

Case Studies on
Higher Education – Vol. I

Edited by

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OVERVIEW

The global education scenario, is continuously changing and making plenty of more and more opportunities available to students, who are interested in pursuing their ambitions of a global higher degree.

Global education should not only be viewed as a challenge, but also as an opportunity. In today's dynamic world, change is the mantra and managing the change has become vital. In order to sustain in this competitive world, it has become extremely important to choose the right career.

The experience of studying abroad is one that most students appreciate. Studying abroad provides a student with a new world-view, new friends, and memories that last a lifetime. Students, who choose to study in a foreign country, not only enhance their employability but are also valued as prospective employees. Education system is very different across the world. In short, a foreign degree provides:

- An international, cross-cultural experience
- Ability to analyse critical situations thus developing team building and leadership skills.
- Better pay scales
- Capacity for growth
- Enhanced career prospects – skills and experience that employers' value
- Independence
- Chance to study at some of the world's finest universities
- Opportunity to interact with the best people from all over the world, in terms of faculty and students
- Outstanding programs offering a variety of vocations to choose from
- Capability to enter an increasingly international job market
- Self-reliance
- Ability to address varied life problems
- An overall developed personality

Study in United States

Every year, many students leave their countries to study in Universities abroad and it is not surprising that a majority of them find their way to universities in United States. Out of the many international students, who go to USA every year, 14% are from India.

US comprises of 50 states and it is a country full of world-famous attractions and spectacular geography. It is one of the world's leading nations in industry and technology. It is a nation of diverse cultures; more than 20 million people living in the US were born elsewhere. The community adopts foreigners much easier than other countries.

The US system of education is renowned for its flexibility, diversity and commitment to excellence. The US educational experience is among the best in the world. Many US colleges and universities are famous throughout the world for the quality of their academic programs. Private institutions such as Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, Cornell and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and public institutions such as University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of California at Berkeley, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, University of Wisconsin at Madison, and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are familiar to students, educators, and business leaders everywhere. In addition to these institutions, the US has a plethora at high quality public and private colleges and universities. The depth and breadth of options available are amazing. A degree from a US college or university is a stamp of excellence that marks a student for life.

Why Study in USA

US is one of the favourite destinations for students worldwide. US offers the greatest number of colleges and universities to choose from. Many US universities are very prestigious, and degrees earned in the US are respected worldwide. Admission standards vary greatly, thus increasing one's chances of finding a right school. Opportunities to take part in an enormous range of planned and informal student activities are aplenty. Many US schools have strong links with industry, business and commerce.

Reasons:

The US has some of the world's finest university systems, with outstanding programs in virtually all fields.

The Universities provide a rich variety of academic, cultural and athletic activities on campus that add new dimensions to a student educational experience.

Students can tailor their course work to fit in their specific educational requirements/needs.

Highly competitive environment

Better level of education

Corporate exposure

Immense opportunities

Flexible combinations of subjects e.g. a subject in science can be combined with a subject in arts.

Financial aid varies depending on the university. Every university has its own criteria for financial aid but mostly it depends on the student's academic background, extra curricular activities and the scores attained in the required exams.

Study in United Kingdom

The Island nation, United Kingdom, comprises of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. More precisely, the United Kingdom encompasses the Western European islands, including one-sixth of the northern Ireland located between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea. UK is a cosmopolitan place to live in. Many thousands of families from around the world have made UK their home, creating a richly diverse, open-minded, multicultural society. There are also more than a quarter of a million international students in UK.

Every year, many students from around the world enrol in the UK universities and colleges. Quality standards of the UK institutions are among the best in the world. Universities, colleges and schools continually have to prove that their courses meet strict criteria. UK scientists and institutions have won almost 100 Nobel Prizes for their scientific achievements. UK's creative brains including 'artists, fashion designers, film and television stars, and leisure software designers' are regarded as among the best in the world.

Why Study in United Kingdom

UK has some of the world's finest universities, which offer an array of programs to choose from. There are more than 3,000 educational institutions in UK welcoming international students. Students can choose from a variety of options through the education and training system, combining different types of courses according to their needs and abilities. Many courses can also be done through distance learning staying in one's own home country.

The variety in specialisations meant to make students find a course that suits his / her interest, ambitions and passions. For example, in UK, one can specialize in anything from computer games programming, ocean engineering, satellite positioning technology or sound engineering to multi-media design, anthropology, cross-cultural psychology, hotel management or dance.

UK degrees take only three years and postgraduate courses only one year, compared with four and two years in most other countries. This means students get to save a great deal on both tuition fees and living costs. The courses are shorter because they are more intensive, and therefore more efficient in terms of time and money.

Study in Australia

Australia is the only nation to govern an entire continent and its outlying islands. The Australian landscape is highly distinctive, ranging from vast stony and sandy deserts and tablelands in the west and the centre, to sweeping plateaus and plains flanking narrow coastal slopes in the east. Within 200 years of European settlement, Australia has developed into one of the most highly urbanized countries in the world. Sophisticated cities accommodate world - class shopping, restaurants, art galleries, museums and cultural festivals. It has lately emerged as a dream destination for foreign students - especially Asians.

Australian courses are recognized internationally. Educational standards are high and the academic environment is stimulating. Living costs and tuition fees are slightly lower than that of most other countries. Australia provides a multicultural and at the same time safe and secure environment.

Earlier a majority of students going to Australia were usually from countries like Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, while, a large chunk of Indians preferred to go to America. But now the trend is changing given the kind of awareness, and Indians also are opting for Australia in large numbers.

Why Study in Australia

Australia has emerged as a popular destination for higher education because of its strong educational infrastructure, high quality of life, and relatively lower expenses. Australian degrees are gaining increased acceptance in the global arena. A peaceful and relaxed atmosphere together with the cosmopolitan charisma of cities like Sydney and Melbourne have made the land referred to as Down Under, a hot destination. About 200,000 international students from 140 countries are studying in Australia.

An Australian degree takes three years, which is one year shorter than a US four-year degree and also, it costs comparatively lesser (40 per cent-60 per cent) than a UK or US degree. That is why, the number of Indian students opting for courses in Australian universities is witnessing a gradual rise.

Reasons:

Stable economy

Cultural diversity

Modern transport & communications

Good job prospects

Low crime rate

High rate of urbanization

High standard of living at relatively low cost

Clean, pollution free and beautiful natural environment

No entrance exams for majority of courses

PR opportunity for certain programs

Study in Germany

Germany of late, has become prominent as an important centre for education, research and academic excellence. Increasing number of young students and scientists are preferring to learn and do research. Germany's resurgence in popularity as a place has been made for higher education possible by new and attractive offers, modern legislative reforms, international marketing of higher education institutions and new career opportunities.

In 2003, there were 227,000 students from abroad studying at German colleges and universities, 9 times more than that in 1970. Foreign students represent 10.1% of the total student population, making Germany more attractive than other top host countries such as the US, where only 3.7% of students are foreigners.

A majority of foreign students are pursuing their first degree and want to complete their studies in Germany. Foreigners choose to study in Germany for a wide variety of reasons, including improving their language skills, gaining specialized knowledge, and enhancing their job opportunities after graduation. Young people from developing countries, countries in transition, and Eastern European countries are particularly interested in studying in Germany. Based on their experiences of living and studying here, nearly two thirds of the foreign students say that they would recommend studying in Germany to friends and relatives in their home countries.

Further improvements in social infrastructure and continued advances in the quality of counselling and students service are other key factors motivating students to study in Germany as well as other foreign nations.

Conclusion

Internationalisation has a profound effect on today's political, economic and cultural life. This wide-ranging process also has a major impact on institutions of higher education; colleges and universities have become highly sensitive to international developments and started contributing to the internationalisation of key areas in society. Thus, internationalization can be observed at a number of levels in higher education too. For example, in a virtual sense, new knowledge can only be produced through international exchanges.

One form of international exchange requires actually physically crossing borders. International student exchange programs, based on the concept of reciprocity, bring foreign students to a host country or send domestic students to foreign colleges and universities for specific academic experiences.

The cross-border mobility of student exchange programs is aimed at making students come to terms with the cultural aspects of studying in a foreign country and adapt to different personal, social and economic living conditions. Evaluations of the process of internationalization often underestimate the importance of these social issues.

In stressing the competitive role of institutions of higher education, it is often overlooked that academic consumers - there are now over two million students worldwide - have a global orientation and have developed their own strategies to access world markets. It has become increasingly difficult for domestic policymakers and higher education institutions to use this mobilized demand to achieve the objectives of the host country. The rapid rise in the number of foreign students from countries like Poland, Russia and Bulgaria demonstrates that the academic interests of learners are coupled with economic considerations that are not always in line with those of the host country. While a great deal of effort has gone into marketing higher education institutions of abroad, the economic divide between countries has led to unanticipated mobility effects.

There are already indications that higher education institutions and student services are barely able to cope with the huge demand from abroad, both in terms of counselling and social services.

This case book, with examples of popular colleges and universities explores into globalised higher education. It elaborates the evolution, growth and strategies of certain universities and the challenges that they are facing while going global.