STUDY ABROAD

A SPECIAL YOUTH SUPPLEMENT BY
The Daily Star
DHAKA SUNDAY AUGUST 20, 2023
BHADRA 5, 1430 BS
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EXPLORE. DREAM. ACHIEVE.

AN IN-DEPTH GUIDE TO STUDYING ABROAD

ILLUSTRATION: **FAISAL BIN IQBAL**

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UNLOCKING GLOBAL HORIZONS: How students can pursue new subjects abroad

SABIL SADAT ZAHIR

When it comes to academic pursuits, be it undergrad or postgrad, there are always some common pathways most people opt for. The usual engineering, medical, or business degrees do have their own merits, as they provide a promise of career stability. However, more unconventional fields have opened up, offering opportunities for students looking to invest in things they are genuinely passionate about rather than sticking to the usual fields.

At present, these alternative subjects have seen a surge in demand. Among the subjects students could consider, Data Science and Analytics is one of the more lucrative majors. Graduates in this subject can find employment in fields including marketing, finance, and healthcare amongst others.

ILLUSTRATION: **ABIR HOSSAIN**

For students interested in a field related to healthcare, Health Informatics is a field which applies data analytics and data management to develop the medical industry. Graduates in this sector can work in advancing healthcare technology, improving patient care, and streamlining medical procedures.

With the need for digital data protection on the rise, cybersecurity has also become an expanding field which offers a plethora of career opportunities. Students studying in this field can learn various skills like systems programming and analysis, computer networks, ethical hacking and much more.

Last but not the least, Environmental Science and Sustainability is a major which ensures graduates can work in fields such as renewable energy and conservation, policy development, and sustainable urban planning. Environmental Science is a vast and flexible field which encompasses a lot of topics like sustainability science, conservation biology, and the general study of how diverse physical and chemical processes interact with nature.

These subjects are merely the tip of the iceberg when it comes to alternative career possibilities. But why should students consider such alternative subjects?

Abu Miraz Khan Chowdhury, who is currently doing his Master's in International Hospitality Management at Edith Cowan University, Australia, said, "Pursuing unconventional majors can be a rewarding choice for students. These less-travelled paths can lead to exciting and niche career opportunities that align with individual passions and talents. They often bring fresh perspectives to industries and contribute to innovation."

"I chose to pursue a Master's in International Hospitality Management at ECU, due to a combination of my passion for hospitality and my aspiration for a global career. The hospitality industry has always fascinated me with its dynamic nature, where every interaction and detail contribute to creating memorable experiences," he added.

Various factors result in students feeling hesitant to pursue such unconventional majors. There is often a limited job market for fresh graduates in some of these fields, especially in the context of Bangladesh, as traditional subjects tend to have more established positions ready. Furthermore, many students in Bangladesh still have to deal with conforming to societal expectations and are often discouraged from pursuing non-traditional careers. However, there are several ways to subvert and overcome these obstacles.

Student consultancy agencies such as H & I Council are working to aid aspiring students to pursue their academics abroad by providing academic counselling and application support, as well as various other help such as aid in visa application and networking.

H & I Council can also advise students and help them make better decisions owing to their skilled and knowledgeable counsellors. They are equipped with vast knowledge – so much so that they can thoroughly inform prospective students about the many facilities of colleges associated with H & I Council. Such commitment makes them the right pick for students who strive to pursue alternative college degrees. It is a one-stop solution to stay ahead in the competitive sphere of applying to universities abroad.

"We are committed to supporting students in pursuing alternative subjects by providing a comprehensive range of services and facilities tailored to their unique academic and career aspirations," said Rabiul Hossain, Chief Executive of H & I Council.

In regards to the importance of academic counselling, Nafisa Ulfat, currently doing her Bachelor of Business Studies at Sunway University, Malaysia, said, "I researched myself and sought guidance from H & I Council's counsellors. They took note of my previous academic background, my interests, and also checked my financial situation. Later, they shortlisted some options for me and asked me to choose. I took advice from my parents. My advice for students will be to start your research and prepare well in advance. Do proper financial planning and stay organised. This will help you submit complete and timely applications."

Sufficient research, analysis, and career counselling can help students find the right alternatives to study abroad. Of course, there are many other factors to bear in mind, but the world is a place of limitless possibilities and students should always try to discover new fields which may expand upon their passion.

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Helping students with CULTURAL SHOCK

FATIMA JAHAN ENA

Moving abroad for academic pursuits can be a daunting, but nevertheless exciting, experience. The shift comes with its own set of unique challenges, ranging from the stress of obtaining a visa, finding suitable living accommodations, managing finances, homesickness, and so on. One challenge that many students face is adjusting to foreign cultures without letting the cultural shock hinder their journey.

Experiencing cultural shock in the process of adjusting to a foreign country comes with its own set of emotional, psychological, and social hindrances. While it may be a transformative and exciting experience to leave behind the familiarity of home, it can often leave a lasting impact on the student's journey of obtaining their desired educational degrees in their country of choice.

This is where educational agencies can provide students with much-needed support. While it may be common knowledge that such agencies can help students with their application process, they can also extend their services to aid in the adjustment period to mitigate the cultural shock that may impact students' lives.

One such agency is AHZ Associates, which has become renowned for the services it offers to students who aspire to study in the UK. With its headquarters in London, AHZ Associates has been providing assistance to students in different countries across the globe, including Bangladesh, for the past 12 years, with the help of 550 UK graduate experts and partnerships with over 140 universities. The agency provides free educational counselling, which is an invaluable resource for students who may be confused about international applications, finding the right university, applying for scholarships, etc. Additionally, AHZ Associates provides help throughout every step of the application process to ensure a seamless pathway to studying in the UK.

Given AHZ Associates' strong foothold in the UK, the agency serves as an ideal conduit for helping students not only get accepted to their dream universities in the region but also help them adjust to life in the UK. For students hailing from Bangladesh, the shift in cultural norms, values, and dynamics may be incredibly jarring when students first enter the UK. Therefore, AHZ Associates ensures that the help that they offer simply does not end once the student is accepted into a university, but rather it carries forward to ensure that the students can become properly assimilated into the foreign land.

For international students, financial restraints can often hold them back from assimilating abroad. Consequently, this leads to hindrances into what could be a transformative and enjoyable experience of independence and discovery. AHZ Associates' dedicated focus on helping students obtain scholarships in the UK eases some of those burdens so that the shock of students being on their own is alleviated.

Aporajita Ali Abanti, who is pursuing a Master of Science degree in Accounting and Finance at the University of Dundee, shares, "I am grateful to AHZ for helping me choose the right university in the UK, as well as the student visa application process. Most importantly, I am grateful to my advisor for encouraging me to apply to the University of Dundee in the first place, for which I was able to secure a scholarship of 8,000 pounds."

One of the factors that contribute to the shock of moving abroad for education can be attributed to the isolation that comes with it. Therefore, having a familiar face in a new country can help students to have a smoother adjustment period without experiencing the loneliness.

Afifa Mustari joined Bangor University in Wales for a Master of Arts degree in Business and Marketing in the January 2023 intake session. Regarding her experience with AHZ Associates, she shares, "My advisor completed the processing in just two months and honestly speaking, I did not have to face many hassles in running around, trying to finish all the work. My advisor was always available for communication over the phone as well. I have my visa now, along with a work permit, and my spouse will be joining me, too. It was hard to imagine that I would be able to get such an opportunity with my husband. Even if a lot of money is involved, chances like these are hard to come by. Everyone has been very supportive."

For international students, financial restraints can often hold them back from assimilating abroad. Consequently, this leads to hindrances into what could be a transformative and enjoyable experience of independence and discovery.

While experiencing cultural shock may be an unavoidable aspect of pursuing education abroad, the right tools, resources, and support can definitely help the aspirants to navigate these murky waters. Therefore, the support given by educational agencies, such as AHZ Associates, plays a crucial role in not only helping the students attend their dream universities but also going above and beyond to ensure that they can adjust to their new life. In doing so, students can hope to thrive both academically as well as socially in new countries and expand their horizons.

ILLUSTRATION: **FAISAL BIN IQBAL**

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The increasing necessity of FOREIGN ADMISSION EVENTS

AYAAN SHAMS SIDDIQUEE

In recent years, the prospect of pursuing one's higher education abroad has grown tenfold, with numerous Bangladeshis boasting success stories in top-ranked universities around the world.

However, a huge demographic of potential applicants still struggles with kick-starting their application process due to a lack of concrete information. Given that applying abroad is a slippery slope that involves a heap of components, lots of people are still unclear on how to get started. It doesn't help that every country has their unique application procedure either, each with its own set of hurdles.

This is where admissions fairs and events come in and play a vital role.

To make information more accessible and convenient for the general masses, admission fairs bring representatives from several institutions into a shared space so that potential applicants can connect with them. Since they're held both virtually and in person, students and their parents can sit down with the representatives to discuss the prospects of each institution, which enables them to widen their college list and gain more first-hand knowledge regarding the admission process.

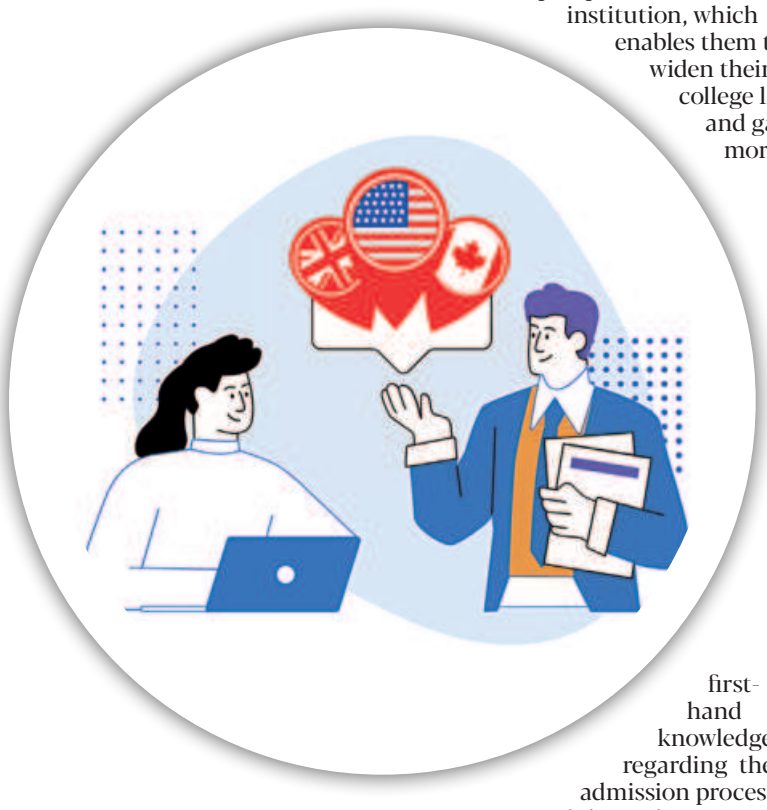

ILLUSTRATION: ABIR HOSSAIN

Eduko Pathways Bangladesh, one of the most popular education consultancies in the country, has been arranging education events like this to aid applicants throughout their journey.

According to Qazi Yamin Kabir Tushar, Chief Marketing Officer, Eduko Pathways Bangladesh, the multinational company's biggest selling point lies in their active pursuit to keep their services and offerings free of cost.

"We believe that there shouldn't be a cost barrier to accessing information, which is why we offer everything from peer counselling to VISA processing support at no cost," he said.

He added, "The fact that Eduko operates as a single hub that can provide you with all the necessary details to create plans catered to your specific needs makes our services extremely desirable to students."

Meanwhile, one of Eduko's most impactful initiatives is their regular admissions events. Over the last two and a half years, they have successfully hosted two major education expos, both of which were held at The Westin Dhaka. Both events were lauded by students, caretakers, and educators alike for being wonderful events for academic and social leverage.

Furthermore, Eduko Pathways Bangladesh hosted one of the grandest foreign education expos the country has seen on August 18, titled "Study Abroad with Eduko 2023". The event, which was also held at The Westin Dhaka, offered students a platform unlike any other to explore and learn about over 90 universities from countries like the USA, Canada, Australia, Malaysia, etc. Entry to this education expo was free of cost.

"Bangladeshi high school, Bachelor, and Master's students connected with a pool of top-notch foreign universities and got offered their next pursuit of academic journey at the event. This was a great opportunity to socially connect with the academic world and also open up newer doors for oneself to studying and living abroad across the globe," informed Qazi Yamin Kabir Tushar.

One might think that these events only serve as an outlet for people to gain valuable insights into the institutions they had their eyes on, but in reality, they have so much more to offer. Students can get their academic and extracurricular profiles assessed on-spot by representatives and esteemed faculty members to understand which programs can best suit their needs.

They can also get their financial situation evaluated to figure out which universities offer the best scholarship and aid packages. Additionally, they can even check to see if they are eligible to be granted generous scholarships.

Qazi Yamin Kabir Tushar believes that these events provide exclusive support to applicants who otherwise wouldn't receive it in any other way.

"Being able to talk to representatives and admissions officers face-to-face and in-person is a completely different playing field than if you communicated over email or scheduled an online call with them," he emphasised.

"Conversations flow much more naturally when you can see each other's facial expressions and body language, and can talk informally. You can take up some of their time to address your or your guardians' concerns regarding a particular university's housing facilities, extracurricular opportunities, and even entertainment provisions!"

Alyina Ahmed, who got into the University of Waterloo in Canada with an Entrance Scholarship, spoke volumes in favour of the positive impact Eduko Pathways' services had on her application process. Having attended virtual expos herself, she believes that more people should take notice of such events.

"Although the events I attended were virtual, they allowed me to connect with speakers from my universities of choice and learn about their application cycles, available scholarships, and specific courses. Connecting upfront and increasing your social network lets you broaden your university search much more, and I would encourage prospective applicants to attend such events if they can," she remarked.

Attending admissions fairs and events can have a profound impact on an applicant's long and strenuous journey. Therefore, if you're someone who is preparing to apply abroad soon, these events should definitely be on your radar.

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The indispensable role of VISA CARDS for Bangladeshis studying abroad

A CORRESPONDENT

Studying abroad is a dream come true for many Bangladeshi students seeking to acquire world-class education, broaden their horizons, and enhance career prospects. However, the journey of going abroad for higher studies is not without its challenges. While problems such as language barriers and cultural adjustments might come to mind, managing one's finances in a new country and currency might also be an area that needs planning and forethought.

Tuition fees, cost of living, accommodation, leisure activities and other miscellaneous costs can be overwhelming for students and their families to plan for. Despite the availability of scholarships and financial aid, fierce competition and limited opportunities often make it challenging for all deserving students to secure adequate funding to cover multiple types of expenses. In this digital age, having a credit card that not only works abroad but can also be credited from Bangladesh is a major boon for any prospective students seeking higher education in foreign countries.

Credit cards with strong benefits and propositions, such as the ones offered by Visa, provide a convenient and secure mode of payment for students living abroad. Since the card can be used for everything from accommodation expenses to everyday living costs and even tuition fees, carrying a card instead of dealing with large sums of cash eliminates cumbersome currency exchanges and the fear of theft. With a reliable card, a student doesn't need to rely on foreign exchange, which they need to arrange for beforehand so as to avoid rate fluctuations but often at a loss when converted to Bangladeshi Taka.

Furthermore, countries like the US, the UK and Australia - popular destinations for Bangladeshi students - are developed nations that have become a cashless society in their own right. Any Bangladeshi who has lived there will know that cash is barely used in most shops and stores and often even discouraged. Instead, locals and expats alike depend on a debit or credit card issued by a local bank. However, if you are a Bangladeshi student arriving in a foreign country for the first time, it will take some time for you to open a bank account and obtain a locally issued debit card. So, what does one do?

ILLUSTRATION: **FATIMA JAHAN ENA**

This is where having a credit card issued by a bank in Bangladesh, like a Visa credit card, is highly beneficial. With most educational institutions and businesses accepting Visa cards globally, students can make transactions without worrying about the safety of their money. Considering that getting a brand new debit or credit card requires opening a new bank account in a completely new country, a lot of time and patience is required. Compared to opening a bank account after reaching one's destination, a Visa card is a valuable alternative to immediately make cashless payments.

A Visa card is also especially helpful for students who are worried about tuition fees and similar charges associated with their higher education. Even if you have approved documents and the visa for the destination country, there might be additional costs like application fees, course registration, and study materials to purchase. A Visa credit card can help students seamlessly go about their expenses without having to worry or wait for means of expenditure for such transactions.

Visa cards provide invaluable monetary support even after a local card is obtained. For example, if the student needs to travel to other countries or needs to conduct transactions in transit, for instance, or a coffee at a stopover airport, a Visa card will provide more flexibility in spending, over a card strictly meant for use in one specific country. A Visa card is also a clutch tool in tackling unforeseen emergencies and can cover insurance fees, book hospital appointments, and even fund plane trips in case the student needs to travel from and back to their homeland.

Traveling to a new country for education can be daunting - leaving family and friends to pursue a life of dreams and passions. When a student aspires to and fulfils their dream of education abroad, transactional concerns should be the least of their worries and having a Visa card serves not just convenience but can become a necessity.

These credit cards offer ease of payment, security, and accessibility for various financial needs, whether it's tuition, travel expenses, or everyday spending. They also offer competitive foreign exchange rates and enhanced security features, further adding to any student's convenience. All these features make Visa cards an indispensable addition to any Bangladeshi student attempting to go abroad for higher education and aspiring for their many dreams.

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DISCOVERING NEW HORIZONS

Country spotlights for study abroad aspirants

When considering the challenges faced by students aspiring to study abroad, the first things that come to mind are academic challenges. One might suggest financial challenges, or the difficulties in acclimatising to harsh alien conditions outside of their home environment.

ADRITA ZAIMA ISLAM

Recently, many Bangladeshi students are choosing to complete their higher education abroad. Countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada have always been popular destinations for Bangladeshi students. However, nowadays, students are looking into other places, like Japan, Hong Kong and Malaysia, in their search for quality education at an affordable cost. Universities in the aforementioned countries and beyond are not only welcoming to Bangladeshi students, but they offer a variety of merit-based scholarships and need-based aids to high-achieving students, making a foreign degree even more achievable.

However, despite the abundance of opportunities, many students fail to take advantage of them because they lack the information needed to apply to these universities. Knowledge about the application process is still not widespread, and even students, who have the required knowledge, become daunted by the procedure.

Applying for higher studies abroad by yourself can be a very intimidating prospect. Keeping track of what the application process is like for different countries and what the requirements are for specific universities is certainly tedious. Finding a university that is a good fit for you, academically and financially, can also be difficult. But that doesn't have to be the case.

Educational consultancy services like MACES can simplify the university application process and provide all the necessary information for applying abroad.

Although MACES started out with a partnership with only a single university in 2007, it has rapidly evolved into one of the largest educational consultancies in Bangladesh. By 2023, it established connections with over two hundred universities worldwide. In the past, MACES has successfully helped students enrol in prestigious universities in the US, Canada, Australia, Malaysia, Japan and the UK.

"With seventeen years of experience under our belt, MACES is fully equipped to help aspiring students find the country and university which fits them the best," says a representative from MACES.

The MACES counsellors are well-trained individuals who themselves have personal experience studying abroad. They are fully aware of what it is like to study away from home, what it can be like to adjust to a new situation in a new culture, and what difficulties may arise for students abroad. Thus, the counsellors can not only provide students with a comprehensive guide on applying to a university, but they can also ensure that students understand what the experience will be like.

Going to a new place is also difficult to get used to, and students often get anxious when travelling alone for the first time. At MACES, they help the students secure accommodation and give them helpful tips surrounding the university or location they are going to.

A wide range of services is provided by MACES, and all of it is free of cost for study abroad aspirants. Guidance counselling for university applications is also available. Counsellors are always ready to provide any necessary help for filling out applications.

Beyond that, counsellors also help select a suitable country, university, and program based on information provided by students. Factors such as the student's personal wants regarding future plans, desired area of study, overall academic profile, financial stability and conditions, English proficiency test scores and standardised test scores, travel history, etc. are taken into account when matching a student with a university and/or program. The criteria required by a university and a student's criteria for their desired study abroad experience are both taken into account during the matching process.

As a certified centre for English proficiency testing, MACES can provide all the information and help students need to prepare and sit for English proficiency tests like IELTS and TOEFL. MACES is also open to reviewing statements of purpose and other essays compulsory for university applications. If a student is seeking scholarships, MACES will also guide them through the processes of university-specific scholarships and financial aid applications.

Once a student secures an interview with a university, MACES will prepare the student to answer questions with utmost proficiency. A student who is admitted to a university can continue to receive help from MACES in the form of visa services and pre-departure preparation. If students need to make any last-minute changes, MACES can help in communicating the student's needs to the university.

Besides consultancy sessions, MACES also arranges one of the biggest annual educational fairs. Here, representatives from numerous universities help students assess their profiles against the respective university's requirements.

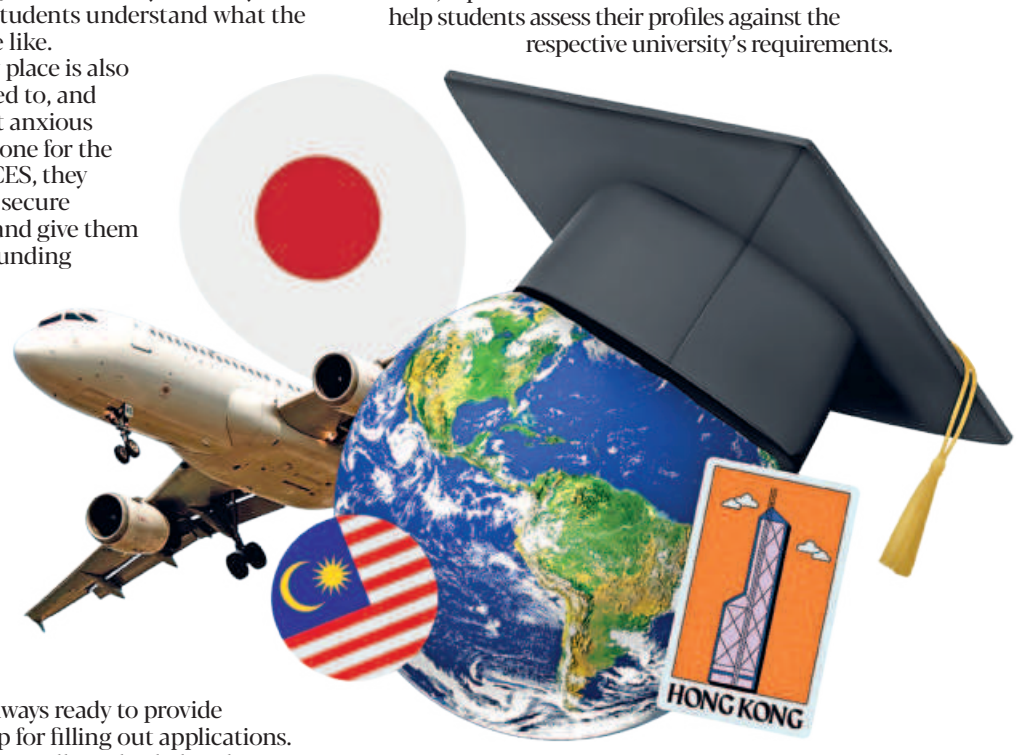

ILLUSTRATION: **ABIR HOSSAIN**

Students who have received help from MACES in the past swear by its helpfulness. Maliha, a recipient of the Developing Solutions Scholarship, says, "MACES has been my eye-opener and everyday go-to with all the help I needed while my application was being processed."

Addressing the questionable reputations of educational consultancies, she says, "Usually, we think such agencies are not trustworthy, but MACES has changed my perception about this idea."

"MACES is genuine, and the counsellors actually know things related to studying abroad well," says Amimul, a student studying at Tokyo International University on an 80 percent scholarship.

MACES is a unique educational consultancy that provides services perfectly catering to a student's needs. They are warm and welcoming to all aspirants and are prepared to walk students through all the nitty-gritty of the admission process.

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Navigating the Road to Success

WITH IELTS AND STUDYUK SCHOLARSHIP

NAHIAN JAMAL JOYEETA

Language proficiency often determines academic and professional success in today's globalised world. The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) validates international opportunities for students and professionals. This powerful synergy between the IELTS Programme at the British Council in Bangladesh and the StudyUK Scholarship provides a path for individuals to turn their aspirations into reality. The British Council has been updating their services catering to the soaring number of students seeking higher education in the UK and other countries.

IELTS: Paving the Path to Global Recognition

The importance of a globally recognised test of language proficiency cannot be overstated in this age of widespread international travel and communication. IELTS, developed by leading experts in the realm of language assessment, meticulously evaluates an individual's reading, writing, listening, and speaking capabilities. With its acceptance spanning over 11,000 institutions across 140 countries, IELTS serves as a testament to one's language proficiency on the global stage.

The British Council Advantage: Elevating the IELTS Experience

While embarking on the journey to conquer IELTS might initially appear daunting, aligning with the British Council Bangladesh elevates the experience to an exceptional level. In 2021, 35,000 people took the IELTS exam across the country, and in 2022, that number jumped to 100,000. The British Council's success can be attributed in part to their commitment to providing their customers with a wide range of study materials, multiple test formats, and round-the-clock support.

Both the "IELTS Ready Premium" and "Road to IELTS Full Version" packages provide extensive preparation materials. This package gives students everything they need to improve their vocabulary, take practice tests, get detailed feedback from subject matter experts, and feel ready for the test. However, when it comes to education, the British Council does not simply follow a rulebook; rather, they believe in taking a more comprehensive approach. WordReady, an online resource made for personalised vocabulary learning, is provided free of charge as part of their initiative to better prepare students for the exam.

Amplifying Your Preparation: A Multifaceted Approach

The British Council provides support that goes beyond providing resources because it recognises that effective preparation necessitates an approach that encompasses multiple dimensions. Candidates are given permission to access a variety of free practice tests, which can be found online at takeielts.org/prepare. Those who prefer tangible study aids can order the IELTS Practice Book, which contains sample tests for both the IELTS Academic and General Training exams.

Flexibility and Convenience: A Tailored Experience

The British Council allows applicants to select between paper-based and computer-based exams to accommodate a wide range of learning styles. Since there are a variety of options, candidates can pick the one that best suits their needs in terms of learning style and ease of use.

The British Council also has seven carefully chosen testing sites across Bangladesh, which helps with the logistics. Each location is carefully selected to provide candidates with the most comfortable and convenient conditions in which to demonstrate their skills.

Expertise and Integrity to Direct Your Path

The British Council's dedication extends far beyond the details of exam preparation. Staff with extensive training and experience are committed to ensuring a smooth testing experience for all applicants. Their friendly professionalism creates an atmosphere where candidates feel at ease to give their best performances.

Each candidate is given five complimentary Test Report Forms (TRF) because they understand the importance of the test scores to the candidate's future. This helpful provision allows applicants to send their scores directly to up to five schools of their choosing at no extra cost.

The IELTS Prize - A winner's tale

Soabiba Soad, a 21-year-old student at Uppsala University, is a shining example of the kind of person whose life the IELTS Prize 2022 could help. Soabiba's aspirations have expanded from self-actualisation to altruism in light of the alluring IELTS Prize 2022. From the excitement of applying for the IELTS Prize 2022 to the elation of being named the winner, Soabiba's journey, in her words, was "transformative and a whirlwind of emotions."

"Winning the IELTS Prize 2022 ignited newfound confidence in my English skills, leading me to embrace various competitions. This surge of optimism reshaped my outlook, fostering greater optimism and hope for the future," adds the awardee. This surge of confidence transcended language proficiency, as she envisions a future abounding in opportunities, both personal and professional, with fortified resilience.

Championing Dreams with The StudyUK Scholarship

The StudyUK Scholarship acts as a guiding light for individuals who have their sights set on a career in the United Kingdom. The scholarship provides students with academic guidance and helps them navigate UK higher education. The StudyUK Scholarship is modelled after programmes in the United Kingdom that have produced successful graduates and offer essential advice for beginning an academic journey as well as pre-departure briefings to ease the transition.

Charting a Course to Boundless Horizons

The British Council's commitment to aspirations is unwavering, with IELTS as the gold standard for language proficiency and the StudyUK Scholarship guiding UK-bound students. The resources provided by the British Council enable individuals to pursue their dreams and discover a world of boundless opportunity where their dogged determination to succeed determines their ultimate fate.

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Making your university application STAND OUT

AAQIB HASIB

Applying to study abroad can be a daunting process. Whether it is having to gather all the necessary documentation on time, writing your statement of purpose (SOP), or the plethora of other steps required.

When you take into consideration the hundreds of thousands of people who apply every year for undergrads, it is crucial to make your application stand out among the rest. Coupled with the fact that application processes and priorities vary from country to country, even changing up from university to university, it is vital to have things figured out before you set out on the journey of going abroad.

So, in order to better gauge an understanding of what to keep in mind when applying, we sat down with Education Hub, an organisation known for providing unique and innovative study abroad solutions.

According to Education Hub, a standout college application has several key qualities that make it noticeable and appealing to admissions officers. Some of common factors that make an application stand out are:

Academic excellence
A high GPA, challenging coursework, and excellent standardised test scores (SAT or ACT) can go a long way towards showcasing why you're an ideal applicant.

Unique personal statement
Admissions officers are always interested in understanding your background, experiences, and values and how they have shaped your aspirations. Therefore, having an authentic personal story in your application essay or personal statement can make you stand out to the admissions officer by showcasing your genuine and unique perspective.

Extracurricular activities
Demonstrating a passion for activities such as sports, clubs, community service, arts, or leadership roles can showcase your well-roundedness and time management skills.

Letters of recommendation
Strong and supportive letters of recommendation from teachers, mentors, or employers can provide additional insight into your character, achievements, and potential as a student.

Demonstrating Interest
Showing genuine interest in the college or university by attending campus visits, virtual events, or contacting admissions representatives can indicate that you have thoroughly researched the institution and are genuinely interested in attending.

Previous achievements
Highlighting significant achievements, awards, or recognition in any field, whether academic, artistic, athletic, community-oriented, etc. can demonstrate your initiative and talent and set you apart from other candidates.

Interviews
If the university offers interviews, take advantage of the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations that highlight your personality, interests, and how you fit the institution.

Alongside these, it's also essential to meet the basic admission requirements of the institution in question and ensure that your application is well-organised, error-free, and submitted on time.

Now, a second element that makes the overall application process difficult is the short timespan available when applying. On that front, Education Hub also provided a priority-based list to help you understand what needs to be done first. Here is a list of items that need to be handled from most important to least important:

Transcripts
Your academic performance, including GPA and course curriculum, is often the most critical factor in your application process. Admission officers want to see evidence of your ability to handle challenging coursework and perform well in your studies.

Standardised test scores (if required)
Depending on the educational level (undergraduate or graduate) and the institution's requirements, a good score on standardised tests like the SAT, ACT, GRE, or GMAT can significantly enhance your application.

Statement of purpose
This gives you the opportunity to showcase how your motivations and aspirations fit with the programme and university. The admission team also uses the SOP to understand and assess the writing and communication skills of the applicant.

Letters of recommendation
A glowing recommendation from teachers, professors, or employers also provide an insight into your character, abilities, and potential.

Extracurricular Activities
Demonstrating involvement in extracurricular activities can enhance your application and showcase your ability to manage time and interests effectively.

Relevant work experience/internships
For graduate programmes or professional degrees, relevant work experience can be valuable. It demonstrates the practical application of your skills and knowledge in a real-world setting.

Portfolio
Some programmes require additional essays or portfolios to assess specific skills or interests. Tailor these materials to showcase your strengths in the desired areas.

Research or publications
For graduate programmes and research-oriented programmes, prior research experience, publications, and journals can significantly support your application.

If all of this sounds a bit tedious to do by yourself, Education Hub can assist students on almost every step of the way to both finding the right university as well as applying to it.

Some of the services Education Hub offers are Pre-Screening and Programme Selection, Admissions Counseling and Documentation check, Personal Statement Assistance, Application support, Payment Guidance, Mock Interviews, Visa Guidance, Flight Booking, Pre-Departure Briefing, Accommodation Arrangement, and Post-Acceptance or Enrollment Support.

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