



## OPEN EVENINGS: BHASVIC SUPPORT FOR 'STUDYING ABROAD'

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BHASVIC enthusiastically supports students who wish to pursue their studies at universities' overseas.

In recent years the most common overseas destination for BHASVIC students has been **the Netherlands with students attending several leading Dutch HE institutions: Amsterdam, Utrecht, Leiden, Groningen, Maastricht**. BHASVIC has developed very strong links with Dutch universities and each year several of them visit the College to meet with students. Regrettably, the uncertainty around the type of BREXIT we are to have has raised important questions for future applicants to Dutch, indeed to all EU, universities. **A 'hard' BREXIT will almost certainly radically change the fee status of UK applicants, which will make a considerable financial difference**. The Dutch and other EU universities are therefore in something of a state of limbo over the financial status of UK applications at the moment.

### Funding

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A general matter to consider seriously before embarking on an application to 'study abroad' is the financing of the degree. **The UK Student Loan system does not work for overseas applications and therefore applicants will need to find appropriate funding for both tuition fees and living costs from private sources**. Whilst there are scholarships available (at some US universities) and the leading US universities are 'needs blind' – these are exceptionally competitive. Since the BREXIT vote, several students are using their dual nationality to gain an EU fee status for applications to EU universities such as Trinity College Dublin.

### Applications to the USA

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Simply put, virtually everything is different about the US university application system in comparison to the UK's UCAS system. The details are too many and varied to detail here – an excellent initial source of guidance is the Fulbright Commission: <http://www.fulbright.org.uk/>

**Here are some matters which an applicant to US universities should consider – not an exhaustive list:**

- The US is very diverse - make sure you'll fit in to the culture/social values of the place you go to
- There are many, many US Unis - assessing the quality can be challenging; using the World University Rankings may be one way of doing this and making comparisons with UK institutions.

The 'Top universities' site – World University Rankings 2019  
The Times Higher Education site – World University rankings 2019

Also the Times Higher Education site - Best universities in the United States 2019

- US unis can be hugely expensive and securing bursaries/sports scholarships etc can be very difficult. The leading US universities are 'needs blind' but don't underestimate just how globally competitive these institutions are. Some US universities have generous sports scholarships but it is important to check carefully for which sports these are available and the standard expected – which can be very high
- Applicants will almost certainly have to do an admissions test - usually SAT or ACT. These must be investigated carefully and prepared for thoroughly ;they are very different to A levels.
- There is no equivalent to UCAS - there is a Common Application process which many Unis use - but others require students to apply individually (for consideration by as many universities as the student wishes). The College Board is a useful resource: <https://www.collegeboard.org/>
- The whole process is very time-consuming and needs considering at an early stage of the first year of sixth form college. The timetable and demands of the US system can make it challenging to apply for both US universities and UK universities in the same academic year.

## **Staff Experience and Guidance**

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BHASVIC staff have considerable experience at supporting applications to US universities, for example a BHASVIC student has recently begun her studies at Northwestern University. This student had invaluable support from the Sutton Trust US Programme and interested students should explore their eligibility for this superb scheme. <https://us.suttontrust.com/>

BHASVIC has welcomed visiting speakers from several leading US universities over the past few years including Rutgers, Harvard, Yale, South Florida, Cincinnati.

## **Resources**

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The BHASVLE, the College's internal IT resources, has a very comprehensive Study Abroad section which gives advice and provides key links for applications to most European countries, Canada, the USA, Australia and New Zealand.

## **Contact**

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If you have any further queries regarding BHASVIC's Study Abroad 'offer' then email the HE lead Nikki Fabry on [he@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:he@bhasvic.ac.uk)