



US and Canada

Finding fit and busting myths

St. Edward's School
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Make the
destination
part of your
education

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33 years at elite schools,
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Degrees from US and UK
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Two children who have
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Congratulations to our class of 2025



Aberdeen	Emory	Marist University	SCAD	
American University of Paris	Erasmus University College	McGill	Seton Hall	
Aston	ESADE	Michigan	Sheffield	
Bangor	ESCP	Michigan State	SOAS	
Bath	Exeter	Navarra	Southampton	UC San Diego
Bocconi	Fordham	Newcastle	Southampton Solent	UC Santa Barbara
Boston College	Forward College	Northeastern	SP Jain London	UC Santa Cruz
Boston University	Georgia Tech	Northeastern London	St Andrews	UCL
Bristol	Goldsmiths	Nottingham Trent	St Mary's	UCLA
British Columbia	Greenwich	NYU	SUNY Binghamton	UNC Chapel Hill
Brown	Harvard	Occidental	Surrey	University College Dublin
Brunel	IE University	Oxford	Sussex	University of Arizona
Cal Berkeley	IED Barcelona	Oxford Brookes	Swansea	University of Georgia
Carnegie Mellon	Indiana Bloomington	Penn	Syracuse	University of Southern California
Case Western Reserve	John Cabot	Plymouth	Tampa	University of the Arts
Chapman	Kent	Pomona	Toulouse Business School	University of Toronto
Chester	King's College London	Purdue	Trinity College Dublin	University of Vermont
City St George's	Kingston	Queen Mary	TU Eindhoven	UT Austin
College of William & Mary	Lancaster	Queen Mary University, Malta	Tulane	Vassar
Connecticut College	LCI Barcelona	Reading	U Florida	Villanova
Creative Arts	Leeds	Regent's	U of East Anglia	Wake Forest
Dartmouth	Loughborough	Roehampton	U South Florida	Warwick
Derby	Loyola Marymount	Rollins College	U Virginia	Washington University, St Louis
Drexel	LSE	Royal Holloway	U Wisconsin-Madison	Wesleyan
Durham	LUISS	San Diego State	UC Davis	Williams
Eckerd	Lynn	Santa Clara	UC Irvine	Worcester
Edinburgh	Maastricht		UC Merced	Yale
EHL	Manchester		UC Riverside	York
	Manchester Metropolitan			



College in the USA is different

It's a bit like football





It's a different game
and you need
to know the
rules



We all want good options...



... but what do we mean by 'good'?

Reiterated by Lee Coffin, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, Dartmouth College: "Admissions Beat," podcast March 2023

Academic Fit

- › Grade Eligibility
- › Capacity to cope
- › Desire to challenge yourself
- › Writing Ability
- › Core/G. Ed Program
- › Teaching styles



FIT



What does it really mean?

Community Fit

- › Motivation Levels
- › Residential Life
- › Extra-curriculars
- › Values
- › Missions
- › Religious
- › Political



Class Fit

- › Personality
- › Character
- › How you will combine with the rest of the admitted students





Academic structures

Are you applying to a university with only one undergraduate college?

Are you applying to a university with two-four undergraduate colleges?

Are you applying to a university with many undergraduate colleges or where you apply to a specific major?

Are you applying into a niche programme?

ALL OF THESE ARE DIFFERENT THINGS TO BE APPLYING FOR, AND WILL THUS IMPACT THE ESSAY YOU WRITE (AND YOUR REFERENCES)

Standard Curriculum

1/3 time on
General Ed.
Distribution, writing,
quantitative skills,
including humanities,
arts and PE.

Open Curriculum

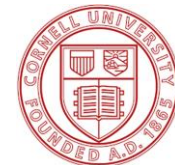
100% your choice
of courses, no
required classes

Structured Curriculum

Common set
of classes every
undergraduate takes
regardless of your
intended major

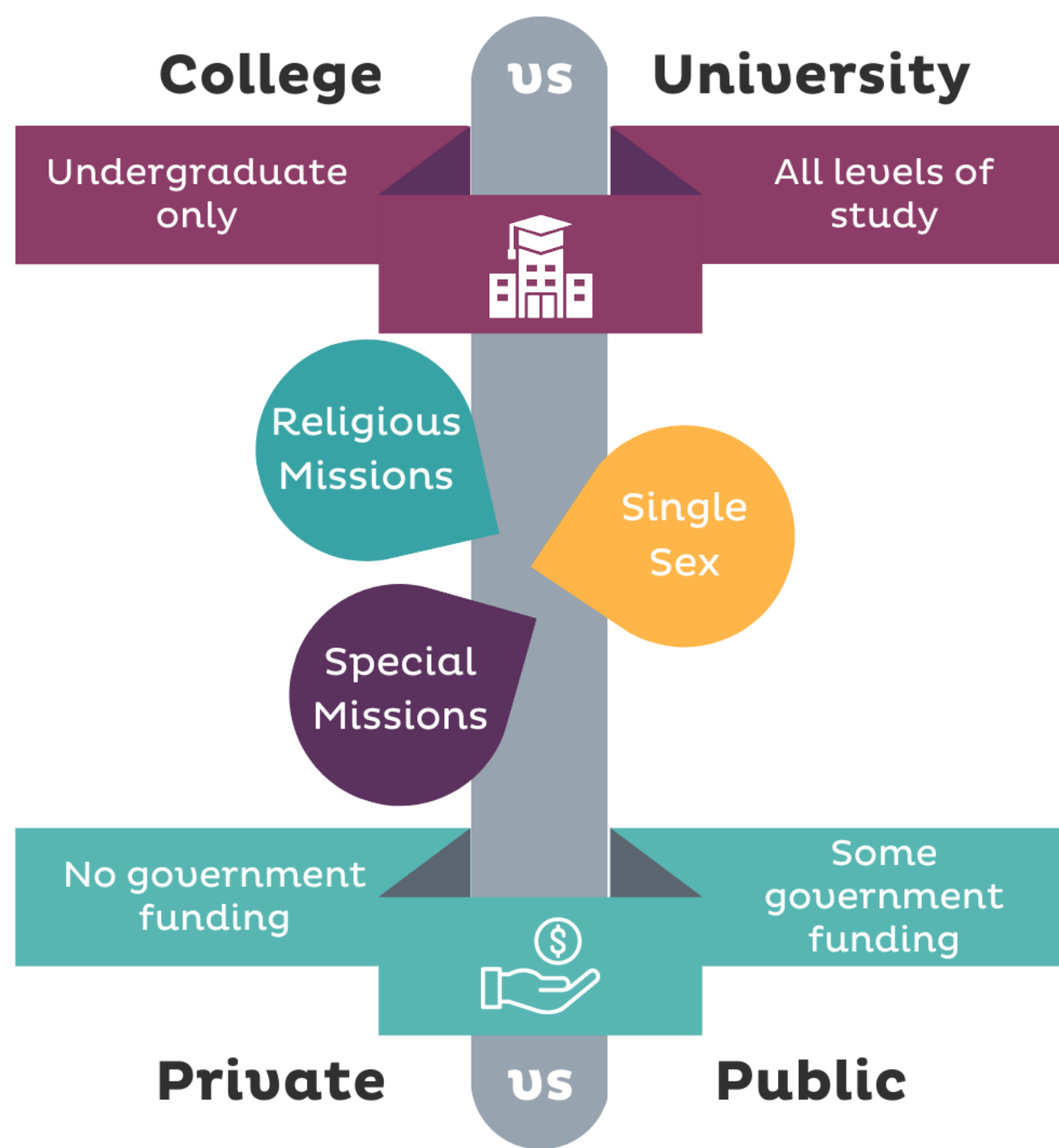
Specialised Curriculum

**Required courses are
dependent on your
major,**
but will still include
some classes outside
your main subject
interest



University Culture





College Size



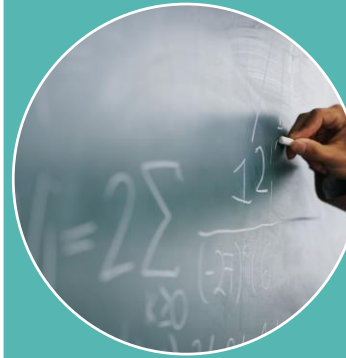
Availability
of classes



How much
variety of
classes



Size of
classes



Who is
teaching
the classes



Ability to
participate
in extra
curriculars



Residence
life





Other things to consider



One undergraduate college? Or lots of undergraduate colleges?

Additional Experiences: Co-op, Study Abroad, Community activities



Assessment and evaluation: Pass/Fail, Grades, Narrative, Exams, Coursework



Living Learning Communities



Part of a consortium



Honour Code

Spot the difference



From USC

What is your favourite snack?

Dream trip?

Best movie of all time?

What TV show will you binge watch next?

Dream job?

Favorite book?

If your life had a theme song, what would it be?

Which well-known person or fictional character would be your ideal roommate?

From Yale

What inspires you?

You are teaching a new Yale course. What is it called?

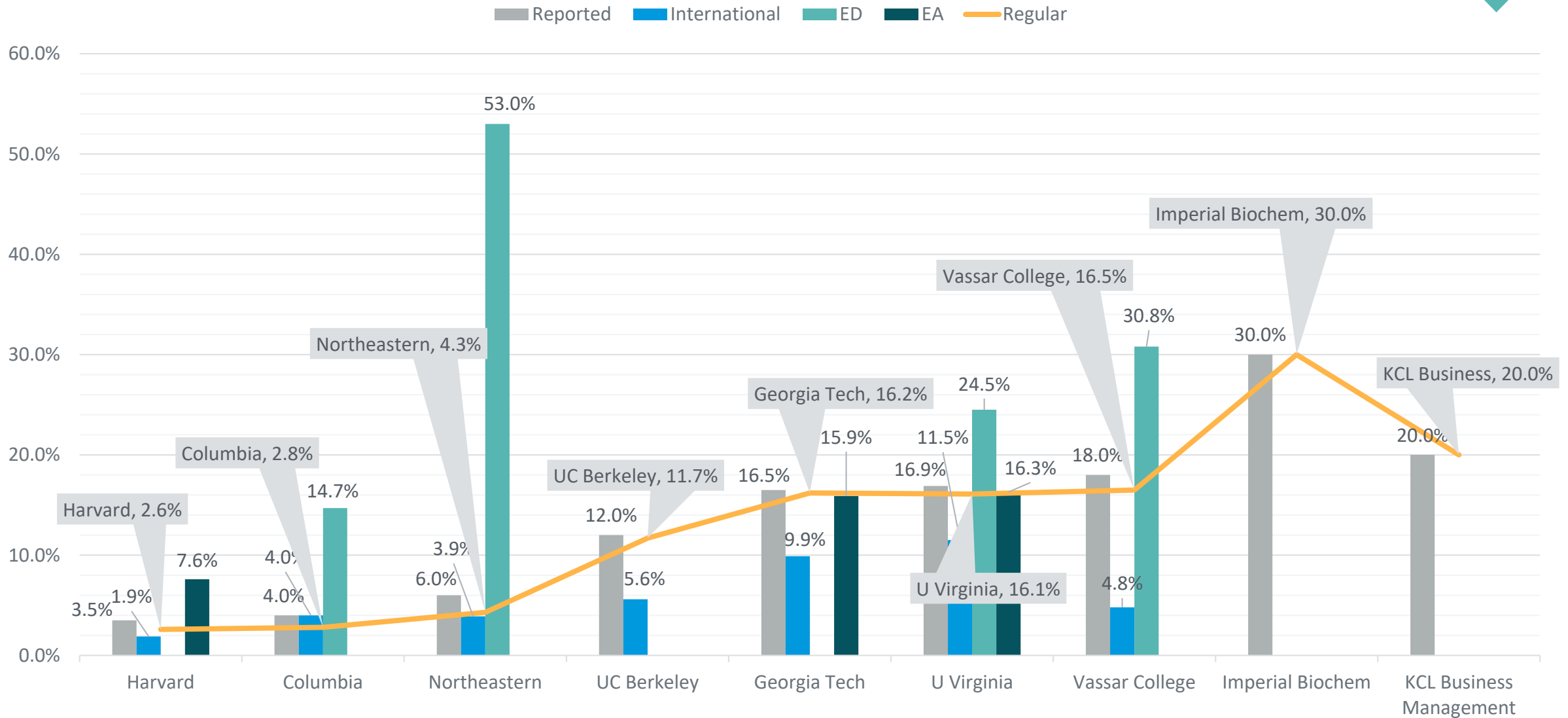
Yale's residential colleges host conversations with guests.

What person, past or present, would you invite to speak?

What would you ask them to discuss?

What is something about you that is not included anywhere else in your application?

Differential admit rates



From the UK, 256 students applied to join MIT. 67 were in Early Action and the rest were regular. Overall, only 1 student was admitted Early (a 1.5% admit rate) and 6 more in regular – the overall UK admit rate was 2.7%.





Shortlist: Cornell, Northwestern, Georgia Tech, Stanford, Duke, Johns Hopkins, NYU, U Penn, U Michigan, Rensselaer Tech, Purdue

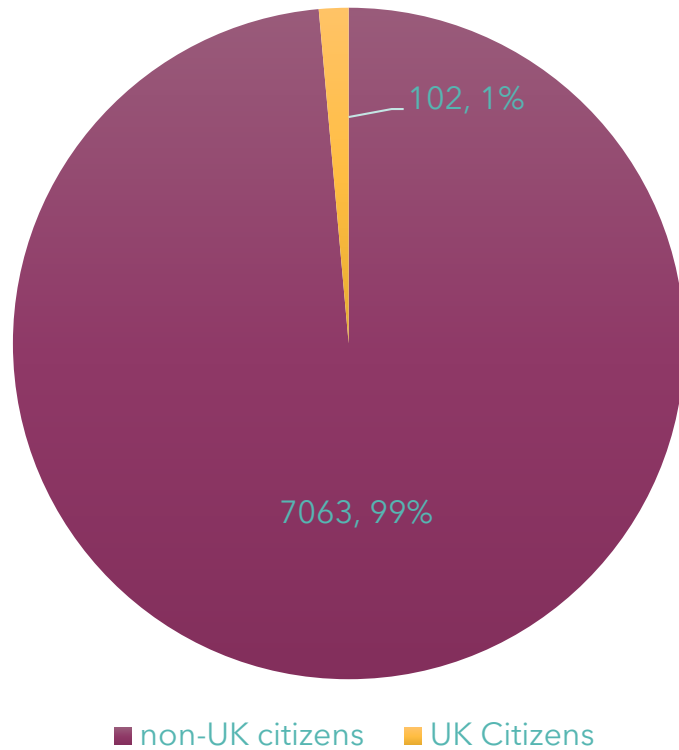


Workload: 26 pieces of supplemental writing

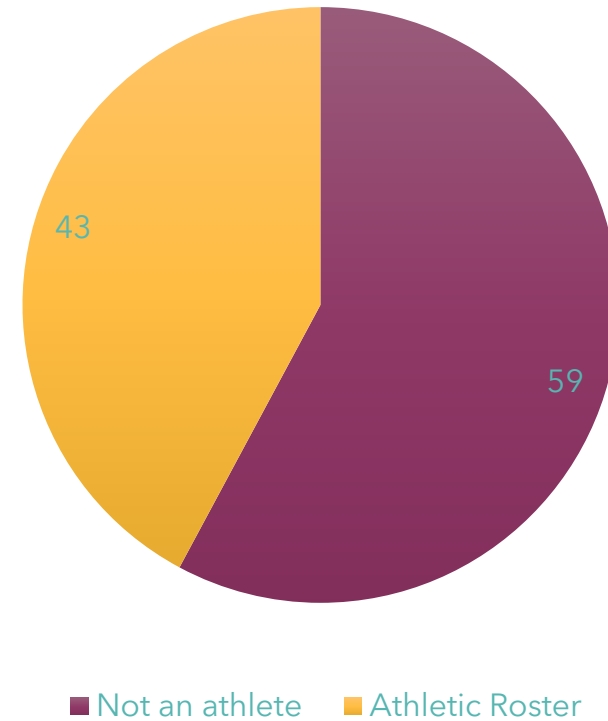
University	Length	Question Summary
Georgia Tech	50-300 words	Why do you want to study your chosen major specifically at Georgia Tech?
Cornell	Single words	What 3 words best describe you? What three words would you use to describe Cornell Engineering
Cornell	Max 350 words	Explain how your life experiences will help inform your contributions to a learning community devoted to "...any person...any study." We encourage you to think broadly about your life experiences, including how local (e.g., family, school, neighborhood) or global communities you've been part of have helped shape your perspective.
Cornell	Max 250 words	How do your interests directly connect with Cornell Engineering? If you have an intended major, what draws you to that department at Cornell Engineering? If you are unsure what specific engineering field you would like to study, describe how your general interest in engineering most directly connects with Cornell Engineering. It may be helpful to concentrate on one or two things that you are most excited about
Cornell	Max 250 words	Choose either Question A or Question B. * Max 250 words Question A: Describe an engineering problem that impacts your local community. This could be your school, neighborhood, town, region, or a group you identify with. Describe one to three things you might do as an engineer to solve the problem. Question B: Diversity in all forms is intrinsic to excellence in engineering. Engineering the best solutions to complex problems is often achieved by drawing from the diverse ingenuity of people from different backgrounds, lived experiences, and identities. How do you see yourself contributing to the diversity and/or the inclusion of the Cornell Engineering community? What is the unique voice you would bring to the Cornell Engineering community?
Purdue	Max 250 words	How will opportunities at Purdue support your interests, both in and out of the classroom?
Purdue	Max 250 words	Briefly discuss your reasons for pursuing the major you have selected.
Rensselaer Tech	Max 300 words	Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences.
Rensselaer Tech	Max 250 words	Why are you interested in Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute?
U Michigan	Max 300 words	Choose one of the communities to which you belong, and describe that community and your place within it.
U Michigan	Max 550 words	Describe the unique qualities that attract you to the specific undergraduate College or School (including preferred admission and dual degree programs) to which you are applying at the University of Michigan. How would that curriculum support your interests?
U Penn	150-200 words	Write a short thank-you note to someone you have not yet thanked and would like to acknowledge.
U Penn	150-200 words	How will you explore community at Penn? Consider how Penn will help shape your perspective, and how your experiences and perspective will help shape Penn.
U Penn	150-200 words	Please share how you hope to explore your engineering interests at Penn.
NYU		We are looking for peacemakers, changemakers, global citizens, boundary breakers, creatives and innovators - Choose one quote from the following and let us know why it inspires you; or share a short quote and person not on our list who inspires you, and include why.
JHU	Max 300 words	Tell us about an aspect of your identity (e.g. race, gender, sexuality, religion, community, etc.) or a life experience that has shaped you as an individual and how that influenced what you'd like to pursue in college at Hopkins.? (This can be a future goal or experience that is either academic, extracurricular, or social)
Duke	Max 250 words	What is your sense of Duke as a university and a community, and why do you consider it a good match for you? If there's something in particular about our offerings that attracts you, feel free to share that as well.
Duke		Up to 2 questions from prompts on Perspective, Intellectual experience, Beliefs & Values, Bring Different, Orientation, identity, expression
Stanford	Max 50 words	What is the most significant challenge that society faces today?
Stanford	Max 50 words	How did you spend your last two summers?
Stanford	Max 50 words	What historical moment or event do you wish you could have witnessed?
Stanford	Max 50 words	Briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities, a job you hold, or responsibilities you have for your family.
Stanford	Max 50 words	List five things that are important to you.
Stanford	Max 250 words	The Stanford community is deeply curious and driven to learn in and out of the classroom. Reflect on an idea or experience that makes you genuinely excited about learning.
Stanford	Max 250 words	Virtually all of Stanford's undergraduates live on campus. Write a note to your future roommate that reveals something about you or that will help your roommate – and us – get to know you better.
Stanford	Max 250 words	Please describe what aspects of your life experiences, interests and character would help you make a distinctive contribution as an undergraduate to Stanford University.

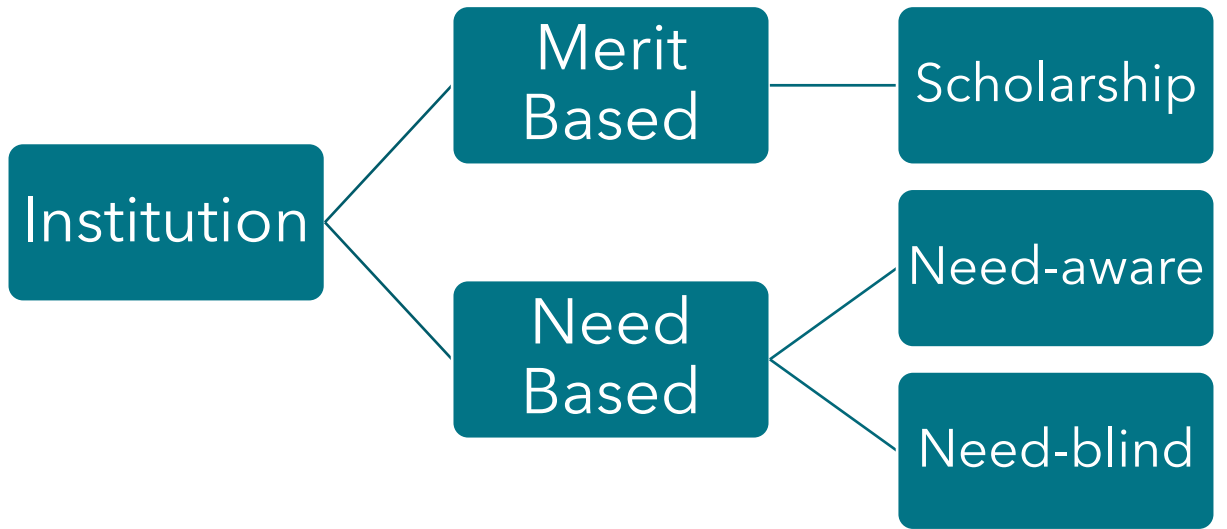
The **role** of sports

Number of UK citizens in UG
at Harvard (24/25)



UK educated students on the UG
athletic rosters at Harvard (24/25)





Money

- Scholarships may have a separate application process and/or earlier deadline
- The cost of tuition, accommodation and living varies a lot

Canada





Key features

- Broader than the UK, narrower than the US
- US-style campus culture
- Straightforward applications, predictable outcomes
- Cheaper than the USA

Choosing a university

When choosing a university in Canada, emphasis is on the right fit, rather than ranking

No official ranking system in Canada. Public education system ensures high quality across the board.

You will find all types of universities in Canada: larger, more research-intensive institutions and smaller, primarily undergraduate institutions.

Students select universities based on location, size, program, etc.



Number of Students at Top-Five Universities by Country



Created with Datawrapper

Source: Jeff Selingo via LinkedIn



Top 5 Canadian Universities



*Top-Ranked U.K. Universities Needed to
Match the Number of Students at the Top 5
Canadian Universities (11)*



*Top-Ranked U.S. Universities Needed to
Match the Number of Students at the Top 5
Canadian Universities (25)*



So,
what's
next?



Which is the best vehicle?



Boeing 747



Scooter



Bus



Sports Car



The Tube

Your Academic Experiences so far

- › How do you learn best?
- › What community suits you?
- › Which assessment styles work best for you?



Extra-curriculars

- › Sport, volunteering, work, internships...What have they taught you about yourself?



Super-Curricular

What do you enjoy reading, watching, listening to or doing beyond your schoolwork?

- › Taster Lectures
- › Books
- › Articles
- › Podcasts
- › Projects



Reflect



Conversations

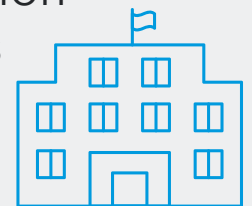
With your adviser, parents, teachers, peers, current students, and institution staff



Visit

Go visit and see what it feels like to be there

- › Open Days / House
- › Tours
- › Student for a day
- › Information Session
- › Summer Schools



Know what you are applying for

Curriculum

Model (Open,
Standard, Dist.)
Teaching style
Subjects
Structures



Identity

Values
Missions
Politics | Religion



Campus Life

Size
Residency
Activities



Academics

Subject interests
Curiosity
Experiences



Identity

Values
Qualities
Passions, Goals
Things that have
shaped you



Experiences

Experiences
Achievements
Skills
Life Events



Know what you want to show



Services for ▾

Pricing

About

Events

Knowledge ▾

Contact



**We'll help you navigate the different processes,
timelines and terminology when applying to
universities abroad**



FAQs



Guides



Podcasts



Webinars



Success Stories



Our website has lots of
information to help you
on your way



theuniversityguys.com

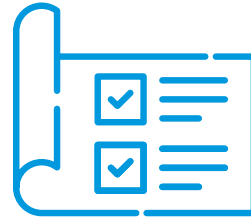


Our three step process



Explore

Where in the world
do you want to apply?



Prepare

Depending on your choices,
what do you need to do to be
able to apply?



Apply

Make sure that every element
of your application works to
your advantage.

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