Beau Soleil Collège Alpin International

Your Future A Guide to College Counselling at Beau Soleil









At Beau Soleil, we believe it's what you do that counts

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Embracing the future

Introduction for parents

Leaving school, starting employment, taking a gap year or going to university can be exciting, scary and life changing for all involved. At Beau Soleil, through our College Counselling programme, we guide all our students, parents and families through these processes so that, with the full support of their loved ones, our students can make the best next step for them.

This guide is written for students as they begin the adventure of applying to university or considering other options for their future. The aim is to raise questions that will lead to conversations with you, their teachers, friends and the College Counselling team at Beau Soleil. Open discussions help students to define their goals and expectations and ensure that we can best support them to flourish, whatever the pathway they may choose.

The Director of College Counselling here at Beau Soleil is at the centre of a support network with every teacher, tutor and member of the house team playing a vital role. Our holistic approach ensures that every student understands their strengths, using these to find the right fit for them in what they do next. Collectively, the staff at Beau Soleil have attended over two hundred different universities all around the world and have a wide range of experiences on which to draw, helping to find the best step forward for each student.

Talk with us

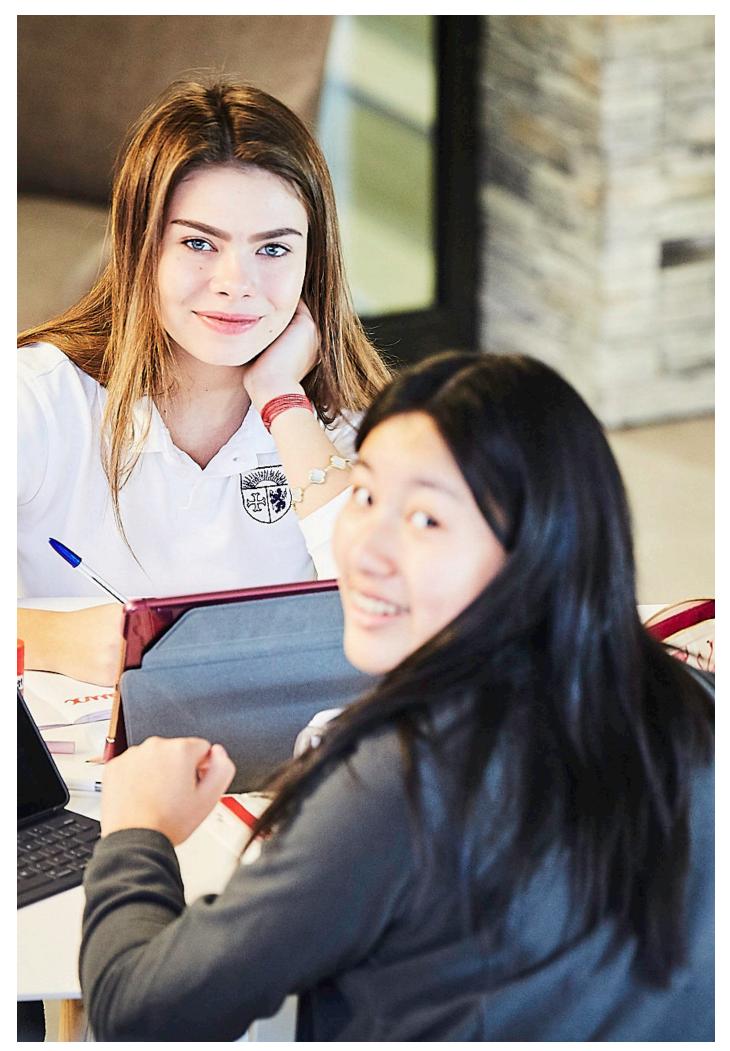
There is a lot of information contained in this guide but, at its heart, this is not about forms, processes and results: it is about exploring what is best for each and every student at Beau Soleil. This process is a team effort that begins with a conversation. Please make your appointment using the QR code, or send an email to us at college.counselling@beausoleil.ch

Join our events for parents

Every year we host university information sessions for parents, run by experts in their field. We encourage you to join these sessions that are run at 1000 and 1600 Swiss time on each day.

February	February				
First Thursday	Supporting your child with their US application				
Second Thursday	Supporting your child with their UK application				
Third Thursday	Supporting your child with their Francophone application				





The best next step for you

Introduction for students

We are here to help

At Beau Soleil we are here to support and guide you, along with your parents as you look towards your future and the vast range of options that are available around the world. These are exciting times with lots of questions to answer and choices to make. Should I go directly to University; if so, which one? Should I find a job and study later? Should I take a gap year? The Director of College Counselling, along with your teachers, tutor and house staff are all here to support you as you analyse your strengths and find the right fit for what you will do next.

Aim of this guide

This guide aims to raise questions that can lead to conversations between you, your parents, teachers and support network and in turn help you to find what will be the best next step for you.

As you read through this guide, reflect on the following questions;

- What are the criteria I should use when making decisions?
- What does success look like to me?
- What is the best next step for me?

Consider these as a starting point to conversations with your family and the Beau Soleil team and use them to find the right reasons that inform your conclusions.

Do not under-estimate the time and emotional energy that this process will take. It may be tough for you, your parents and your friends, so look after yourself and those you care for. Remember, the more that you invest in this process, the better the outcome will be, and your future depends on it. Only you can do this.

Talk to us

Remember that we are all here to help you on your journey and amongst the team here at Beau Soleil, there is a vast range of experience on which you can draw. Did you know that collectively, our staff have attended more than 200 different universities across the world? Start a conversation with your tutor, teacher, your house team, or make an appointment with College Counselling now to discuss your plans.

Use the QR code to make an appointment with College Counselling now.



"Every option is right for someone, no option is right for everyone."

> Beau Soleil Director of College Counselling



College Counselling at Beau Soleil

Our ethics

1. We will accurately report

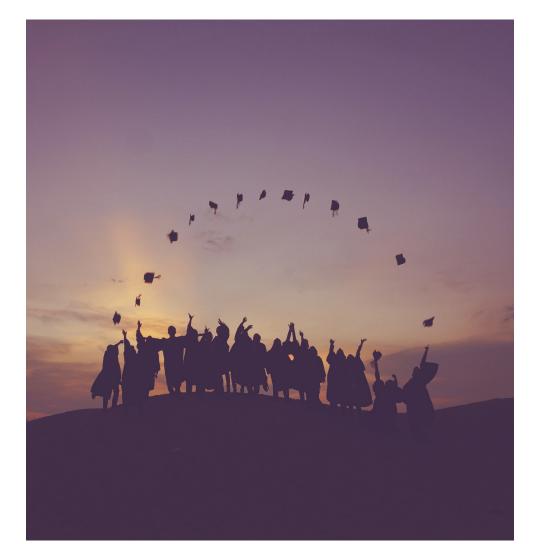
- The student's abilities and potential.
- What universities do and do not do to support student learning.
- The involvement of any third parties in the process.

2. We will put what is best for the student first

- We want the student to flourish in what they do after school.
- We recognize that students are part of families and families have views and desires concerning what students do next.
- We will work with those appointed by families to represent them for the best interests of the student.

3. We want all involved in decision making to be well informed concerning

- Realistic choices
- Application processes
- The nature of different types of choice.



What happens in College Counselling at Beau Soleil?

Our priority is finding out what is best for you and helping you to find the path that will allow you to flourish. Ongoing conversations with the College Counselling team, you and your parents will help you to ask the critical questions about your future and to match your expectations with your strengths.

College Counselling activities and events

Research Activities	 Support with personal research and reflection Unifrog training and support On campus University Fairs Opportunities to meet current university students, including Beau Soleil alumni Guest speakers and interviews with industry leaders Visits to universities
Preparation for Assessments	 UCAT, University Clinical Aptitude Test, BMAT, the Bio-Medical Admissions Test, LNAT, the Law National Aptitude Test, and other UK test classes in school SAT, Scholastic Aptitude Test, and ACT, American College Test preparation classes IELTS, International English Language Testing System, preparation and testing opportunities Interview practice for university entrance
Application Workshops and Support	 UCAS – the UK's university application platform for all UK universities Common App – the application platform used by over 1000 US universities Francophone university applications Support for all university applications worldwide
Ongoing Support	 Reference letters and certificates Recommendation letters References Advice and support

We also provide:

- The opportunity to drop in or make an appointment to see a College Counsellor between 07.30 and 22.00 from Monday to Thursday and 10.00 to 18.00 most weekends
- Access to a plethora of online and printed materials to help decision making
- Fruit, drinks and chocolates, as well as a weekly puzzle

University information sessions

The experts come to Beau Soleil in a series of online workshops designed to allow you to learn more about your university choices and how you can ensure your application

shines. All sessions are at 17:00 in 3.107. Please check with the leader of your ECA that it is OK to attend a session before attending.

February

First Monday	How to apply to a UK university
Second Tuesday	How to apply to US universities

March

First Wednesday	How to apply to Swiss universities
Second Thursday	How to apply to Canadian universities
Third Monday	How to apply to Dutch universities
Fourth Wednesday	Support from Beau Soleil alumni for all Grade 11s

April

Second Thursday	How to write your UCAS Personal Statement	
Third Monday	Writing your US application essay	
Fourth Tuesday	Applying to an European University	



My College Counselling journey at Beau Soleil

Every student is different and your pathway will be special to you. In general, the following timelines give an outline of what you can expect and the preparations and questions you can be asking at each step of your educational journey. There are also a selection of questions that can help your parents to assist you as you move through the process of applying to universities.

On campus the College Counselling Centre has a great selection of resources for

inspiration. You are encouraged you make use of these throughout the school year. Drop in and explore the options that exist around the world for your future.

Remember that US universities log EVERY digital and IRL interaction that you have with them. If you are applying to US universities you should interact with them on all platforms as much as possible.

Grades 6 - 9

As a student: What should I be doing?

- Enjoying life to the full
- Discovering what makes you feel fully alive
- Participating in university visits

As a parent: What questions can I be asking?

- What are you best at? How can you be better at it?
- How do you learn best?



Grade 10

As a student: What should I be doing?

- Identify and articulate your strengths
 - Talk to older students about the subjects they chose for their diploma
- Ask your teachers which diploma choices will help you to achieve your best
- Attend Higher Education
 launch workshop
- Receive your copy of The Beau Soleil University Guide and discuss this with your parents
- Choose the best subject combination for you

September		November	January
	-		

As a parent: What questions can I be asking?

- What are you best at?
- What sort of university system do you think is right for you? The UK or the US? A hybrid? Other places?
- What are your criteria for choosing the right university for you?
- What subjects are you choosing? Do these choices play to your strengths?
- Are you choosing subjects which enable you to get the highest point scores?



- Decide if you are going to apply for US universities using SATs or ACTs
- Decide if you want to apply to elite academic universities, e.g. Ivy League or Russell Group. Attend the sessions offered to support these applications (running until the December of Grade 12)
- Attend three HE sessions in school that are relevant to your plans

- Attend SAT | ACT course in school if necessary
- Plan summer activities that excite you and show you at your best
- Organise visits to universities on your long list, if possible
- Visit universities
- Take part in summer activities
- Ensure Beau Soleil has all your school transcripts,
- If applying to US style universities, start putting your resume and list of successes together
- If you are considering applying for medicine, veterinary science or hospitality courses volunteering or work experience may be pertinent

February March June Summer Break

- Is an American university right for you?
- Do you need to prepare for ACTs or SATs?
- Are you attending the extra support sessions to support elite applications? What have you found interesting at these sessions?
- What other support do you need to do well in your standardised US tests?
- What summer activities will show you enjoy and show you at your best?
- How can we help you arrange the visit? (Where possible young people should visit unaccompanied.)
- How has visiting universities changed your criteria as to what is the "best fit" university for you?
- What have you learnt from your summer activities?
- Does school have all your transcripts since you were 11?



Grade 11

As a student: What should I be doing?

- Make a great start on your High School diploma courses and generate great GPA scores
- If intending applying to highly competitive Ivy and Russell Group universities attend the support group
- Retake SATs | ACTs (if necessary)
- Review your progress and attend Higher Education events online and in school
- If applying to the US, decide on your shortlist of nine US universities and make good links with them
- Finalise the list of countries that you wish to apply to
- Decide on whether you are going to take a gap year
- Take SAT course if you did not take in Grade 10

September to November

December

Januar

As a parent: What questions can I be asking?

- What are you best at?How can you build on your successes?
- Given your start to your diploma course what is a set of realistic choices for you?
- How are you building relationships with the US universities that you are applying to?
- Do you need to prepare for SATs?



- Retake SATs | ACTs if necessary
- Attend university events in school as appropriate
- Remind your teachers, tutor and house parent of all of your successes so that they can mention these in your references and recommendation letters
- Formulate your application plan, drawing together all the school and university deadlines. Be clear about what you want to achieve
- Plan summer activities that display your talents
- Take English language proficiency tests where necessary
- Review your GPAs and reports with your teachers, house parents and tutors
- Attend university events in schools with your parents when you can
- Visit any universities that you are going to apply to that you have not already visited
- Write and review your applications
- Participate in summer activities

January | February 💙 💙 March | April 💙 👌 May | June 💙 Summer Break

- What university events have you attended in school?
- What has been useful in helping you decide on the best fit university for you?
- Have you reduced your short list to (maximum) nine universities in the US or 5 in the UK?
- Can I have a copy of your action plan so that we can put the dates in the family diary?
- Do you have the grades and reports you need for your applications?
- Do you now need to change your choices?
- What have you learnt from summer activities?
- Can I hear what you are saying in your application?
- That sounds like you because...

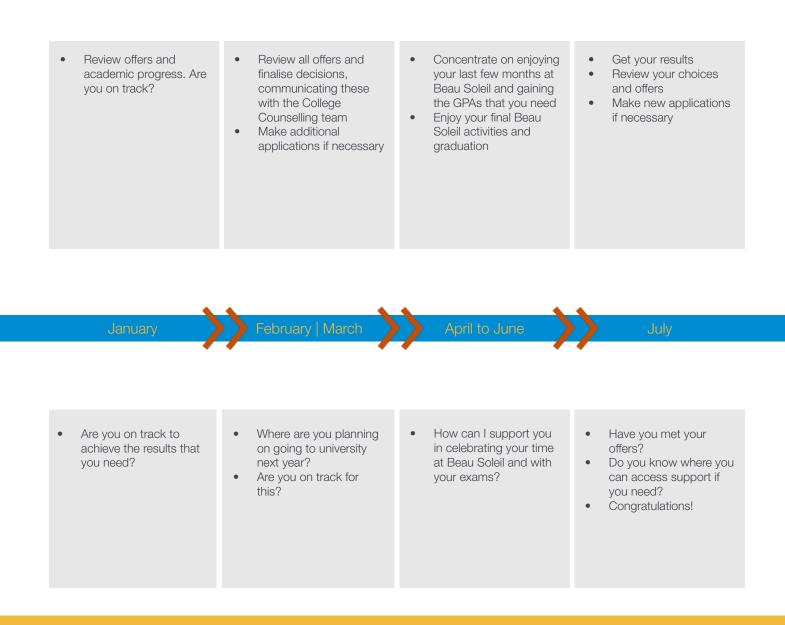


As a student: What should I be doing?



As a parent: What questions can I be asking?





When the time feels right..

Get in touch with our Alumni team and let us know how you are doing. alumni@beausoleil.ch







The best next step for me

Go to university...

When you leave Beau Soleil, you begin a new chapter in your life and the first decision to make is what will this step be?

Read for a Degree is an English expression which implies that you are an undergraduate and expresses the reality of much of Higher Education. Heading to university is a goal for many and can open the door to a myriad of interesting and rewarding opportunities. We encourage you to start reading now if you are interested in pursuing a university Will you go straight to university? Will you take a gap year, or is the step into the workforce what will be right for you?

education. Read around your subject of interest and prepare yourself not only for what lies ahead, but also for your university application. You will find some suggested readings on the following pages.

Sciences

Biology and Medicine	Richard Dawkins Richard Dawkins Rebecca Skloot	An Ancestor's Tale The Selfish Gene The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
Environment Sciences	Naomi Klein Jared Diamond Ruth Ozeki	This Changes Everything Guns, Germs and Steel My Year of Meats
Mathematics and Physics	Stephen Hawking Cathy O'Neil Brian Christian & Tom Griffiths	A Brief History of Time or, Brief Answers to the Big Questions Weapons of Math Destruction Algorithms to live by: The Computer Science of Human Decisions

World Languages

Russian	Mikhail Bulgakov Dostoevsky Tchekhov	The Master and Margarita Crime and Punishment Cherry Garden
Italian	Sibilla Aleramo Niccolò Machiavelli Pirandello	Una donna Il Principe Il Fu Mattia Pascal
German	Florian Henckel von Donnersmark Christian Nürnberger Jan Hofer	Das Leben der Anderen Mutige Menschen Was haben Sie gemacht, als die Mauer fiel?
French	Françoise Sagan Victor Hugo Fatou Diome	Bonjour Tristesse Le dernier jour d'un condamné La préférence nationale
Spanish	Pablo Neruda Carmen Martín Gaite Rosa Montero	Veinte poemas de amor y una canción desesperada El cuarto de atrás La loca de la casa

English

English

Virginia Woolf Margaret Atwood Donna Tartt To the Lighthouse The Handmaid's Tale The Goldfinch



The Arts

Art and History of Art	Julian Stallabrass Linda Nochlin Craig Clunas	Contemporary Art: A Very Short Introduction Women, Art, and Power: and Other Essays Art in China				
	J. P. E. Harper-Scott & Jim Samson	An Introduction to Music Studies				
Music	Tia DeNora	Music in Everyday Life				
	Sujatha Fernandes	Close to the Edge: In Search of the Global Hip Hop Generation				
Film	Richard Dyer, E. Ann Kaplan, Paul Willemen, John Hill	The Oxford Guide to Film Studies Illustrated Edition				
1 1111	Wheeler Winston Dixon, Gwendolyn Audrey Foster	A Short History of Film, Third Edition				
Fashion readings	Fashionpedia The Fashion Business Manual Clare Buckley Jacqueline McAssey	The visual dictionary of fashion design An Illustrated guide to building a fashion brand Basics Fashion Design 08: Styling				

Human Sciences

Geography	Andrea Wulf Harari, Yuval Noah Dambisa Moyo	The Invention of Nature: The Adventures of Alexander von Humboldt, the Lost Hero of Science Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind Dead Aid: Why aid is not working and how there is another way for Africa
History	Marc Bloch Joan Scott Robin G. Collingwood	The Historian's Craft Gender and the Politics of History The Idea of History
Economics	Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner Amartya Sen Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson	Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything Development as Freedom Why Nations Fail
Business and Management	Bethany McLean & Peter Elkind Sheryl Sandberg Jim Collins	The Smartest Guys in the Room: The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't
Global Politics	Steven Pinker Naomi Klein Edward Said	The Better Angels of Our Nature - Why Violence has Declined This Changes Everything - Capitalism vs the Climate Orientalism

Join the workforce...

Not everyone aspires to further study and for a number of you the workforce is where you will flourish. Some of the most successful people in business, like Mary Kay and Richard Branson do not have a degree, and learning on the job is the right approach for many. At Beau Soleil we have contacts with some of the world's most successful companies and if you are interested in this pathway, you should speak with the Director of College Counselling.

Take a gap year...

Some of you may need a break from learning, taking time to decide what you want to do. You may be young for your year and you may need to be 18 to go to university. You may have a passion that you want to explore, or a wish to reapply to a highly competitive university. Taking time out between the end of school and going to University can be a fantastic opportunity but it is good to be aware that:

- Some universities and some courses do not like students taking gap years and almost none encourage it. You can defer a UK application a year and sometimes having received a US application, you can request a deferral.
- Well planned gap years can be life transforming but they need as much planning as a university application

 and an application to university still needs to be made.

Remember that you will have at least 3 months between the time you finish school and when university begins. Three months that can be used very effectively if you plan in advance.

"I am taking a gap year because I want to see if I can become a world class athlete."

Beau Soleil Student

Check these websites for inspiration:

- A Broader View **AFS Suisse** Aquarius Abroad Best Gap Year BUNAC CIEE Cross Cultural Solutions Cybelle Planète FSI Gap Year Gapforce Global Citizen Year **Global Crossroad Global Leadership Adventures Global Routes** Go Abroad Go Overseas GVI Helping Abroad Icye International Volunteer HQ
- abroaderview.org afs.ch jobsandinternshipsabroad.com bestgapyear.co.uk bunac.org ciee.org crossculturalsolutions.org cybelle-planete.org esl.ch gapyear.com gapforce.org globalcitizenyear.org globalcrossroad.com experiencegla.com globalroutes.org goabroad.com gooverseas.com gvi.co.uk helpingabroad.org icye.ch volunteerhq.org

Let's Go Abroad Nouvelle Planète Project Trust Projects Abroad Real Gap Experience The Leap United Planet WEP Year Out Group letsgoabroad.ch nouvelle-planete.ch projecttrust.org.uk projects-abroad.org realgap.co.uk theleap.co.uk unitedplanet.org wep-swiss.ch yearoutgroup.org









VOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD Door TO



University

Glossary of Terms

There is some important vocabulary to understand when you are applying to university, whether that be in the US, the UK or elsewhere in the world.

As an applicant, you apply to read or study for a degree.

When you have passed your degree you become a graduate.

When you are studying for a degree you are an undergraduate.

The degree you are most likely to be applying for is a Bachelor degree.

Most subject areas either award a Bachelor of Arts, a BA, or a Bachelor of Science, a BSc. A few subjects, e.g. Engineering and Music might award their own Bachelor degree, e.g. a BEng or BMus.

Degrees are graded from first, second, first and second division, known as 2i and 2ii, thirds and ordinary.

If you gain a first, 2i or 2ii (and in some universities a third) you receive your bachelor degree with honours. This will usually be written BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons). If you gain enough academic credits for a third this is called an ordinary degree.

Foundation degrees focus on a particular job or profession. Foundation degrees are ideal if you're unsure about taking a full degree or if you want to study while you work.

Globally most degrees are four years long. In the UK many degrees are three years long. International students going

College or University, what is the difference?

"College" is often used as American for "University". However, both are sometimes used in the US.

Colleges are often smaller institutions that emphasize undergraduate education in a broad range of academic areas.

Universities are typically larger institutions that offer a variety of both undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Many universities are also committed to producing research.

In the UK "college" is mainly used in Higher Education (HE) to describe the constituent parts of Oxford and Cambridge

to the UK should consider taking a one year foundation course to bridge the gap into year 1 of the degree. This Foundation course is a one-year course that if you pass enables you to go on to study for a degree. Like the IB and ASDP, foundation courses are level 3 courses.

Art Foundation courses are one year pre-Art degree courses taken by nearly everyone wanting to do an art degree as a way to experiment in different media. Sometimes people take an Art Foundation course as part of a gap year.

In the UK you apply for a course.

In a single honours course you study one subject, e.g. History.

A Joint honours course allows you to study two subjects equally, e.g. Economics and History.

Combined Honours courses contain two or more subjects in different proportions and may be very general, such as Natural Sciences or Liberal Arts.

TOEFL is a standardised test of English language proficiency, most commonly recognized in the US.

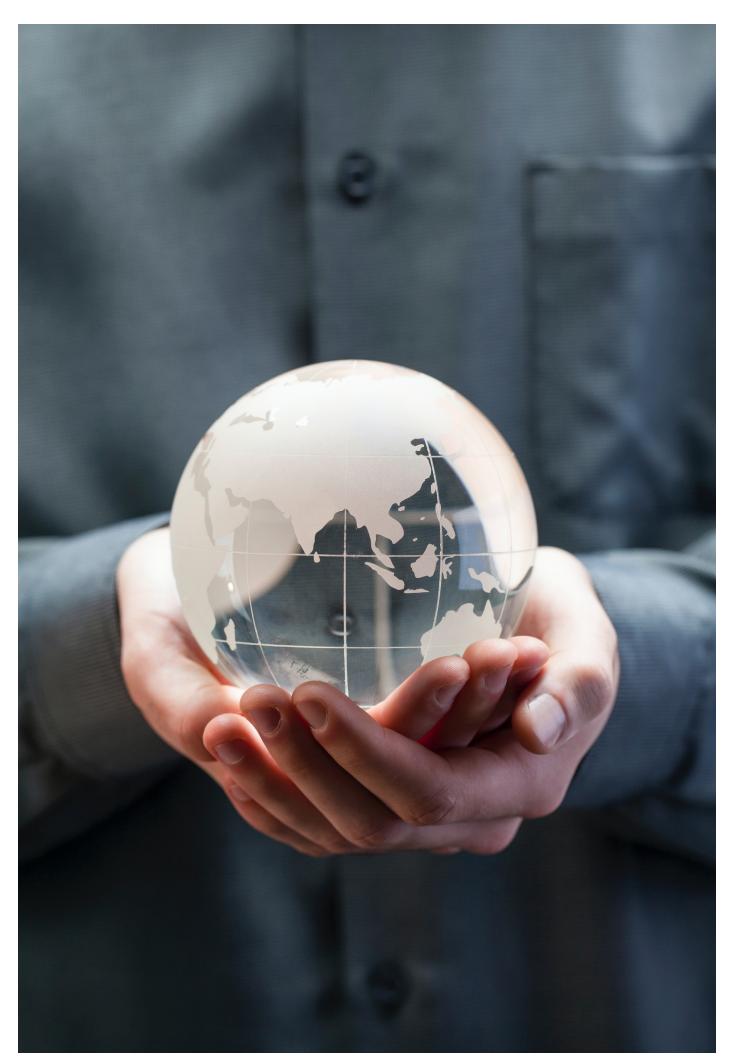
IELTS is the standardised English language test used in the UK, although also recognised by an increasing number of US universities.

In the US you apply to a university, usually choosing your main subjects, your "majors" after two years.

and some other universities. The term is used more in Further Education (FE) to describe providers of vocational level 3 (pre-university) courses.

In Canada there is a distinction between a university and a college. Universities offer academic degrees at all levels, from bachelors to advanced degrees, whereas, colleges focus on technical training and applied arts, similar to a community college.

To add to the confusion some secondary schools, such as Beau Soleil, call themselves colleges and in France Collège refers to the four years before high school, i.e. middle school.



How do I decide where to study? Which country?

For many of you, the first big choice will be whether to study in the US or the UK. Historically, most Beau Soleil students apply to one or the other and both countries have an enormous range of excellent universities. There are significant academic and cultural differences between the two and for most students it is not sensible to apply to both US and UK universities – you

Course or University?

In the UK and Europe, you usually apply directly to a course of study, such as Mathematics or Philosophy whilst in the US and Canada, you generally apply to

Length of Undergraduate Study

In the US undergraduate courses are usually four years, while in the UK and other European countries they are three years. In the UK you can often extend the

Application Process

The application process to UK universities is much simpler, easier and more transparent than that to US universities. UK universities are generally most interested in your academic abilities whereas many US universities are much more concerned about your values, extracurricular activities and story.

In the UK you complete one application

Entrance Offers

US universities tend to make decisions based on applications that include predicted grades. UK universities make offers on applications including predicted should have chosen which is right for you before you apply. In part two of this guide we will consider other parts of the world. However, first thinking about whether the US or UK is right for you is a good start as most universities worldwide follow one of these two systems.

a university but do not choose a specific course of study until you have completed a general first year.

course to four years with a foundation year. This is often advisable. Some UK science courses are four years.

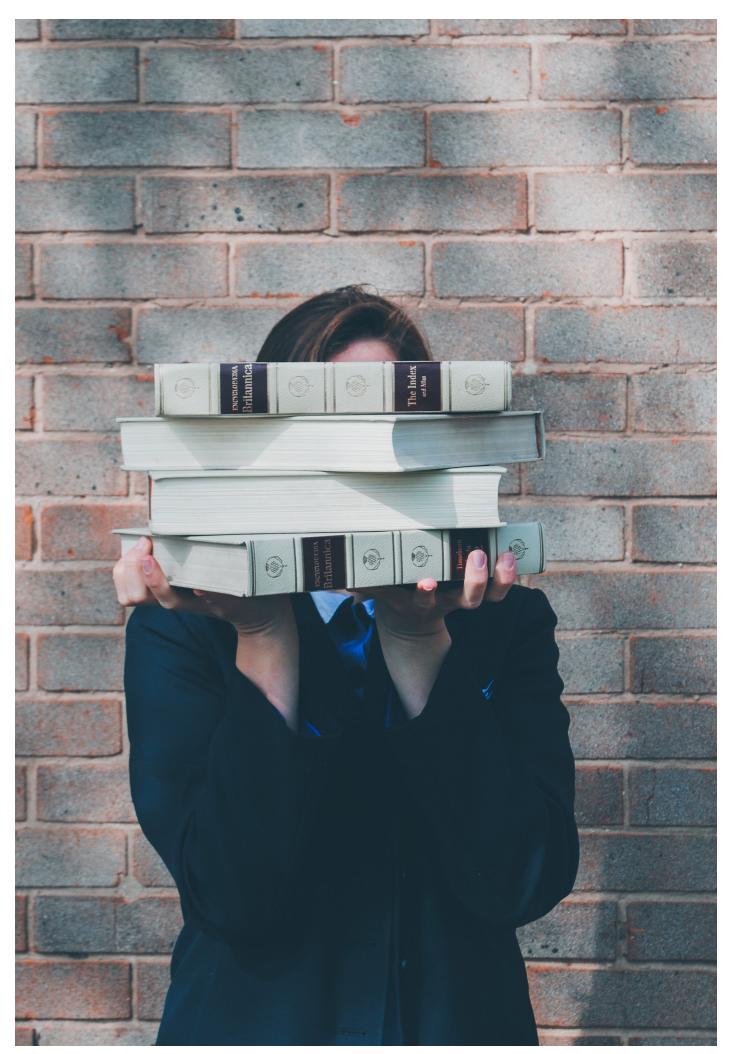
(UCAS) that is sent to a maximum of five universities. In the US you can apply to as many universities as you like and you may need to write a number of different essays. Outside of the UK and US you usually apply directly to the university that you are

we recommend that you do not apply to

more than nine universities.

grades but the place is only guaranteed when the offer is met following diploma results in the summer.

When applying to the US system you should start thinking about where you want to apply. In the UK you should think about what you want to study. Your success at university depends on you finding the right fit for you. How are you going to decide? Which of the following criteria do you think is most important? Which country? Which course? Which university?



How do I choose the subject I will study at university?

In England and Wales, the majority of the undergraduate degree programmes take three years to complete. In Scotland, degree courses are four-year programmes with a system that is multi-disciplinary, allowing you to study subjects that are different from your main subject area and giving greater flexibility for changing courses.

Choosing Your Subject

When applying to UK universities the first thing you need to decide is what subject do you want to study.

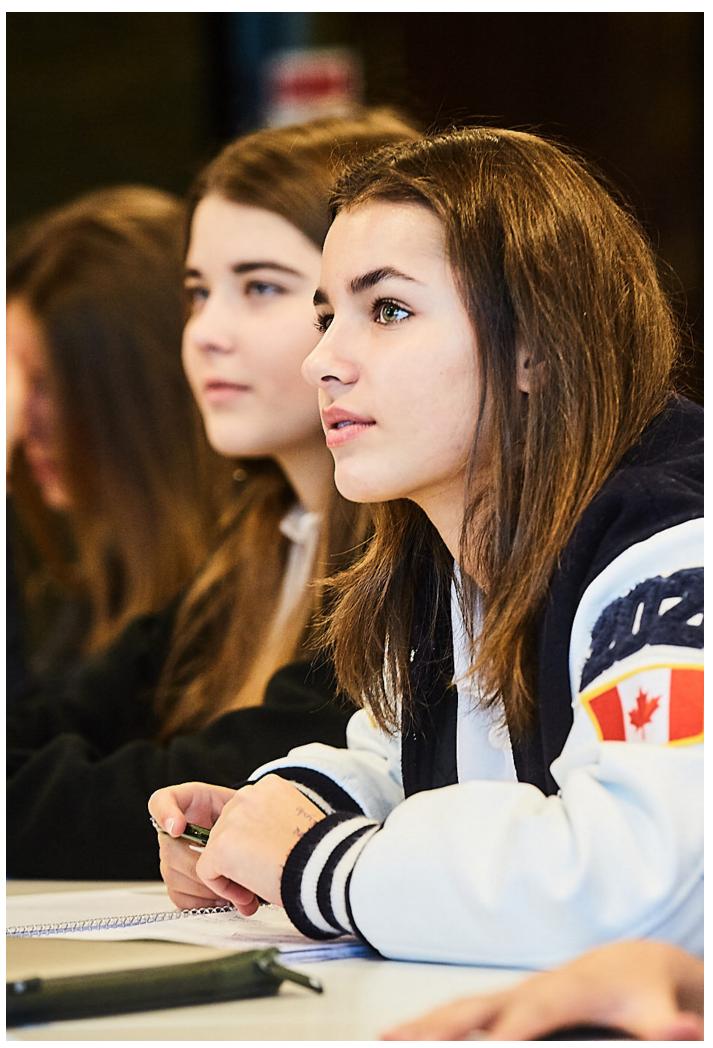
A good starting point is to think about the subject you enjoy most at school. It is important to know that;

- A subject at university can be very different from a subject with the same name at school, e.g., Mathematics or World Languages
- Courses with the same name at different universities have radically different content and approaches, e.g., Philosophy, Economics or Geography.
- Not all universities offer all subjects. If your heart is set on a particular university, you need to make sure they offer the subjects you are interested in studying.

Applying for a degree is not applying for a job, but for an academically rigorous, research-based course. Through reading for a degree you will gain skills that you can apply to any area of life, opening your mind and future options. As you research courses, you should look at the course content very carefully and ensure that the programme matches your areas of interest.

Most degree courses are not vocational study. A degree will give you transferable skills useful throughout your life. Even most engineering graduates do not become engineers! Veterinary science and medicine are noteable exceptions.

Not only do you not need a Business Degree to be a successful business person, business degrees vary enormously. If you do choose to do a degree in business you need to research VERY carefully and ensure that the courses you apply for cover the areas that you want to understand. Use Unifrog meticulously. Applying for a degree is not applying for a job, but for an academically rigorous, research-based course. Through reading for a degree you will gain skills that you can apply to any area of life, opening your mind and future options.



How should I choose the universities that I will apply to?

Research

Think carefully and be questioning in your approach. Attend the sessions run by universities in school to find out more about each of these institutions. Make a visit and see for yourself if the location and campus are where you want to be.

Unifrog

Unifrog is a platform that brings together all of the available information from across the world to one single, impartial, user-friendly system. Using the helpful tools to explore options and pathways, Unifrog will help you discover your strengths and open your horizons.

Useful Websites

USA

collegeboard.org commonapp.org collegeconfidential.com collegedata.com collegeprowler.com fairtest.org

Other Considerations

Be Realistic

Most universities set clear criteria that you will need to meet in order to be offered a place. Do you meet the required criteria? If the information says you will need 40 points and you are predicted 30, is it really worth you applying?

Be especially realistic about English language test requirements which are nearly always non-negotiable. Language acquisition takes time. It is important to remember when you are looking at universities that they are trying to attract you too. They spend millions on clever, targeted marketing to persuade you to choose their location.

Explore and compare courses and institutions around the world and share your ideas with those who are important to you in helping you make these decisions. Your parents can access this too. Please ask College Counselling how.

UK

ucas.com push.co.uk thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

Be Responsible

University will be three or four years of your life and you need to take responsibility for your choices. Set the criteria that are right for you. Only you can do this and it will take time and energy. Nobody else can do this for you.

Be yourself

Applications need to be true to you and only you can write them. College Counselling will give you lots of help and the whole process must start and finish with you. Do not be tempted to use external agencies as using their products often results in being accused of plagiarism. At Beau Soleil, you will have access to Unifrog, a powerful online tool that brings together information on courses and institutions around the world.

I want to be the

I want to be somewhere with great food

I want to be

at the place

with the best

parties

I want to be taught by people who are world class researchers

I want somewhere flat and warm

So long as I can be in

I love libraries -I just want to be able to read books

I need to be somewhere with good English language support

I am going to find university tough -I need to have good

teachers

I need to be somewhere that my mum can brag about

I don't care where I am so long as it is a great campus

League tables - What do they really mean?

League tables can be useful as a part of your research, but you should be very wary about their content. Virtually every university can find a league table where it is number one – and if they cannot they will create one!

The experience of international students at university is very different from that of domestic students. Nearly all league tables are massively skewed towards the experience of domestic students. What might work well for a home student is very different from what might work for an international student.

Often the Times Higher and QS World rankings are referred to. They only agree on one university and position in their top tens, and 20% of their lists are different. It is important to note that nearly all rankings are aggregating whatever information they use for all students. In the US, Forbes have produced a league table for international students. If you compare this with the popular US league table, Top Universities, they agree on the positioning of two of the top 10 but disagree on 40% of the list.

In the UK there are three popular league tables run by The Guardian, the most respected UK newspaper in education circles, The Times and The Complete University Guide. Only four universities appear, at different positions, in all of their top tens, with Kings College London, the most popular university applied to at Beau Soleil only appearing in The Times's top ten. Kings is ranked 42nd by The Guardian. Further down the league tables the disagreements can be even greater, The Guardian ranks Bolton University 86th and The Times 125th.

Not only do these tables change radically each year, only one university remained at the same position in The Guardian's 2019 and 2020 top ten. They are easy for universities to influence. Some say that it is best to only look at subject based league tables. However:

- This does not consider the fact that course content can be radically different between courses with the same name at different universities, e.g., Geography at Cambridge (ranked number 1 in the UK by The Guardian in 2021) and Durham (ranked second by The Guardian in 2019, as trumpeted on their website) are two totally different courses.
- Positions can change very quickly, e.g. City fell nine places for Business in the Complete University Guide in 2021.
- Course choice is an important part of university choice for some people and not all. For those who care about reputation in their home country this can be more important than a different judgement in another country.

As well as league tables, you might want to look at what students say, for example the National Student Survey in the UK. (although not all universities participate in this and it is easy for universities to manipulate their scores). The Teaching Excellence Framework in the UK grades the quality of the teaching at a university as a whole as being Gold, Silver or Bronze level. And whereas only selecting Gold graded institutions might seem sensible, remember that this does not specifically judge the course that you have applied for.

The best thing to do is to visit universities in which you are interested, speak with current students, in person and online, talk to your teachers who attended the university and discuss what you want with Mr Casley. Nearly all league tables are massively skewed towards the experience of domestic students. What might work well for a home student is very different from what might work for you as an international student.

How many universities should I apply to?

Whilst it might seem like a good idea to apply to lots of universities to improve your options, this is not always the best course of action.

In the UK, where applications are made via a centralized system, you can apply to a maximum of five universities. You should make one application that is aspirational (i.e., above your predictions), two applications that are target (i.e., in line with your predictions) and two that are a safety application (i.e. below your predictions). In the US where you apply to individual colleges, you should apply to no more than nine universities. Choose three which are aspirational, three that you consider to be target and three for safety.

You should really want to attend any university to which you apply and if you are applying to universities in the EU, Switzerland, Canada or other countries, you should try to limit all of your applications to no more than nine.

UK aspirational 2 target 2 safety

3 aspirational 3 target 3 safety

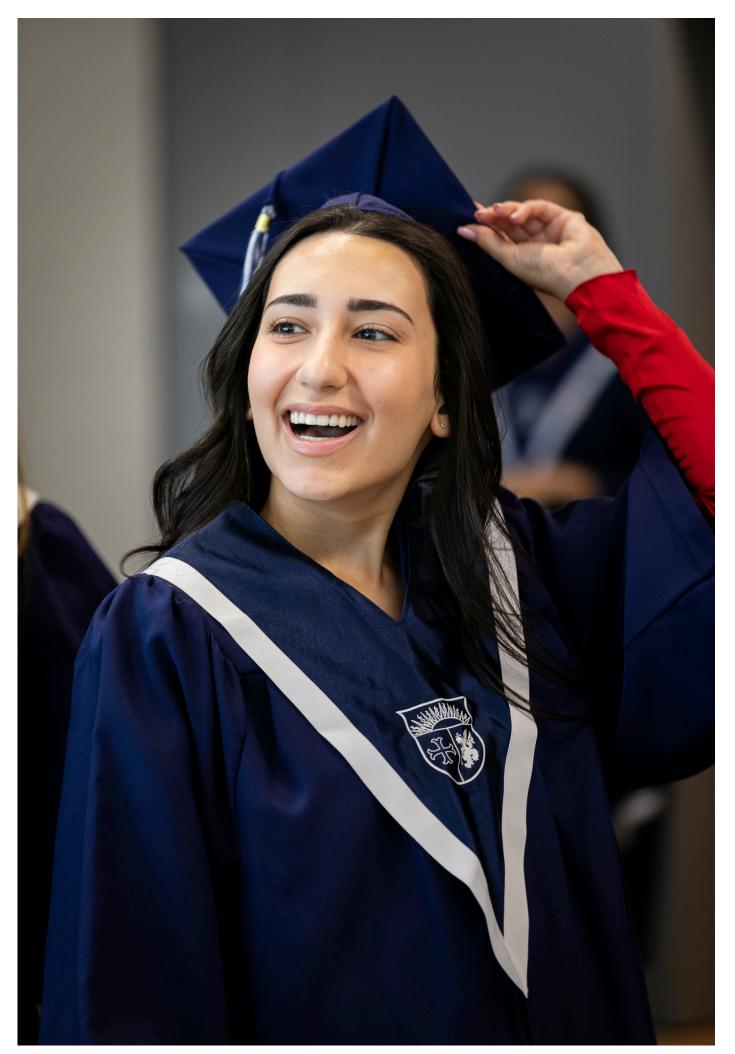
No more than 9 universities should be applied to

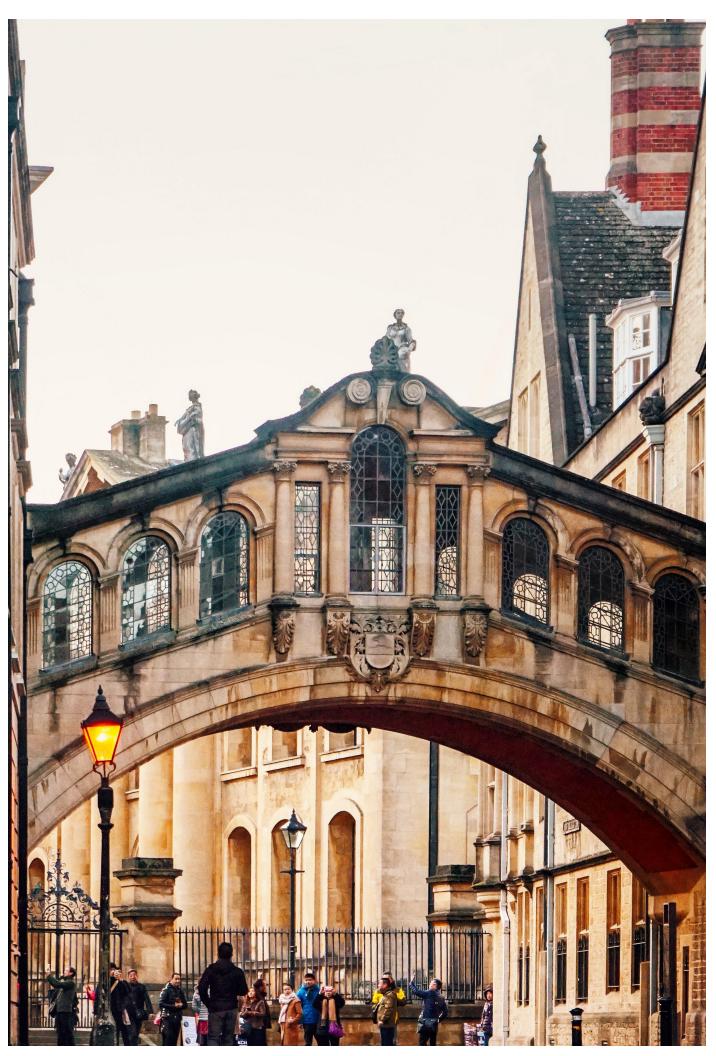
Questions to ask when you are talking to universities

You will spend at least three years at your university. Visit those you intend applying to before you apply. Arrange to meet someone there (College Counselling) and ask them questions.

- What sort of student is your university not right for?
- Why don't you have more international students?
- How many of your lecturers come from my culture?
- What practical measures does your University do to promote diversity, inclusion and equality around the campus?
- How are different cultures learnt from on campus?
- How do you help students learn who have not been through the education system in your country?
- Who, if anyone, does your university "no platform?" If so, how and why?
- How is technology integrated effectively into the learning experience of students?
- How will being at your university make me more employable? What evidence do you have to support these claims?
- What Learning Support facilities do you have? Are accommodations available on all assessments?
- Do you have any programmes for supporting the learning of the language of instruction for other language learners ?
- How do you support student wellbeing?
- What can I expect from you during any periods of online learning?
- What do you personally like the most about your university?
- How will being at your university make me a happier global citizen?
- What are the biggest challenges for your students?
- Would declaring my learning difficulty (for example, dyslexia, ADHD, Dyscalculia, etc) on my application form or in an interview jeopardise my chances of an offer?
- If the University was to compile an interdisciplinary reading list for the general development of its students, what titles might feature on this?







I want to go to Oxford, Cambridge or an Ivy League university. What should I do?

Ask Yourself Some Questions

Is this what you really want? Have you done your research? Are the courses at these universities right for you? Do you understand how learning works at these

Be Realistic

Are you consistently top of your class scoring near full marks? If not, these courses are probably not right for you. Is your idea of a fantastic afternoon curling up with a book and reading about your subject? If not, why would you want to apply to an intellectually elite university? institutions? Do you think you will flourish at these universities or on these courses?

Are you an outstanding all-rounder or exceptionally good at something? If not, Ivy League universities are unlikely to be interested in you.

Prepare

If you think that you are academically and personally right for these universities, or wish to test whether you are, make sure you speak to the College Counsellor. Before you do so check what tests you will need to take.

Keep a journal of everything that you read or do that is pertinent to your proposed course, analysing what you read and do and making links between this and other aspects of your learning.

Have a realistic "plan b" where you also think that you can flourish. Only apply if you know that you can take rejection as these institutions receive huge volumes of applications each year and offer places to only a small number of applicants.

Medicine, Veterinary Science or Law. How do I prepare?

These are some of the most popular and difficult courses in which to obtain entry across the world, so you need to make sure that you are well prepared for your application. Appropriate work experience and volunteering are important elements that will support your application and you should speak with College Counselling to learn more about getting the relevant experience you require in Grade 10 at the very latest.



Creative courses

At Beau Soleil we have an outstanding Creative Arts faculty and many students wish to pursue creative ambitions.

Sometimes these are best followed through degree courses in larger universities, where you have the advantage of being surrounded by people of other disciplines. For some students they wish to be at specialist creative institutions. Whichever you apply to it is very likely that you will need to produce a portfolio of work. This is a vital part of your application and takes time to develop and create. Ideally you should start the process of creating this in Grade 10. Discuss this with your teachers.

Many students find the best route into the creative industries is to take an Art Foundation Course. These are largely in the UK and are a fantastic opportunity to spend a year finding your creative voice and experimenting before embarking on your degree.

The world needs more artists – pursue your visions – and start thinking about this early so that you can prepare a stunning portfolio of your work.



You want to read Business in London?

The most popular destination and course combination at Beau Soleil is London and Business.

Some questions to consider

- Is a business degree the best preparation for a career in business for you?
- Which of the many different types of business degree is best for you?

If you are interested in Business in central London the following are popular destinations for Beau Soleil students:

- City
- Goldsmiths
- King's
- SOAS
- Westminster

 What do you mean by London? If you extend your area to one hour travel from central London you massively increase your choice of superb universities.

If you wish to consider universities that have quick and easy transport to central London that are also good for Business consider:

- Bath / Bristol
- Essex
- Royal Holloway
- Surrey
- Sussex

Across the UK St. Andrews, Strathclyde and Warwick all have excellent business courses.



Boston bound

Boston is the most popular US destination for Beau Soleil students and is a lively US city with over 40 interesting universities.

Some questions to consider

- What weather do you like? The weather varies a lot in Boston.
- How much is it important to you to be with other international students? Some universities in Boston have more international students than others.

If you are interested in going to Boston and have typical Beau Soleil scores the following universities might be of interest:

Aspirational

- Boston University
- Northeastern university
- Tufts

Target

- Bentley
- Brandeis
- Emerson

Boston is one of the more liberal US cities. Is this you?

Safety

•

- Emmanuel
- Suffolk
- Fisher



New York, New York

The City that never sleeps is thought by many to be a great place to study. People from all over the planet flock to the city and culture is exciting and wonderfully multicultural.

Some questions to consider

- New York might be great for a weekend
 but is it a good place to study and learn?
- Most New York universities lack green space. Does this matter to you?

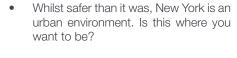
If you are interested in going to New York and have average Beau Soleil scores the following universities might be of interest:

Aspirational

- Colgate
- Cornell
- NYU

Target

- Fordham
- Syracuse
- The New School



Safety Bard

- Pace
- St. Johns



Your predicted grades, subject references, house and tutor references will be shared with you in June of Grade 11.

Predicted Grades, Subject References and Letters of Recommendation

Predicted Grades

In June of Grade 11 your teachers will predict the grade that, in their professional judgement, they think that you will achieve the following year. Predicted grades form a part of your school transcript for university

applications and it is important that the prediction is as accurate as possible. Predicted grades are not negotiable and it is equally bad to under predict as it is to over predict.

Subject References

A subject reference is a reference written by your teacher that is a positive, precise and personal assessment of your skills in that subject. Each of your teachers will write

a 100 word subject reference that forms part of your UCAS application, college recommendation or university reference.

House Team and Tutor References

Your tutor and HM will each write you a recommendation for your university applications. This is a positive, precise and personal piece that, as well as praising your academic skills, praises your interpersonal skills and emphasizes your strength of character and abilities as demonstrated in all your activities. Your tutor will focus on

your intellectual and learning abilities and your HM will provide a summary of all your great personal attributes and extracurricular successes both in and out of Beau Soleil. Make sure your HM and tutor know about all of your successes in and out of Beau Soleil

Letters of Recommendation

Your three grade 11 higher level subject teachers will each write you a Letter of Recommendation which you can use for US applications. These will be based on

your subject references, tutor and HM and that teacher's knowledge of you. You will be able to see these in September of Grade 12

How can I make sure my references and recommendation are the best that they can be?

- Make sure that all your teachers are aware of your skills and talents
- Ensure your tutor is aware of your academic successes
- Talk with your house team about your activities and extra-curricular activities. Give them a list of all the successes you have had since you were 11

Specialised Testing Preparation and Testing

IELTS, SATs and TSAs

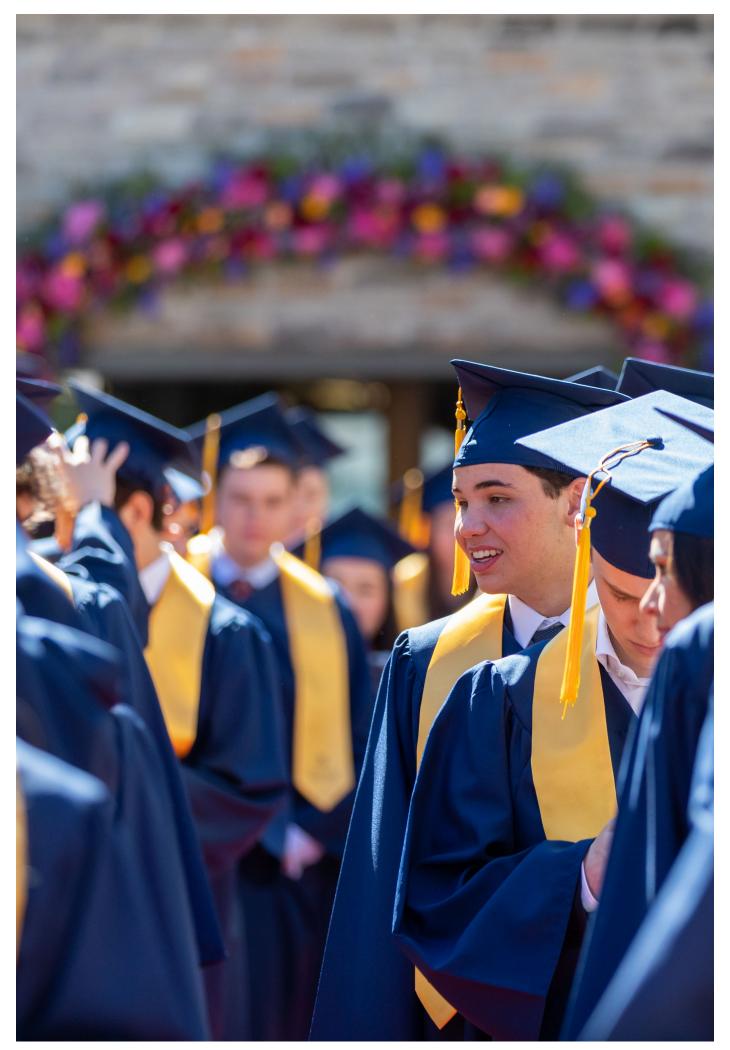
At Beau Soleil we want you to be well prepared for some of the key tests that you may need to take. All tests can be prepared for. Usually the more preparation you have the better.

All students in Grade 12 receive preparation for IELTS and take the test in September of Grade 12, Students who need to retake it will have the opportunity so to do later in the year. SAT and TSA Preparation is offered to all Grade 10 and 11 students.

Individual preparation for other tests, such as those required by particular universities, e.g. Bocconi, or in particular countries, e.g. Japan, can also be arranged.

If you need help to prepare for any test please just contact College Counselling.



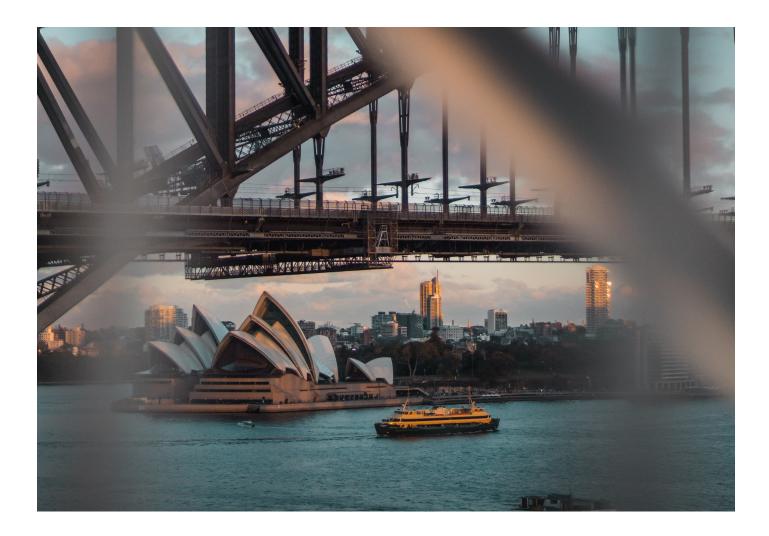






Worldwide

Universities and Colleges around the World



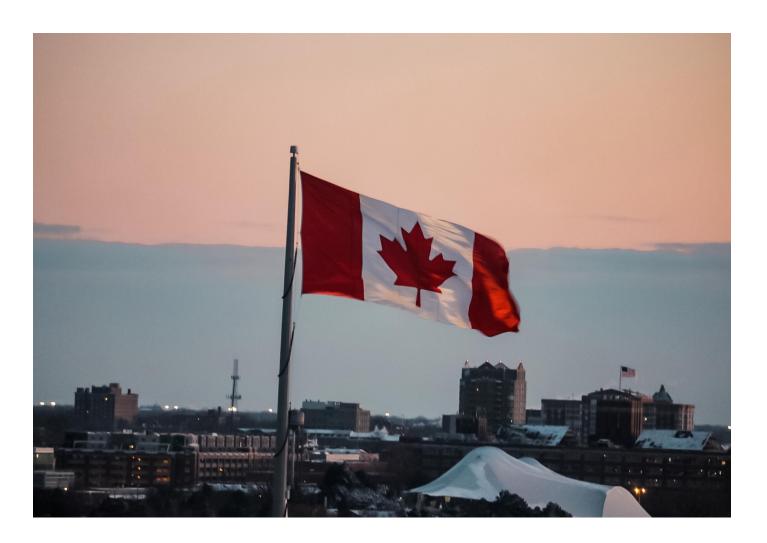
Australia

Many international students are choosing to study in Australia because of its friendly, laid-back nature, excellent education system, and high standard of living.

Australian universities attract students from around the world, making the experience incredibly multi-cultural. Whether you choose to study in a large city, or in a regional centre, you will enjoy the diverse natural environment. Relax on golden beaches, venture into the national parks to see unique plants and animals or explore the untamed outback. Australian universities have two terms per year with the first starting in February, and the second in July. You can begin your course in either term.

You can apply to as many universities as you think will suit you and you should start applying to the universities you would like to attend a year before you wish to start.

www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au



Canada

Canada is currently ranked as the best country for quality of life (U.S. News & World Report 2020).

Study in Canada, and you will receive an internationally recognised education from some of the top educators and academics in the world.

Universities in Canada each set their own admission requirements and you apply to the faculty that you are interested in. Each university has their own criteria

for recognising international student qualifications and students with the IB Diploma are sometimes accepted into second year study. Undergraduate degrees generally take four years of study.

www.4icu.org/ca/a-z/



China

Chinese universities are increasingly popular and the Chinese government is very keen to support international students studying in the country.

There are general, technical, specialist (such as medical colleges), foreign language and teacher-training universities.

Teaching is in Chinese, although different departments have different requirements.

When applying to top universities in China, such as Peking University, Tsinghua University and Fudan University, admission to degree programmes is limited and extremely competitive. You must be well-informed, well-prepared, and very determined to work hard to gain admission.

www.cucas.edu.cn www.chinaeducenter.com



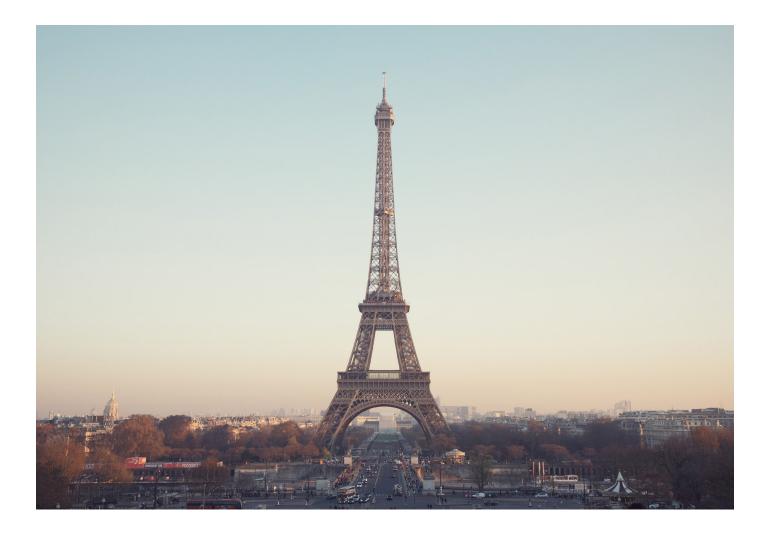
Germany

Students value German universities for the quality of education, the hands-on experience they have during their studies and most importantly the safe and friendly environment.

In order to be accepted on to a degree programme, German universities ask international students to have qualifications that are equivalent to their Hochschulzugangsberechtigung along with good German language skills. Some universities offer courses in English, depending on the subject.

German universities usually have two terms a year – winter term from October until February, and summer term from April/ May until July. Most courses begin in the winter term and you should apply a year in advance of your intended start date.

www.internationale-studierende.de



France

France is a good place to study abroad for your degree thanks to its rich culture, gastronomy, architecture, and thriving student life.

Studying in France gives you the opportunity to learn the language and gain cultural perspectives. There are two main streams of higher education in France, the competitive institutes and state universities.

Entry to the Competitive Institutes (Grandes Ecoles) is selective and highly competitive with candidates sitting a series of examinations. Specialisations in engineering, commerce, civil services and teaching are offered in these prestigious institutions and the duration of studies varies from three to five years.

In state universities, any student who has completed the secondary school diploma may qualify. In France undergraduate study, sometimes called the first cycle, or licence, last for three years. The second cycle, Master degree, takes place over two years. Finally, the third cycle, or PhD, takes place in three years after the Master's degree. Each successful cycle leads to a diploma recognised in France and internationally.

Our specialist team for francophone applications



Delphine Wojciechowski



Jérémy Esposito



Scotland

You apply to Scottish universities through the UCAS system, as with the rest of the UK. However, they differ in that they are four year integrated courses, where you can choose which subjects you specialize in after two years. Some people view them as an excellent hybrid of the English and US system, of which they were the founders. Scots universities tend to be slightly smaller than those in the rest of the UK and have an excellent reputation for looking after their students, being safe and having great social life. Scotland is the most beautiful part of the UK too!

www.scotland.org/study



Ireland

Simply put, Ireland has a reputation for being full of friendly, welcoming people, which is why international students get so much out of the Irish experience. Not forgetting the important fact that Ireland has won the Eurovision Song Contest more times than any other any other country! Entry to Irish universities for most students is through a straight-forward application system, with requirements for courses varying from year to year.

www.educationinireland.com



Japan

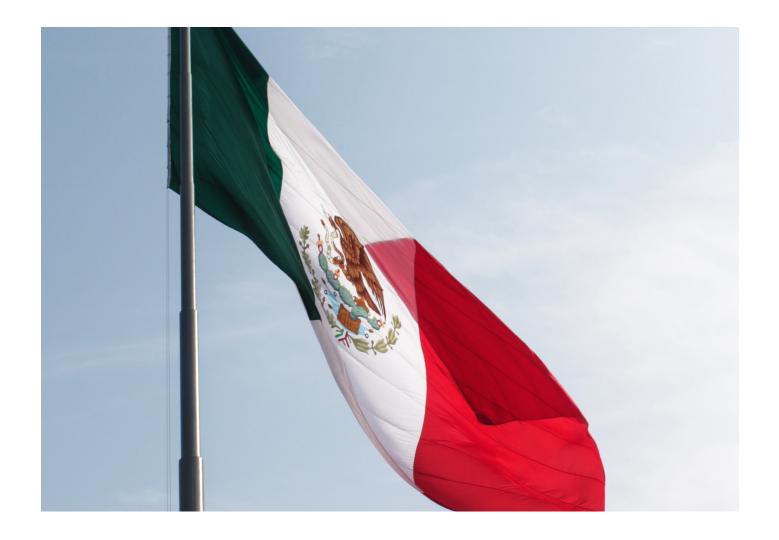
Excellent safety, accessibility, and high quality of life standards make Japan a top location for students.

For Japanese native students who have been educated in international schools, many universities have a special intake just for these oversees returnees. To be eligible for these programmes you need to have completed at least two years of high school education including your final year at an international school. There is a rigorous entrance examination that emphasises essay writing and it is important to note that each university has different dates for their exams.

The requirements for non Japanese students are complex and set by each individual university.

The Japanese academic year starts in April.

www.studyinjapan.go.jp



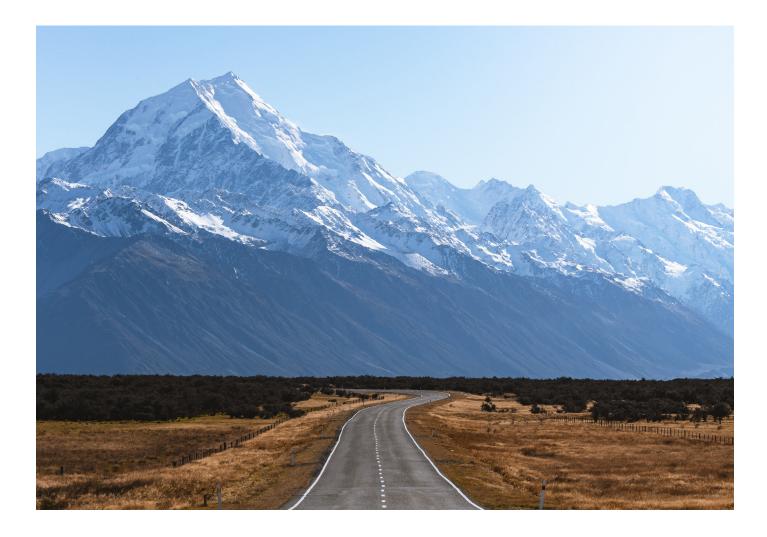
Mexico

Studying in Mexico offers a unique cultural experience and both Mexico City and similar format to universities in Europe Monterrey rate amongst the QS Best but admissions requirements vary from Student Cities 2019. The fantastic culture, food, academic excitement and the bonus of learning in the language of 600 million people all contribute to their place on this list.

Higher education in Mexico follows a institution to institution. You may be asked to take an entrance exam, or a test of language proficiency.

Application systems tend to be straightforward and you should apply at the start of Grade 12.

embamex.sre.gob.mx



New Zealand

New Zealand is considered to be nature's playground offering a palette of unique opportunities.

The higher education system offers a wide range of degree, diploma and certificate courses in many fields that equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in the global marketplace. New Zealand universities are internationally recognised, their qualifications are respected, and students studying there benefit from full immersion in English.

The academic year in New Zealand starts from February to November (with a four-week break in June or July). Most universities start accepting applications the August before the academic year begins.

www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz



The Netherlands

There are over 2500 English language courses taught in the Netherlands. As well as providing an excellent education, studying here can be more affordable than elsewhere, especially if you have an EU passport.

Some of the courses are less difficult to get onto than in France or Germany. However, universities tend to only keep the best students at the end of the first year, sometimes cutting as many as 40% of students from the course. Most universities offer Dutch language classes as part of their courses.

Applications to Dutch universities are made via a central system, although some institutions accept applications directly from international students.

www.studielink.nl



Spain

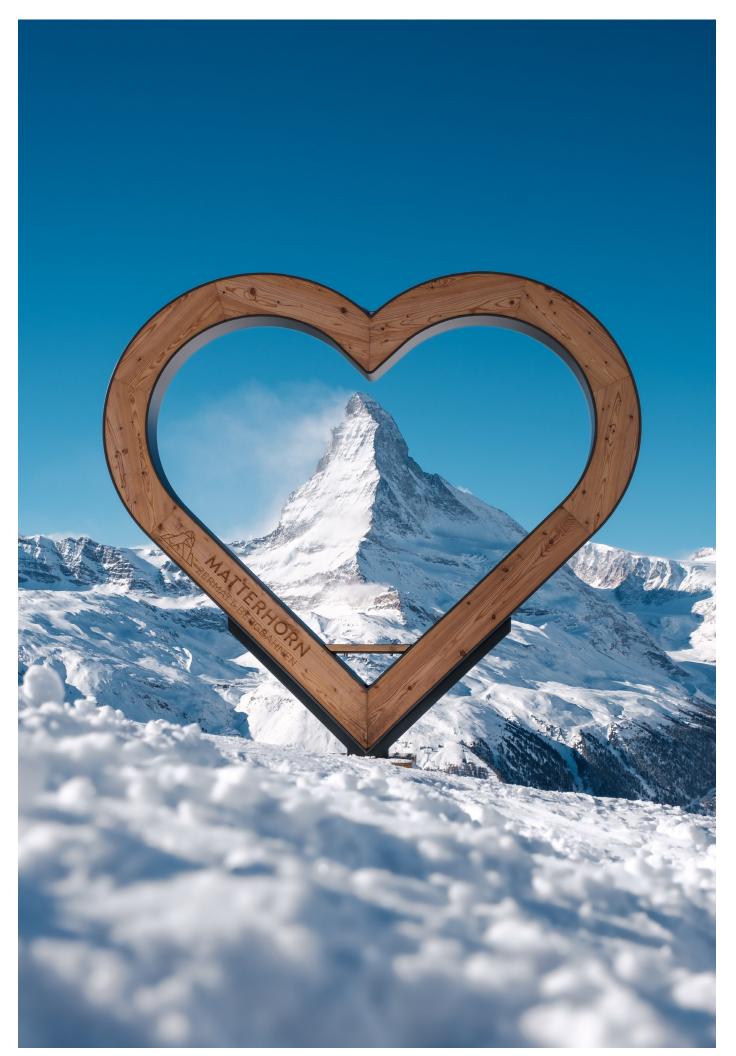
With its rich history and culture, Spain offers international students the opportunity to create new attitudes and concepts about life, giving them a fresh perspective on the world around them.

About 2% of places at Spanish universities are reserved for students who come from outside the EU and some universities teach in English as well as Spanish.

To be accepted on to a degree programme you need your Beau Soleil diploma and after you graduate from school you take the Spanish University Access Tests, the Selectividad.

Selection is on academic criteria.

https://www.educacionyfp.gob.es



Switzerland

There are many different options for international students wanting to study at university in Switzerland, depending on your language ability as well as your academic ability.

There are twelve state universities in Switzerland, comprising ten cantonal universities and two Federal Institutes of Technology.

There are also many private universities in Switzerland who teach in English. Some of these university degrees have limited recognition worldwide. Always check if your degree would be recognised outside the institution that you are applying to. Webster University in Geneva and Franklin College in Lugano are fully accredited.

Switzerland has a world class reputation for the quality of its hotel management colleges. The pre-professional training combined with academic study is demanding and

French

- University of Geneva
- University of Lausanne
- University of Neuchatel
- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)

French and | or German

University of Fribourg

German

- University of Basel
- University of Bern
- University of Lucerne
- University of St Gallen
- University of Zurich
- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ)

Switzerland's hotel management graduates are highly sought after. At Beau Soleil we have excellent relations with both EHL and Glion. You should apply directly to these universities early in the September before you wish to start. Application is straight forward on their website.

Entry requirements vary by institution. Most Swiss universities have an application deadline of April 30th before admission in the autumn. The Universities of Applied Sciences, private universities and hotel management colleges all have different deadlines and procedures.

The Swiss state universities have very strict entry requirements and are not flexible with these. If you are considering a Swiss state university you must check in Grade 10 if your IB subject choices will be accepted.

www.crus.ch www.kfh.ch

Italian

University of Lugano

For entry to these universities, you must be proficient in the language in which you are applying (C1 level).

Entry requirements tend to be very strict with little or no fexibility. A specific combination if IB subjects is normally required and you should be aware of this when choosing your options for Grade 11.

Beau Soleil Graduate destinations 2015 - 2021

Canada~

HEC Montreal McGill University University of Toronto University of British Columbia

USA

American Music and Drama Academy Art Institute Miami Babson College Boston University Duke University Emory University Fordham University Loyola Marymount University Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences New York University Northeastern University Otis College of Art and Design Pace University Parsons School of Design Santa Clara University School of Visual Arts, New York Skidmore College Southern Methodist University Suffolk University Syracuse University The New School Trinity University University of Southern California University of California San Diego University of California Santa Barbara University of California Irvine University of Miami University of San Francisco

Mexico Tecnológico de Monterrey Universidad Iberoamericana

UK

Bath Spa Birkbeck University City, University of London HULT International Business School Imperial College London King's College London Lancaster University Liverpool John Moores University London School of Economics Loughborough University Queen Mary University **Regents University** Royal Holloway University University College London University of Bath University of Birmingham University of Cambridge University of Edinburgh University of Exeter University of Glasgow University of Oxford University of the Arts University of Westminster

Switzerland

Business School Lausanne École hôtelière internationale Glion EHL EPFL Franklin University International University of Geneva University of Lausanne Uni versity of Geneva Webster University

Europe BIMM

Ecole hotelière international Glion EU University, Barcelona European University Business School Groningen University IE University Instituto de Empresa International University of Monaco Istituto Marangoni The American University of Paris Universidad Europea de Madrid Australia University of Sydney University of Melbourne

Where are they now?

Tips and insights from Beau Soleil Alumni

Alexis Guiter (2011 - 2015)

Universities attended: City University of London for Bachelors and King's College London for Master

Subject studied: Electronics Engineering

Current job title: Engineer

Current employer: Smart Kinematics (a startup!)

How did you get to where you are now? Dedication, hard work and an eye for opportunities.

Is there anything about your journey that you would change if you could? No, I may have made mistakes, especially in my last 2 years at CABS and first year at university, but mistakes are a part of life and helped me grow.

What do you do now? Helping the startup get a product from idea to production. Learning how to run a business along the way and how to develop a product. In parallel I'm in contact with friends from CABS and we're looking for a Million/Billion dollar idea. What does that involve? I'm working with the startup from home, so it's more relaxed. It is a team effort, with weekly meetings, lots of testing, some (healthy) arguments, and sometimes, long nights.

What sort of personality traits do you feel you need to be successful in that kind of role? Stubbornness helped me a lot and not fearing to fail (a "fail fast" mentality).

What skills did you learn at Beau Soleil that helped you after you left? Time management saved my life (that's a huge understatement). The IB in general helped make my first year at uni rather easy, although that backfired in maths (I got overconfident).

Are you doing what you thought you wanted to do when you were in grade 11? Not yet, but I feel I'm on the right path!

Is there any advice that you wish someone had given you when you were 16 | 17? Learn to balance work/study/social life better, don't take your physical health for granted and always aim high.



Regina Riojas (2009 - 2010)

University attended: Tec de Monterrey, Mexico City

Subject studied: Industrial Engineering

Current job title: Investment Banking Analyst

Current employer: Barclays

How did you get to where you are now? Finished university and interned at UBS in the meantime, changed to investment banking upon graduation.

Is there anything about your journey that you would change if you could? I would have stayed a few more years at Beau Soleil and maybe taken a few more finance courses in university.

What do you do now? Work at Barclays Investment Bank

What does that involve? We provide client advice on potential mergers or acquisitions, debt and capital emissions for large companies in Mexico as well as Latin America What sort of personality traits do you feel you need to be successful in that kind of role? Strong technical skills for valuation, as well as strong socialisation skills for maintaining client relationships.

What skills did you learn at Beau Soleil that helped you after you left? I learned to be more confident and approach people to build relationships, to be very committed to whatever it is that I'm doing and to constantly challenge myself.

Are you doing what you thought you wanted to do when you were in grade 11? No, I had no idea what I wanted to do in grade 11!

Is there any advice that you wish someone had given you when you were 16 | 17? To stop stressing out about the future, instead focus on what it is that you like to do and try to see what paths you can take doing that.





Boris Lovenfosse (2003 - 2006)

University attended: University of Bath (Undergrad, Politics w/ Econ). ESADE Business School and HEC Paris for MSc in International Management (CEMS double program)

Current job title: Chief of Staff (Europe & North America) for Pictet Wealth Management

Current employer: Banque Pictet & Cie SA

How did you get to where you are now? Worked for EY, a consulting company, which allowed me to do a project for my current employer.

Is there anything about your journey that you would change if you could? Travel more when I was younger, understand that proactivity works well.

What do you do now? I look after our EU & North American Private Banking operations, managing the day to day for the CEO.

What does that involve? Setting objectives, running formal (regulated) and informal management committee, solving day to day issues (from commercial to HR to IT). It also involves a lot of listening to people and coaching / preparing them for next successes / steps.

What sort of personality traits do you feel you need to be successful in that kind of role? You need to be open-minded, analytical, personable, flexible and motivated.

What skills did you learn at Beau Soleil that helped you after you left? Feeling comfortable and chatty in most situations.

Is there any advice that you wish someone had given you when you were 16 | 17? Start low, run fast and never look back. Most (if not all) will not build the next Facebook, but there are many incredible career paths out there, think of where you gain skills!



Clara Laviale (2009 - 2015)

University attended: King's College London (2015-2018); SciencesPo Paris (2018-present)

Subject studied:

BA War Studies and History; MA International Security, with concentrations in Human Rights and European Studies

Current job title: I volunteer with a think tank based in Paris, called Parti Civil, assisting them in their fundraising efforts.

How did you get to where you are now? I would say hard work and consistency.

Is there anything about your journey that you would change if you could? I would have wanted to go through it all without stressing and worrying as much!

What do you do now? I recently finished a year-long internship at the OECD as part of my gap year. I have just started my final semester at Sciences Po remotely and will be graduating in June.

What skills did you learn at Beau Soleil that helped you after you left? Analytical and communication skills through my different classes, especially history, as well as time management and organisational skills. I would also say perseverance and motivation through the different challenges and climbing Kilimanjaro in 2013.

Are you doing what you thought you wanted to do when you were in grade 11? Yes and no. Yes, in the sense that I have stayed in the realm of international affairs. No, because my interests have evolved over the years especially as a result of my professional experiences. I have developed a strong interest in human rights issues, especially gender equality, only after I completed my undergraduate degree. I am planning on doing a final internship following my studies, either at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights or at the OECD working on gender issues.

Is there any advice that you wish someone had given you when you were 16 |17?

I think my advice would be this: you don't need to get it perfectly right from the start. For those who are not sure what they want to do, that's okay. I was always obsessed with doing everything right, checking all the right boxes. Everyone's journey is different.

Anastasiya Yevchenko (2013 - 2016)

University attended: I am still studying at New York University, Tisch School of the Arts (2016-present). I studied for two years in New York as part of my acting/directing primary theatre training. I followed with three study abroad programs in Florence and London and have taken time out from study to work. According to my Academic Plan, I most likely will graduate this year. Most people who studied with me during my first two years have already graduated, which worried me at first. Eventually, I created my own plan and schedule deciding that it would be too scary to only start my career after graduation and I therefore shot my first professional short film during the summer of 2019.

Subject studied: Major in BFA Drama (acting, directing), Minor in Film, Minor in Producing.

Current job title | current employer: I am a self-employed freelance artist. I create projects in the theatre and film industries as a screenwriter/playwright, director, and producer.

How did you get to where you are now? I am at the very beginning of my career and at the end of my academic career at NYU (maybe I'll come back for a Masters in Film). I always knew what I wanted to do. Since I was five, I wanted to be an actress. I still love acting, but currently, I am more interested in writing, directing, and producing both in theatre and film.

Is there anything about your journey that you would change if you could? I wouldn't change a thing. I am grateful for all the knowledge and experience I've gained. My knowledge of acting makes me a better director, so I do not regret the fact that I applied to NYU as an actor. That's what I like about the American university system - students are able to change their field of interest multiple times until they find their path.

What do you do now? I am an artist in theatre and Film. I am a writer (screenwriter and playwright), actor, director, and producer. I shot my first professional short film, If We Had Tomorrow, in the summer of 2019. The film was selected by 30 international film festivals with 61 nominations and 34 awards/honorable mentions (including "Best Short Film" at Switzerland International Film Festival). I am still working on the film's distribution and simultaneously, I am developing a theatre project that should premiere in October 2021. I have optioned the rights to Salvador Dalí's novel Hidden Faces and my play will be based on this book. I plan to create an immersive-interactive surrealist theatrical performance based on this play. I am also writing two feature film screenplays, have ideas for the next short films and other future projects. These are the plans for the year 2021.

What does that involve? It involves a lot of planning and balancing work and academic life. Theatre and film industries are not just fancy red carpets, premieres, and awards ceremonies. It involves a lot of mental and sometimes even physical exhaustion (when you're on set). You'll face difficulties like funding, income, reception, pressure, lack of confidence. A person can only succeed or even survive in these industries if they are crazily in love with their profession, have passion, and desire to be hardworking. You'll only start winning if you realize that you don't need to prove anything to anyone - you should be doing this job because you LOVE it.

What sort of personality traits do you feel you need to be successful in that kind of role?

For writing - patience, screenwriting/ playwriting and storytelling skills, passion, networking, flexibility, good with deadlines, persistence, hardworking, imagination. Write, rewrite, and then rewrite again!

For directing - leadership, creativity, inspiration, directorial view/vision/voice, understanding of acting, communication, decision making, research/analysis of information, strategic thinking, hardworking, confidence, good at people skills.

For acting - creativity/creative insight, confidence, ability to market and network yourself, self-discipline and stamina, teamwork, time management, good diction, good memory, good at accents and dialects, good at improvisation, good voice training, languages, research, punctuality, people skills, maybe singing and dancing, have a business understanding of things, unique traits/skills might help (acting education is not crucial, but recommended. And it is always better to do a theatre acting degree and take acting-on-camera courses).

For producing - a mixture of being creative and organized/business-oriented, problem-solving, funding, multi-tasking, communication, managing skills, budgeting skills, analytical skills, assigning tasks/ delegating, time management, flexibility, distribution knowledge.

What skills did you learn at Beau Soleil that helped you after you left? How to be a hardworking student, to set and achieve goals, and properly do research.





Ana Lins (2005 - 2007)

Universities attended: Webster University Geneva; International Culinary Center, New York

Subjects studied: Psychology BA (Minors in Philosophy and Sociology); Culinary Arts, Grand Diploma

Current job title: Baking from home

Current employer: Myself

How did you get to where you are now?

It wasn't a short journey and I have never done anything remotely related to what I majored in at university.

I moved to New York after university. I always wanted to live here, and my younger sister was moving here for university, so I tagged along. The first few months, I didn't know what to do, so I was honestly just living my best life, going to parties, etc.

Eventually, I did get to work. I got an internship in the fashion industry at a prestigious artist management agency where I stayed for a few years and grew a lot. I started as an intern and left with a director title (small company), but I was drained and mostly miserable, so I quit. I took some web design classes, but that didn't do it. I moved to Miami for a few months to spend some time with my mom and to "figure things out". I worked one or 2 more fashion jobs and at an art gallery briefly, but that wasn't it either.

Throughout all this, I always loved to cook, but saw it more as a hobby. All my friends would tell me I should go to culinary school, and I would laugh it off. In 2019 I finally took the plunge and went to culinary school at ICC here in New York, and I loved it. I got a job at a 2 Michelin star restaurant, and it was exhausting and gruelling, but I was finally doing something I was really passionate about.

Is there anything about your journey that you would change if you could? I wish that I hadn't deliberated so much on my decision to attend culinary school. Had I gone a year earlier I'd have had more time and work experience.

What do you do now? Currently, I'm a chef (albeit on an extended break due to COVID).

What does that involve? My job involves 10-12 hour work days, making very little money, constantly being at risk for burning or cutting yourself, and some serious manual labor. It's not for the faint of heart, but if you love what you do, none of that really matters.

What sort of personality traits do you feel you need to be successful in that kind of role? Honestly, you just have to really love it. If you don't, I think it would be nearly impossible to do it. Other than that, you have to have stamina, determination and you need to be able to take criticism.

What skills did you learn at Beau Soleil that helped you after you left? There's one small one I still think of everyday: I make my bed every morning rain or shine, and I'm quite tidy. Although, much to the dismay of my houseparents, that skillset didn't kick in until after I left and had to be the one telling myself to tidy up and make my bed.

I also learned so much by being surrounded by different cultures, and after leaving I realized how different (in a good way) that made me from other people.

I don't know if the IB changed a lot since I was there, but I honestly felt it was a great academic curriculum that really prepared you for university.

I also made friends and connections for life. I'm still in touch with so many people I was with at CABS.

Are you doing what you thought you wanted to do when you were in grade 11? To be honest, I had no idea what I wanted to do at that age. I think deep down I knew I wasn't cut out for a 9 to 5 desk job or anything like that.

Is there any advice that you wish someone had given you when you were 16 |17? If you're going to school, study something you're passionate about regardless of whether it will lead to financial success or what other people say.

Also, if you don't know what you want to do right now, it's ok. Enjoy this moment. Don't stress over it. A liberal arts university is a great place to learn about yourself and your interests. You have 2 years to decide your major (American system), so don't worry about it now.

Michal Burgunder (2007 - 2010)

University attended: Dickinson College, PA, USA

Subject studied: Mathematics & Physics

Current job title: Senior Software Engineer

Current employer: Jacando AG

What did you do first after leaving Beau Soleil?

I took a gap year. I travelled and visited Spain, Jamaica, and Canada, where I took a road trip across the country with my bicycle.

How did you get to where you are now?

A very long string of surprising and unexpected events.

What do you do now?

Apart from my job (building software), I am doing a lot of writing.

What does that involve?

Writing software and writing stories are surprisingly similar in nature: 80% of the time, I sit, think, and write at my keyboard. The other 20%, I either manage other engineers (for my job), which involves a lot of discussion, or I talk to friends and meet new people.

What sort of personality traits do you feel you need to be successful in that kind of role?

I've come to believe creative types do best in this role. Engineering may sound very boring, but once you understand the basics, it becomes very creative work.

What skills did you learn at Beau Soleil that helped you after you left?

I've become culturally very sensitive on a global scale, which is something very rare in the world today. It gave international context to what was, and is, happening around the world.

Are you doing what you thought you wanted to do when you were in Grade 11? Sadly, and happily, no. I wanted to be a film producer, and make movies. I write screenplays in my spare time now, but working in the film business as a career, proved to be nearly impossible for someone who has many interests.

Is there any advice that you wish someone had given you when you were 16 |17?

I don't know. Perhaps this: Life is not defined by day-to-day life, but by a handful of good and bad days, both of which which will come to you, regardless of who you are.

Take photographs of yourself and friends. Record things you think are funny. Keep a diary. And please: Do not drink ANY sodas regularly. It severely affects how you feel.

Joseph Dabbah (2008 - 2011)

University attended: Boston University (undergraduate), Columbia University Masters

Subject studied: Business Administration

Current job title: Real Estate Development

Current employer: Entrepreneur/self

How did you get to where you are now? Worked through college developing small projects in Boston and worked my way into bigger deals with partners.

What do you do now? Developing film studios in underprivileged communities.

What does that involve? Financial understanding, good relation with film studios and city partnerships for programming.

What sort of personality traits do you feel you need to be successful in that kind of role?

Being a good listener

What skills did you learn at Beau Soleil that helped you after you left? Perseverance and never giving up

Are you doing what you thought you wanted to do when you were in Grade 11? Somewhat yes. I was focused on hospitality development, this isn't a hotel but not far fetched given the role I play.

Is there any advice that you wish someone had given you when you were 16 |17? Be more open to ideas, your path forward is full of detours.

Eleonora Smeriglio (2008 - 2010)



University attended: New York University (one year in Shanghai, two years in NYC and one year in Paris), now Columbia University.

Subject studied: Major: History of Art -Double minor: Philosophy and Politics (at College), now Business Administration and International Affairs (for my Master's)

Current job title: I am currently pursuing a dual Master's degree program at Columbia University (both an MBA at Columbia Business School and a Master's of International Affairs at the School of International and Public Affairs)

What did you do first after leaving Beau Soleil? I took a gap year during which I (i) visited Colleges in the US and prepped the applications. (ii) did two internships (one as an editing assistant to costume journalist Donata Sartorio, based in Milan; the other as a legislative office intern at the Italian Senate in Rome), (iii) climbed Mt Kilimanjaro and spent time at the Huruma orphanage with Beau Soleil, (iv) backpacked around India and Nepal, (v) assisted my godmother (an artist) on a business trip to Colorado and Texas, (vi) moved to Israel where I volunteered for an Israeli NGO called Save a Child's Heart (they sponsor heart surgeries for children from developing countries and the Gaza strip).

How did you get from that position to where you are now? Prior to Columbia, I worked in politics and philanthropy. I started my career working for the Clintons (first at the Clinton Foundation in NY - where I was a full-time intern in the development team and then on Hillary Clinton's campaign in 2016 from London - where I was working in the first-ever International office for any US presidential campaign) and then worked for the Royal family in England, where I was managing philanthropic engagements for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. The last job I got was thanks to the very first one! Is there anything about your journey that you would change if you could? Not at all, I always did what felt right at the time I took the decisions. Maybe I would pursue a major in Philosophy rather than History of Art but I remember back then studying it made me happy.

What do you do now? Dual-degree student @Columbia

What does that involve? Pursuing 2 Masters in 3 years rather than 4 years. It's very competitive as one needs to be accepted in both schools separately to be able to do the dual-degree program.

What sort of personality traits do you feel you need to be successful in that kind of role? Usually they would admit people who display very strong leadership potential, but no specific personality trait - extroverts can make it as much as introverts! (though extroverts may find it easier as a huge part of the MBA experience is networking)

What skills did you learn at Beau Soleil that helped you after you left? Certainly resilience. I also learnt to sit around a table with anyone (which is a huge advantage in an increasingly interdependent and global world!)

Are you doing what you thought you wanted to do when you were in Grade 11? In grade 11 I knew I liked Philosophy and that I wanted to pursue my studies in the US - but that's pretty much it!

Is there any advice that you wish someone had given you when you were 16 |17? Think about what makes you happy and what you're good at, there's so much you can do out there! You shouldn't feel the pressure of living a life you do not like AND the best things that will happen to you will be the result of some effort, but also mostly coincidences!

Final thoughts...

Communicate

Choosing your next steps can be exciting, terrifying and confusing. Talk with your family, your teachers, houseparents, friends and the College Counselling team about what is the best fit next for you. No question is too silly and don't be afraid to change your mind.

Be excited by your exploring

Whether you wish to plan your next steps to make the word a better place, make your first billion, or revel in intellectual delights, be excited about the options that you have. You are fortunate and privileged accept that for the greater good.

It is your life – love living it NOW

Carpe diem! The future is important, but so is living your life to the full right now. Make the most of every opportunity presented to you and enjoy the unique experience of life as a Beau Soleil student.

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