



How to Master University Applications

It's university application season for Year 13s at Yew Chung International School of Beijing, and offers are already rolling in from around the world. Year 13 student **Chloe Sandifer-Stech** has recently received an offer from a top American university and a \$20,000 a year scholarship for all four years of her degree. Hot on the heels of this outstanding offer, Chloe shares her tips on securing a place at the ideal university.

1. Make a shortlist

Make a shortlist based on the factors that matter for you. For me, location was one of the most important things, as I wanted to be close to friends and family in the States.

I also thought about size. I feel most comfortable in smaller, close-knit environments so I narrowed my search by looking for smaller-sized colleges.

Our university counsellor advised me to spread my applications across "safety", "fit" and "reach" categories. Safety are those where you're confident you'll secure a place. Fit are the universities that are your most likely match, and reach are those which are most

competitive and require very strong results. Using this final selection tool, I decided on seven colleges to apply to.

2. Use online search tools

I used the college search function on collegeboard.org to help me make my shortlist. You can filter your results in terms of location, campus, sports, fees, diversity etc. They have other useful resources on there too to help you with your college planning and research.

3. Visit the campus

Over this summer and the summer before,

I managed to visit all of the colleges that I applied to. I can strongly recommend doing this. Visiting allows you to get a feeling for college atmosphere, student life, and gives you a chance to ask questions of students currently studying there. Some of the colleges I visited didn't feel right, and some of them felt perfect. You can only really know this by visiting.

4. Consider scholarships

Not all universities and colleges offer scholarships, but in the United States this is common as fees are very expensive. Check the scholarship section of each college website and make a note of the application requirements and deadlines.

Some colleges ask you to submit extra essays, and even submit your application early if you're applying for a scholarship. I had to submit an 800 word essay right before Christmas!

5. Start early

It's never too early to begin the application process as it takes a lot of time. This is especially important if you're applying for American universities as you will need to sit the SAT. You can sit this as many times as you want, so some students first sit the SAT in Year 12. They then have another chance to sit it in Year 13.

But wherever you're applying, start researching in Year 12, and use the summer to work on your personal statement and work out exactly what you need to do to apply. Once school begins, time runs away!

YCIS Beijing wishes students who are currently applying to university the very best of luck! Visit ycis-bj.com to find out more about our dedicated university guidance service.



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