

COLLEGE & CAREERS

Lanna International School Bulletin for University and Career information



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Considerations for university: Money and entrance requirements

Lanna International School aims to provide you with the best education to achieve entrance grades for the top universities in the world. However, the choice can be bewildering....

There are thousands of universities and colleges offering an increasingly perplexing range of undergraduate Bachelor Degree programmes ("undergraduate" is a term applied to students who have yet to pass their degree, your first degree is called a Bachelor Degree). Every university is a bit like an independent country; they make up their own rules, have their own entry requirements and give out their own awards (degrees). Universities and the degrees they award are therefore as good as the lecturers who work there. Finding the right undergraduate programme may be time consuming and daunting but the rewards of a good university education will last you a life time.

Entrance to university is dictated by two things;

1. Money....university education is expensive.
2. Entrance Requirements....getting good grades at school and passing exams.



Money (and scholarships)

Although by no means impossible to get, university scholarships are becoming increasingly rare. They are also constantly changing so are difficult to keep track of. Also do be aware that scholarships are unlikely to cover all the fees and living costs for all the years you are at university.

There are two sources of scholarship;

1. Awarded by universities directly (usually to particularly gifted students).
2. Awarded by an external agency to promote university access for a particular group of students or to promote awareness of particular issues.

Although you may be entitled to some form of bursary and should always find out about scholarships, do not assume that you will automatically receive one, even if you achieve high grades. Most scholarships take a lot of planning for and you need to start looking at least a year in advance.

There are three ways to do this:

1. Approach the university directly. Well organised universities may have scholarship information on their websites, or send an enquiry to the admissions office.

2. Seek out agencies/ organisations that have money available for particular programmes of study. These might be religious groups, environmental groups or companies interested in promoting study in a particular areas.

3. Specialist scholarship or educational organisations. There are a number of local education agencies whose job it is to get students into universities overseas, and they will also have up to date information about scholarships. Local Agencies are: Mentor (all countries) email watinee@mentor.ac or Ace (for USA) hub.ace@gmail.com or CP (for Australia/NZ) education.chm@cpinter.co.th. There are also specialist websites that will search for scholarships for you.

For USA try www.fundingusstudy.org or www.scholarships.com or www.fastweb.com.

For Britain try www.scholarship-search.org.uk or www.educationuk.org.

For Thailand try www.studyinthailand.org and follow the links to "scholarships".

For general help try www.internationalscholarships.com.

Here are some good webpages that give you a better idea of university costings in different countries:

Studying in the UK: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/cost-studying-university-uk>

Studying in the US: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/cost-studying-university-united-states>

Studying in Germany: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/cost-studying-university-germany>

Studying in Holland: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/cost-studying-university-netherlands>





Entrance requirements

University is an adult environment, and you usually cannot attend until you are 18 years old. You will be expected to look after yourself and study unprompted (no one will remind you to do your homework). Each university has its own entrance requirements. Some may ask for a High School Diploma, Transcripts (copies of reports and grades from your last two years), GPA (Grade Point Average), SAT (especially USA or USA based courses) or A levels and IGCSEs. LANNA can provide you with all of these. You may also need to prove your English proficiency if it is not your first language, with an IELTS or TOEFL test. Increasingly, universities are setting their own entrance exams.

This will give you an idea of what you need to get into university:

Payap University: High School Diploma, IELTS 5.0/ TOEFL 500 or Payap English Language Proficiency Test and GPA 2.00 or 5 IGCSE passes.

Mahidol University, Bangkok: High School Diploma or 5 IGCSE passes, Transcripts, IELTS score of 6.0 for Academic English or SAT score of 1650 and Maths 580, Mahidol University Entrance Exam and Interview.

Sheffield University, UK. MD (Medical Degree to become a Doctor) IGCSE passes in Chemistry, Maths, English and preferably Biology and Physics. AS level Chemistry, Biology, Maths, Physics plus 1 other at grades ABBB. A level Chemistry and either Biology or Physics and any other A level subject at grades AAB.

*Universities are also looking for how you stand out of the crowd: International Award, Community Service, MUN, etc - more will be written on this in issue 2.

IELTS explained

The IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is run by the British Council and Cambridge University Exam Board. It is a qualification that assess your ability to communicate in English, through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Passing this exam (or its USA equivalent TOEFL) opens the gateway to studying in English at any university around the world. There are very few English speaking universities that do not accept an IELTS exam pass. It will be an essential step to obtaining your university place. Even if you are still unsure about your options after you graduate it is advisable to pass your IELTS exam before you leave.

I would encourage all students if they are unsure whether they need it or not, to check with the university they are applying to. All universities are different and even students with a native English speaking passport may still be required to take the IELTS exam. Here is an example of an English entrance requirements from a British university to illustrate this:

"All international students must show evidence that they meet the English requirement for their course of study. This applies even if English is the native language of your home country. If this is the case, a pass at high school level which is equivalent to GCSE Grade C or above is sometimes acceptable."

Year 12/13 students will automatically be signed up to take the IELTS training day at school on Tuesday 3rd November. Students that have checked with their chosen universities that they don't need IELTS will need to 'opt out' by asking their parents/guardians to send an email to headofsixthform@lannaist.ac.th. Students will need to book and pay for the exam through this webpage - <https://www.britishcouncil.or.th/en/exam/ielts>