



The International
Careers
Handbook

How to Help Students
Make the Transition
from Career Aspiration
to University Application



Introduction

What do you want to do when you're older? Some of your students may struggle to answer this open-ended and slightly intimidating question. But you may meet other students who will already be confident about their ambitions and will have an instant answer.

But whether your students are confident about their career path, or fearful for their future career prospects, the journey from understanding career aspiration to embarking on a university application can be a difficult one.

More than ever, students all over the world need honest and affirming guidance that helps them link their strengths, skills and interests to the career path that's right for them.

If you've read one of our previous guides, you'll know there's one statistic that we always come back to - the number of globally mobile students is expected to rise to 6.9 million by 2030. Gaining a qualification through a higher education institution in another country is a pathway that more and more students are choosing to embark on.

But that also means that both international higher education, and the global job market, are set to become even more competitive!

The decision to apply to university in another country must, ultimately, align with students' career aspirations, especially if they hope to truly stand out in a competitive job market.

This is where the uncertainty comes in. As a counselor or careers adviser, you will most likely have students coming to you with questions about how a particular degree or qualification may align with a particular career pathway.

Other students may have a very specific job that they're interested in, but may not have a realistic understanding of the grades or qualifications they need to get there.

Then there may be those students who have no idea about the right university or the right career for them. This is arguably the student cohort who will have the greatest need for your guidance and your support.

Whatever your students' circumstances, they will be relying on your guidance and your advice to help them chart a career path that's rewarding, challenging, highly paid and aligned to their unique talents.

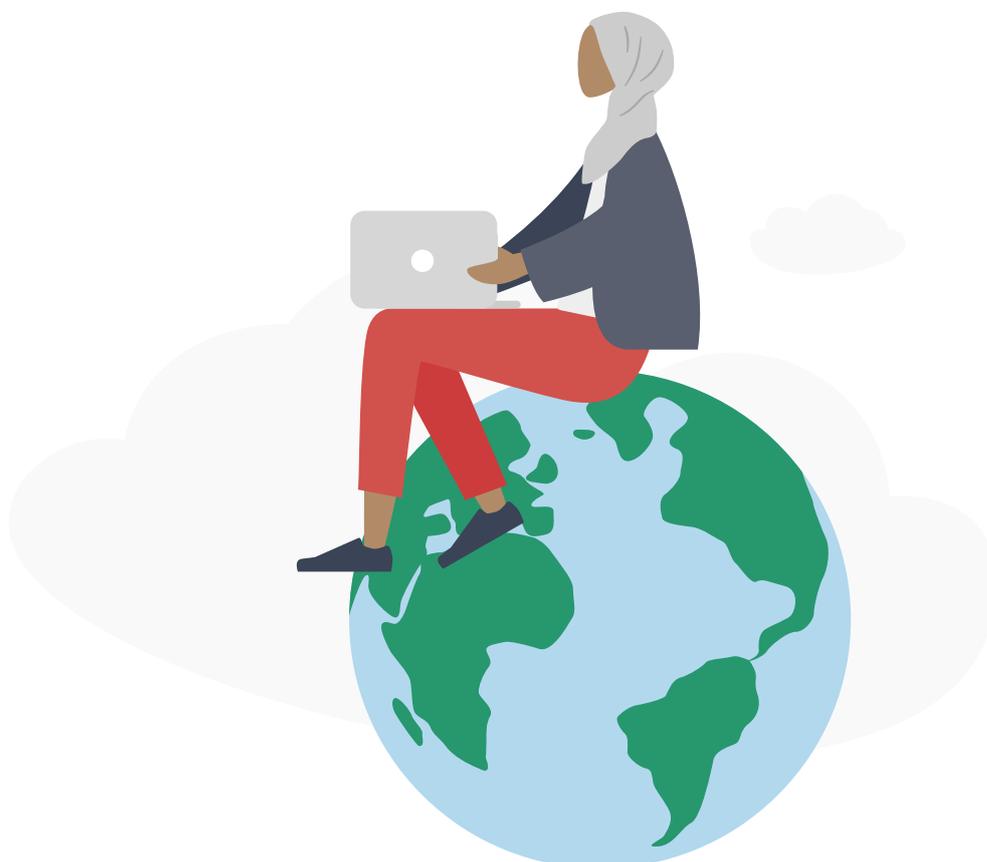
But here's the tricky part. If you're working with international students who are interested in studying, and possibly working, in another country you may have information gaps of your own about the various career paths and qualifications offered in some of these countries.

This is perfectly understandable. Not only are there a wealth of career pathways out there, but some of these career pathways may take on a different form depending on the destination country.

So when a student comes to you and asks you how a specific subject, degree programme or university may link to their overall career aspirations, you may need to do some research of your own!

Luckily, this handbook is here to help. Across six chapters, we're going to explore six major families of subjects, spanning law, business, science & engineering, the creative arts, humanities & social sciences and medicine.

We'll explain how these six disciplines can prepare students for a range of rewarding careers and the skills they can help your students to develop. But perhaps most importantly, we'll give you a comprehensive overview of how these subjects are taught differently across countries, and how this can, in turn, affect your students' career pathways.



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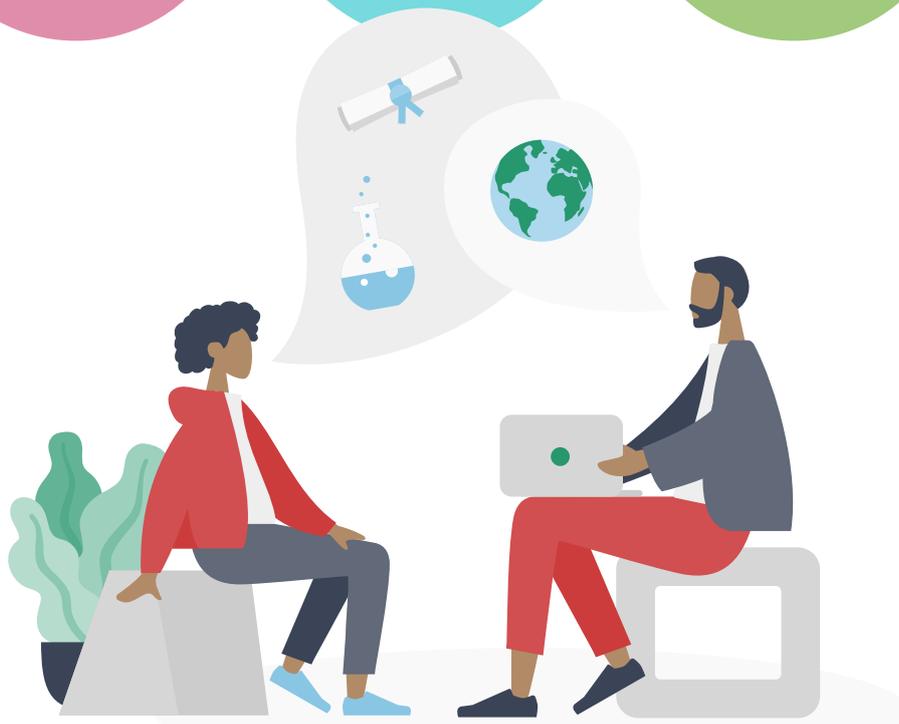
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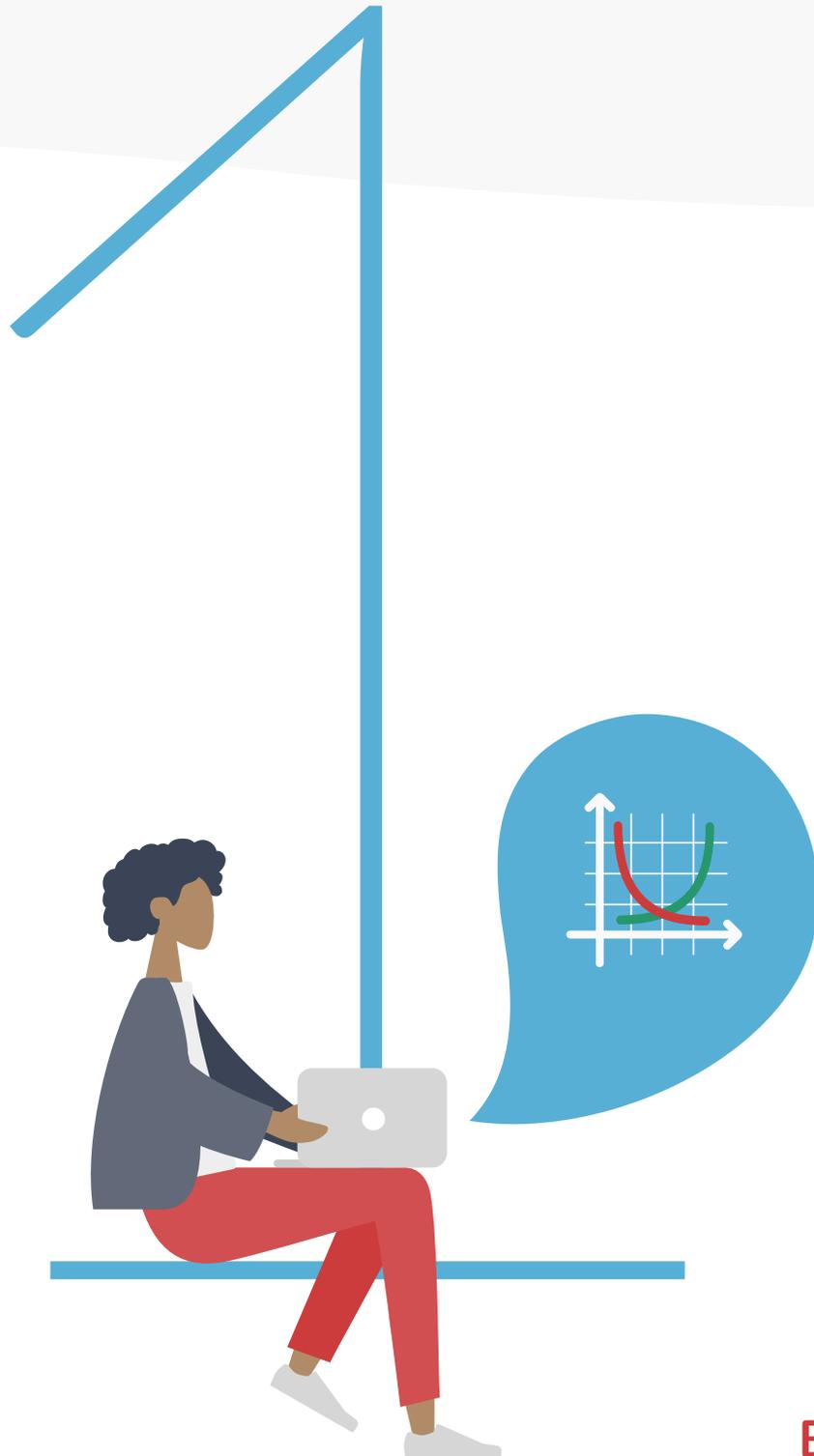
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Business and Related Disciplines



Business is one of the most popular degrees for international students. It's versatile and flexible, and there are a vast number of options available. These include:

- Business and Management • International Business • Economics • Business and Marketing
- Accounting and Finance • Human Resource Management

What can students do with a business qualification?

Undertaking a business degree is a great way for your students to develop the transferable skills needed for working in a corporate environment. And because there are corporate jobs available in almost every sector, when it comes to career options the whole world is open to students who opt for this subject!

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That being said, the most common career pathways for business graduates include banking, accounting and finance, management, and retail and sales.

Because of the variety of pathways a business degree can lead to, it can be a good option for students who want to develop skills and competencies for a wide range of jobs, instead of specialising right away.

It may also be a subject worth recommending to any students who have ambitions to start their own company, as it can help them learn the necessary skills, and find out whether they are (or aren't!) cut out to be a business owner.

What does a business qualification typically look like?

Content

As we mentioned above, business degrees often focus on helping students develop transferable skills, including communication, decision-making and numeracy. For students who prefer a practical outlook, much of the learning is related to real-world examples and case studies.

But, though we're treating it as one discipline in this ebook, "business" isn't a catch-all term, and on the whole, these degrees are very flexible.

Business degrees may be combined with another discipline or specialism and can range broadly from a more creative course such as Business and Marketing to a more numerical course such as Business, Finance and Accounting. Which route your students choose to take is up to them!

Length

A business undergraduate degree is usually the standard length of 3-4 years, but may take longer if a student opts for a postgraduate qualification (we'll share more information on this later).

Assessment

For the most part, a business degree will be assessed via a mixture of exams, coursework, and group presentations. Many institutions will also encourage students to undertake work experience or an internship at some point during their course.

Postgraduate options

In order to develop the skills they learned in their undergraduate degree, and to help them stand out from other applicants when job-searching, many business students choose to take a postgraduate qualification - the most popular being the Master of Business Administration (MBA).

Many graduate jobs and schemes in this discipline will also offer the chance to study for a professional qualification while working - which can be a fantastic opportunity for students who may not be able to afford further full-time study.

Where should students apply?

For your students who are interested in a business degree, there is no wrong option! From France to Singapore, there are great Business Schools all over the world.

Many countries have a range of specialist business institutions, where the majority of students will study business and related disciplines. Students may find themselves drawn to this option as they will be able to mix with people with similar interests and aspirations.

But even without going to a specialist institution, many prestigious global universities have an attached business school - for example, Columbia Business School in the USA or Warwick Business School in the UK.

So, when they are considering where to apply, you should encourage your students to consider which universities might be the best fit for them in other areas besides academics - e.g. distance from home and campus life.

Which subjects should students take at secondary school?

It will help their application if students take subjects that showcase their knowledge of business and current affairs - a few options are economics, business studies, history or politics. And it's also worth bearing in mind that if your students are interested in the more numerical pathways of business (like accounting and finance), then maths is a must!

How can students make their applications stand out?

Many students will have business experience without even realising it! Any part-time job can equip them with practical skills such as resilience, time-management, people management and customer relations, as well as giving them insight into the corporate world.

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Any part-time job can equip them with practical skills.

Other skills students may find it useful to showcase when applying include:

- **Entrepreneurship:** Have they attempted a small business venture in the past (even if it failed)?
- **Leadership:** Have they led a club or organisation? Have they taken on a role of responsibility at school?
- **An interest in current affairs and the financial market:** Students should prepare to back this up with examples.

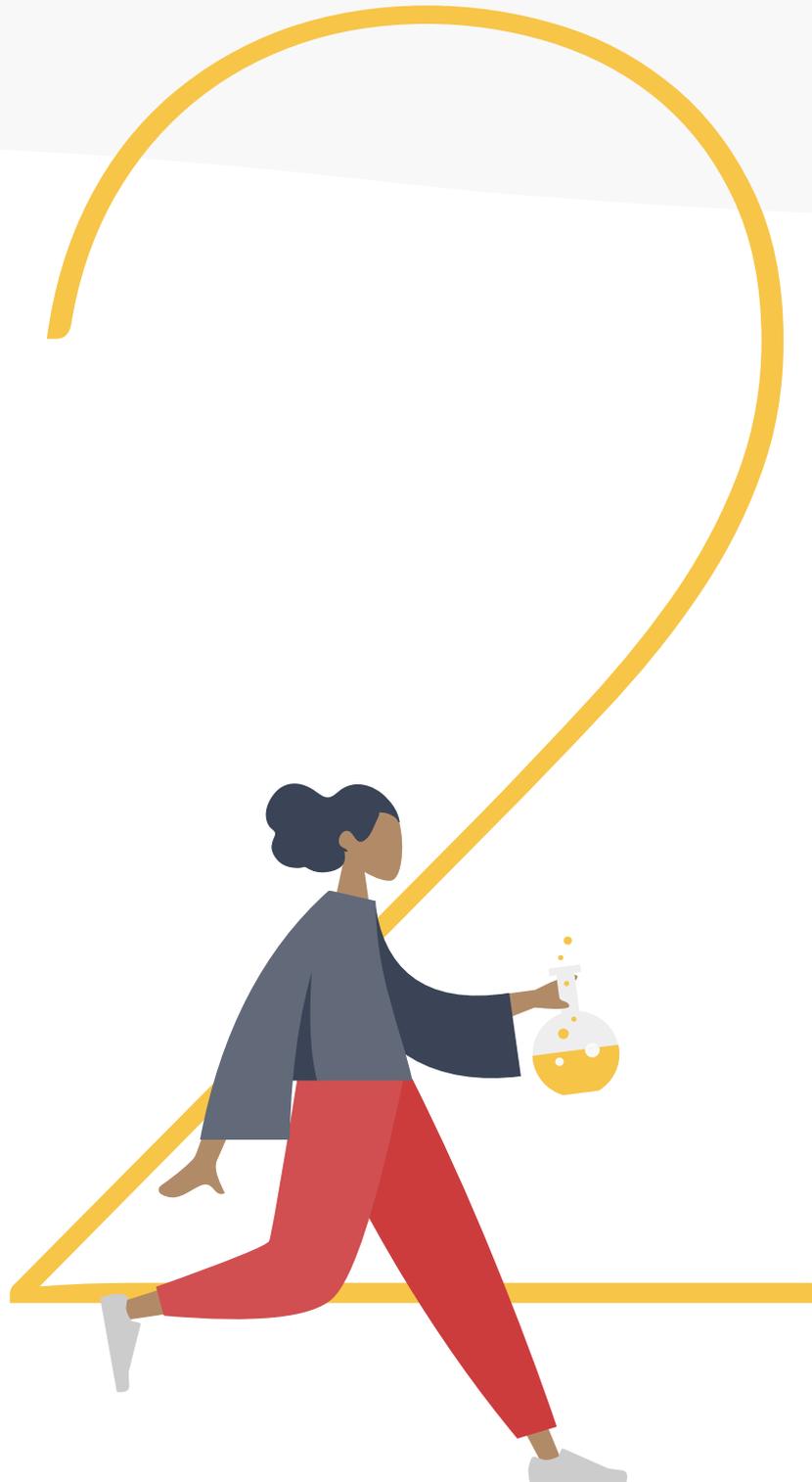
Other routes into business

It's an oft-quoted fact that many of the world's richest businessmen don't have university degrees (think: Richard Branson or Mark Zuckerberg). However, unless your students have a million-dollar idea under their belt, it's likely that to pursue a career in business they will need some form of education!

For students who don't think a university degree is for them, many countries offer vocational courses and apprenticeships in business and its related disciplines. For example, Universities of Applied Sciences in Germany/the Netherlands or Colleges of Technology in Japan offer a more practical, work-based approach to learning.

In some countries, the range of vocational courses available will be quite limited, so it's worth students researching the options available to them in their chosen country/countries.

Medicine



If you have students with the ambition to study medicine, good for them! Being a doctor can be a very rewarding career. But, as we'll see below, the path to practising medicine is long and difficult, requiring immense dedication and tenacity. In this chapter, we'll go into more detail on the subject, and the different pathways your students can take.

What can students do with a medical degree?

This is pretty self-explanatory! Though there are times when people with medical qualifications don't end up working in medicine, your students shouldn't embark upon a degree in medicine without being certain they want to be a doctor. As we've explained, medical degrees take a lot of time and discipline and therefore require a true passion for the subject.

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If your students are interested in working in healthcare, there are several other fields they could consider - for example, nursing, pharmacy, optometry, or dentistry. Unfortunately, we can't cover them all here, so encourage your students to research the different options available to them.

What does a degree in medicine typically look like?

Content

As we said before, a medical degree is designed to prepare students for a career in medicine! A vocational qualification, it consists of a mixture of classroom learning, lab work, as well as practical training. In all countries, students will have to take some sort of intern year or residency after medical school to become a qualified doctor.

Many medical qualifications allow students to specialize in a specific area - for example, paediatrics, surgery, or oncology. However, it's worth bearing in mind that these specialisms often require further years of study.

Length

With the classroom study and practical training mentioned above, it can take between 6 and 12 years to fully qualify as a doctor, depending on which country your students choose.

Some countries offer medicine at the bachelor's level, while others only offer it as a postgraduate qualification. We'll go into more detail on this in the next section

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Pathways to practising medicine

There are two main pathways for students who want to practice medicine - an undergraduate Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery Degree (MBBS) or a postgraduate Doctor of Medicine degree (MD). Even if a student opts for the MBBS pathway, they will still need to take some form of postgraduate training to qualify as a doctor. Here are some examples of each pathway from around the world.

MBBS pathway

- In the UK, a bachelor's degree in medicine will take around 5 years to complete. Then, students must take a 2-year foundation course working in an NHS hospital. After this, they can choose to take further training to specialise in a certain discipline - for example becoming a General Practitioner.
- The system in Hong Kong is similar, with all medical graduates required to undergo one year of residency in a public hospital after their MBBS.
- Japanese universities offer undergraduate medical degrees which last 6 years (including 2 years training in the university hospital). Then, they must take a final exam and spend a further 2 years as a resident.

MD pathway

- In the US and Canada, attending medical school requires students to already have a bachelor's degree. The course takes 4 years, followed by a residency programme of 3-7 years. So, becoming a doctor will take at least 11 years.
- Though some Australian universities offer an MBBS programme, the MD is much more common. Following this students must take an intern year, and then a residency programme.

It's worth noting that some countries do not follow these routes (for example, in the Netherlands the path to becoming a doctor involves a 3-year BSc in medicine, a 3-year MSc, and a training year). So it goes without saying that any budding doctors in your school should do their research thoroughly!

Where should students apply for a medical degree?

There's no one answer to this question, and students wanting to embark upon a medical degree should think about their options carefully.

The main thing they should consider is which country they would like to live and work in, as they could be studying in that country for as long as 12 years before being able to move. Also, medical graduates are generally only registered in the country they trained in, so if they choose to move it's likely that they will have to take additional training or examinations in their new country.

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In general, the most highly esteemed countries for studying medicine include the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and graduates from these countries can be exempt from additional training if they choose to move. However, this means that medical schools in these countries are also the most competitive!

One further thing students should consider when deciding where to apply is the language requirements. Even though a lot of medical courses are taught in English, intern and residency programmes involve working in a practical setting, which will require knowledge of the local language.

How do students apply?

Medicine is one of the most competitive degrees out there, and many countries impose caps on the numbers of international students a medical school can admit. This means that the application process is quite rigorous, and deadlines are usually earlier than for other subjects.

As well as their general applications, students will have to take part in the following:

Entrance examinations

Some countries will require students to sit an entrance examination, which is designed to test a student's reasoning and judgement skills and will require a great deal of preparation. These will either be nationally recognised tests (e.g. BMAT or UCAT in the UK, GAMSAT in Australia) or set by the individual universities.

It's worth noting that some countries, such as Germany and the Netherlands, do not require prospective medical students to sit an entrance exam, so students should check the requirements of their chosen university carefully.

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Interviews

If a student passes the first stage of the admissions process (the written application), they will be invited to interview. The purpose of this interview is for admissions departments to get a feel for whether a student possesses the intrapersonal and logical skills required to be a doctor.

Though there's no one-size-fits-all formula, topics that may be covered include:

- Problem-solving and critical thinking
- Communication skills
- Empathy and moral reasoning
- An understanding of what it means to have a career in Medicine

Which subjects should students take at high school level?

A grounding in chemistry and biology is essential for prospective medical school students. However, some institutions will also require higher-level qualifications in physics and mathematics.

How can students make their applications stand out?

As we mentioned in the last section, medical degrees are very competitive. Throughout the application process, students will need to prove their passion and aptitude for the subject, and demonstrate the qualities listed above.

So, perhaps more than with any other degree, work experience is essential. Not only will it help students get a feel for the profession, how they learn from these experiences will be a key factor in whether they are accepted into medical school. When undertaking work experience, students should reflect on their interactions with patients and other staff members, and be prepared to speak about these in their application.

Other things students can highlight in their applications include:

- **Commitment:** Have they been pursuing a hobby or interest for several years? It's a great way to show admissions officers that they will commit to their degree, too!
- **Leadership:** Have they been in a situation where they have had to make decisions and show initiative?
- **Community service:** Compassion and humanity are essential skills for doctors to possess, so students should showcase any volunteer or charity work they have done.

Humanities and Social Sciences



The umbrella of humanities and social sciences encompasses a wide range of subjects, and we can't cover all of them here! We'll give a general overview in this chapter, but here are some of the most popular courses for BridgeU students:

- English Literature • History • Geography • Philosophy • Politics • Psychology
- Sociology • Anthropology

What can students do with a humanities/social sciences qualification?

As we've seen in the list above, there are lots of options available for students interested in humanities and social sciences.

However, on the whole, these subjects are not designed to lead to one particular career or discipline. Instead, they help students develop a broad range of transferable skills that can make them a great candidate for many jobs. Examples include communication, analytical, research, and presentation skills.

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Here are just a few examples of the sectors that welcome humanities and social sciences graduates:

- Marketing, PR and Journalism
- Charity and public sector
- Education and teaching
- Recruitment and Human Resources

What does the course typically look like?

Content

Taking on a humanities or social sciences degree will teach your students a wide variety of skills, including those we mentioned in the previous section. This means that the courses are often very flexible, with students being able to choose their modules and specialisms. Many universities will also offer joint honours degrees, with students able to study two subjects alongside each other.

Teaching will differ between courses and countries but usually consist of lectures, as well as seminars and tutorials in smaller groups where students will be actively encouraged to contribute ideas. They also almost always contain an element of independent study, with students required to take on their own research and writing projects.

Length

An undergraduate degree is usually the standard length of 3-4 years, but this may take longer if a student opts for a postgraduate qualification (more information below).

Assessment

A humanities or social sciences degree is usually assessed by a mixture of exams and essay-based coursework, though universities in some countries may offer the option to skip the exams entirely.

Many courses also require students to write a dissertation (sometimes referred to as a thesis) in their final year. This is an independent research project, where students write a long-form essay on a topic of their choice. Though they will have some help from their tutors, this is a time-consuming process which requires a lot of hard work and discipline!

Postgraduate options

Some students may choose to take a Master's programme after their undergraduate degree. For most business areas, this is not required, but may help students stand out when it comes to job applications. Some professions that may require a postgraduate qualification are:

Law

Humanities and social sciences are a good route into law. In many countries, students can take a postgraduate law degree or conversion course without having an undergraduate law degree. If your students are interested in law as a career pathway, we recommend you read the next chapter!

Some students may choose to take a Master's programme after their undergraduate degree. For most business areas, this is not required, but may help students stand out.

Teaching

A teaching programme consists of a mixture of classroom learning and practical training within a school.

To take a teaching course or qualification, many universities require students to have a bachelor's degree. For primary teaching, a degree in any subject is acceptable, but for secondary the subject a student took at bachelor's level may influence the subjects they can teach.

Where should students apply?

As with many of the other subjects in this guide, there are great options all over the world for students who want to study humanities or social sciences. So, the important thing for them to consider is which countries and universities align with their personal preferences.

One thing to be aware of with this set of subjects is that your students will be expected to deliver persuasive and nuanced arguments in their essays and presentations.

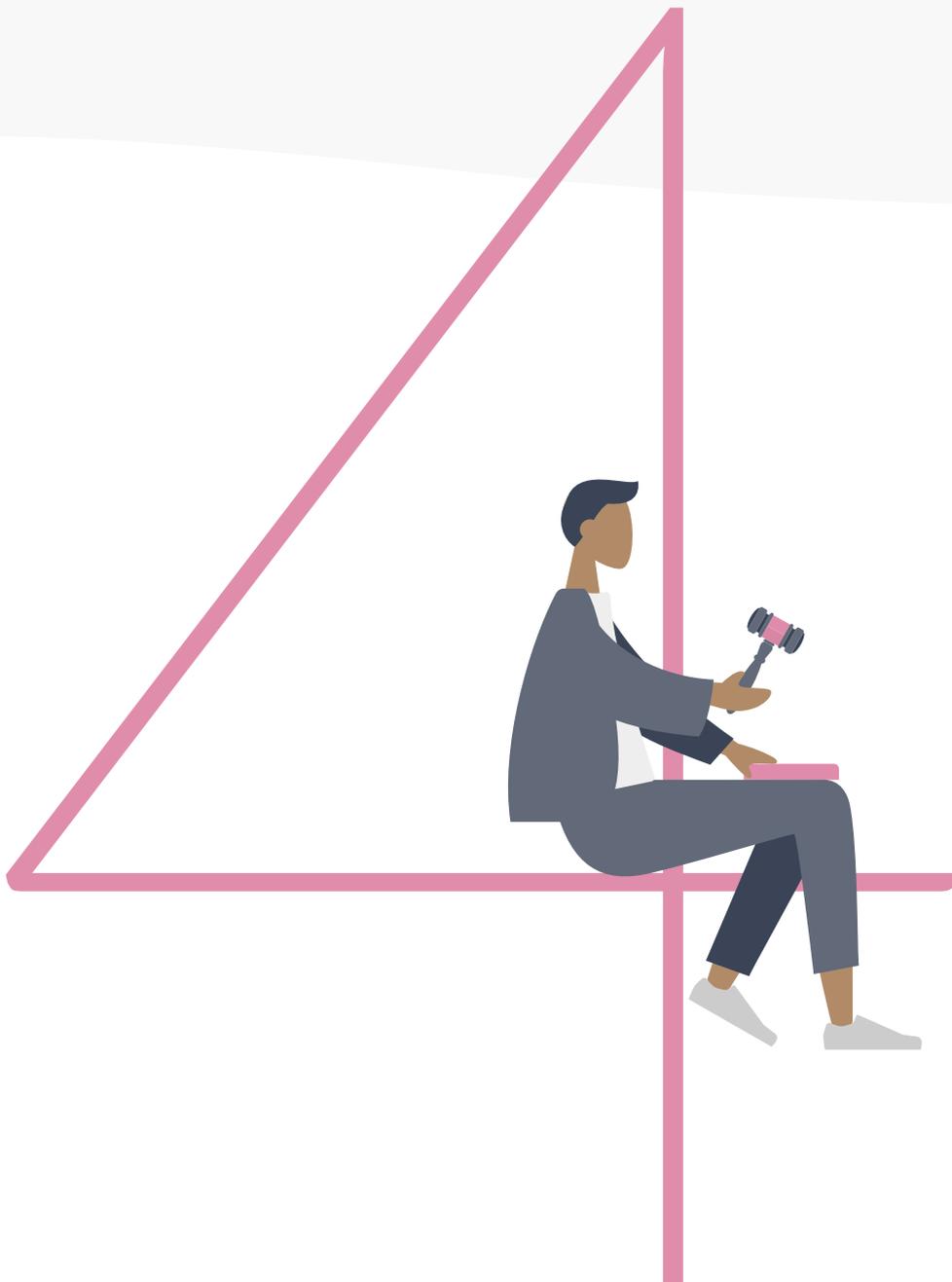
So, if your students are studying in a second language, they should think about whether they are confident speakers/writers, or whether they need to do some further language study beforehand (though it is worth stressing that university tutors definitely won't discriminate against non-fluent speakers!).

How can students make their applications stand out?

When applying for a humanities or social sciences degree, students should demonstrate that they have already started developing the skills they will be learning in their degree course. These can include:

- **Communication:** Have your students done anything that helped them develop this skill - e.g. joined a debating team, tutored younger students.
- **Writing and research:** Have they done any writing outside of their schoolwork, like writing for a school newspaper, or publishing short stories or poems?
- **A passion for their subject:** Have they done anything related to their chosen subject? E.g. visiting museums and historical sites; reading literature that was not assigned at school; attending lectures or events.

Law



Like with medicine, a career in law can be very rewarding, but it also requires a lot of hard work! For your students who want to pursue a career in the legal profession, here's what you need to know...

What can students do with a law qualification?

Often when students think of studying towards a law qualification, their minds may instantly jump to thoughts of being a lawyer (or attorney, or solicitor to use some other common international job titles).

But the truth is, a law qualification gives undergraduates a lot of transferable skills that they can use in many other career paths - such as analysis, presentation skills, negotiation, problem-solving, conflict resolution and written communication.

A law qualification doesn't necessarily mean an undergraduate has to pursue a career in law. But, likewise, students who want to pursue a legal career don't always have to have studied a law-based subject at university (though it's always worth students checking this when they research an individual country).

What does a law qualification typically look like?

Content

Most law qualifications will require students to take some core modules, before specialising in particular fields in later years.

The topics that will normally be covered in the first two years of a law qualification will be things like an introduction to the legal system (and legal systems in practice), introduction to legal skills, constitutional/public law, criminal law, the law of tort, and land law.

While law degrees worldwide will share some common competencies that students are expected to master, it's worth noting that different countries will place a slightly different emphasis on the types of law that they expect undergraduate students to learn.

For example, in the UK and EU, there are often modules or courses on European and EU law as part of an undergraduate degree, as these are countries where wider European law may interact with a country's domestic laws.

Length

The length of a law degree or qualification will vary across countries. In countries like the UK or the Netherlands, a law degree is typically 3 or 4 years in length. By contrast, an international student who chose to gain their law qualification in Germany would be required to study for 5 to 6 years.

In many countries, students can expect to take an additional, postgraduate qualification on top of an existing undergraduate degree (more info on this below).

We should also note that, in the United States and Canada, students literally can't take a law qualification at undergraduate level. Instead, students attend law school after university and will earn their legal qualifications at the postgraduate level - so the path to becoming a lawyer takes at least 7 years.

Assessment

Most law degrees at university level are assessed through a mixture of exams, coursework and group assessments and presentations. Depending on the country you choose to study in, some law degrees may be partially assessed through work experience or a placement.

Pathways to becoming a lawyer

As we said, many law graduates may choose not to pursue a career in law. However, if they do want to enter the legal profession, in most cases a postgraduate qualification is essential.

There are two main pathways to becoming a lawyer - a Bachelor of Law (LLB or BA) undergraduate degree followed by a postgraduate vocational qualification, or a postgraduate law degree called a Juris Doctor (JD).

Let's go into more detail on these two pathways and the countries that use them...

LLB pathway

An LLB is typically an undergraduate programme (like the ones we mentioned above), but in most countries, students will have to complete further study and training to practice law. Here are some examples of countries that follow this model:

- In the UK, after completing their BA, students will need to take a one-year Graduate Diploma in Law. Further postgraduate qualifications will then diverge, depending on whether they wish to be a solicitor (someone who provides general legal services) or a barrister (someone who represents individuals or organisations in court). **Note:** In the UK, if students have an LLB degree, they won't need to do a GDL qualification.
- In Australia, after their LLB students will need to undertake Practical Legal Training (PLT) in one of three pathways: The Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice, Master of Laws and Supervised Workplace Training.
- In the Netherlands, an LLB undergraduate programme is typically followed by a 1-year master of law degree. This is typically followed by a 3-year apprenticeship.
- In Hong Kong, students must take a 9-month Postgraduate Certificate in Law. To become a barrister, they will then take a 1-year apprenticeship; to be a solicitor, it's 2 years.

JD pathway

As discussed previously, some countries do not offer specific undergraduate law degrees, and students will take a bachelor's degree followed by a 3-year Juris Doctor postgraduate degree. Finally, they must complete a bar exam to become a practising lawyer.

This means that the JD pathway can take significantly longer than the LLB option - at least 7 years.

Below are some countries where students can expect to work towards a JD degree:

- In the USA, an undergraduate degree takes 4 years, and many institutions offer a "pre-law" major. After graduation, students will apply to law school. Then, they must take the bar exam in the state in which they want to work.
- The process is the same in Canada. However, some Canadian law schools also offer hybrid law programs, such as Law & Social Work and Law & Business Administration.
- While South Korean lawyers used to follow the LLB pathway since 2007 the country has opened a number of postgraduate law schools, offering more North American style JD qualifications. After completing law school, students must take the national bar exam.
- In Japan, many institutions do offer undergraduate law degrees. However, in order for students to take the national bar exam to practice law, they must go to law school and take a JD degree - even if they already have an LLB!

Many law graduates may choose not to pursue a career in law. However, if they do want to enter the legal profession, in most cases a postgraduate qualification is essential.

Where should students apply?

This is a very complicated question, and it will partly depend on which of the above routes students want to take into the legal profession.

The other thing to bear in mind is that law qualifications are generally routed in the legal system of the country they are taught in. Moving to a different country after graduation (or in the case of the US, even a different state!) will likely result in a need for additional training or examinations. So, like with medicine, prospective law students should think carefully about which country they would like to live and work in.

The other thing to bear in mind is that law qualifications are generally routed in the legal system of the country they are taught in.

It's also worth students researching which universities in their chosen country teach a law degree in English, as some law qualifications will obviously be taught in that country's native language. For example, several universities in the Netherlands offer law degrees in English - but not all Dutch universities will.

Which subjects should students take at high school level?

Lawyers will need strong analytical skills, so it helps if students have a good grounding in subjects that help them to analyse information and make an argument. Examples include subjects like literature, history, politics, philosophy and economics. But this isn't an exhaustive list - science-based subjects are equally valid!

How can students make their applications stand out?

Students who are interested in a law degree don't have to have immersed themselves in legal texts or the complexities of lawmaking. But it does help if your students who are interested in law can demonstrate some valuable soft skills, such as:

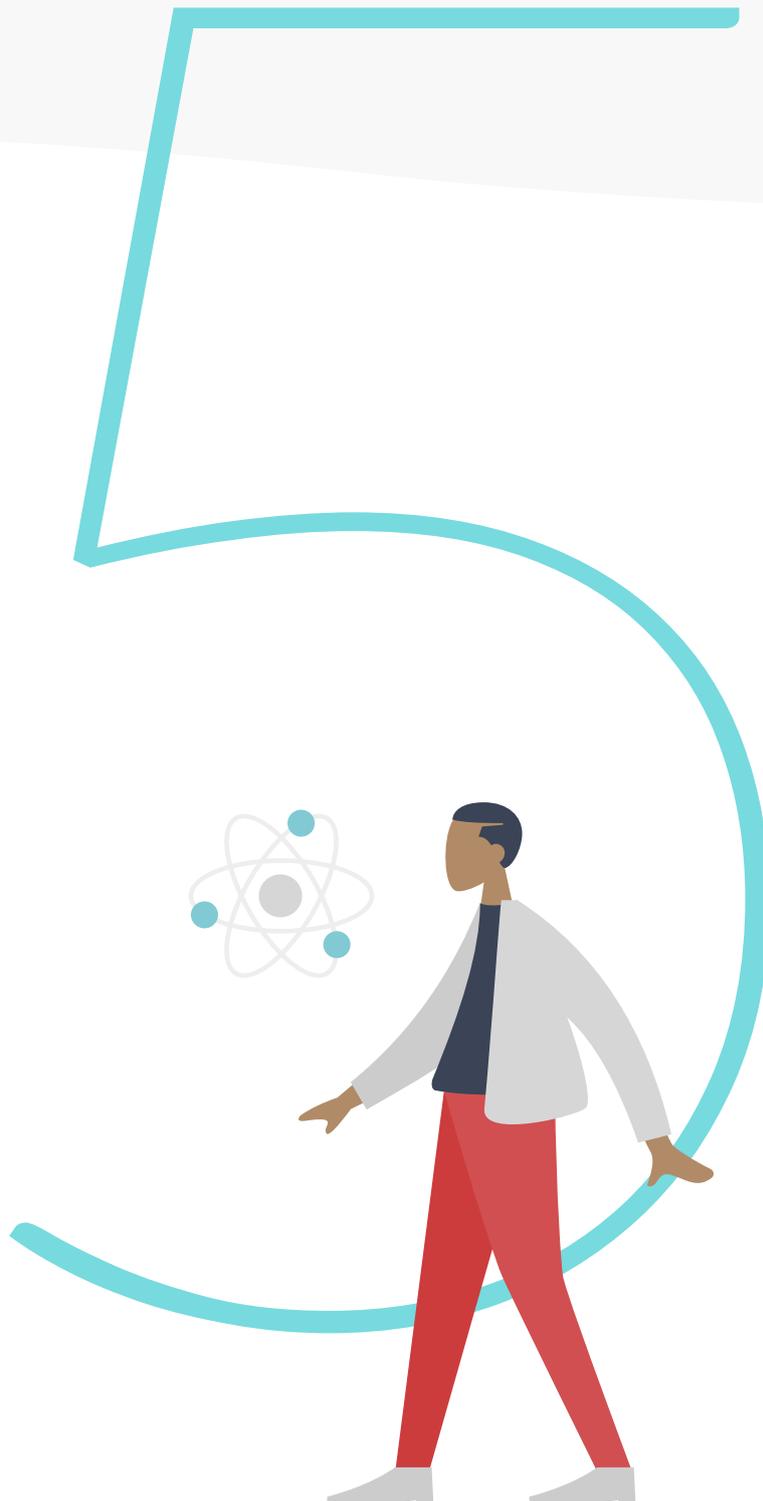
- **Knowledge of current affairs:** Encourage students to read the news, and think about the political events and social causes that they're passionate about.
- **Community service:** This can help law applicants to demonstrate a commitment to a wider public service and gives students valuable experience of working with different diverse groups of people.
- **Legal work experience:** if your students can secure work experience with a law firm or legal services organisation, this will help their university application and legal CV.

Other routes into law

Higher education is the most common route to becoming a lawyer, but some countries offer or are beginning to offer vocational law qualifications or law apprenticeships - the UK is one example. Students can also consider becoming a paralegal (assisting with legal duties), which requires less training and can often be done alongside working.

Higher education is the most common route to becoming a lawyer, but some countries offer or are beginning to offer vocational law qualifications.

Science and Engineering



Science and engineering-based subjects are themselves quite broad disciplines, and we can't talk about all the possible degree paths in this chapter. But it's worth talking about some of the careers that science and engineering degrees/majors can lead to. Let's briefly look at these 2 academic fields in more detail...

Science

When we say 'science' we're of course talking about a very broad family of subjects and disciplines. We can break the sciences into three main groups.

Biology

This encompasses degrees such as biomedical science, genetics, marine biology, zoology and microbiology.

Chemistry

This includes degrees such as applied chemistry, biochemistry, environmental science, forensic science, and pharmacology.

Physics

Physics-based pathways include astrophysics, mathematical physics, theoretical physics and chemical physics.

Engineering

Again, many fields and degrees fall within the category of engineering. The four main ones are chemical engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and aeronautical engineering.

If a student came to you and asked you to sum up the difference between science and engineering in one sentence, we'd suggest you explain it like this:

Science degrees are more focused on observing and studying the world, while engineering is more focused on designing and making things.

That's a bit of a simplification and, of course, there is a lot of overlap between science and engineering degree paths (pretty much all engineering degrees are based on scientific principles and theory). But, for an undecided student, it's safe to say that engineering degrees are slightly more practical.

Science degrees are more focused on observing and studying the world, while engineering is more focused on designing and making things.

What can students do with a science/ engineering qualification?

One of the great things about the fields of science and engineering is that students can either study a very broad degree or a very specific degree.

That means that science and engineering programmes are suitable for those students who are more certain about their future career path, but also those students who may be undecided.

Science and engineering degrees can ready students for careers in business, finance, accounting, healthcare, scientific publishing, teaching, or even the creative sector!

Both science and engineering qualifications can lead students into careers directly related to their degrees - or something completely different. Science and engineering degrees can ready students for careers in business, finance, accounting, healthcare, scientific publishing, teaching, or even the creative sector!

This is because they equip students with a wide range of professional skills, including data analysis, data collection, data processing, research, report writing, problem-solving, project management and teamwork.

What does a science/ engineering qualification typically look like?

Content

Of course, the content of science and engineering degree programmes will vary depending on the subject or specialism in question.

But broadly speaking, most science or engineering courses will encourage students to take more generalist modules or classes in their first year, before allowing students to specialise later.

Students who complete a science degree will, in most countries, graduate from university with either a Bachelor of Science (BSc) or Masters of Science (MSc). Meanwhile, students who choose to study towards an Engineering qualification will graduate with a Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) or Masters of Engineering (MEng).

Length

The length of science and engineering degrees will vary from country to country. They usually take 3 or 4 years, but can vary depending on several factors:

- Some science and engineering degrees will include a year in industry, which will extend the length of their studies.
- Some degrees will be longer to allow students to work towards and graduate with a master's qualification.

Assessment

Most science and engineering degrees are assessed through a combination of exams, coursework, oral presentations, exams and research-related projects. Some assessments will involve group work and, often in the case of science degrees, lab work.

Postgraduate options

As we mentioned, some science and engineering degrees will be inclusive of a postgraduate qualification. But if your students are interested in embarking on postgraduate study upon completion of their undergraduate degree, there are plenty of options open to them!

Many postgraduate MSc or MEng degrees allow students to further specialise in areas of science or engineering that may be of interest to them.

Many postgraduate degrees allow students to further specialise in areas that may be of interest to them.

Engineering accreditations

It's worth devoting a small section to Engineering accreditations. Many countries will offer qualified extra professional accreditations to allow engineering graduates to become chartered engineers. Professional accreditations and qualifications represent a fantastic opportunity for engineers to get extra career development and network with peers. Many countries have one or more professional engineering organisations, with some countries even having different networks/organisations for the different types of engineering.

Which subjects should students take at high school level?

It won't surprise you to know that students interested in science and engineering need a grounding in... science and engineering! Engineering isn't usually studied at the high school level, but maths, physics, biology and chemistry are good options.

How can students make their applications stand out?

Like with the other subjects in this guide, the most important thing is for students to demonstrate a passion for their subject. When applying they should make sure to highlight:

- Any topics of sciences/engineering that they are passionate about - remember, it should be something unrelated to their schoolwork!
- Any courses or lectures they have attended and what they learned from this
- Any other extracurricular activities that showcase their project-management and teamwork skills - e.g. being a member of the school council, playing as part of a sports team.

Other routes into science and engineering

It's more likely that students will have to take a more academic route if they decide to study a more theoretical science degree e.g. physics or chemistry. But, if students are interested in engineering, there are vocational routes into higher education.

For example, some UK companies offer degree-level apprenticeships in engineering, allowing students to work towards a degree equivalent qualification while also learning engineering as a trade.

Likewise, colleges of technology in Japan and universities of applied science in the Netherlands and Germany are institutions where students could take a more applied/vocational route into engineering.

Creative and Arts



Creative and arts-based qualifications cover a range of disciplines, both theoretical and practical. These include subjects and skill sets such as:

- Photography • Film & animation • Graphic design • Fine art • Drama & dance
- Creative writing • Music

What can students do with a creative/arts-based qualification?

Creative degrees and qualifications will offer students practical skills to excel in a number of career paths.

Some students (and/or their parents) may be inclined to believe that there isn't a lot of money in pursuing a creative or an arts-based degree, especially when compared to some of the other subject groups we've covered in this book so far.

But nothing could be further from the truth. Arts graduates can be highly sought after by employers, and students will develop niche and specialist skills that will, in turn, lead to rich and varied careers. These skills include project management, entrepreneurship, emotional intelligence, independent learning and problem-solving.

Arts graduates will develop niche and specialist skills that will, in turn, lead to rich and varied careers.

Creative and arts graduates can go on to work in sectors such as art and design, leisure and tourism, the media, film or television industry, the voluntary or charitable sector, education, government/politics or the tech sector (the BridgeU content team have some experience of this last job!)

What does a creative/arts qualification typically look like?

Content

Creative and arts-based degrees will vary depending on the type of institution students choose to apply to, and the type of creative pathway they choose to follow.

For example, many drama, dance or performance-related degrees will often have more of a practical element.

Creative and arts degrees may also offer work experience, and/or the opportunity to present their work at exhibitions or trade shows.

Length

Creative and arts-based degrees vary in length depending on the field or specialism that your students are interested in. Most creative degrees will typically be 3 or 4 years in length. This may include a year of work experience or a work placement.

The only exception to this is studying towards an architecture degree, which can take 5 years.

Assessment

Creative and arts degrees will be assessed through a mixture of exams and coursework.

But it's also common for creative and arts degrees to be assessed through other criteria. For example, fine art and design students may be asked to complete a portfolio of work that will then be assessed. Likewise, drama, performance or dance-related degrees may require students to put on a play, a performance or live show that will form part of their final degree.

Postgraduate options

Though a postgraduate qualification isn't essential to get a job, there are many options for creative arts students. Many of these qualifications allow students to build on those skills that they developed at the undergraduate level, with postgraduate degrees often providing a greater degree of specialism.

Here's just one example. A student who had studied film or theatre studies at the undergraduate level may decide that he/she wishes to work towards a postgraduate qualification in editing or post-production, thereby helping to set them apart in the film and television industry.

Where should students apply for creative/arts-based qualifications?

This will depend on what students want to specialise in. Almost every major international study destination has several specialist arts-based institutions or boasts renowned creative arts courses.

In some countries, there are particularly high concentrations of arts institutions. For example, in the UK and South-East of England, there are many high profile drama schools and arts and fashion schools.

Likewise, states in the northeast of the USA are home to several specialist institutions for art and design - these include the Massachusetts College of Art and Design & The Rhode Island School of Design.

But of course, these aren't the only options in their given country. Perhaps more than any other discipline, the type of institution your students decide to attend will depend on the creative qualification they want to pursue.

How can students make their applications stand out?

Students applying for creative/arts-based degrees will need to demonstrate their creativity - especially in the field they are interested in. Here are some questions they can consider:

- Have they undertaken creative projects in their own time, e.g. painting, crafts, film/video projects?
- Have they taken part in a dance or theatre performance - whether at school or independently?
- Do they play a musical instrument?
- Do they have any relevant digital skills, e.g. web design, blogging?

Other routes into the creative arts

We should point out that many of the creative arts subjects we've mentioned above don't require a degree. There are institutions in countries like the UK, the Netherlands and Germany, that allow students to take vocational qualifications in creative and design-related subjects.

How to help your students move from career aspiration to university application

We've covered a diverse range of career paths and subject families in this book. Hopefully, you've got a richer understanding of the different career options open to your students.

But even with all this information at their fingertips, students may still feel overwhelmed. After all, choosing a career path is one thing. Choosing a higher/further education institution is a completely different challenge.

So how can you help your students to make that (sometimes difficult) leap from career exploration to choosing that all-important higher education pathway?

Here are a few tips from us as you help students navigate their way through career and universities exploration.

Help them to focus on their strengths and skills

Fundamentally, a rewarding job is one where a person's skills are aligned to what they're doing. So when advising a student, always start from first principles and encourage them to reflect on what they're good at, what academic subjects they're passionate about, how they like to learn, how they prefer to be assessed.

These may seem like basic or obvious questions but students can sometimes lose sight of the essentials when you're trying to encourage them to think about their future!

Be mindful of unhelpful career myths

Remember that bit of advice that says 'follow your passion in life'? It's not always helpful.

Of course, we're not advocating you crush your students' dreams! But you can help them look at the big picture. Is there a future in their dream job? Will their talent carry them all the way? What qualifications will they need to be truly successful? Perhaps, most importantly, how do their career aspirations align with their other life goals, both personal and professional.

Now let's look at the other side of the argument. It's also important that students don't pick a career path because of familial pressure, or solely because it's lucrative and highly paid. As we've demonstrated in this guide, medicine and law qualifications can lead to rewarding degrees. But the work and training required to get there are not for the faint-hearted or partially committed!

Remind your students that there's no single route to career success

Your students need to understand that, whatever their ultimate career goals, there's more than one way of attaining them. Let's return to one of our examples from earlier in this book.

As we explained in our chapter on law qualifications, a student interested in a legal career wouldn't need an undergraduate law degree to succeed. Other degrees can help students to develop the skills that will help them in their future legal career.

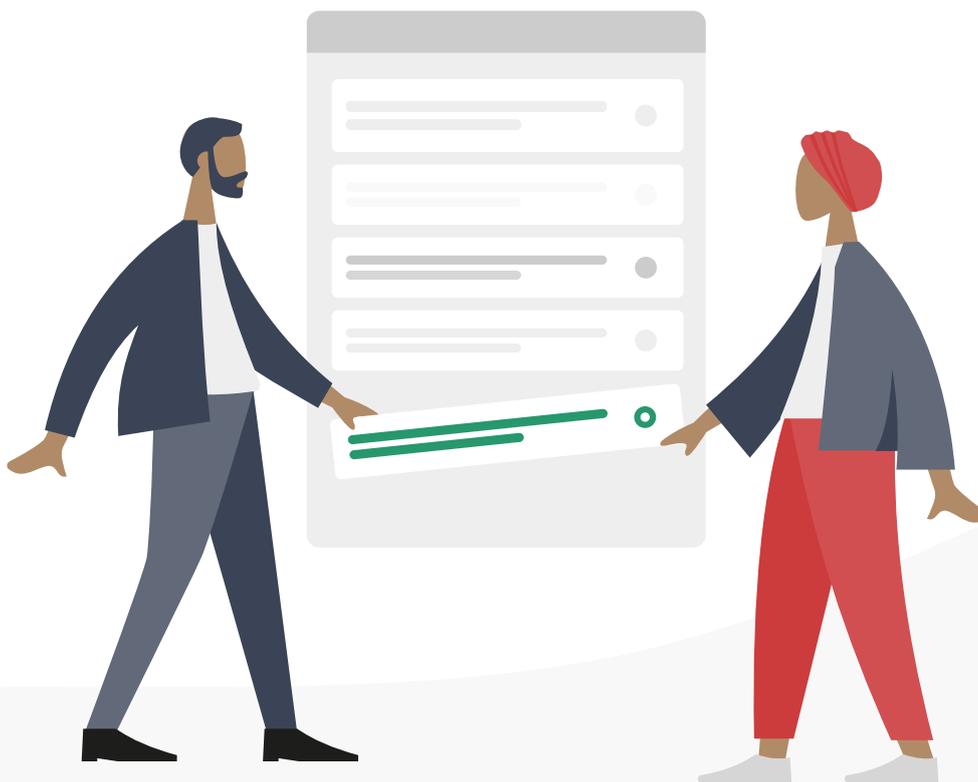
If you're currently helping students to decide on the right university for them, encourage them to explore a few different routes into their preferred career. They might stumble upon a degree pathway they'd never considered.

We should also stress that some careers don't require an academic route for students to be successful. In many of the countries we've covered in this guide, there is a range of vocational qualifications that combine the benefits of higher education with practical work experience.

When you're offering careers guidance to your students, there are no absolute right or wrong answers to the big questions. While students need to think about their future with purpose and clarity, they shouldn't feel the pressure to have all the answers now.

Students need to remember they'll likely change as people as they grow older, and their passions and interests may change too! What's more, many commentators agree that the next generation of graduates is likely to work in jobs that haven't been invented yet!

We hope this guide serves as your careers guidance compass and provides a useful reminder that careers exploration can be hard, but it's not rocket science (you need to study that at university first!).

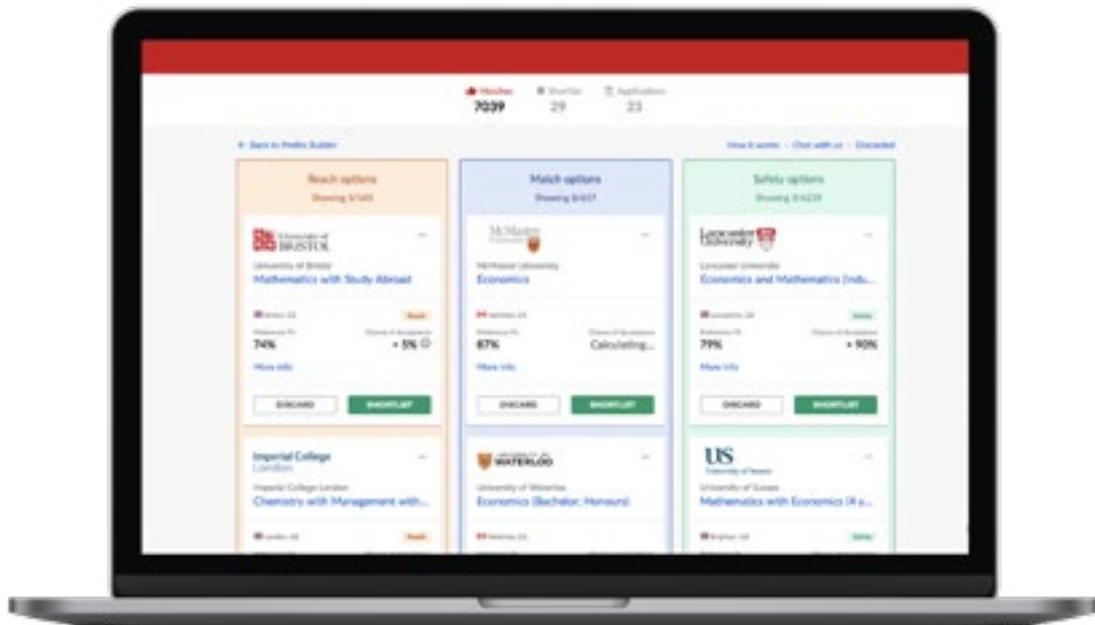


About BridgeU

BridgeU provides world-class university and careers guidance for global secondary schools, to empower your students, inform your guidance strategy and improve outcomes.

Founded in 2014, BridgeU is the market leader in university & careers guidance for global secondary schools. We partner with schools in over 120 countries and we match students with over 28,000 universities.

BridgeU provides global schools with a comprehensive end-to-end solution for schools, advisors and students.



To discover how BridgeU can deliver better outcomes for your school, schedule a free demo today by visiting:

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