualify as the vehicle of your voice?
- ☐ Does your personal essay to tell the admissions about what you care about?
- ☐ How does the recommender compliment your application?
- ☐ Why did you choose this country over home country to pursue higher education?



# EVALUATION PROCESS

The university admissions officers review the application to **LOOK BEYOND** the words in the application to discover the intangible qualities that make you uniquely you.

The admissions team spends time evaluating the students' academic achievements in light of the opportunities available and their demonstrated capacity to contribute to the intellectual life at the university.

## Analysing Different Aspects?



### HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Every high school is different thus the admissions team reviews the school's profile to understand the types of courses available to you, your school's grading scale and the challenges. It compares the extracurricular or post-secondary activities available at school to what the student undertook. The grades are adjudged alongside the transcripts and High School report.



### TESTING

Most universities use standardized testing to gain insight into the academic preparation of the applicant and the language proficiency. Although the tests represent only one component in the admission process adjunct with other academic and non-academic factors, it allows the admission committee to judge the university readiness of the student.



### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Academics are an important aspect of the application, but the university also assesses the student on activities outside the classroom. The activities section of the application provides a glimpse into what excites the student. The passions followed, responsibilities shared and contributions to the community are significant factors that the university admission team considers. The activities should form a cohesive group with academics.



### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Courses, especially in Art and Design, require the students to submit a portfolio. This could be an art portfolio, creative writing pieces and film/Music sample. This will depend on the course the student wishes to undertake and the guidelines prescribed by the university. Additional material is required to be submitted to add important information which does not reflect in other sections of the application.

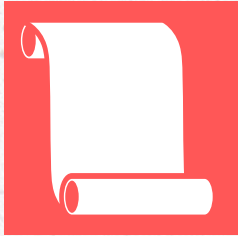




## ESSAYS

The admission team reads the personal essays and supplemental university essays with deliberate care. These are yet another window into the thinking process of the student. It is a tool to successfully demonstrate the students' perception of the university and the world. The writing reveals what the student brings to the university community.

---



## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

The LOR gives the admission team a personal view of the student. It offers a perspective that cannot be learnt through the grades and scores. The recommendations allow the admission to understand the learning pattern of the student. The recommendation devices an outline of the crucial skills of the student both within and outside the classroom.

---



## INTERVIEW

Some universities arrange an interview between the student and the admissions team and sometimes even with the alumni. The Interview is a tool to gather first-hand information from the student and gain personal insight into the students' aspirations and goals. It allows them to ascertain their career goals and how the university fits into them.

---



## CLASS PROFILE

The admissions team strives to bring the diversity and vibrancy of the community to the university. The class profile is a clear indicator of social acceptability. It also adds to the learning curve offered to the students since the diversity brings the much-desired insights and effective peer-to-peer learning. The campus aspires to reflect the world around us, so enrol students who come from all corners of the world and a wide range of backgrounds.

---

**Academic Performance in high school is the single most important factor in the student selection process at most universities. The grades are the tools to demonstrate the academic readiness of the student for the universities. The grades have to reflect the student's capability synchronized with the RIGHT PROFILE.**

The experienced team at International Placewell Consultants, Gulf identifies the **RIGHT** projects and activities to create a unique and **DISTINGUISHED** profile for students that has a measurable effect and influences the admission team in a positive manner.



# IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

According to the World Economic Forum, by 2030 there will be a huge demand for higher cognitive skills such as creativity, critical thinking and decision-making.

Today's world needs future leaders who are socially conscious, responsive, and responsible. The universities are aware of this need and carefully consider the Extra-Curricular activities to spot a worthy student amongst the applicants.

## Leadership Positions

Colleges are impressed by students that have held leadership positions during school. It indicates that you participated in school matters and effectively show that the student is both capable and responsible.

## Communication Team

Colleges/Universities favour students who are engaged in relevant issues, able to think critically on their feet, and are not afraid to voice their opinions. A student on the communication teams such as debating or publications would sharpen the communication and writing skills.

## Culture Clubs

Universities/Colleges value students who actively promote diversity and culture. Being involved in these cultural clubs/activities shows a student's willingness to learn about and accept others while creating awareness for those who may be different from you.

## Academic Teams

Joining an academic club or team shows passion for learning and gaining a competitive advantage. It is also a great indicator of having the ability to embrace a challenge. These activities further help with test prep and increase test scores.

## The Arts

Creativity is an asset when it comes to college applications. Students active in creative arts, like music, drama, and visual arts tend to be open-minded and think outside of the box. The students who participate during school, tend to be participative during college as well, which is sensed as an advantage by the admissions officer.

## Community Service

Most colleges consider some form of volunteer work or community service a must-have for all applicants. Universities/ colleges seek the values in people that community service cultivates and the potential impact of work.

The match between you and MIT, While grades and scores are important, it's really the match between the applicant and the Institute that drives our selection process. - MIT Admissions



## Student Internship

Obtaining an internship while in high school is an impressive way to exhibit that the student can handle heavier loads. An internship validates capability, dedication and maturity for working in the professional environment. Student Internship is a tool that creates a measurable difference to the application and provides evidence for being University Ready.

## Business Idea/Start Up

A student engaged in a startup or one who has developed and executed a business idea is perceived as an innovative and hardworking student. To start a venture, even a tiny one, requires both creativity and good management skill. The student who undertakes such a project develops a highly favourable skillset that adds to the application.

Universities urge students to think about how they can make a difference through service, leadership, and innovation. The admissions committee looks closely at applicants' extracurricular activities and recommendations to assess commitments outside the classroom.

## Research Project

A research project is a unique and highly personal achievement that allows students to showcase their intellectual abilities at their best. Colleges encourage students to distinguish themselves through independent projects. The process of research also opens new doors of learning and literary growth. The research project undertaken by the students in school provides proof of a deeper understanding of the subject.

## Sports

Participating in sports is a great way to demonstrate teamwork, leadership skills, and emphasis on athletics and physical fitness. It is also a great way to display the important skill of creating a balance between sports and academics. One must choose activities from different categories so that colleges can see students' wide range of talents and strong character traits.

## Advanced Level Course

Students can undertake a higher level of courses through online course offering such as MOOC, or Advance placements to show their competency in a subject. The extra time spent on the subject demonstrates not just the deeper knowledge and passion but also the capability to handle the extra course workload

In a 2016 report published by Harvard's Graduate School of Education, a coalition of college admissions officers joined together to create and endorse recommendations related to community service and ethical engagement. Their report emphasized attributes such as being passionate about the cause you are invested in and demonstrating long-term commitment



# LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

A letter of recommendation is a letter written on behalf of an applicant by someone who can vouch for that person's educational or professional performance. This letter is typically sent to an admissions officer or considering a candidate for admission or a scholarship.

## THE LETTER

Letter of Recommendation is a tool to convince the admission officer that you are a worthy candidate and that your qualification and dedication are well suited to the course. It provides the admission committee with substantial information to have a positive impact.

It is a distant interview of sorts wherein the admission officer relies on the recommendation of an expert which successfully establishes you as a perfect applicant.

## REMEMBER

The letter may be obtained from the  
Professor/Head of Department/Principal.

Ensure that the personal and academic achievements and performances are highlighted

It should be a realistic assessment of the students – substantiating the analytical capacity and the leadership qualities with healthy communication skills.

## STRUCTURE

## Opening

Establish the relationship between the students and the referee. Include the time period of knowing the student

## Body

Include the Characteristics of the students that are relevant to the course  
Include knowledge of the subject that the student has gained during studying with you.

Incorporate areas of strength and any awards/recognition that the student has received

Share personal experience with the student and any specific responsibilities that were effectively completed

Emphasize on the ability of the student to work in a team, Leadership qualities, and Motivation factor

Ensure that the student is seen as dedicated, hardworking and goal oriented with qualities to deal with challenges.

While the transcripts establish the academic criteria, the Recommendation letter allows the officer insight into your personality and passion for the course.

Choose the referee wisely since this document has a substantial effect on the decision of the admissions officer. It may be obtained from a person who has known you in an academic or a professional capacity and is able to provide substantial details about your achievements.

Ensure that the Recommendation Letter highlights the strengths and achievements of the student

The document should be a fair account with a distinction made between opinions and facts

The letter should be more than just a character certificate. it should reflect the strengths of the student.

It should reinforce that the student would be a beneficial student for the university

## Summarise

Specifically recommend the student as a GOOD FIT for the university.

Ascertaining that the student as well as the university would gain from the presence of the student at the university.



# WRITING TIPS

Here are some of the tips given by Khan Academy for writing an impressive college essays.

## POSE A QUESTION THE READER WANTS TO BE ANSWERED

This doesn't mean you should pose a question in your essay, but you should certainly keep the reader wondering, "How is that going to turn out?" "What does she mean by that?" "How is this all going to tie back together?" To accomplish that, begin your essay with a hook that encourages the reader to want to find out more.

## DON'T FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON THE PAST

Admissions look for essays where student highlights their growth and introspection, so your essay should focus on your learning and growing as a person. Don't just brag or describe. Your essay should have a moment of revelation: what did you learn from your experience? How did it make you the person you are today? Colleges don't want to read essays that are set exclusively in the past. They want students who are actively looking at their future so make sure that if you're describing a past event, you connect it to who you are now and how it will impact you as a person moving forward.

## OPEN UP

When recounting an event or experience, make sure to include how it made you feel, how it changed the way you think, and whether it had an impact on your priorities and/or values. Readers connect more when you reveal a vulnerability than when you tout a strength.

## EXPERIMENT WITH THE UNEXPECTED

If it makes sense within the context of your essay, twist your story or reveal something unexpected, i.e. something readers wouldn't have necessarily thought you'd do, think, or care about.

## DON'T SUMMARIZE

Avoid explicitly stating the point of your essay. It's far less effective when you spell it out for someone. Delete every single "That's when I realized," "I learned," and "The most important lesson was..." It's unnecessary, unconvincing, and takes the reader out of the moment. Instead, let them read between the lines and interpret the meaning of your story on their own. You shouldn't have to say anything like, "And that's how I learned to stand up for myself," because the admission officer should already know. Oftentimes when you watch a movie, an actor's expression, sigh, or closing of a door speaks louder than words. Your actions can be small, but they should be loaded with meaning, i.e. that you're taking a stand, making a decision, giving something up, or taking a risk. It can be simply deciding to get up in the morning or to smile. It just needs to represent that you've made a decision, change, or risk.



# OUR SERVICES

IPC, GULF AT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

## EDUCATION COUNSELLING

Our team of dedicated Counselors help you to PURSUE YOUR DREAMS. Each student is encouraged to think objectively and arrive at a solution that is aligned with their CAREER GOALS.

## UNIVERSITY SELECTION

We ensure that the students get the complete information required to make the CORRECT DECISION.

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Updated with all the changes and requirements we make sure that our students make an INFORMED CHOICE.

## PROFILE BUILDING

IPC, Gulf team prepares the students to undertake several activities that enable a DISTINGUISHED PROFILE aligned with the UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS.



## DOCUMENTATION

The student is informed about all documentation of Admission & Visa to ensure that the documentation is **ERROR-FREE**.

## TUITION FEES

We ensure that the students get the complete information for both Living & Tuition Costs and have no **HIDDEN COSTS**.

## VISA COUNSELLING

We keep updated with the ever changing visa rules & regulations to ensure that the visa application is in the **RIGHT FORMAT & ORDER** for the students.

## ACCOMODATION

Our team has a **COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE** about the accommodations for the university and the process for the students. We ensure that the process is done well in time to make the stay **COMFORTABLE & SAFE**.





IPC, GULF  
MAKES  
YOU

20  
22

UNIVERSITY  
READY



INTERNATIONAL PLACEWELL CONSULTANTS, GULF  
Since 2003



+971 4 3911178/79



[www.unidirection.com](http://www.unidirection.com)



Block 13, Office F-18

Dubai Knowledge Park



[dubai@unidirection.com](mailto:dubai@unidirection.com)