

### Module 3: Do you have what it takes?

Hello again! We hope you have been gaining critical insights into what leading Universities across the world look for and in this module we move one step ahead from Module 2 to look at how a few Indian students made it to their dream colleges.

The question that we aim to address in Module 3 is

**“Do you have what it takes to get into your dream college?”**

The students whom we'll be introducing you with, had one remarkable aspect about their profiles: They ALL head a well rounded profile with a healthy balance of academic and non-academic representation.

**First up are students who made it to the creme-de-la-creme Universities in USA!**



We have Diva Sharma who has proven that its hardcore dedication that can land you at a competitive course at Stanford University.

Let's see what made her profile special.

**Name:** Ms. Diva Sharma

**University:** Stanford University  
(2017-2021)

**Course:** Computer Science and Economics

**School:** GD Goenka Public School, Vasant Kunj (2002-2016)



Now let's see what made her so special:

- **Patent on: A Novel Monitoring Mechanism to Detect Distress in Animals**  
Awarded the National Research Honour Roll by a panel of scientists serving the Central Indian Government
- **TEDxDelhi Speaker**  
Delivered a talk on improving opportunities for young girls in India.
- **Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELFDALF)**  
Awarded by the French Government for proficiency in the French language and for completing Levels A1, A2 with top percentiles

- **Nexus India Summit 2016 Speaker**

Spoke about Project Petsafe, social innovation and scientific entrepreneurship among students to an audience including CEOs of Fortune 500 Companies, highly ranked officials of the United Nations, World Bank and entrepreneurs.

- **CBSE Proficiency Award**

Secured 97.85th Percentile in India in mathematics, science and english.

### Did you know?

**Diva has received the Honour by the President of India for her patent.**



Wow, that's a lot to achieve at such a young age!

Now, let us map her achievements one-by-one to understand how her achievements got translated into valuable key attributes for her University shortlists.

- **Analytical & Reasoning:** CBSE proficiency award ;
- **Deep interest for the course:** Developed a patented technology
- **Innovative:** Patent creator
- **Intellectual Vitality/ Diverse Interest & Experiences:** Researcher; Public Speaking Skills
- **STEM Oriented:** Research oriented mindset while developing the patent

Now let us see how Diva was chosen by Stanford University:

#### **Target Attributes Mapped to University**

**Academic Excellence:** Raw Aptitude, AP course taker,

**Intellectual Vitality:** Research, Public Speaking

**Extracurricular Activities:** MUNs, Debater, Swimmer

**Personal Context:** Gap year student, DELF qualified

Well, that was sure sheer hard work and dedication Diva! Congrats on making it to Stanford.

We now meet Ms. Kaveri Nadhamuni who created history by being the only girl from India to get admission to an undergraduate course at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for its 2017 batch.

Let's have a look at her stellar profile!

**Name:** Ms. Kaveri Nadhamuni

**University:** MIT

(2017-2021)

**Course:** Computer Science

**School:** The International School, Bangalore (2013-2017)



**Now, what her MIT ready? Let's have a look at her achievements**

- **Founder: InData.in**  
Analyzed and collated research findings on public education datasets
- **Boston University RISE Intern**  
Developed a Machine Learning Tool to optimize genetic circuit architectures by finding common sequences of parts in genetics circuits and predicting the success of future circuits.
- **State level swimmer**  
Won numerous awards at the school and state level for swimming
- **Marathon runner**  
Participated in the Bangalore Midnight Marathon (5km)
- **IB Proficiency**  
Secured 44/45 in the IBDP

### Did you know?

Kaveri has been a Top 10 finalist at the National Carnatic Music Junior Examination!

Let us understand how her achievements helped her in becoming the only Indian girl undergraduate student at MIT!



- **Analytical and Reasoning:** RISE Intern
- **Deep interest for the course:** InData.in founder

- **Diverse Interests & Experiences:** Carnatic music exponent
- **Innovative:** Worked on a project which is pending patent
- **STEM Oriented:** Worked on exclusive projects on Machine Learning

In addition, we have mapped out Kaveri's achievements to what MIT looks for, to help you understand the application process:

- **Collaborative and cooperative spirit:** RISE Intern
- **Deep interest for the course:** InData.in founder where multiple studies are shared
- **Hands-on creativity:** Avid learner of Carnatic music with proven merit record
- **Initiative and risk-taking:** Worked on a project which is pending patent

Next up is, Ms. Samvitha Ram who had been selected as an undergraduate student at the prestigious Princeton University which forms a part of the Ivy League.

Let's look at her profile to understand what made her get into Princeton!

**Name:** Ms. Samvitha Ram

**University:** Princeton University  
(2013-2017)

**Course:** Economics and Public Policy and Finance

**School:** The International School, Bangalore (2009-2013)



Well, she has been a consistent academic performer with a range of diverse interests. Let's have a closer look:

## 2) Student achievements

- **Spirit of Community Award**  
Awarded by Parmerica at the National Level
- **Freelance Journalist**  
Served as a Freelance journalist for 'The Hindu', a leading Indian newspaper
- **Valedictorian at The International School, Bangalore**

**Did you know?**



Ms. Samvitha Ram has been a winner of Margaret Sanders(inset) Scholarship for IB Schools.

Samvitha's achievements helped her portray certain key attributes in her profile which helped her to stand out from the crowd.

- **Raw Aptitude:** Class Valedictorian
- **Great Character and Personality:** Margaret Sanders Scholarship for IB Schools
- **Diverse Interests & Experiences:** Model UN participant, Founded an NGO
- **Stretch your Limits:** Freelance journalist at 'The Hindu'

Those same key attributes helped her in becoming a perfect fit for the Princeton community:

**Academically accomplished:** Valedictorian, Premier Scholarship winner, Economics magazine contributor

- **Intellectually curious:** Served as a freelancer at a top Indian newspaper
- **Well rounded:** Margaret Sanders Scholarship for IB Schools
- **Diverse:** Model UN participant

Next up is **India**



First we have, Mr. Arnav Das who made it to one of the top colleges in Delhi University, St. Stephen's College.

**Name:** Mr. Arnav Das

**College:** St. Stephen's College, Delhi University  
(2010-2013)

**Course:** B.Sc. Mathematics

**School:** Delhi Public School, R. K. Puram (2008-2010)

Arnav has been involved in quite a few leadership roles throughout his high school, let's have a look:

- **Chief Editor**  
Served as the Chief Editor at the English Editorial Board
- **Director**  
Served as the Director of the Interact Club
- **Top Scorers at DPS, R.K. Puram**



Now, let us identify the key attributes which helped him in getting this coveted seat at St. Stephen's College,

- **Raw Aptitude:** Board exam score
- **Collaborative and Cooperative Spirit: Handled teams in School**
- **Diverse Interests & Experiences:** Chief Editor at the English Editorial Board
- **Leadership Potential:** Led two diverse teams

When these same attributes were mapped to St. Stephen's desired attribute list, Arnav emerged as a winner!

- **Academically accomplished:** High scorer in CBSE Boards
- **Stretch your limits:** Handled leadership positions in Board Class in Science Stream
- **Social and Communicable:** Team management skills
- **Diverse:** Led Committees across a range of interests

Next up we have Mr. Atishay Garg, who made it to one Sri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) , one of the top Colleges in Delhi University.

Let's have a look at his profile to understand his journey:

**Name:** Mr. Atishay Garg

**College:** Sri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University  
(2016-2019)

**Course:** B.Com. (H).

**School:** Ahlcon International School (2002-2016)

Let's have a look at his vibrant and diverse profile:

- **Secretary General Ahlcon MUN**
- **ICT Leadership Program Participant**
- **Volunteer for Teach for India (TIF)**



Now, let us identify the key attributes which helped him in getting this coveted seat at Sri Ram College of Commerce,

- **Raw Aptitude:** Board exam score
- **Collaborative and Cooperative Spirit:** ICT Leadership Program Participant



- **Diverse Interests & Experiences:** TIF Volunteer, Secretary General Ahlcon MUN
- **Leadership Potential:** Secretary General Ahlcon MUN

When these same attributes were mapped to St. Stephen's desired attribute list, Arnav emerged as a winner!

- **Raw Aptitude:** Board exam score
- **Intellectual:** Secretary General Ahlcon MUN
- **Diverse Interests & Experiences:** TIF Volunteer, Secretary General Ahlcon MUN

(To be added)



Now it is time to view some outstanding profiles of Indian students who chose UK as their study destination.



First up is, Ms Saylee Jangam,

**Name:** Ms. Saylee Jangam  
**University:** The University of Sheffield (2014-2018)  
**Course:** Bioengineering  
**School:** RIMS International School and Junior College (2009-2014)

Now. let's have a look at her achievements:

- **Student Council Member**



Served as an active Student Council member at RIMS International School

- **Model United Nation's Contributor**

- **Cambridge Top Scorer**

Awarded the A level Scholarship

- **Physics Tutor**

Served as a Physics Tutor as an extension to her student role on campus

- **Student of the Year**

Awarded the Student of the Year for overall excellence

Her diverse interests and academic rigour got Saylee a seat at one of Russell group's prominent Universities. Let's see how her skills were right on point to help her convert this coveted seat.

- **Analytical and Reasoning:** Cambridge Top Scorer
- **Great Character and Personality:** Student of the Year awardee, MUN contributor
- **Leadership Skills:** MUN representative, Student Council member
- **Sociable and Communicable:** School MUN team member, Student Council member

Pro Map

Now, let's explore how Saylee's attributes were evaluated by The University of Sheffield:

**Collaborative and cooperative spirit:** School MUN team member, Student Council member

- **Contribution to the community:** Physics Tutor
- **Leadership Potential:** MUN representative, Student Council member
- **STEM oriented:** Cambridge Scholarship winner, Physics Tutor

Next up we have Mr. Divyansh Gehlot whose strong academic and non-academic profile helped him secure an admission to King's College, London.

**Name:** Mr. Divyansh Gehlot

**University:** King's College, London (2014-2018)





**Course:** Computer Science Engineering  
**School:** Delhi Public School (2000-2014)

Now, let's have a closer look at his achievements:

- **School Head Boy**  
Served as an active Student Council member at RIMS International School
- **BBC's Young School Reporter**  
Represented the School at the British Council Global Citizen Meet
- **Quiz Champion**  
Participated in National, District and Inter-School Quiz competitions
- **Student Mentor**  
Served as a Student Mentor as a part of the UK Space Design initiative
- **Symposium winner**

Let's see how his achievements helped him to develop skills sought by top colleges:

- **Leadership and Ability:** School Head Boy
- **Passionate towards interests:** Quiz Champion, Debator
- **Sociable and Communicable:** BBC's Young School Reporter, Student Mentor

Now, let's explore how these attributes of Divyansh were evaluated by King's College, London:

- **Deep interest for the course:** Symposium winner,
- **Diverse Experiences:** Peer educator, Founder of the Global Citizen Society
- **Sociable and Communicable:** BBC's Young School Reporter, Student Mentor
- **Collaborative:** School Head Boy

(To be added)

Now let's move over to Canada and meet students who made it to their dream colleges through a diverse profile.



First up, we have Mr. Aditya Thakore who joined University of Toronto. Let's have a look at it in greater detail.

**Name:** Mr. Aditya Thakore

**University:** University of Toronto (2012-2016)

**Course:** Ethics, Society and Law, Environmental Studies

**School:** B.D. Somani International School (2008-2010)

Now, let's have a closer look at his achievements:

- **IB High Scorer**

Received a score of 42/45 in IBDP with Highest score in Environmental Management in the world

- **Trinity College London Certificate Holder**

Received Drama and Speech Merit and Distinction for Grades 3,4, and 5

- **Volunteer**

Served as a volunteer at S.P.J. Sadhna School. Taught computer skills, chess and other indoor games to children with special learning needs.

Now, let's explore how Aditya's attributes were evaluated by The University of Toronto:

- **Deep interest for the course:** Highest Scorer in the world in Environmental Management
- **Diverse Interests and Experiences:** Volunteer at S.P.J. Sadhna School
- **Raw Aptitude:** IB High Scorer, Trinity College London Certificate Holder

Next we have Ms. Anoushka Thapar, who joined the well known York University. Let's have a look at her profile to know her journey better.

**Name:** Ms. Anoushka Thapar,

**University:** York University

**Course:** Liberal Arts

**School:** Sat Paul Mittal School



Now, let's have a closer look at her achievements:

- **School Topper**

Received a CBSE Class 12 Board Exam Score of 96.75% in the Humanities domain.

- **Gd Pro Junior Second Runner Up**

Received the 3rd Prize at MREI's Communicate to Win and a 7 day workshop with EdTerra

- **Author**

Published a book titled: 'Shades of Silence'

- **Social Project Leader**

Served as the Project Leader for 'Tree of Life', an effort to promote visual arts in schools based out of Punjab

Let's see how Anoushka's achievements helped her to develop skills sought by top colleges:

- **Leadership and Ability:** Social Project Leader
- **Passionate towards interests:** Community project lead for promoting young Punjab based artisans, School topper in Humanities, Author of 'Shades of Silence'
- **Sociable and Communicable:** GD Pro winner, Social Project Lead

Now, let's explore how anoushka's attributes were evaluated by York University:

- **Leadership Potential:** Social Project Leader
- **Deep interest in the course:** School topper in Humanities, Social Project Leader
- **Diverse interest and experiences:** GD Pro winner, Author of 'Shades of Silence'

(To be added)

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## Individual Universities Case Studies

As an extension to our **Module 2** discussion, in this section we will now be looking at greater detail to understand what all does it take beyond your academic profile to get into your dream college.

We will be covering what universities across:

- USA
- Canada
- UK, and
- India

look for in potential applicants.

First up we have USA

Within USA we will be covering the following universities:

- Ivy League
- Ivy League+, and
- Middle Tier

We begin with 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



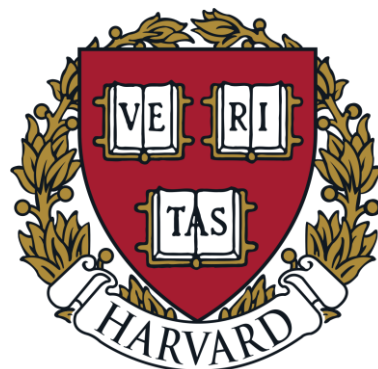
- Dartmouth University
- Cornell University
- University of Pennsylvania.

We will be discussing about a few of them in detail:

So we begin with the University having one of the lowest acceptance rate of 4.4% in the world! Yes, it is Harvard University!

So, what does Harvard take into account while considering potential undergraduate student applications?

Now, that's a TOUGH question to answer, but we have identified a list of 4 criteria on which Harvard assesses candidates:



1. **Growth and Potential:** Assesses if a student is driven and motivated to achieve his or her goals in life.
2. **Interests and Activities:** Evaluates if a student has diverse interests and its application in their everyday life.
3. **Character and Personality:** Explores the different aspects of a student's personality in-depth.
4. **Contribution to the Harvard community:** Assesses if a student will be the right-fit for the pressures and opportunities available on campus.

#### Did you know?

Harvard has an additional Application Tips section in its admission process which helps students to upload their portfolios in the form of research papers, art work , music recordings, etc!

Next, up we have Yale

Yale is known for its liberal arts pedagogy and is one of the top ranked universities in the world.

What does Yale look for in potential student applicants?

It assesses candidates on the following three criteria:

1. **Academic Rigour:** Checks for academic drive and consistency over a period of time which it checks through candidate's teachers' evaluations.
2. **Resourceful:** Evaluates the innate ability of the candidate to make the best possible use of his resources based on his high school experience.



3. **Contribution to Yale Community:** The diverse interests which a student holds, helps in identifying his potential contributions to the community on campus.

After Yale, we move to Princeton, another prominent Ivy League college which has been known for its research and record low acceptance rates.

What does it take to be an undergraduate student at Princeton?  
As per the admission officers at Princeton, they look at the following four main attributes in students:

1. **Academic accomplishment:** Assesses a student's academic record over a range of avenues like high school transcripts, teacher evaluations, competitive scores, etc.
2. **Intellectually curious:** Evaluates how a student has been able to extend beyond his limits through co-curricular activities, internships, work experiences, etc.
3. **Well-rounded:** Explores the candidates skill sets in detail. This includes his leadership skills, collaborative and team management skills, etc.
4. **Diverse Profile:** Princeton evaluates a student's extracurricular activities to gauge his passion and drive to excel.



Rounding up our Ivy League section is Dartmouth College which is one of the oldest educational institutions in the United States. It has been consistently ranked in the Top 10 Universities in the US.

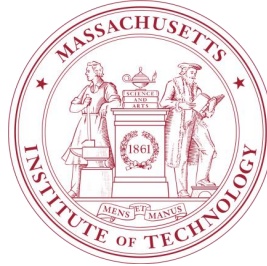
Dartmouth looks at the following parameters while assessing student applicants:

1. **Academic Rigour:** Consistent academic grades signalling improvement in performance are looked at favorably.
2. **Personality and Character:** Assesses a student's internal traits through his passion. This includes evaluating his interests through ECAs, volunteer work, etc.
3. **Diverse Profile:** This includes factors like if the candidate is a first generation applicant, personal experiences, legacy applicant, athlete, etc.





Now we will be moving to Ivy League+ Universities which are at par with the Ivy League in terms of their academic rigor, student exposure 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

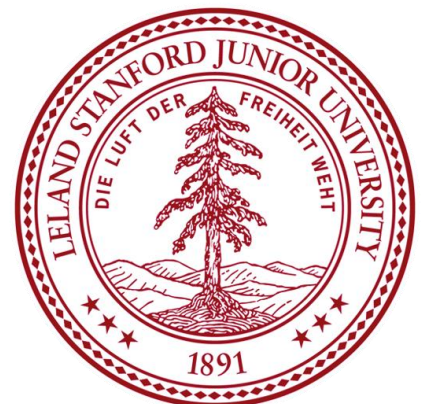
Let's start off with the University that boasts of the lowest selectivity rates in the world at 4.3%, yes even lower than that of Harvard's!

Yes, you got that right, it's Stanford University.

Stanford University is known for its intensive research and proximity to the Silicon Valley and its wide alumni network which makes it as one of the most sought after colleges worldwide!

Stanford has a list of four parameters which it checks for while evaluating candidates:

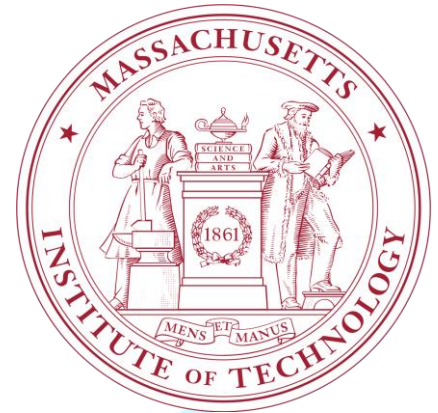
1. **Academic Excellence:** Candidates are evaluated on their high school transcripts, academic performance and potential to succeed.
2. **Intellectual Vitality:** Through this a candidate's ability to initiative and seek out opportunities are gauged.



3. **Extracurricular activities:** This parameter is assessed through the depth of ECAs that the candidate has been involved with.
4. **Personal Context:** A student's family background, life and work experiences and many such factors are taken into account while evaluating his profile.

We all have heard of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, famously known as MIT which is the leading center of STEM oriented research. It has been a consistent name in the Top 10 Universities in the world!

So what will it take for you to land at this coveted college? Well, MIT looks at the following criteria while assessing student applicants for its uber-competitive courses:



- **Initiative:** Helps in understanding a student's drive to excel and how well they have been utilizing the resources available to them.
- **Risk Taking:** Assesses students on their quality of resilience so as to gauge how well they can handle failure as much as success.
- **Hands-on creativity:** Looks at the practical bent of mind and how the student applies the same to real world problems.
- **Intensity, curiosity and excitement:** Helps in evaluating if the student has been exploring things and how deeply rooted he has been with the mentioned activities.
- **Contribution towards the MIT community:** This is an integral part of evaluation as it helps in determining if the student applicant is a best-fit for MIT.
- **Balanced profile:** This parameter helps in understanding how a student handles his downtime especially in school. This is gauged through what he indulges in.

### Did you know?

MIT's motto is 'Mens et Manus' which means mind and hand. This is the driving force behind analytical and application oriented bent of mind in the student screening.

Now let us talk about University of California, Berkeley which is a leading public research university in the world.

UC Berkeley takes into account the following parameters while admitting applicants to its undergraduate programs:



1. **Academic excellence:** This parameter is evaluated through courses taken during high school, SAT/ACT scores, teacher evaluations and essays to name a few.
2. **Personality Traits:** Qualities like leadership, motivation, innovativeness, are judged through a student's ECAs, initiatives for the community, etc.
3. **Diverse Profile:** Intellectual and Creative endeavors like participation in performing arts, volunteering, co-curriculars are looked at favorably.

Next up is Duke university which is a private, non-profit research university which has been a consistent leaderboard star on Top 10 Universities in the US.

Duke looks at the following two major parameters when considering applications for its undergraduate degree courses:



1. **Academic Rigour:** The first benchmark for all the student applicants is to demonstrate their academic credentials through their SAT scores, GPA, coursework selection, etc.
2. **Ability to contribute at Duke:** Through this parameter an individual's fitment is evaluated. ECAs, Social work and other such domains which highlights a student's drive to excel.

That wraps our Ivy League Universities coverage and next we move on to our popular and competitive Middle Tier Universities.

A few of the prominent middle tier universities include:

1. Michigan State University
2. Arizona State University - Tempe
3. University of Southern California
4. Northeastern University – Boston
5. University of Illinois – Urbana – Champaign
6. University of California – Los Angeles
7. Purdue University
8. University of Texas – Dallas
9. University of California - San Diego



10. Boston University
11. Penn State University - University Park
12. University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
13. University of Washington
14. University of California – Berkeley
15. Ohio State University – Columbus
16. Indiana University – Bloomington
17. University of Texas - Arlington

We will be starting off with,

Michigan State University (MSU) is a top ranked public research university.

It looks at the following criteria while evaluating a best fit candidate:

1. **Academic prowess:** Assesses consistent academic performance in high school while taking into account class rank, curriculum, ACT/SAT results, etc.
2. **Talent and Ability:** A student's involvement in ECAs, co-curriculars, volunteer work, etc. helps in understanding his passion and interests.
3. **Personal Profile:** This is assessed on a myriad of factors like: Geographic residence, first generation to attend college, etc.



Next we have the leader in innovation which has left behind Universities like Stanford and MIT, to emerge on top. It is none other than Arizona State University (ASU).

ASU considers the following 3 parameters while assessing undergraduate applications:

1. **Academic excellence:** ASU assesses this parameter through class rank, SAT/ACT scores, high school transcripts, etc.
2. **State Residency:** For applicants belonging from Arizona, considerations are made.
3. **Extracurriculars:** This factor is considered to showcase a candidate's application in terms of his interests and passion.



Now let's shift our attention to Purdue University, which has been a world renowned university in science, technology, engineering and math.



Admission officers at Purdue look at the following criteria while evaluating student applications:

1. **Academic Excellence:** A candidate's overall grade pattern with special focus on courses in which major is intended are looked at closely.
2. **Diverse Profile:** Student's are evaluated on their drive to excel which is showcased through their ECA participations, personality traits, leadership opportunities, etc.
3. **Personal Experiences:** These factors include factors like first generation to attend college, residency, volunteering associations, etc.

### Did you know?

The acceptance rate at Purdue University stands at 57% which makes it a moderately selective college.

Now, let's move to University of Illinois situated in the twin cities of Urbana and Champaign. It is a world leader in research and public engagement.

The University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign considers the following parameters while evaluating a student's application:

1. **Academic Prowess:** A student applicant's scores in SAT/ACT, high school transcripts and essays are evaluated.
2. **Interests and Traits:** Special talents and ECAs are looked at with great detail. These highlight a student's drive and passion.
3. **Personal Profile:** This includes work and internship experiences, ethnicity, class ranks, etc.

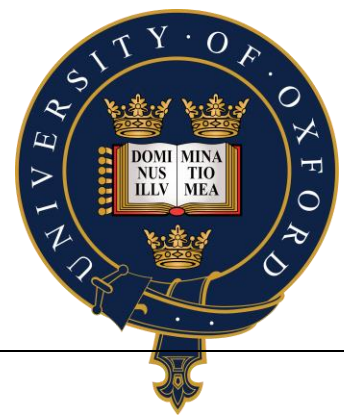


Now, it is time to sail for our next destination across the Atlantic Ocean! It is time to touch shore at UK!



UK has been a land of legacy institutions like Oxford and Cambridge and the prominent Russell Group member Universities and many more.

Let's start off our journey with the Oxbridge group which includes 70 colleges under Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.





University of Oxford is one of the oldest Universities in the world and it still continues to dominate world rankings.

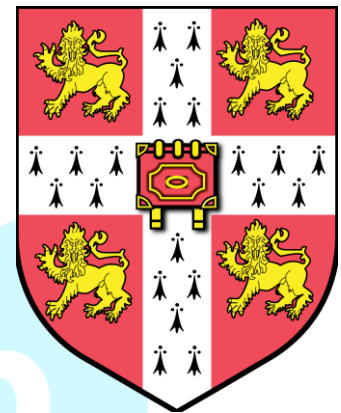
Oxford looks at two broad parameters when it comes to evaluating undergraduate applicants:

1. **Academic Excellence:** Oxford lays the most stress on consistent academic performance and competitive scores when it comes to screening applicants.
2. **Potential to Succeed:** A student's ability and talents are evaluated through their demonstrated application of concepts, passion for the applied course, etc.

Next up is the legendary University of Cambridge which has also been the oldest universities in the world which has been a dominant force in the world university rankings, just like the University of Oxford.

The University of Cambridge looks at the following three parameters when it comes to evaluating applicants for its undergraduate courses:

1. **Academic Ability and Potential:** Cambridge looks for a consistent pattern of excellence in grades throughout a student's high school journey.
2. **Contribution to Community:** Qualities like critical thinking, motivation and self-discipline are evaluated.
3. **Suitability and Enthusiasm:** Passion towards the applied course is looked through a student's essay, interview and performance in subjects chosen during high school.



### Did you know?

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are one of the most selective Universities in UK with acceptance rates at 17.5% and 21% respectively.



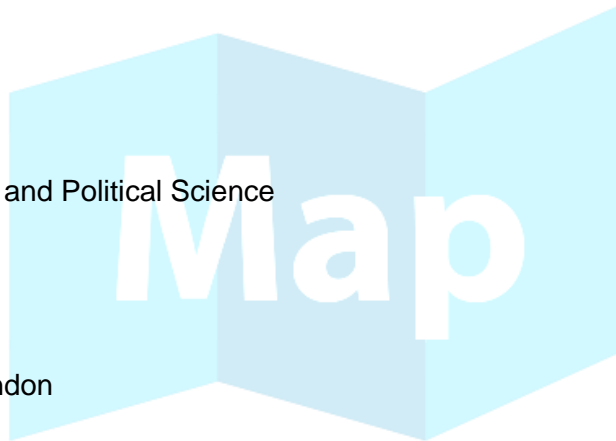


Now let us move to Russell Group

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.

# RUSSELL GROUP

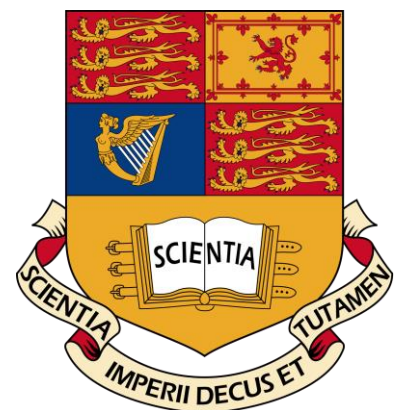
1. University of Birmingham
2. University of Bristol
3. University of Cambridge
4. Cardiff University
5. Durham University
6. University of Edinburgh
7. University of Exeter
8. University of Glasgow
9. Imperial College London
10. King's College London
11. University of Leeds
12. University of Liverpool
13. London School of Economics and Political Science
14. University of Manchester
15. Newcastle University
16. University of Nottingham
17. University of Oxford
18. Queen Mary University of London
19. Queen's University Belfast
20. University of Sheffield
21. University of Southampton
22. University College London
23. University of Warwick
24. University of York



Let us begin our Russell Group conquest with the Imperial College London.

Imperial College London is a public research university offering courses in science, engineering, medicine and business.

The Imperial College looks at the following range of attributes while evaluating applicants:



1. **Academic Strength:** Assesses a student's high school transcripts, grades and essays to know more about a student's academic caliber.
2. **Personal Profile:** A candidate's true passion and interest is showcased through his extracurricular activities, internships, etc. which are looked at favorably.

Next, next up we have the world leader in social sciences and research, the London School of Economics and Political Science, also famously known as LSE.

LSE looks at a range of attributes while evaluating candidates for its competitive undergraduate courses:

1. **Academic Prowess:** LSE looks at a number of parameters while evaluating a candidate's inclination through academic achievements, subjects chosen, teachers' references, etc.
2. **Personal Profile:** through the personal statement, LSE gauges an individual's non-academic interests and how the applicant has been utilizing those for his academic pursuits.



#### Did you know?

The acceptance rate at LSE is 8.5% making it one of the most selective Universities in the world!

Now let's move to Scotland to one of the world's oldest Universities, the iconic University of Edinburgh.

The University of Edinburgh has been a consistent name in the World's Top 50 Universities over the years.

It looks at the following parameters while evaluating candidates for their undergraduate program:

1. **Academic Excellence:** For potential applicants, academic focus remains paramount. This is evaluated through consistent academic grades and teacher recommendations with essay.
2. **Personal Profile:** Highlighting experiences like volunteer work, training, internships and the like can be highlighted in one's personal statement to showcase interests.



Now, let us move over to Wales' premier Cardiff University which is known for its outstanding research output.

The University looks at the following criteria while evaluating students for its undergraduate courses:

1. **Academic Excellence:** Like any other major UK university, Cardiff University assesses a student majorly on their acumen and test scores.
2. **Diverse Profile:** Abilities and Special talents are looked at favorably and can be mentioned in the Personal Statement section during the application.



Now it's time to visit campuses of some of the popular Middle Tier Universities in the UK.

Some of the popular Middle Tier Universities in the UK are:

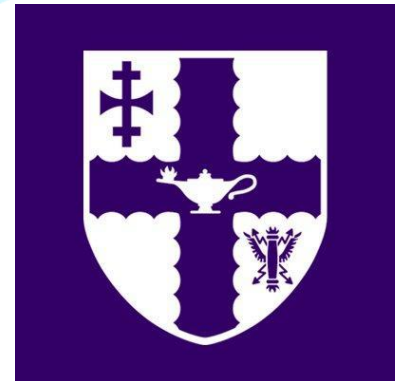
1. University of Bath
2. Lancaster University
3. University of Aberdeen
4. University of Reading
5. Loughborough University
6. University of Leicester
7. University of Sussex
8. Royal Holloway University of London
9. University of Surrey



First up is Loughborough University (LU), which is a public research university in England.

LU looks at the following parameters while evaluating applicants:

1. **Academic ability and potential to succeed:** The University looks at the academic grades, transcripts, research work and portfolio submissions(where required).
2. **Non-academic prowess:** Achievement and ability to exceed in sports is looked at favorably during the application process.



Next, we have University of Leicester, another public research university which features in the Top 200 Universities in the world.

Here's what it looks for in potential undergraduate students:

1. **Academic ability:** Student applicants are required to have good academic records with focus on consistency.
2. **Personal Profile:** A student's passion towards a chosen discipline, ability to excel and passion is gauged from this section.

Let's cross the Atlantic to Canada now, and identify what its leading universities seek out in potential applicants:



Canada has emerged as a leading study destination for applicants around the world. Let us begin our Canadian journey with the U15.



The U15 is a group of 15 public research universities in Canada, known for their research quality.

One of the most sought after universities in the U15 is the University of Toronto, one of the Top 25 universities in the world looks at the following two broad parameters while evaluating student applicants:

1. **Academic excellence:** Candidates are assessed on their high school transcripts, competitive scores in entrance exams, etc.
2. **Personal Profile:** Through ECAs and essay highlighting their experiences, aspirations and passion for the chosen discipline, candidates can showcase themselves as a best fit for the university.



Next up we have, the University of British Columbia (UBC), which has created a name for itself as a global center for research and teaching and has been consistently ranked among the Top 20 public research universities in the world.

UBC looks at the following criteria while evaluating applications for its undergraduate courses:

1. **Academic Excellence:** Scores across high school classes, essay and competitive scores in exams like IELTS are evaluated.



2. **Personal Profile:** UBC holds an applicant's personal profile with high importance as it helps it assess leadership qualities, passion through ECAs and context through life experiences.

### Did you know?

Your Personal Profile helps determine UBC if you are the best-fit to your applied course. This also includes supplemental applications, portfolio submissions or even an audition!

Now we have, the University of Waterloo, known for its quality research output and a prominent member of the U15.

The University of Waterloo looks at two important parameters while evaluating undergraduate applications to its competitive programs:

1. **Academic Rigour:** Scores from SATs and ACTs are evaluated with great detail and this varies across the disciplines being applied to.
2. **Diverse Profile:** This parameter includes evaluation on leadership and social skills through a student's internship, work experience and ECAs.



And it's time for us to wrap up the U15 with University of Western Ontario. It is now referred to as Western University and has been known for its successes in research and teaching.

It looks at a holistic profile while assessing applicants to its undergraduate programs, through:

1. **Academic Excellence:** The University of Western Ontario evaluates a candidate's high school transcripts. Scores from SATs and ACTs are evaluated with great detail and this varies across the disciplines being applied to.
2. **Diverse Profile:** This parameter includes evaluation on leadership and social skills through a student's internship, work experience and ECAs.



Next up in our journey are the competitive Middle Tier colleges which have been known Middle Tier

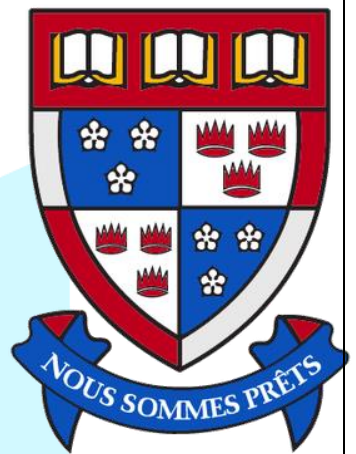
Some of the popular Middle Tier Universities are:

1. Simon Fraser University
2. University of Victoria (UVIC)
3. Concordia University
4. York University Canada
5. Université de Quebec
6. University of Guelph
7. Ryerson University
8. Carleton University

Let us start off with Simon Fraser University, a public research university and a regular name in the Top 300 Universities in the world.

Simon Fraser University looks at the following diverse set of criteria while assessing applicants:

1. **Academic profile:** High school transcripts and competitive exam scores are checked to identify a candidate's english, maths and analytical skills.
2. **Personal Profile:** This includes a candidate's personal situation analysis, community service involvement, rewards, etc.



### Did you know?

The University has a Diverse Qualification program through which it selects up to 10% of its new students based on their excellence in ECAs, sports, etc.

Next up we have the University of Victoria (UVIC), which is one of Canada's oldest and leading research universities.

UVIC looks at the following two criteria while evaluating applicants:

1. **Academic excellence:** The University looks at consistent grades (minimum being 80%) while evaluating applicants in the approved courses.



**University  
of Victoria**



2. **Non-academic excellence:** Through a candidate's participation in ECAs, Sports and a range of other activities, UVIC evaluates leadership skills, creativity, etc.

### Did you know?

UVIC provides an opportunity for students to showcase their diverse skills through its:

1. Supplemental application form to list out ECAs and achievements
2. Resume Template

Coming up is, Concordia University which is Canada's most innovative and diverse universities.

It looks at the following factors while evaluating undergraduate applicants:

1. **Academic prowess:** A strong academic background is considered during high school as well as competitive examinations.
2. **Other considerations:** The University looks at a range of factors with the Personal Interview playing a major role. Involvement outside academic like in ECAs, volunteer service, etc are taken into account during the interview phase itself.



Our last stop on our Canadian journey is York University, a public research university which is also one of the largest in the country.

York University looks at the following criteria while evaluating applicants to its undergraduate courses:

1. **Academic acumen:** Strong academic scores throughout high school and standard exams.
2. **Personal Profile:** This includes evaluating a candidate's leadership skills, participation and awards in ECAs, sports, etc.

Now let's touch base in India and explore the wide range of colleges and their specific criteria.

For India we will be covering the following course specific colleges for easy reference:

1. Engineering
2. Business Management and Finance
3. Medicine and Natural Sciences
4. Arts and Humanities
5. Law
6. Specialized Courses

Now, let us move over to Business Management and Finance,

We will be covering some of the elite colleges which consider more than just academics for undergraduate admissions:

First, we will be covering the Integrated Program in Management by the Indian Institute of Management-Indore (IIM) which is one of the leading Management institutes of the country.

The following criteria are considered while evaluating applications:

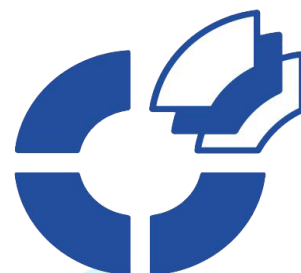
1. **Academic prowess:** Students are assessed on their high school transcripts, competitive score secured in the entrance exam as well as proficiency in subjects.
2. **Diverse profile:** ECAS, Sports and co curriculars play an important part in assessing a student's interest, communication skills, general awareness, etc.

Next up, is Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies (SSCBS), Delhi University (DU) which is one of the most sought after colleges in DU.

SSCBS looks at the following while evaluating applications:

1. **Academic excellence:** This is evaluated through a student's score in the Joint Admission Test (JAT).
2. **Interviews and GD:** This is non-academic and evaluates a student's communicable and social skills along with leadership potential.

Following up is one of the best colleges in Delhi University which is known for its academic rigour and diverse student community. Yes, it is Sri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC)!



सिद्धिमूलं प्रबन्धनम्  
भा. प्र. सं. इन्दौर  
IIM INDORE



1. **Academics:** Class 12th Board Exam results are considered for shortlisting applicants across categories. This is followed by a Group Discussion and a Personal Interview round.
2. **Diverse Profile:** There are reserved seats for students in the Sports category and there is a direct admission for National level sports persons and another one on the basis of sports trials.

This is followed by universities and colleges offering Arts and Humanities which consider diverse academic profiles:

First up is Ashoka University, one of the leading institutions in Liberal Arts education in India.

What all does Ashoka look for in undergraduate student applications?

Well, it is a healthy mix of:

1. **Academic Consistency:** Students are evaluated on a range of parameters here: High School transcripts from Classes 9th to 12th, Essay and Interview.



2. **Personal Profile:** This comprises of in-depth details on ECAs, Sports, Co Curricular achievements as well as a Personal essay.

Next up is St. Stephen's College, one of the top colleges in Delhi University.

St. Stephen's considers the following criteria while evaluating applicants:

1. **Academic Merit:** Students are evaluated on their Class 12th Board exam scores along with a 30 minute aptitude test.
2. **Diverse Profile:** This includes supernumerary seats for students joining in from the Sports category. A trial and an interview are included in this.



Now, it's time for Law! Yes, all you future lawyers out there, listen up!

First we'll discuss about NALSAR's which is one of the leading law universities in India. It looks at a range of criteria while evaluating the student applications:

1. **Academic Scores:** The Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) score serves as the only source for entry into NALSAR.
2. Courtesy **Interview** with the VC of NALSAR.



Next up is Symbiosis Law School, Pune which is one of the Top 10 Law Universities in India.

It looks at the following parameters while assessing student applicants:



1. **Academic Rigour:** The SLAT (Symbiosis Law Entrance Test) score is considered for shortlisting student applications.
2. **GD and Personal Interview** are conducted to evaluate a student's critical thinking, personality and communication skills.

Now we have a special section on Architecture, Fashion and Journalism:

First let's discuss a bit of Fashion which is undoubtedly the realm of National Institutes of Fashion Technology (NIFTs). These are the leading colleges when it comes to fashion and design.

NIFT looks at the following while evaluating applications:

1. **Academic Rigour:** Scores from General Admission Test and Common Admission Test are considered.
2. **Diverse Skills:** Portfolio submissions are evaluated for creativity, observation and passion.

Next, for our aspiring journalists we have Symbiosis Institute of Media & Communication located in Pune.

It looks for the following while evaluating candidates:

1. **Academic excellence:** Symbiosis entrance Test (SET) scores are used for shortlisting candidates. This is followed by a written ability test.
2. **Additional skills:** Studio test and Personal interaction are evaluated to know a candidate's personality.

For Design we have the National Institutes of Design (NIDs) which is the leading Design college in the country.



NIDs look at the following while assessing applicants:

1. **Academic Excellence:** The Design Aptitude Test (DAT) score is used to shortlist candidates.
2. **Personal Skills:** Candidates creative, social and communication skills are evaluated through sketching, model making, presentations, GDs, etdc during their studio test. Post this, a personal interview round evaluates a candidate's overall personality.

The logo for 'Pro Map' features the word 'Pro' in a grey sans-serif font and 'Map' in a white sans-serif font. The 'Map' is superimposed on a light blue, three-dimensional geometric shape that resembles a folded map or a stylized cube.

Pro Map