

SMART EDUCATION DESTINATIONS

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EXPLORE,
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Some of the top choices for students looking to go abroad for higher education



STUDY ON THE GO
International exposure helps students adapt better; team spirit and extracurricular activities help forge bonds (below)

SPAIN

www.campusspain.es

The 2019 QS World University Rankings has seven Spanish universities in its Top 50 under 50, with three in the Top 10 Global MBA rankings in Europe. Spain is now a major destination for international students. One concern is the language barrier—most subjects at public universities are taught in Spanish—which means students need to be fluent. The comprehensive language, culture and adaptation to university course (LCA) by Campus Spain is specifically designed for this.

Spoiled for Choice There are about 50 public and 35 private universities in Spain. Bachelor's degree programmes are popular with Indians, with postgraduate courses also seeing interest. The most popular undergraduate courses are law, visual arts, design, tourism, filmmaking and engineering. MBA courses are highly favoured by postgraduate students. Gonzalo Martínez, director, Campus Spain, says, "Some of the best universities for medicine and engineering are public institutions, but for business studies, students should choose private institutions." The top-ranked degrees in public universities cost students less than \$1,000 a year.

Stay Back While those on student visas are allowed to work while studying, those who have finished their degrees can stay in Spain for up to a year while looking for a job if they can show they are financially independent.

—Shelly Anand



UNITED STATES
educationusa.state.gov

The US has over 4,700 accredited institutions of higher education. "The course flexibility, cutting-edge curricula, infrastructure and opportunities for research and work (with up to three years of practical training for STEM-science, technology, engineering and mathematics—majors) make the US a top choice," says Bhav-

vya Jolly, senior program officer, EducationUSA.

Number Speak From 2017 to 2018, there was a 13.8 per cent increase in the number of undergraduate students from India in the US. The majority choose degree programmes under STEM. In 2018, the top five fields of study were mathematics and computer science, engineering, business and management, physical and life sciences, and health.

Plan Well Shortlist institutions that provide scholarships and funding. "Families should consider application costs and total cost of attendance. Universities offer many types of funding: merit and talent scholarships, assistantships and financial aid," says Jolly.

After Graduation International students are allowed on-campus jobs for a specific number of hours per week. After graduation, they can work in their field of study from one to three years.

—Harshita Das

IRELAND

www.educationinireland.com

Alisha Mahajan, from Mumbai, chose Maynooth University, Ireland, for her graduate degree. Now pursuing a Master's in Education there, Mahajan says the course offers her the freedom to choose her own research area and that it focuses on both theory and practice.

Class Apart As an English-speaking country, Ireland is a great option for international students. Over 4,500 Indian students study in Ireland, of which 90 per cent are in postgraduate courses. "In 19 fields of research, Irish universities are in the top one per cent," says Barry O'Driscoll, senior education adviser, Education in Ireland.

Demand Graph The most popular courses include mechanical and electronic engineering, biotechnology, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, data analytics, cyber security, accounting, finance and MBAs.

Why Ireland Students can opt for a two-year 'stay back' option after their postgraduate course. With over 1,000 multinationals based in the country, students have an easier time getting jobs and work experience.

—Shelly Anand

NEW ZEALAND

www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz

Indians comprise the second largest international student body in New Zealand, with a 51 per cent increase in enrolments over the past six months. "New Zealand's research strengths complement India's growth industries and skill demands," says John Laxon, regional director (Asia), Education New Zealand.

Work Rights New Zealand offers post-study work visas for three years for students who have completed undergraduate, post-graduate or doctorate level studies. Courses are designed to include internships, allowing students to connect with industry.

Popular Courses Commerce, business management and engineering are traditionally popular courses, though robotics, sports sciences, entrepreneurship and filmmaking (among others) have recently seen an increase in demand.

—Aditi Pei