

UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS RESEARCH GUIDE

Research smarter. Ask better questions. Build a stronger university list.

For international school students researching universities around the world.

University research isn't just about finding universities you like.

Before you add a university to your list, you need to know whether you are academically eligible, what the application requires, and what you need to do to prepare.

Use this guide to research each university using information from official university websites, admissions representatives, and other reliable sources.

Before you start:

- ☐ I know what curriculum I am completing
- ☐ I know what diploma/qualification I will receive
- ☐ I know my intended program or area of study
- ☐ I know which country/countries I am considering
- ☐ I have my current grades/predicted grades available

Pathways Tip:

Your curriculum and qualification may not match the country where you currently live. Always research the requirements for the qualification you are actually completing.

MY ACADEMIC PROFILE

School curriculum:

- ☐ American
- ☐ IB Diploma
- ☐ Canadian
- ☐ British
- ☐ National curriculum
- ☐ Other:

Diploma/qualification I will receive:

Expected graduation date: _____

Current/predicted GPA or overall grades:

AP courses/exams:

IB subjects + predicted grades:

Other qualifications/exams:

Intended area of study:

Countries I am considering:

Important prerequisites

Before you start building a list, ask:

Does my intended program require specific high school courses?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

If yes, list them:

Required Subjects/Courses	Required Grade	Am I taking it? Have I taken it?

Don't wait until application season to discover that you needed a course you didn't take.

Course prerequisites can affect your choices years before you submit an application.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

University: _____

Program/course: _____

Country: _____

1. Am I academically eligible?

My curriculum/qualification:

University's requirement for my curriculum:

Required overall grade/GPA:

Required subjects:

Required grades in specific subjects:

AP/IB/exam requirements:

Additional program requirements:

2. Does the application require anything else?

- ☐ Personal statement/essay
- ☐ Reference/recommendation
- ☐ Interview
- ☐ Portfolio/audition
- ☐ Admissions test
- ☐ English-language test
- ☐ SAT/ACT
- ☐ Other: _____

Details:

3. Application information

Application platform: _____

Application deadline: _____

Scholarship/financial aid deadline: _____

Other important deadline(s): _____

STOP & CHECK

Before you decide that you meet a university's requirements, answer these questions:

1. Did I find the requirements for my actual curriculum?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I need to check

2. Did I check the requirements for my specific program?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I need to check

3. Do I meet the required subjects?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

4. Do I meet the required grades?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

5. Are there required exams or tests?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

6. Do I need to demonstrate English proficiency?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

7. Are there additional application requirements?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

My Research Result

- ☐ I meet the published requirements
- ☐ I am close to meeting the requirements
- ☐ I don't currently meet the requirements
- ☐ I need more information before I can decide

Can't Find Your Curriculum?

Don't guess.

If the university does not clearly list your curriculum or qualification, contact admissions for that university.

Before you email:

- ☐ I checked the university admissions page
- ☐ I checked the specific program page
- ☐ I searched for my curriculum/qualification
- ☐ I checked the international student information
- ☐ I wrote down exactly what I cannot find

QUESTIONS I STILL NEED ANSWERED:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Need more support to write your email?

Use this template to get started:

Subject: Admissions Requirements for (Your Curriculum/Qualification)

Hello,

I am a student completing (qualification/curriculum] at an international school in [country). I am interested in applying to (program) for (entry year).

I reviewed the admissions information on your website, but I was unable to find the requirements for my qualification.

Could you please confirm the academic requirements for students completing (qualification)?

In particular, I would like to confirm: (Your specific question)

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

(Your Full Name)

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO NEXT?

University	What I know:	What I need to find out:	My next step:

BEFORE I ADD A UNIVERSITY TO MY LIST...

- ☐ I found the official university/program website
- ☐ I researched the requirements for my curriculum
- ☐ I checked program-specific prerequisites
- ☐ I checked required grades
- ☐ I checked testing requirements
- ☐ I checked English-language requirements
- ☐ I checked the application platform
- ☐ I recorded the deadline
- ☐ I know what questions I still need to ask

Pathways Reminder:

A university shouldn't make it onto your list just because you like it. Make sure you know what it requires and whether you can realistically meet those requirements.