

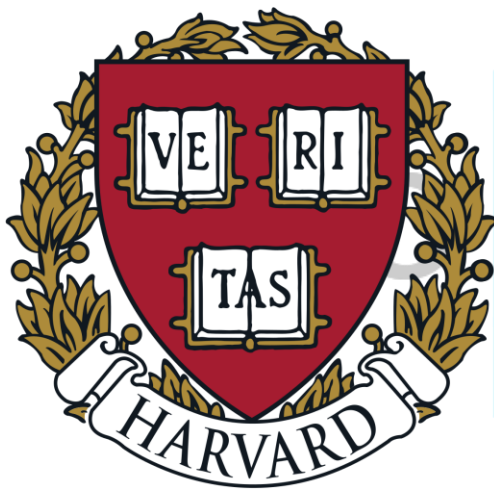
## Face Off: Grades and Beyond Grades

Hi there! In this module, we will take a look at the different kinds of Universities in India and across the major countries of the world, what makes them different, and the specific traits they look for in prospective applicants at the time of Admission.

So while there are hundreds of Universities across the world that have a variety of Admission requirements, **can you guess** what some of the most renowned ones really look at?

Great marks in board exams? Yes. A fantastic score in Entrance Exams? Yes. NON-ACADEMIC achievements? Yes Yes Yes.

You can be a 95% scorer in your exams but it takes a lot more than a great mark sheet to help you secure a seat at, say, Harvard University or St. Stephens.

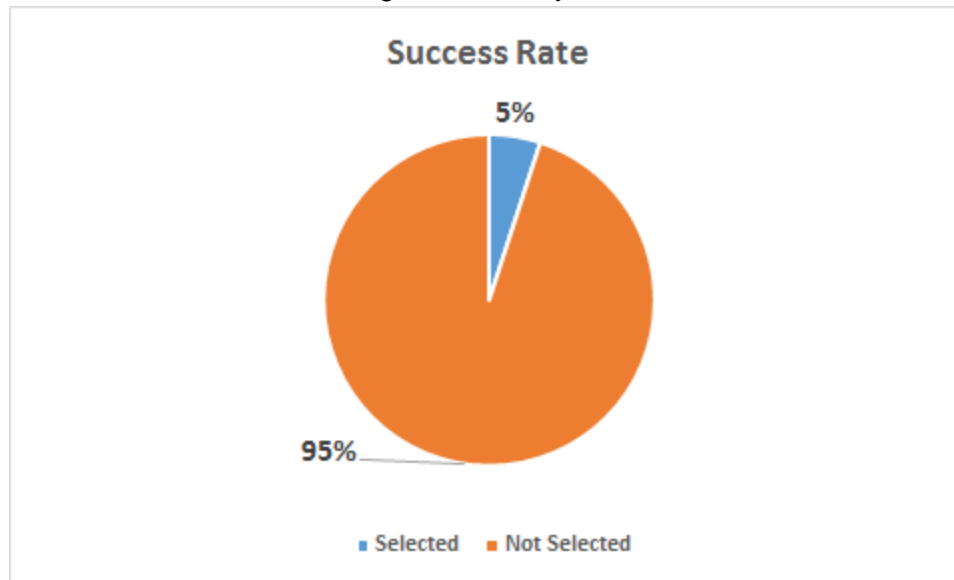


*Image Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)*

In this section, we will help you plan a grade-wise list of activities across curricula which you can make use of to build your profile and in the process ensure a seat at your dream college. So whether you study in a CBSE or ICSE school or an IB or Cambridge curriculum school, we got you covered!

**So, why does your Non-Academic Profile matter?**

Universities in India and abroad have been growing increasingly selective about candidate profiles. So while the number of students applying to the colleges has increased every year, the number of seats available in these colleges has hardly increased at all.



For example, in India, around 10 million students seek college admissions every year, out of which a mere 0.5 million are able to make it to the top colleges globally.

So build your  
country you are



star profile in

alignment with the  
applying to, be it:

- USA
- Canada
- UK, or
- India

You need to show these Universities & Colleges that you are a dynamic candidate who has interests & abilities beyond regular school subjects.

### **So what should you be paying attention to while building your profile?**

Under each of these countries, we would be looking at their:

- Admission Outlook which conveys the philosophy related to admission processes
- Universal Traits which highlight specific attributes in prospective students which are common across Universities
- University specific traits which are unique attributes which Universities look at

First up is,  
**USA**

USA is the home of some of the top ranked Universities in the world. This premier list includes

- Ivy League,
- Ivy League Plus colleges like Stanford and MIT and,
- Popular Middle Tier colleges like Arizona State University and Michigan State University.



Let's have a look at each of these one-by-one:

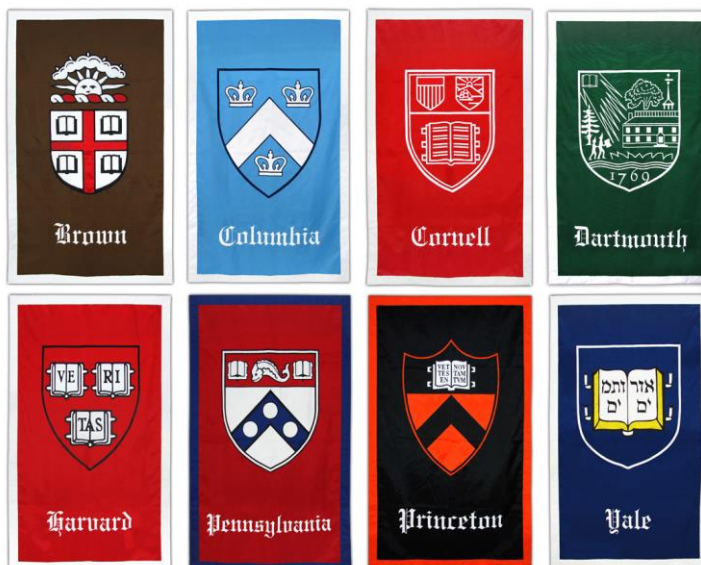


Image Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

### **Ivy League**

The Ivy League is a group of 8 private Universities in Northeastern US which are known for their

- academic excellence,
- brand name and low acceptance rates.

Image Source:

<http://blogdailyherald.com>

The 8 member Universities are:

- Princeton University
- Brown University
- Harvard University
- Yale University
- Columbia University
- Dartmouth University
- Cornell University
- University of Pennsylvania.

### **Did you know?**

Acceptance Rates across the Ivy League vary from the lowest being at Harvard at 4.4% to the highest being at Cornell at 10.3%.

### Did you know?

The term '*Ivy League*' was first used in the year 1935 by AP Sports editor Alan Gould while covering a match between Columbia and University of Pennsylvania.

In order to further your understanding of these elite set of 8 Universities, let's have a look at their:

### Admission Outlook

Across the Ivy League Universities, increased stress is laid on having a social and moral conscience. In addition, the drive to excel plays paramount importance when it comes to shortlisting students. Academic rigour, diversity in profile which showcases personal commitments to sports, arts, music are looked upon preferably.

Here, we have Vidur from Oakridge International School sharing his admission process experience at University of Pennsylvania:

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n\\_8dGYv4wkA&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_8dGYv4wkA&feature=youtu.be)

### Universal Traits:

- Utilizing the maximum benefit of their resources and talent
- Being an active contributor to one's community
- Ability to stretch oneself beyond the limits

### Yale:

#### University specific traits

- Ability to innovate and think beyond the obvious
- Drive to achieve something larger than themselves
- Track record of exceptional engagement, ability and promise

### Did you know?

Yale's admissions team is driven by two key criteria while evaluating applications: Who is likely to make the most of Yale's resources? And Who will contribute most significantly to the Yale community?

### Did you know?



Yale's official mascot since 1889 is Handsome Dan, a bulldog.

3 undergraduate Yale students giving advice on the admission process:

Link: <https://youtu.be/2RJ-mOqavQs>

#### Harvard:

- Ability to approach work with a sense of passion
- Demonstrated leadership skills
- Result focused and an orientation to learn

#### Did you know?



Natalie Portman, Oscar winner had completed the Star Trek movie when she enrolled for Harvard's Psychology course. Her proven skills in acting and scientific research played a part in getting her into Harvard.

*Image Source:*  
<https://www.businessinsider.in>

There are several other Ivy League Universities which we listed earlier. We will cover them in detail in Module 3.

#### Next, we have Ivy League+

This connotation is used for colleges which are at par of Ivy League in terms of their academic rigour and high selectivity.

A few of the colleges which form a part of this elite group are:

1. Stanford
2. Caltech
3. UC Berkeley
4. University of Chicago
5. University of Michigan
6. Northwestern University
7. Johns Hopkins University
8. Duke University

9. MIT
10. Williams College
11. Babson's College
12. University of Massachusetts, Amherst

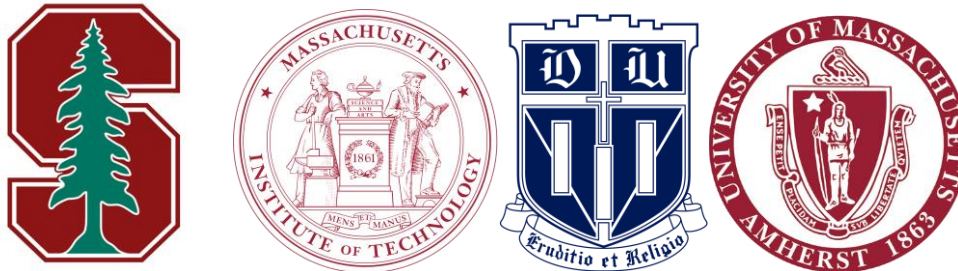


Image Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

**So what all do you need to know while applying to these colleges? Allow us to guide you through it?**

#### **Admission Outlook**

The common trend across Ivy League + Colleges is their three pronged approach which focuses on providing holistic education:

1. Academic Excellence
2. Intellectual Vitality
3. Personal Profile

While there are individual differences across colleges but the major stress lies on the need of having a **diverse profile**.

#### **Universal Traits:**

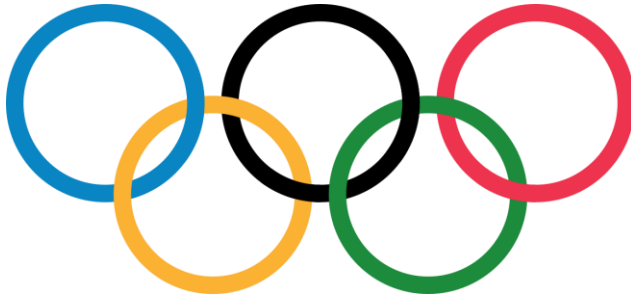
- Superior record of academic excellence
- Positive attitude and high level of commitment
- Passion towards the chosen discipline

#### **University Wise Unique Traits:**

##### **Stanford:**

- Personal Profile with a special focus on life experiences
- Application oriented mind for STEM concepts
- Outstanding achievement in one focus area

**Did you know?**



Exceptional ability in athletics in addition to a qualified candidature may actually get you that coveted seat at Stanford!

What does this mean for you?  
Once you are accepted at Stanford, you would be given rigorous training and the fact that Stanford students have won medals at

every Olympic Games since 1908, is a testimony to this!

*Image Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)*

**MIT:**

- Risk taker with an inclination to initiate projects
- Ability to cooperate and collaborate with peers
- Active contributor to the local community

**Did you know?**



MIT does not have any class ranking system in place, unlike Tony Stark's claim to have graduated from MIT 'summa cum laude' which means 'graduating with distinction'!

*Image Source: <https://www.admitsee.com>*

**University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

- Demonstrated leadership skills
- Involvement in intellectual or creative endeavor
- Personal Life context



Here's Roshan from NES International School in Mumbai sharing his journey of the Admission Process at University of Massachusetts, Amherst:

Link: <https://youtu.be/XbXkbvUpYck>

There are several other Ivy League + Universities which we listed earlier. We will cover them in detail in Module 3.

### **Middle Tier:**



Universities like Arizona State and Michigan State are known to be progressive universities and have been consistently ranking as one of the best in the country.

Did you know that that a number of these tier 2 colleges have specialized programs which are ranked even higher than the Ivy League schools? For example, Arizona State University has been ranked #1 in innovation in the US!

Pr



lap



*Image Source: www.wikipedia.com*

Let's have a detailed look at their application process:

### **Admission Outlook**

The Tier 2 colleges across the US look for candidates who are socially aware and have been consistent academic performers. Here the acceptance rates are higher and the focus is more on the drive to innovate and create a difference for the community.

### **Common Traits across Candidates:**

- High level of passion and commitment
- Focus on personal experience
- Collaborative learner



### University wise Unique Traits:

Let's have a look at what Arizona State University and Michigan State University looks at in potential students:

#### Arizona State University

- Innovative and analytical bent of mind
- Socially and morally responsible individuals
- Ability to push beyond limits

### Want to know what applying at ASU is like?

Link: <https://youtu.be/YVr5BI6aMis>

#### Michigan State University

- Analytical and research frame of mind
- Drive to make a change
- Contributor to the local community on campus

### Did you know?

Michigan State University looks at the following 4 parameters in addition to a candidate's academic credentials:

- Leadership qualities
- Exceptional talent(s)
- Conduct, and
- Community involvement records

Jatin from Oakridge International School in Hyderabad who took admission at Michigan State, shares tips on how to choose colleges

Link: <https://youtu.be/di-DGL-hl8o>

Rest of the Tier-2 Universities will be covered in greater detail in the upcoming module 3.

Now let's move to a little north of USA, into

### Canada

Canada is growing into a leader in University Rankings, having witnessed steady growth in International enrollments over the years. Universities across Canada can be broadly classified into two categories:

- The U-15



- Middle Tier

Image Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

## U-15

The U15 is a group of 15 public research universities in Canada. This elite group of universities spread across Canada is known for the quality of their research output.

### Did you know?

The U15 was established in 1991 and it contributes to almost 80% of the competitive university research undertaken in Canada!

Image Source: [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)



### Admission Outlook

Across the U-15, candidates are evaluated for their accomplishments as well as on their drive to excel which is judged from their passion and time management skills.

### Universal Traits

- Having a voice which can make an impact
- Possessing Clarity of thought
- Drive to excel in the chosen discipline

### University specific traits

Here's what 3 most popular Canadian Universities look for in potential student applicants:

#### University of British Columbia

- Passion towards the applied program/course
- Consistent Academic performance
- Diverse non-academic profile

### Did you know?

The University of British Columbia evaluates a candidate's profile on 4 key parameters:

- Engagement and Accomplishment
- Leadership
- Substance, and
- Voice

Want to know more about the application process at University of British Columbia?

Link: <https://you.ubc.ca/applying-ubc/how-to-apply/ubcs-online-application/>

## University of Toronto

- Active contributor to local community
- Consistent Academic excellence
- Passion towards the chosen discipline

## Did you know?

University of Toronto (also known as U of T) has emerged as one of the top universities across the world for graduate employability!

## McMaster University

- Motivation to learn
- Collaborative team player

Saachi from NES International School Mumbai shares her admission journey at McMaster University which forms a part of the U15:

Link: <https://youtu.be/uUpsyP3Ay9o>

Rest of the U15 member Universities will be covered in greater detail in the upcoming module 3.

Let's move onto some of the top Tier 2 Universities and understand their admission processes:

## Middle Tier

Tier 2 Universities across Canada are known for their academic rigour and their drive to innovate.

## Admission Outlook

Universities across Tier-2 are focussed on consistent academic scores throughout school life. Proficiency in English and French is considered as an essential criteria to apply.

## Universal Traits

Universities across Tier-2 have a dedicated focus on recruiting candidates who have:

- Diverse Profile: Sports, ECAs, Volunteering experience are seen favorably
- Passion for the program being applied to

## University specific traits

Let's have a look at what Carleton University and University of Guelph look at in potential students:

#### Carleton University

- Sociable and Communicable personality
- Diverse profile in terms of academic and non-academics
- Drive to excel beyond one's limit

#### Did you know?

Carleton University encourages student achievers in arts to submit work samples for review by faculty members through a dedicated 'Portfolio' section on their admissions website.

#### Did you know?



Carleton University was founded in 1942 at the height of the Second World War by the Ottawa Association for the Advancement of Learning.

Looking forward to studying at Carleton? Then do not miss this Special Webinar access!

Link: [https://youtu.be/Blsg3d3\\_iCQ](https://youtu.be/Blsg3d3_iCQ)

#### University of Guelph

- Demonstrated record of consistent academic performance
- Diverse personal experiences
- Motivated and high energy

#### Did you know?

Consistent academic performance plays a critical part while applying at the University of Guelph. One of the ways its faculty members check a student's candidature is perceived passion towards a discipline. With physicists at the University of Guelph being the first ones to have provided scientific evidence of the presence of water on Mars, the application process would definitely be looked at very closely!

*Image Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)*



Rest of the Middle Tier Universities will be covered in greater detail in the upcoming module 3.



Now let's cross the Atlantic to the **UK**

The UK has been a legacy destination for pursuing higher education with institutes like Oxford and Cambridge, also collectively known as Oxbridge, serves an aspiration for many. Other prominent options include the colleges forming a part of the prominent Russell Group as well as popular Tier-2 colleges.

Let's explore them one-by-one:

### **Oxbridge**



Image Source: [www.ocaws.co.uk](http://www.ocaws.co.uk)

Oxford and Cambridge make up the Oxbridge with almost 70 colleges covered under them. Both of these institutions are one of the oldest, highly revered and consistently ranked as one of the best in the world.

Let's have a closer look at what does it take to be an Oxbridge student!

### **Admission Outlook**

Both of these Universities lay stress on having a diverse academic profile with superior intellectual acumen. The focus lies in the individual's profile and their awareness about themselves.

#### **Universal Traits:**

- Superior and Consistent Academic Performance
- Passion for the applied course
- Ability to engage and implement newer ideas beyond the course

#### **University specific Traits:**

Let's explore what Oxford and Cambridge look for in potential students:

First up is,  
Oxford

- Experimentative attitude towards problems
- Willingness to learn
- Self motivated and enthusiastic

### Did you know?

You can only apply to only one of the two: Oxford or Cambridge in a given year.

Curious about the Oxford application process? Worry no more as we have got you covered!

Link: <https://youtu.be/TIMmp6XWiG0>

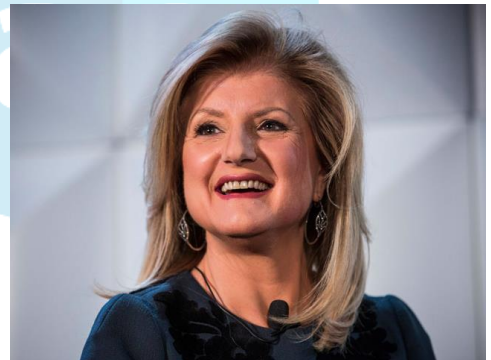
Cambridge looks at these Top 3 attributes:

- Spontaneity in responses and thinking
- Ability to think beyond the obvious
- Determined and tenacious

### Did you know?

Cambridge looks at your enthusiasm towards a course as an integral component of the evaluation process. This is done to determine if you have that spark within you like it did for alums like Arianna Huffington, who has been the co-founder and editor-in-chief of The Huffington Post.

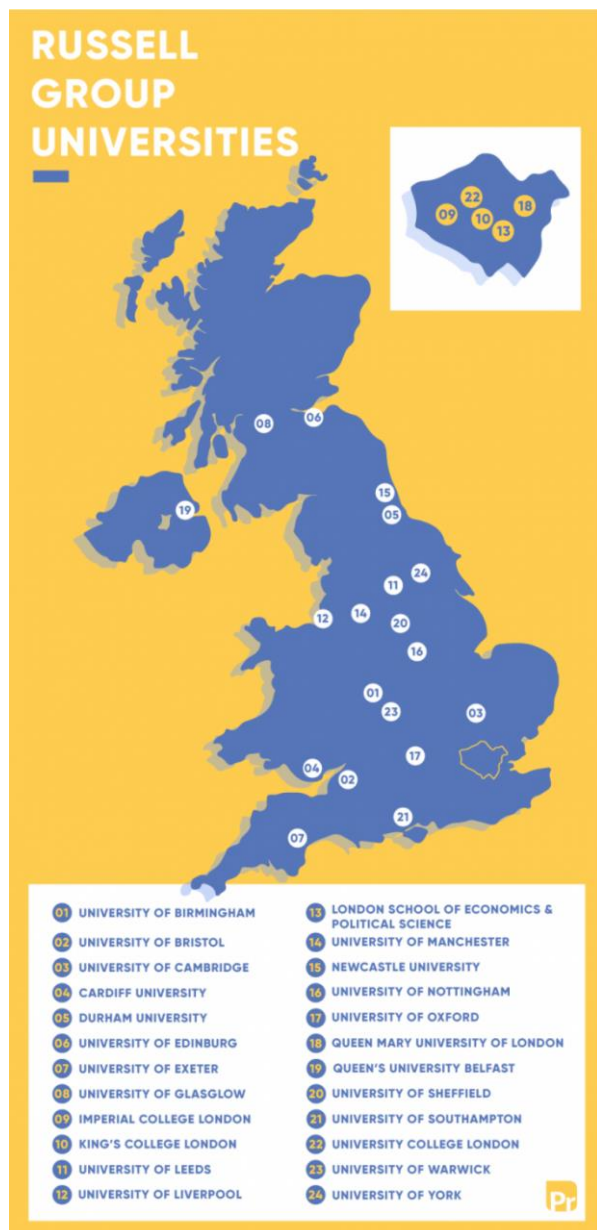
Image Source: <https://www.businessinsider.in>



When it comes to applying to the UK, then you may find the Russell Group almost at par with Oxbridge when it comes to quality education and higher acceptance rates.

### Next up is, Russell Group

Image Source: <https://prinvest.uk>



The Russell Group is a group of 24 leading Universities within the UK. These universities are known for their cutting-edge research and teaching pedagogy.

### Admission Outlook

Universities across the Russell Group have placed deep importance on a drive for innovation and global diversity amongst their candidates. The group is known for converting leading research into innovative products and services.

### Did you know?

The name Russell Group was coined after a number of informal meetings were conducted at Hotel Russell at Russell Square in London.

### Universal Traits

Curiosity and willingness to learn

- Genuine inclination towards the applied course
- High motivation to learn

### University specific traits

Here's what Imperial College and King's College look at in a candidate's application:

Imperial College, London

- High motivational drive and potential to excel
- Socially expressive and communicative

- Collaborative learner

Choosing a college can always be a tiring process but we have Anoushka from Sat Paul Mittal School who will guide you through some effective tips on choosing the right college:

Link: <https://youtu.be/ffGhHirvRGc>

### Did you know?

Imperial College offers a Social Impact Scholarship for applicants who are motivated to work for the community and support social causes.



### Did you know?



A Royal Connection! Queen Victoria laid the foundation of the Imperial College, London.

Then we have,

King's College, London

- Collaborative and Team Skills
- Diverse personal and professional experiences
- Ability to learn

### Did you know?

King's College made it to the The Complete University Guide for 2018-2019 for:

- Biological Sciences
- Business & Management Studies
- Dentistry
- French
- Food Science
- Law

Image Source: <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk>

Rest of the Russell Group member Universities will be covered in greater detail in the upcoming module 3.

### Right up the ally are some prominent middle tier colleges, (Middle Tier)

Universities at Bath, Leicester, Sussex, Reading to name a few, are some of the popular Tier 2 colleges in the UK. These universities have been consistent performers in International Rankings and are known for their academic and non-academic rigour.

## Admission Outlook

Across all Tier 2 colleges, a willingness to learn and gaining a practical perspective towards education is usually considered. A diverse profile is given preference as it highlights a student's broader interest areas.

## Universal Traits

- Incorporation of learning from past experiences
- Demonstrated commitment towards a passion

Let's have a look at what University of Aberdeen and University of Sussex looks for in potential candidates:

## University specific traits

University of Aberdeen

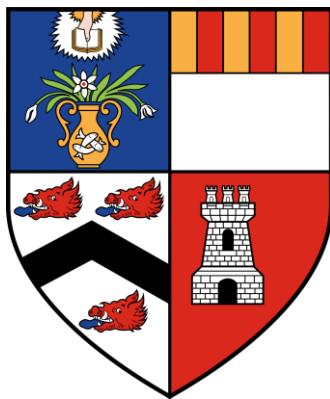
- Mature students (Beyond age 21), with special abilities may be given special consideration
- Commitment and motivation towards the chosen discipline

## Did you know?

Students of medicine at the University of Aberdeen can demonstrate their commitment towards their discipline through:

- Association with charity groups
- Participation in school clubs, part time work related to public well being, etc.

## Did you know?



The University of Aberdeen, founded in 1495 is known as one of the 'Ancient Universities of Scotland'.

University of Sussex

- Willingness to learn beyond the coursework
- Ability to innovate
- Drive to excel

### Did you know?

Frankie Boyle, Beardyman, Bob Mortimer are some of the well known alumni.



### Now, it's time to return home to India

Indian Universities have been steadily gaining in International University rankings, which just goes on to show their determination to be global leaders in education.

### Did you know?



Nalanda University, an ancient Indian university was the first university of its kind to have interviews as a means to enter college. The gatekeepers would interview candidates on a range of disciplines and only those who were deeply versed with old and modern forms of learning could get through.

Image Source: <http://www.india.com>

Universities across India are classified into two broad types:

- Private Universities
- Public Universities

## Private Universities

India has been witnessing a rise in quality educational institutions. These private institutions have incorporated specializations across their curriculum. Universities like Ashoka are known for their Liberal Arts education and have made a name for themselves in a short span of time. Each of these universities looks for a more rounded candidate in terms of their academic and non-academic achievements.

Some of the most notable Private Universities in India include:

- Ashoka University
- Flame University
- OP Jindal Global University
- Azim Premji University
- Shiv Nadar University
- S P Jain School of Global Management
- Bennett University
- SRM University
- Mahindra Ecole Centrale
- BML Munjal University

Let's have a look at what two of the most popular private universities look for in potential students:



### Azim Premji University

- Diverse profile in terms of experience
- Ability to link across disciplines
- Presence of mind



### Ashoka University

- Consistent record of academic excellence
- Presence of Critical Thinking Skills
- Ability to think beyond the ordinary

We have Aditya from DPS, Dwarka guiding you through the admission process at Ashoka University:

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVsi3bYsjOY&feature=youtu.be>



Mahindra École Centrale

- Leadership quotient
- All rounder profile with emphasis on extracurriculars
- Ability to think beyond the obvious

Next up we have, Public Universities like:

- Delhi University (DU),
- National Institutes of Fashion Technology (NIFT), and
- National Law Universities (NLUs),

have started expanding their admission processes to more diverse profiles.

**Think the only way you can crack admissions into colleges like St. Stephen's or NIFT is with a great report card? I am pleased to tell you that many Public colleges and Universities in India have** quotas of admission for students who excel in Extracurricular Activities(ECA) and sports.

Let's look at some of these public universities one-by-one:

## **First up is, Delhi University**

Delhi University, also popularly known as DU is a collegiate public university, which comprises of 77 colleges with some of the prominent ones being:

- St Stephens
- Hindu
- Sri Ram College of Commerce
- Lady Shri Ram College for women
- Ramjas College
- Hansraj College



So, What do Colleges in D.U. look for other than extremely high cut off percentages?

- Consistent academic excellence
- Non-academic credentials like in sports, ECAs, etc.
- Motivation to excel

Here's Vandita from CMS, Rajajipuram sharing her St. Stephen's application process experience:

Over to you Vandita!

Link: <https://youtu.be/89pnll5-CSw>

### **Did you know?**

Candidates need to appear for two levels of trials: preliminary and finals for their ecas and sports quota seats. This contributes 75% of their total score to secure a seat at a DU college!

### **Did you know?**

Delhi University in numbers: 16 faculties, 77 colleges, 86 departments, 1,32,435 regular students and 2,61,169 informal program students.

Madhulika from Mayo College Girls School, Ajmer shares her experience at Lady Shri Ram College for Women, DU:

Link: <https://youtu.be/41J9M8munKo>

### National Law Universities

The National Law Universities, also referred as NLUs are autonomous law schools established all across the country. Currently, there are 23 such NLUs operating in India.

- Consistent academic excellence
- Passion towards the chosen discipline

### Did you know?



The NLSIU, Bengaluru is referred to as the First Law school of the country.

### National Institute of Fashion Technology

The National Institutes of Fashion Technology is a group of fashion and design colleges in India which were set up in 1986.

What do NIFTs look for?

- Creative and innovative frame of mind
- Analytical bent of mind with keen observation skills
- Passion for design

### Did you know?



NIFT checks for your passion for design through your portfolio submission during the application process.

### Did you know?



Image Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com>

Manish Malhotra, who has designed clothes for celebrities like Katy Perry and Nicki Minaj is a NIFT alumnus!

Manasi from Mayo College Girls School, Ajmer shares her application experience at NIFT:

Link: <https://youtu.be/O--NqG0lcjc>

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### Activities and Achievements Beyond Academics

This section would make you aware about the need of having a diverse profile which is not just about marks but much beyond that. Building your profile in a directed manner requires:

- Clarity of thought
- Knowledge about possible programs and activities to be taken up
- Understanding about your own interests and caliber

There are a number of programs which will help you in building your profile during high school, some of which are:

- **Universal Programs**
- **Academic Honors**
- **Summer Enrichment**
- **Career Focused**
- **Work Experience**
- **Co-curricular achievements**
- **Extra-curricular activities**
- **Special Skills**
- **Prep Related**

## Universal Programs

Top Universities across the globe offer programs which are:

- Designed by educational experts
- Well recognized globally
- Provide critical exposure

Come and choose from over 150 such programs at Univariety!

1. 21st Century Skills Certification from Brown University (a part of the Ivy League)
2. Driving Creativity through Mathematics, developed by an Internationally renowned Maths professor from US
3. The MHC Shakti Program

### Did you know?

The MHC Shakti Program, is an exclusive program for girls of grades 11 and 12 to build awareness and leadership skills.

Pro Map

## Academic Honors

In order to build on your high school academics, there are specialized academic programs which would help you stand out in your University applications.

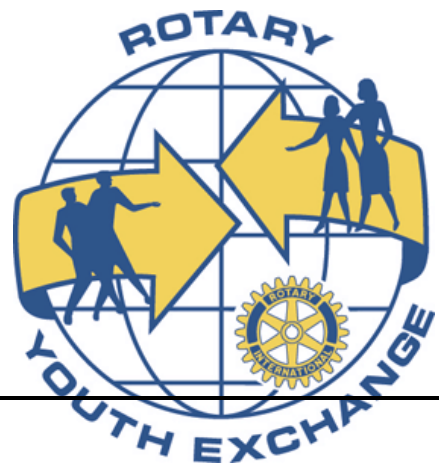
How will this help you?

- By Adding Credibility to your profile
- Builds up Academic forte

A few of the programs that you can attend are:

1. The Advanced Placement (AP) program offered by the College Board. This will help you in earning extra credit from partner Universities.
2. Rotary Youth Exchange
3. National Talent Search Examination

### Did you know?



Rotary Youth Exchanges are for students aged 15 to 19 years and sponsored by over 100 countries!



## Summer Enrichment

Summer Programs offer you an amazing opportunity to know more about your chosen area of interest in terms of course and career choices.

How will a Summer Program benefit you?

- Gives you a chance to explore your interests
- Gets you hands-on-experience and helps in acquiring new skills

Here's a list of a few summer programs for you:

1. Warwick International Foundation Program
2. Berklee Brown Creative Entrepreneurship
3. Aspire India Scholars Program (O.P. Jindal's Summer Program)
4. Symbiosis Summer School

Curious about the Aspire India Scholars Program?

Then click here: [https://youtu.be/lj\\_OGQlyPGw](https://youtu.be/lj_OGQlyPGw)

## Career Focussed

For students who seem to have figured out their career choices, career focussed programs will help you in:

- Boosting your confidence
- Making you better prepared for your career
- Giving your profile an edge over others

A few of the career focussed programs are:

1. Amrita InCTF Junior (Capture the Flag)
2. Fundamentals of Digital Drawing in Photoshop
3. User Experience: The Beginner's Guide

### Did you know?

Amrita InCTF Junior is India's first ever hacking contest for high-school students.



### Work Experience

By interning at an organization, you get 3 value additions for your profile through:

- Gaining work experience
- Better prepared for college courses
- Being paid for your effort

Some of the exciting options for you to work can be:

- Joining a Volunteering organization like UN Volunteers if social causes resonate with you
- Working at a corporate if Business Management is your interest area

Shreeya from DRS International School shares her views on internships:

Link: <https://youtu.be/vKibTisBfes>

### Co-curricular achievements

Your co-curriculars is one of the best ways through which you can show your passion.

This will make your college applications easier as:

- Shows your commitment towards an interest area
- Helps admission officers to know you better

You may consider the following programs to highlight your profile:

1. The Youth Leader Competition
2. The Life Skills & Leadership Program
3. Intel ISEF

### Did you know?

The Intel ISEF is the world's largest international pre-college science competition.



### Extra-curricular activities

Most of us has an artist, dancer, musician or a sports person within us, but did you know that the same can work wonders for your profile if done in a structured manner?

These activities help in identifying the true you, in terms of commitment and self improvement.

A few such activities that can make your profile stronger are:

1. Harmony: Co- Creating Tomorrow Conference
2. ISDS Team India
3. The Green Olympiad

Aashish from DCM Presidency School highlights the need of ECAs during applications:

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27bnoKi0tWk>

## Special Skills

Special skills help in showcasing that you have the grit and determination to learn and the commitment to practise your skills.

You may consider taking up:

1. Voices of Youth (Blogging Platform for High School Students from UN)
2. Trekking Expeditions
3. Taekwondo Training

to build life skills which aid in building a better perspective and situational responsiveness.

### Did you know?



Voices of Youth, established by UNICEF offers internships for children across the globe through which they can strengthen their blogging skills and learn more about the socio-political and economical problems plaguing their community.

### Curriculum wise Non-academic Guidelines

How can you structure your profile to get into that dream college of yours? By just following our suggested timeline in a dedicated manner. You can now build their profiles in a step-by-step manner as you progress across grades while keeping in mind the demands of your curriculum, be it:

- CBSE & ICSE
- IGCSE & CIE
- IB

Let's start with the two major education boards in India: CBSE and ICSE

### CBSE

The Central Board of Secondary Education, also called as CBSE is one of the largest national level boards in India. As per CBSE, the focus has been prominently on academics but it has started incorporating measures like the Health and Physical Education (HPE) program which helps in the overall development of the student.



Image Source: [www.vakilno1.com](http://www.vakilno1.com)

### Did you know?

The Central Board of Secondary Education was established in 1952 by the Government of India.

Image Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)



सत्यमेव जयते

### Non – Academic Guideline for Grade 9 & 10

As the Class 10 Board exams have been reintroduced in the system, the comprehensive assessment brought in place for Classes 9 and 10 have been modified accordingly.

Now the focus is on the following elements for Classes 9 and 10:

- Incorporating time for Health and Physical Education in school
- Developing student profile as an extension of activities undertaken in Classes 6-8
- Dedicating time for studying for Class 10 Board Exam

### Did you know?

CBSE has made the Health and Physical Education subject as mandatory for all students from Grades 9 to 12.



**CBSE makes health, physical education must for Std IX to XII**

*Times of India* - 22-Apr-2018

NEW DELHI: Students from Classes IX to XII of CBSE schools will have to attend a mandatory health education and physical education class ...

**CBSE to make health, physical education mandatory for Classes 9 to 12**

*The Indian Express* - 22-Apr-2018

[View all](#)

### Class 9 & 10

Class 9 is the time of self awareness and to begin work towards building your profile. This accompanies the preparation for Class 10 Board exams.

In order to aid profile building, you may take up the following programs:

- Extra-curricular



- Summer Enrichment
- Co-curricular
- Special Skills

Sports in some form should be incorporated as part of the CBSE curriculum and thus, it gives you a chance to pursue a sport as per their liking. You can also incorporate extracurriculars and co-curriculars which would help you in:

- ❖ Building their profile
- ❖ Managing your schedules better
- ❖ Serving as a breathing space between hectic study schedules

Let's have a look at Samvitha's profile and understand how she pursued her interests and built her profile.

### **Samvitha Ram**

School: American International School

Batch: 2013-2017

College: Princeton

Subjects chosen: Economics, Public Policy

Samvitha undertook the following programs to help build her profile worthy of Princeton:

- Extracurricular: Model UN
- Universal Programs: Community work (founder of an NGO)
- Work Experience: Freelance journalist for the Hindu
- Career Focus: Contributor for Student Magazine

### **Academic Guidelines in India for Class 9 & 10**

#### **Class 9 & 10:**

To assist you to bring in that academic edge to your profile, you may consider:

- Taking up a language course like French or German which can help them apply to specific Universities abroad
- Pursuing courses as a part of Career Focus as per the syllabus:
  - Foundational courses on business
  - MS Office fundamentals
  - Basics of Book-Keeping and accounting
  - Fundamentals of Marketing and Sales
  - Fundamentals of Production and Operations

Jatin from Oakridge International shares tips while preparing for the board exams:

Link: <https://youtu.be/-SYe7lj6HzM>

## Non – Academic Guideline for Grade 11

### Class 11

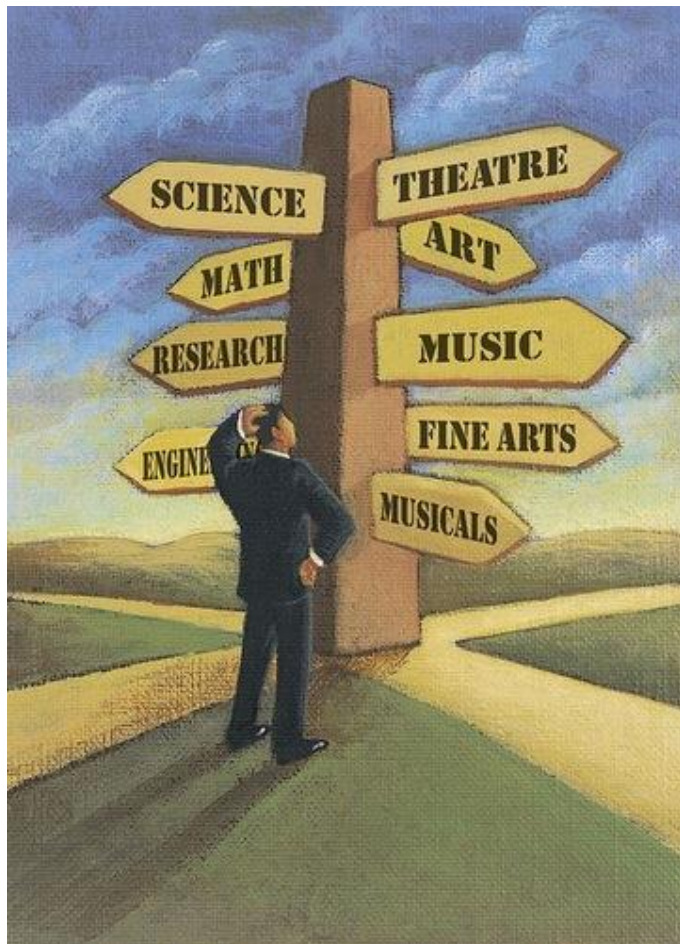


Image Source: [www.youthkiawaaz.com](http://www.youthkiawaaz.com)

Class 11 marks the first step towards making responsible career choices. It serves as a period of transition from middle school to the senior school and as such requires a careful planning to make the best possible use of this year.

During Class 11, you are required to:

- Build your profile in terms of diversity for securing admissions in their dream colleges
- Make course choices in terms of Engineering, Commerce or Humanities
- Attend coaching classes based on your chosen course

Additionally, if you are looking to secure an admission abroad, you need to factor in the following points:

- Shortlisting the country for pursuing higher education
- Entrance tests to be taken like SAT (For US), IELTS (For English

Speaking destinations) etc, and

- Activities to be undertaken while keeping in mind the application process at your dream college

Vidur from Oakridge International shares tips while preparing for entrance exams:

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEOHCvid5kk&feature=youtu.be>

In order to aid profile building, students can take up the following programs:

- Career Focussed
- Special Skills
- Academic Honors
- Co-curricular
- Extra-curricular

Your main goal throughout Class 11th is to build your profile in alignment with your dream college's requirement. Career Focussed programs would help in making you appear more career oriented with a higher level of commitment. By volunteering for NGOs, you will build social sensitivity which is one of the most sought after traits at leading global universities. Co-curricular and extracurricular activities are crucial in showcasing your determination towards a professional domain and towards a personal interest respectively.

Let's have a look at Manav's profile which highlights the need of being an all rounder while applying for reputed colleges like Stanford!

#### Reference to Student Case Studies

##### Manav Aggarwal

School: DPS, RK Puram

Batch: 2017-2021

College: Stanford

Subjects chosen: Computer Science Engineering

Manav undertook the following programs to be Stanford ready:

- Extracurricular: Bobble Keyboard player
- Universal Programs: Pratham Foundation (NGO) volunteer
- Work Experience: Intern at a Gaming firm
- Career Focus: Tech Symposium organizer
- Summer enrichment: Pre-collegiate Summer Program at Stanford

#### Academic Guidelines in India for Class 11

##### Class 11:

By incorporating their academic interests, you can build up their profile further:

- By taking up a specialized certificate online course in your area of interest
- By participating in Olympiads which shows your commitment to excel in your chosen subject area

## Non – Academic Guideline for Grade 12

### Class 12

Class 12 is the finale of your journey in the school and requires a student to take crucial decisions. These decisions cover the following:

- Identifying the colleges to apply for based on the best-fit choices
- Finalizing the test dates for exams like SATs, IELTS, etc.
- Appearing for mock tests for their competitive exams like IITJEE, BITSAT, CLAT, etc.
- Gearing up for the admission process in terms of scholarships, application deadlines, etc.

In order to aid profile building, Class 12th students can take up the following programs:

- Academic Honors
- Universal programs
- Career Focussed
- Co-curricular

Class 12 leaves lesser amount of time at your disposal keeping in mind the timelines for the Board exam preparation, thus the last 6 months can be dedicated for Board preparation.

Akshay from DPS R.K. Puram built a focused profile which ensured his admission to University of Texas, Austin! Let's have a look:

#### Akshay Gupta

School: DPS, RK Puram

Batch: 2016-2020

College: University of Texas, Austin

Subjects chosen: Computer Science Engineering

Akshay undertook the following programs to be Stanford ready:

- Academic Honors: Turing Scholars Honors Program
- Co-curricular: Member of the Aerospace, Maths and Physics Societies
- Extracurricular: Quizzing
- Work Experience: Built multiple commercial apps
- Career Focus: Founded App Dev Studio in School

### Academic Guideline in India for Class 12

## Class 12:

You can build your profile further by building upon your academic interests by:

- Taking up an Academic Honors program to build credibility
- Tacking up your passion with projects or certifications which shows your dedication

Disha from Delhi Public School, Hyderabad shares tips for Board exams preparation:

Link:

<https://youtu.be/Td0i2iWLy00>



## For ICSE

The Indian Certificate of Secondary Education, also called as ICSE is one of the most rigorous and application based education boards within the country. ICSE is a private board with over 1900 schools affiliated to it.

Image Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com>

The pedagogy for Class 9 and 10 in ICSE is very similar as it covers:

- Preparing for the ICSE Class 10 Board

exams

- Allocating time for Socially productive work
- Developing student profile as an extension of activities undertaken in Classes 6-8

## Did you know?

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations was established in 1958 as a replacement to the Cambridge School Certificate Examination!

## Class 9 & 10

For Classes 9 & 10, we have identified the following programs which would help you in building up your profile:

- Summer enrichment

- Co-curriculars
- Extracurriculars
- Special Skills

Kaveri from the International School got into MIT's most competitive course by building up her profile in a holistic manner. Let's have a sneak peak into her profile!

### **Kaveri Nadhamuni**

School: The International School

Batch: 2017-2021

College: MIT

Subjects chosen: Computer Science Engineering

Kaveri undertook the following programs to help build her profile worthy of Princeton:

- Extracurricular: Carnatic Classical Musician. Swimming, Running
- Academic Honors: Boston University RISE Internship
- Universal Programs: Community work (founder of an NGO)
- Work Experience: Created Indata.in; Interned at MIT
- Career Focus: Case studies on Public education and Social Factors in India

## Academic Guidelines in India for Class 9 & 10

### **Class 9 & 10:**

As the ICSE curriculum has 3 sets of Groups from which the students have to pick and choose subjects of their liking, you can use this to your advantage and build a sound profile:

- Group 1: Pick up a language like French, German, Japanese or as provided by your School. A second language helps while applying to universities and shows interest.
- Group 2: You can take up commercial studies or economics if you are inclined towards business and have a knack for it. This will help you in refining your interests for Class 11th.
- Group 3: This set has a more diverse range of courses to pick from. From Arts and Computer Applications to Fashion Designing, these courses can give you a sneak peek into a possible future career.

### **Non – Academic Guideline for Grade 11**

### **Class 11**

Under ICSE, Class 11 is the period of laying the foundation for one's career choices, which is very similar to the case as in CBSE. As the board is accepted across the UK, thus students are not required to take their 'O' level examinations while seeking admission to the UK.

During Class 11, students are required to:

- Manage their time between coaching, schools and profile building activities
- Carefully pick their subject areas of interest out of: Engineering, Commerce or Humanities

In order to aid profile building, you may consider taking up the following programs:

- Career Focussed
- Special Skills
- Academic Honors
- Co-curricular
- Extra-curricular

Amita from Oakridge International got into Stanford, by focusing on her key strengths. Let's have a look:

### **Amita Gondi**

School: Oakridge

College: Stanford

Amita undertook the following program to be Stanford ready:

- Extracurricular: International Squash and National level swimmer; Won multiple tournaments in Under-17 category internationally and ranked No.1 in India in the Under-17 Girls for Squash; Ranked first in India in the girls under-17 category

Stanford looks at a candidate favorably if they are ok in all the parameters but exceptional in one of them. Here, Amita's sports oriented profile brought in that extra edge which helped her to convert a coveted Stanford seat.

### **Academic Guidelines in India for Class 11**

#### **Class 11:**

Just like in CBSE, an ICSE student can:

- Build up his core strengths in terms of language interests or building apps if a student happens to have a keen interest in coding
- Participate in Olympiads to demonstrate his commitment to excel in a chosen subject

Pallove from Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet sharing his views on the importance of ECAs:



Link:

<https://youtu.be/MwcO3imqp0s>

## **Non – Academic Guideline for Grade 12**

### **Class 12**

Class 12 under ISC serves as the finale of your school journey and more specifically in providing the finishing touches to your college application process.

While planning your profile take into account the following critical elements in terms of college application:

- Identifying the best fit colleges to apply for based on calibre and interest
- Finalizing the test dates for exams like SATs, IELTS, TOEFL, etc.
- Applying for scholarships, meeting application deadlines, etc.

In order to aid profile building, you may take up the following programs:

- Academic Honors
- Universal programs
- Career Focussed
- Co-curricular

Under ICSE, you would be required to spend a mandatory amount of time doing community service and undertaking contemporary studies. This will help in your foreign application process at leading global universities which look favorably at the humane and social aspect of a candidate's profile.

By taking part in national level olympiads helps in showing your dedication towards your course be it Maths, Sciences or Business.

Yashna from The Sri Ram School Aravali undertook the following programs to build her profile:

#### **Yashna Batra**

School: The Shri Ram School Aravali

Batch: 2017-2020

College: Claremont McKenna College

Subjects chosen: Economics and Psychology

Yashna undertook the following programs to be college ready:

- Academic Honors: Prayukti Award for lateral thinking

- Co-curricular: Research Assistant, Missing Child Alert Project initiated by SAIEVAC community Outreach
- Work Experience: Developed initiative 'Selflessly Yours'
- Career Focus: Launched the Peace Gong – a children's newspaper

## Academic Guideline in India for Class 12

### Class 12:

Under ICSE students are given a number of electives to choose from, which helps students build their profile in addition to their non-academic interests. As a student you can choose the following programs:

- Opt for a Language course which helps in your foreign applications. For example, the Universite Laval which forms a part of U15 group of Canadian universities, prefers French speaking candidates.
- If taking up advanced level certificate courses in the following areas of interest:
  - Fashion design
  - Art
  - Music
  - Biotechnology

Madhulika from Mayo college Girls School, Ajmer shares her tips on acing the Board exams:

Link:

<https://youtu.be/8RziHDTapsY>

### For State Boards

In addition to the regular CBSE, ICSE and CIE educational boards, each state also has its own educational board which are affiliated to their respective state government. Each of the state based curriculum is unique in a way as there is a special state focus attached to it. The 4 most prominent state boards in India are:

- Maharashtra
- West Bengal
- Andhra Pradesh
- Uttar Pradesh

## **Maharashtra**

The Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher education conducts the Class 10th and 12th exams twice a year. Some of the key features of this state board are:

- Coverage: 21,000+ Schools for Class 10th and 7,000+ for Class 12th
- Student Base: 14 lakhs in Class 12th and 17 lakhs for Class 10th
- Language: Marathi (Class 10th) and Foreign Language (class 12th) are mandatory
- Physical Education is a mandatory part across all Grades

## **West Bengal**

The West Bengal Board of Secondary Education conducts the Class 10th and 12th exams annually. Some of the key features of this state board are:

- Coverage: 10,000+ Schools across the state and even affiliate schools outside the state
- Student Base: 10.5 lakh students
- Language: Class 12th students have to take up 2 mandatory language courses
- Elective choices: Work education, Physical Education and Computers

## **Uttar Pradesh**

One of the oldest education boards in India, the Board of High School and Intermediate Education Uttar Pradesh is also one of the largest examining bodies in the world.

Some of the key features of this state board are:

- Coverage: NA
- Student Base: 60 lakh+ students
- Language: Hindi as a language is a mandatory subject

## **Andhra Pradesh**

Andhra Pradesh Board of Intermediate Education conducts and governs the Intermediate education system in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

- Additionally, Students in senior secondary undergo exams continuously for Classes 11th and 12th for two years which are evaluated at the end of both the years.

For IGCSE and CIE



# CAMBRIDGE

## International Examinations

*Excellence in education*

Image Source: <http://www.themcs.co.za>

The Cambridge Assessment International education, also referred to as Cambridge International is one of the largest and well known education boards in the world.

The certifications and curricula offered by the board vary according to classes, as:

- IGCSE and GCE O-Levels for Class 10th
- CIE-A levels for Classes 11th and 12th

### Did you know?

Cambridge International is the most popular international assessment in the world with more than 6,100 schools opting for it in over 145 countries!



Image Source: [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

## **Class 9 & 10**

Based on the subjects offered under IGCSE, it gives you as a student, scope to build your profile in a much more flexible manner.

The curriculum provides flexibility in choosing subjects and has two types of curriculums: the core (for students expecting grades in the bracket from C-G) and extended (usually taken by academically able students who are expected to achieve top grades).

- Special Skills
- Summer enrichment
- Co-curriculars
- Extracurriculars

By being a part of community service activities, you enable your profile to be diverse. By attending summer programs, you become aware about possible career choices and subjects which you can consider taking up in your A levels.

Anandya from The British School built her profile while focusing on her academic and community service inclination which got her into Yale!

### **Anandya Indawar**

School: The British School

Batch: 2016-2020

College: Yale

Anandya undertook the following programs to help build her profile worthy of Yale:

- Special Skills: Community service
- Academic Honors: School awards

## **Academic Guideline in India for Class 9 & 10**

### **Class 9 & 10:**

As the IGCSE curriculum has 5 groups of subjects to choose from, it gives students a lot of freedom to choose subjects. You may consider taking up the following courses to help you make your profile stand out:

- Group 1: With 30 languages to choose from across first and second preferences, you may consider taking up a language as per your interest area which would help you in future university applications.
- Group 2: With 15 subjects to choose from the Humanities and Social Sciences group, you may pursue subjects as diverse as Geography, Economics, Development Studies to Sociology. These subject choices would help you in becoming more aware about the global scenario.
- Group 3: Sciences under Group 3 gives you an opportunity to earn a double award while taking up the co-ordinated sciences subject.
- Group 4: This is an exclusive subject group for Mathematics with students given an option to choose from Basic, Additional and Cambridge International specific maths courses.
- Group 5: 13 subjects round up the Creative, Technical and Vocational group, with diverse choices to choose from. There is something for everyone in this broad subject selection ranging from Design and Technology to Drama.

### **Non – Academic Guideline for Grade 11**

For Classes 11th and 12th, there is a separate curriculum under the Cambridge Assessment International Education referred as, Cambridge International A-Level Qualification. The A level is designed to help students become:

- Confident
- Responsible
- Reflective
- Innovative, and
- Engaged

Leading universities across the world be it in the US, Canada, Australia or the UK, hold the A levels in high regard.

### **Class 11**

Under Class 11, the Cambridge International AS levels curriculum is implemented. This is usually considered as the first half of the A level examination.

During Class 11, students are required to:

- Choose from a range of subjects across 4 Groups ranging from: Mathematics and Sciences, languages, Arts and Humanities, Interdisciplinary and Skills based subjects

- Build their profiles as an extension of their chosen subjects which also covers practical learning as a part of the coursework
- To prepare for the A2 level exams which they have to appear for within 13 months after completing their AS level exams

In order to aid profile building, you may consider taking up the following programs:

- Career Focussed
- Special Skills
- Academic Honors
- Co-curricular
- Extra-curricular

Students can take up languages as an extension of their O levels and use the same for taking up volunteering work on UN Volunteers. They can also showcase their career interests by taking up internships at organizations. ECAs like music, dance, pottery, etc and co-curriculars like leadership programs help in building critical skills.

Tanvi from Hiranandani Foundation School, Powai sharing her views on the importance of internship:

Link: <https://youtu.be/DjIYdmQfn7Q>

### Academic Guidelines in India for Class 11

The AS levels has a diverse range of subject choices to choose from. This helps students to build their profiles as a super set of their academic requirements.

- Honing on your language skills in French, Spanish or any of the 30 languages on offer, as a part of Group 3 curriculum
- Incorporating Skill based subjects as an elective would help in giving your profile an edge.

### Non – Academic Guideline for Grade 12

#### Class 12

Class 12 marks the Cambridge International's A2 level. During the final year of schooling, you are given the flexibility to complete their A2 levels in broad subject choices spanning from Arts and Humanities to Sciences and Mathematics.

- Appearing for International and national exams like SATs, IELTS, TOEFL, etc.
- Applying for scholarships, meeting application deadlines, etc.

In order to aid profile building, Class 12th students can take up the following programs:



- Academic Honors
- Universal programs
- Career Focussed
- Co-curricular

The A levels gives students an opportunity to earn an AICE diploma as well, i.e. students who take up subjects from each of the 4 Groups. Under A levels, students can take up skill development programs to showcase their profiles in a favorable light for university admissions.

Anirban from Candor International High School, Bangalore sharing his views on college selection:

Link: <https://youtu.be/oWqUjWzN4k8>

## Academic Timelines in India for Class 12

### Class 12:

Similar to the AS levels, even the A levels offers a diverse range of subject choices to choose from. This helps students to build their profiles as a super set of their academic requirements.

- Honing on your language skills as a part of Group 3 curriculum
- Incorporating Skill based subjects as an elective would help in giving your profile an edge.

### For IB

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), is a non-profit board based out of Geneva, Switzerland which offers high quality programs for schools worldwide. Founded in 1968, the IB curriculum has remained as one of the most progressive and creative curriculums in the world.

### Did you know that :

The IB program is currently being offered by about 4,500 schools in 147 countries around the world, serving almost 1.5 million students.

Image Source: [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)



### Did you know?

Image Source: <https://myteacherstogo.wordpress.com>

### Class 9 & 10

Classes 9th and 10th fall under The Middle Year Program (MYP) under IB. This program enables students to make real life connect between the classroom and the external environment. The basic approach of the MYP program is that it focuses on 'learning how to learn'.

The MYP program helps students in:

- Developing communication skills
- Promoting intercultural understanding
- Improving global engagement

The MYP curriculum is designed in a manner that it helps you to develop your profiles in a holistic manner. Through this intensive program, you develop skills for:

- Research
- Critical Thinking
- Collaboration
- Self management, and
- Communication

It becomes imperative that they choose programs and certifications which assists them in building their profile. The following programs can be considered:

- Extracurriculars
- Special Skills
- Summer enrichment
- Co-curriculars

All of these programs help students in developing a global perspective.

Mohit from Podar International, Mumbai his views on internship experience:

Link: <https://youtu.be/uduDLZPRd5w>

### Academic Timelines in India for Class 9 & 10

#### **Class 9 & 10:**

The MYP offers 6 subject groups to choose from across Classes 9th and 10th. In order to promote a diverse profile, you can choose the following:

- Language choice: choose a language as a first subject and opt for a language acquisition of a second language along with its literature.
- Taking up a project work in the chosen subjects so that it helps in their mandatory interdisciplinary unit assessment.

#### **Non – Academic Timeline for Grade 11**

For Classes 11th and 12th, there is the IBDP which is IB's Diploma Program.

Across Grade 11, students can consider taking the following programs to assist them in building their profiles in sync with their chosen subjects:

- Special Skills
- Career Focus
- Extracurricular
- Academic Honors
- Summer Enrichment
- Co-curriculars

These help students to pick up skills which would help them in improving their grades as well. For example, taking an ECA like Dance would help a student to improve her grades in Group 6 subjects. Similarly, taking up a practical project work for Computer Applications would assist the student in scoring higher in Group 4 subjects thus enabling him to take the same subject up a Higher level (HL).

### Academic Guidelines in India for Class 11

Students under the IBDP curriculum have immense number of subject choices to choose from. By taking into consideration the following, they can improve their profiles significantly:

- Honing on your language skills in Spanish, French, Mandarin, etc.as a part of their Group 2 curriculum.
- Taking up diverse subjects like Environmental systems and societies to broaden their perspective and link it with other subjects.

Daksha from Podar International, Mumbai is here to guide us all on the admission process at universities:

Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1fXXUyDom4>

## **Non – Academic Guideline for Grade 12**

### **Class 12**

Class 12 marks the finale year of the IBDP program with a core component included in its grading. It basically involves:

- Theory of Knowledge
- Extended Essay
- Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

Within Class 12, you have to:

- Identify the possible examinations you need to appear for
- Begin your applications for Universities in terms of deadlines, scholarships, etc.

In order to aid profile building, Class 12th students can take up the following programs:

- Academic Honors
- Career Focussed
- Co-curricular
- Extracurricular

Community service as a art of Special Skills hold significance as per the CAS component. ECAs are also given equal importance under CASE which highlights creativity.

Aashish from Podar International, Mumbai sharing tips on choosing colleges:

Link: <https://youtu.be/Nbv1IxjTJx8>

## Academic Timelines in India for Class 12

### Class 12:

Students under the IBDP curriculum have immense number of subject choices to choose from. By taking into consideration the following, they can improve their profiles significantly:

- Honing on your language skills in Spanish, French, Mandarin, etc.as a part of their Group 2 curriculum.
- Taking up diverse subjects like Environmental systems and societies to broaden their perspective and link it with other subjects.

-----End of Module - 02-----

The logo for 'Pro Map' features the word 'Pro' in a grey sans-serif font and 'Map' in a white sans-serif font. The text is overlaid on a light blue, stylized graphic of an open book or a folded map with multiple rectangular panels.

Pro Map