

Consider facilities before selecting foreign varsity

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What is so attractive about a degree from a university abroad? For many of us who have opted for one, it is perhaps not the degree alone, but the entire experience of studying and living overseas that is attractive.

With so many universities across the world to choose from, how then does a student make a decision? It is important to consider universities that are reputed for the research and teaching quality they offer in the subject of your choice, and universities whose entry require-

ments are compatible with your profile.

At the same time, every student must consider the facilities the university offers, his or her budget, funding assistance offered, location of the university, and future prospects of the degree.

When choosing a university, it is also a good idea to seek the advice of alumni.

Once you have shortlisted universities, it is important to make a strong application. Ensure that you have followed instructions when filling out

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the application form, you have included any application fee that may be required and all supporting documents have been attached.

Marksheets, certificates, English language test results, other test scores (for example, the GMAT/GRE/SAT), recommendation letters, personal statements, and essays, are just some of the documents required.

As you wait for your offer letters to arrive, look into accommodation options. Most universities guarantee university accommodation to international students if they book a place before the deadline. If you are considering private accommodation, it is important to consider factors like safety, location, utility costs, provisions (furniture, kitchen equipment like a microwave and refriger-

ator, a washing machine etc), and flat/house mates, in addition to the rent and location.

Finally, remember that if you are indeed offered a place at a university abroad and you do decide to take it up, this could well be a once-in-a-lifetime-opportunity.

Not everyone can experience life in another country, not simply as a tourist, but as a resident, and you must therefore make the most of your stay! Explore the new culture, travel the new country, eat the local food, make friends, and all the

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while budget well, make use of the resources the university offers, and most importantly, study hard, because if you perform well, you'll go a long way!