



THE MALAY COLLEGE KUALA KANGSAR PERAK, MALAYSIA

The International Baccalaureate
Diploma Programme
University Guide



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A Note from Principal

Dear parents and students,

At the Malay College Kuala Kangsar, one of our key aims is to ensure that students achieve their full potential. Studying the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) plays a huge part in helping us to achieve this aim.



For many universities, the IB Diploma is most highly rated by admission officers as preparation for undergraduate study compared to other qualifications based on the breadth of the curriculum; development of critical thinking, time-management and communication skills; and motivation of the students. Overall, they favoured the broad curriculum that is offered by the Diploma Programme.

The IB requires students to become independent learners who seek out and listen to good advice. We very much hope that you will read this guide with your parents and seek their advice. The Diploma Programme is a highly prestigious and recognised qualification that has a number of academic pathways, hence it is important to contemplate the long-term future to ensure that the 'package' of subjects undertaken at IB matches the requirements of a future university course.

Should you require any further information, please contact the school and a member of staff will be delighted to assist you. Additional information and resources are available at www.ibo.org and www.mckk.edu.my

Mohd Shahadan Abd Rahman
Principal

Vision and Mission

IB Mission

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

MCKK Vision

Excellence, Prosperity, Leadership

“Excellence, Prosperity, Leadership” reflects everyone at The Malay College Kuala Kangsar where we will cooperate and continue to strive to achieve excellence and prosperity not only in academics and co-curricular activities but also in instilling the spirit of patriotism as well as building characters and leadership. This can be attained through improvements in the following areas: cleanliness, safety, and spirituality and the development of international mindedness. This is in accordance with the National Education Philosophy, the vision of the Residential Schools Sector and the vision of the State Education Department.

MCKK Mission

The MCKK IB Diploma Programme aims to develop independent lifelong learners in keeping with the college's quest for overall excellence in producing responsible leaders who uphold traditional values and national aspirations towards creating a productive and peaceful global future.

The IB Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. IB learners strive to be:

Inquirers They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

Knowledgeable They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In doing so, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

Thinkers They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

Principled They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They also take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

Open-minded They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

Caring They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

Risk-takers They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

Balanced They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

Reflective They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

An Introduction

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is widely regarded as the best pre-university course that is offered anywhere in the world. No other qualification is recognised by so many institutions in different countries and no other programme will prepare you better for college or university education and the world of work.

The IB Diploma is a comprehensive, two-year course and a rigorous academic programme. It is designed as a pre-university programme for students aged 16 to 19 years old. It is unique in that it is based on no particular national education system, but is a deliberate balance between the breadth and the specialisation which is required by some countries' national systems.

At the end of the course, students will get the qualification that is a prestigious and internationally recognised one. Most importantly, it is respected by leading universities around the world.

Through the IB, students develop the skills to live and work in an international context, essential for life in the 21st century. It provides a balanced education for the 'whole' student and provides excellent preparation for both university and adult life.

Universities prefer IB students because the IB curriculum develops a balanced variety of skills. IB graduates, with the range of subjects they have studied, have a greater choice of undergraduate programmes. Employers, too, are increasingly looking for flexibility and adaptability, which is something all IB students are able to offer.

Objectives

This handbook is intended to provide information to students and parents about university or college planning and procedure, course selection, study destinations, etc. The major objectives of the handbook are:

1. To provide general guidance about course selection.
2. To provide tools to students to fulfill a mostly self-directed application procedure.
3. To encourage a sense of responsibility, self-management and achievement among students.
4. To provide students with information about university/college while considering —best fit option.
5. To keep students and parents informed about university/college admission requirements and procedures.
6. To provide information about university requirement test such as IELTS, SAT etc. and guide them how to prepare for the tests.

Career Planning

For most of our IBDP students (those who have studied national curriculum), this is the first time in your school life that you have a choice of subjects for study. This is an exciting opportunity to start focusing on your chosen career path; however, at this stage some of you may not know which job you want to do when you are an adult, so choosing subjects is about narrowing down the choices to enable you to select career areas. In fact, you will probably change career paths several times in your working life. Rather than limiting your future to one specific job, a career goal may help you discover career possibilities that you would not have thought of otherwise. There are several job possibilities with any chosen career path. Career planning is the process of making career choices and working out how to get there.

Career Planning Involves:

- a) Thinking about yourself and your ambitions
- b) Exploring career options
- c) Working out what type of career area or job you want to do
- d) Finding out how to get into this career area/job
- e) Choosing the subjects that lead to this career area
- f) Applying to study at further/higher education

Career Planning

A career plan helps you focus on what you want to do when you leave school. Any plan involves setting goals and targets. A goal is your main objective and targets are the steps you take to achieve that objective. For example a career goal can be a specific job you want to do such as be a doctor or engineer; or a career goal can be a particular area you want to work in, such as medicine or engineering. The targets or steps you take then include:

- a) Choosing appropriate school subjects
- b) Finding out what grades are required to get into your choice of course at university or college
- c) Getting the grades required (or better) to get into the course
- d) Applying for the course
- e) Then beginning the rest of your life

A career goal will guide you into doing what you want with your life rather than just drifting into a job. Goals and targets matter because they give you a sense of purpose and direction, help you work harder to get what you want and to plan how to achieve it.

Why Career Planning?

It is 'me time' where you are encouraged to have a serious time to think and reflect upon your future, your ambitions and what you want most from life. You will spend more time at work than anywhere else, so you want to maximize the chances that you will be happy in your chosen career.

- a) You need to think about a number of things:
- b) Your skills, interests, talents and preferences
- c) Career possibilities
- d) Job trends –what jobs will exist when you are ready to start work

By carefully considering these areas, you will improve your chances of getting into your chosen career.

Role of Career Counsellor

1. To help any student in need of academic assistance.
2. To work with students and parents to help students to get admission in the universities/colleges.
3. To help students to overcome any struggles or difficulties they might have during researching the universities, courses, countries, etc.
4. To collaborate with students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members to provide support to get admission.
5. To provide support for the preparation for exams like SAT, IELTS, TOEFL, etc. and guide them to fill online exam application form.
6. To consult with students their choice of countries and the different academic systems as well as the selection of schools, university courses and/or disciplines, depending on the country requirement.
7. To provide information and materials such as university brochures, prospectus, guides, etc.
8. To assist and guide in preparation of applications including personal statements, essays, mock interviews, and to contact with university representatives.
11. To held workshops, talk or coordinates with university representatives.
12. To maintain relationships with universities representatives to support individual applications.
13. To provide recommendation letter when requested by students.
14. To track progress of students university application as well as monitor the career advices received by the students through their online career counsellors.

Role of Students

The students who study in Year 2 class will have to take responsibility to fill the university application process. It is a complicated, demanding and time-consuming process. It can also be an exciting and revealing experience. Students will have to do a lot of research and spend a lot of time filling out applications and writing personal essays. However, this will give students a chance to look at who they are, what they value, and what they might want to do with their lives. Students will have to make some important decisions, develop self-reliance and confidence, and perhaps for the first time think about life on their own, outside the environment of their family life.

Take the time to reflect and evaluate their goals and values, assess their academic strengths, special talents, skills and other aspects that distinguish them compared to other students. This assessment is necessary in determining university that offer an excellent environment in which students will be most productive and happy (and therefore, successful).

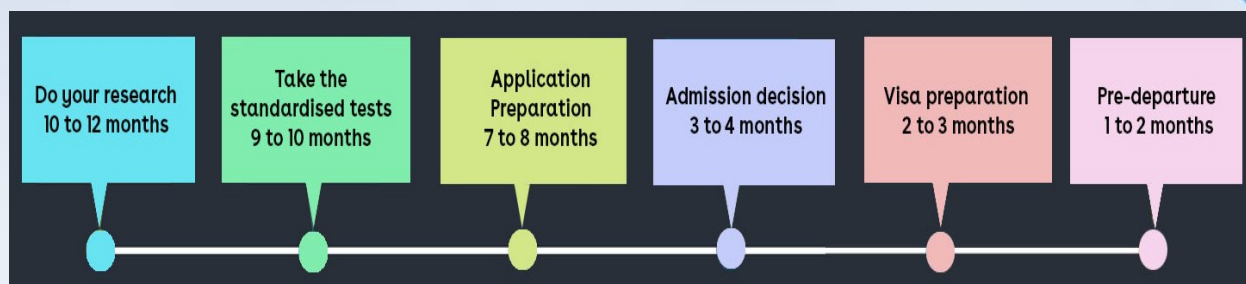
Most important, it is the students' responsibility to keep a track of deadlines for various entrance tests and track their applications.

Role of Parents

At IBDP MCKK, parents also get an access to the Univariety online portal, where they can track their ward's progress, access psychometric test reports, explore colleges and careers, and schedule online counselling sessions with the career experts. They are expected to utilise this platform and benefit from it to make timely informed career decisions. Parents should meet University Counsellor time to time to be informed about their child's progress. Parents should attend PTMs to ensure their involvement. They must attend sessions on University counselling and parent workshops as and when scheduled. They should sit with the child to help him/her decide on what to study, where to study and how to go about it.

They should encourage their child to choose area of his/her interest. They should be aware of their attitude towards their child. Their incessant support will create a positive environment for the child. They should not discourage the child at his/her failure rather should boost his/her moral to move on. They must inform school about child's learning needs, behaviour and health issues honestly. They must discuss their financial plans for the child with the University Counsellor. They must update themselves about the college requirements, application deadlines and fee.

Timeline for University Application



Do your research: 10 to 12 months

- It's best to start as early as possible. Begin by identifying the course that is most suitable for you – note down your strengths and interests, and search for the courses available as per your current qualifications.
- Visit relevant university websites, look for their application procedures, requirements, deadlines and tuition fee. Get familiar with the available financial aids and scholarship and their applications. In short, keep all your research material ready.

Take the standardised tests: 9 to 10 months

- Almost all universities and colleges require your scores of an approved English language proficiency test such as the IELTS.
- Certain programs may also ask for a GRE, GMAT or SAT score. This will need your dedicated time and effort to in order to achieve a suitable score. Always keep your goal in mind whilst preparation. Check for the score accepted by the universities you intend to apply.
- Start early with the preparation of your required tests.
- Keep some buffer time aside in case you have to take the test again.

Timeline for University Application

Application Preparation: 7 to 8 months

- Shortlist universities: Once you have the scores with you, you'll know where you stand. Shortlist universities accordingly. Also consider your preference, budget and location.
- Prepare your application: It's time to prepare your application. Start collating all your documents so that you have everything in place within the timeline.

Admission decision: 3 to 4 months

- You'll start receiving acceptance mails and personal interview slots in the next few months' time. Don't delay in responding since your final acceptance will depend on the interview session.
- Once you have the final acceptance from the university, take a well-thought decision after discussing with your counsellor and deposit the minimal amount to confirm your admission.
- Apply for scholarships (if you are eligible) and other funding options so that you are able to start with your program in time.

Visa preparation: 2 to 3 months

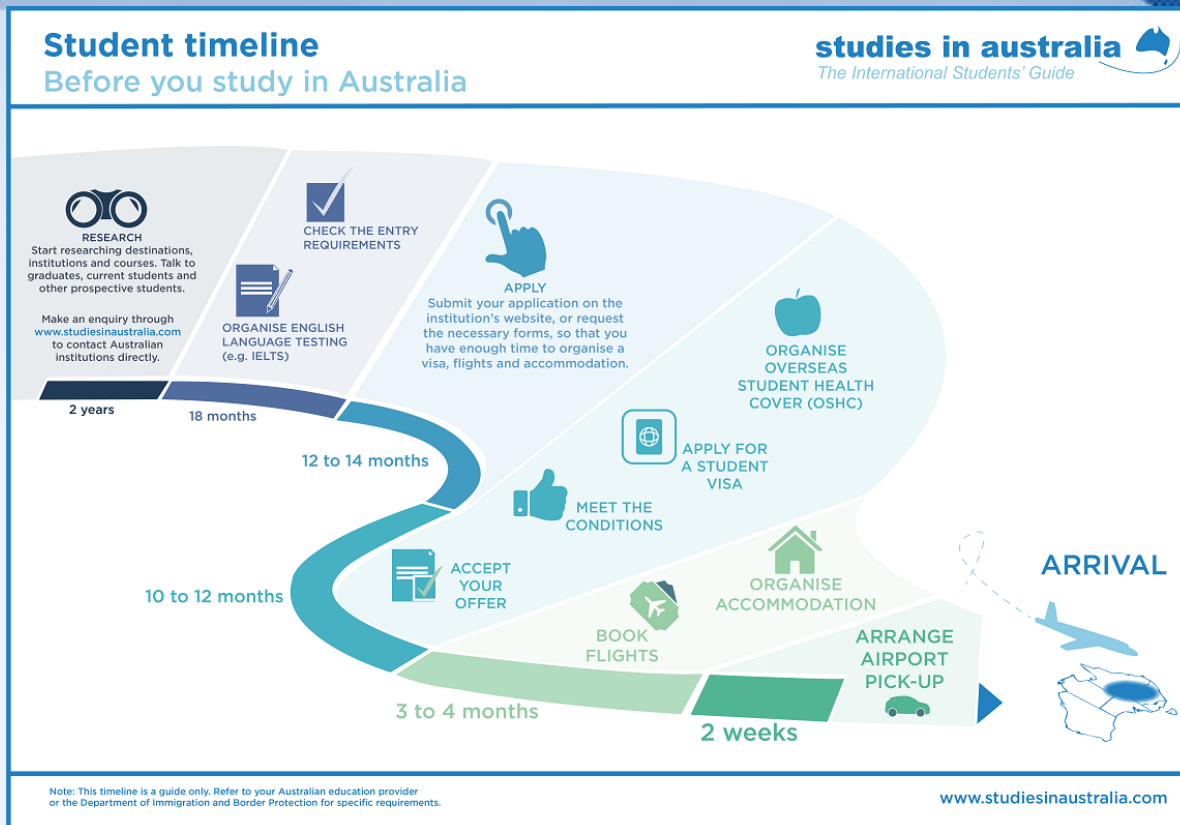
- Most countries allow you to apply for visa three months in advance from the day of your arrival. Gather all your documents and start with the paperwork.
- Apply for your visa well in time. Remember, visa processing may take some time.

Timeline for University Application

Pre-departure: 1 to 2 months

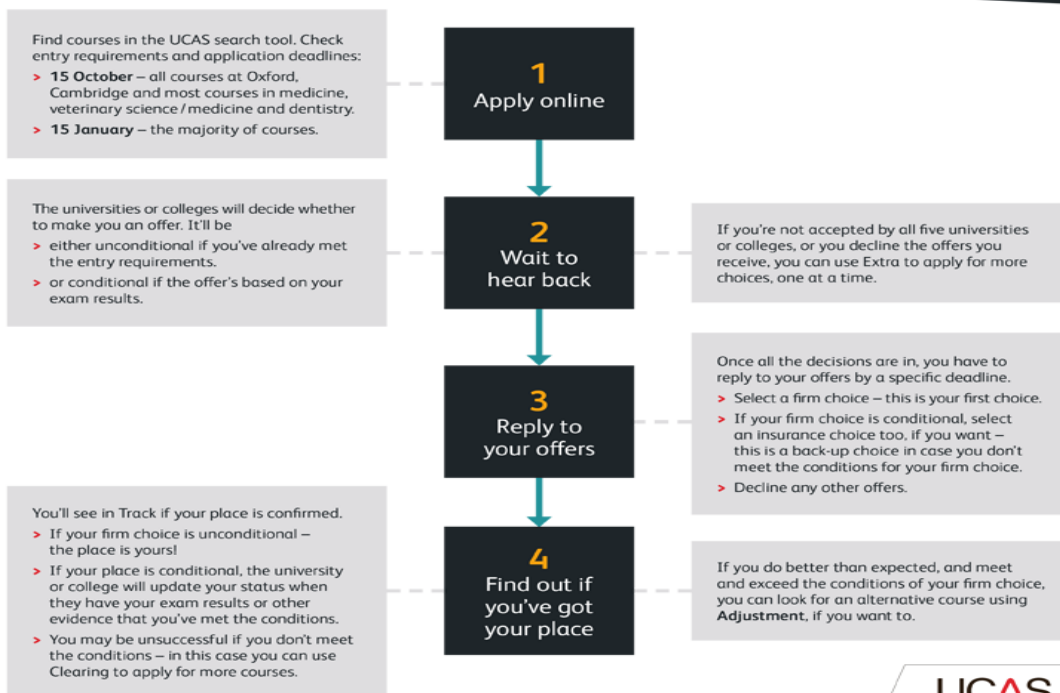
- Make arrangements for your health insurance and accommodation.
- It's almost time to fly to a new country. Book your flight tickets beforehand in order to avoid last-minute bookings. Also, the later you book, the tickets will get more expensive.
- Get yourself an international debit/credit card to help you survive during your initial days.
- Gather all the documents and copies you'd need at the time of arrival. Also, start packing so that you're well-prepared in time.
- Attend pre-departure sessions where you'll be briefed about your life in the new destination for you to be ready for your adventures ahead.

Timeline for University Application



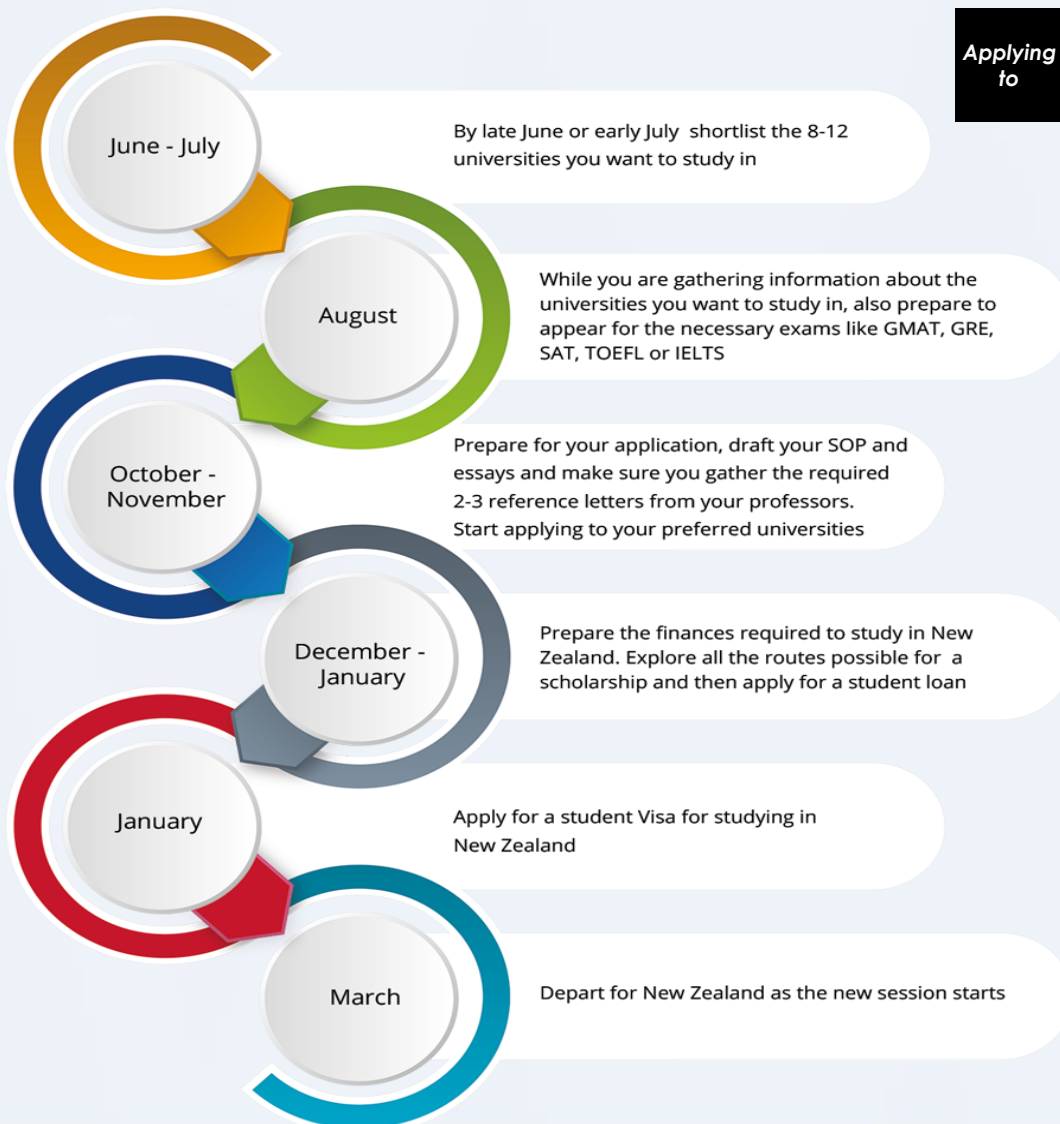
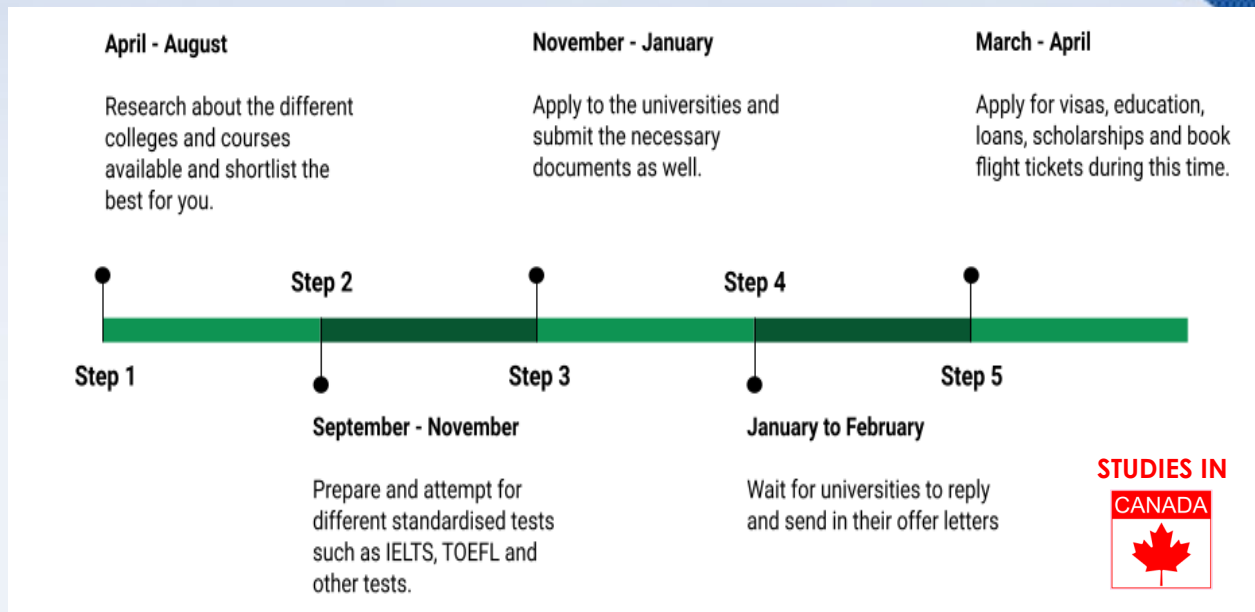
HOW IT WORKS:

Applying to a UK university or college



UCAS

Timeline for University Application



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