



# UCONNECT



The Education Newsletter



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## COVER STORY

# Opening Doors to a Future in STEM: Opportunities for Women in the UK

By Palak Sanghvi, UC Research Counselor

As career and guidance counselors, some of our happiest moments are when we see our students discovering opportunities that spark their dreams and help them reach their full potential. There's a special joy in guiding young women who are passionate about pursuing STEM, and showing them just how many doors are waiting to open for them.

For women who are ready to take this leap, the UK offers an incredibly supportive platform filled with possibilities. From the creation of the first programmable computer to pioneering discoveries in genetics, the UK has shaped the world of STEM in profound ways. A UK degree carries global recognition, opening doors to exciting career opportunities around the world. The country not only invests in the potential of women in these fields but also offers a wealth of scholarships designed specifically to empower women stepping into STEM.

These scholarships are not just about financial support; they are a meaningful vote of confidence in your talent, your passion, and your future. There are many scholarships available, but here are a few standout programs that have made a meaningful impact:

- **British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM:** Partnering with universities like Imperial College London, the University of Manchester, and Cranfield University, this fully funded scholarship supports women from specific countries who want to pursue a master's degree. It covers tuition fees, living stipends, flights, visas, and health coverage. More than just financial support, it aims to nurture future leaders who will drive innovation back home.
- **L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Programme (Imperial College London):** This prestigious program offers five annual awards of £15,000 to postgraduate women in research. It provides practical support for equipment, travel, or living costs — empowering brilliant minds to continue their ground breaking work.
- **The Royal Academy of Engineering Leaders in Engineering Scholarship:** While open to all, this program actively encourages applications from women and other underrepresented groups. It includes a £5,000 grant over three years, a personal mentor, and access to a powerful professional network to help shape tomorrow's engineering leaders
- **University-Specific Scholarships:** Many UK universities have their own scholarships for women in STEM. King's College London offers a "Women in Science Scholarship Scheme,"

while the University of Warwick runs a "Women in Engineering Programme." It's always worth checking the funding pages of the universities you're interested in—they often have unique awards that can make a big difference.

- **QUEST Civil Engineering Scholarship:** If you're passionate about civil engineering, this scholarship offers up to £8,000, paid work placements every summer, and the prestigious title of an ICE QUEST scholar. It's open to all students, regardless of gender identity, and can be a fantastic way to launch your career.

The application process to avail such scholarships can be complex, with different deadlines and requirements for each university and scholarship program. It's vital to stay organized, meticulously follow all instructions, and submit all required documents on time.

A few things to keep in mind before you start:

**Academic Excellence:** Your grades matter, especially in your chosen STEM field. Strong academic performance shows commitment and readiness.

**Passion and Purpose:** Committees want to see what drives you. Share the story of why you love your field—what sparked your interest, what experiences shaped you, and where you see yourself in the future.

**Potential for Impact:** Many scholarships, like the British Council program, want to know how your studies will benefit your community or home country. Be specific about the problems you want to solve and how your work will make a difference.

**Proof of Financial Need:** Many of these scholarships are need-based. You'll need to provide clear and accurate documentation to demonstrate your financial situation and how the scholarship will make your studies possible.

The journey to a STEM degree can be challenging, but it's also incredibly rewarding. These scholarships provide a means of financial support, a supportive network, and are finally breaking down barriers and paving the way for the next generation of female scientists, engineers, and technologists.

So, if you're a young woman dreaming of a future in STEM, know this: there is a place for you at the table, and countless people, us included, are cheering you on every step of the way.

Remember: the goal is to tell your story.  
With heart, preparation, and clarity, you can stand out.





**“Meet future Dr. Sarah Moby,** a recent graduate of Oakridge International School, who shares her incredible story of securing admission to the prestigious St. George’s University of London.

In this candid interview, she talks about the challenges and confusions she faced as an Indian student aspiring to study medicine abroad and how University Connection’s dedicated mentorship helped her every step of the way.”

<https://youtu.be/NVhOTkLAizE?si=6ySNH6jt8-W8GeF5>

## My Experience at SolBridge International School of Business and Woosong University



By **Aayushi Panwar**, IBDP Year 2 student at Sancta Maria International School, Faridabad

Returning with so much more than just memories and travel photos, this summer, I had the opportunity to participate in a cultural and academic exchange program in South Korea hosted by Woosong University. I returned not only with a fresh perspective on the world but also with the realization that I could take on challenges far beyond what I once believed I was capable of. From exploring the lively streets of Seoul to attending classes at a top business school in Daejeon, every single moment helped me grow—not just as a student, but as a person.

We started in Seoul, a city that truly never sleeps. The first few days were a whirlwind of sightseeing, shopping, and nonstop excitement. One of my favorite moments was going up Namsan Tower at sunset. The view was breathtaking, but what stayed with me was the peaceful vibe up there—especially seeing the love locks and the cable cars. It felt like something out of a movie.



## STUDENT'S Corner



overwhelming at first, I slowly found my groove—I learned how to manage my time, stay organised and patient, and take responsibility for myself.

The classes were so different from what I was used to, and I loved that. I’ve always loved art and design, so naturally, one of my favorites was on infographics; Learning how to present complex ideas visually and creatively was super interesting to me, and I realised how powerful visuals can be, especially when trying to communicate in a world that’s full of information.

Another class I enjoyed was on presentation skills. At first, I was terrified of speaking in front of such a diverse group, but with a bit of practice and a lot of encouragement, I got better at it. **I learned how to structure my thoughts, use body language, and connect with the audience. These are things I’ll carry with me into debates, MUNs, and whatever career I choose in the future.**

The session on Artificial Intelligence was another eye-opener. We spoke about how AI is changing everything in healthcare, education, and even advertising. I had heard about AI before, but now I understand how big its impact is. More than that, it made me think about the ethics behind technology, how we need to be smart but also kind and thoughtful with the tools we create.

Learning Korean was a huge highlight too; I didn’t know a single word when I started, but by the end of the course, I could introduce myself, order food, and hold short conversations. Speaking even a little bit of the language helped me connect more deeply with the locals and showed me how powerful language is—not just for communication, but for truly understanding people and culture.

Looking back now, this wasn’t just a trip. It was something that changed me; I came back with more confidence, an enhanced skillset, and a new mindset. I feel more curious, more open to new ideas, and more excited about what the future holds for me.



At Gyeongbokgung Palace, I wore a hanbok for the first time and walked through centuries of history. Learning about the Joseon dynasty while standing in the palace made Korean history feel so real — something I’ve never experienced from just reading a textbook. It made me realize how Korea seamlessly blends old traditions with modern life in a cool and respectful way.

Myeongdong had a completely different energy, full of street food, beauty stores, and trendy fashion. That’s where I really got a sense of Korean youth culture. It was chaotic, colorful, and honestly, one of the most fun parts of the trip. Spending a day at Lotte World with new friends from different countries helped us bond so quickly—it was crazy how fast we all became close. I also faced one of my biggest fears: roller coasters! It was terrifying, but there was no way I was leaving without experiencing it at least once.

Although I visited many places, this program was about more than just exploring a new country—it was also about learning, growing, and stepping out of my comfort zone.

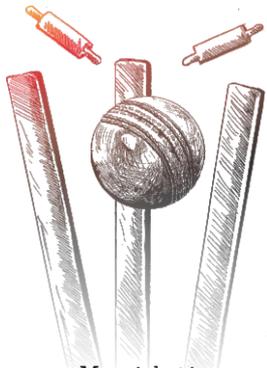
After Seoul, we moved to Daejeon for the academic part of the program at SolBridge International School of Business and Woosong University. Living in a different country, away from family and managing everything on my own was a completely new experience for me. Although we stayed at a hotel with the school, I still had to do a lot of things on my own; From managing my schedule to keeping track of my belongings, handling money, and making small everyday decisions—it all added up. Though



Aayushi’s recent trip to South Korea enriched her understanding of new cultures and sharpened her global perspective. It’s just the kind of exploration that all students need during their high school years to identify and explore the right options for university.

Exploring emerging careers, building subject-specific knowledge, and creating opportunities that turn ambitions into achievable goals is possible by stretching yourself beyond your comfort zone.

Happy to **Connect** to discuss more!



## Shaping Beyond the Pitch: Lessons from Cricket

By **Kabir Bhargava**, a Year 12 student  
studying at City of London School, London, UG CAAS 2027



My cricket journey began when I was around nine years old, a bit late for those looking to play professionally, but it felt natural from the start. I remember being in the nets, batting casually with the soft ball, seeing my dad watching the game with his friends. It all started organically for me, without any big plans. But somehow, those simple moments planted a seed. By the time I played my first season in 2019 in the Under-10s, I knew this sport was something special for me.

Very quickly I realised that it's not a sport where things happen quickly, it's not a game where you can rush and learn things overnight. It's a game of discipline, patience, staying focused for long periods of time, and prioritising teamwork over individual performance. As a leg spin bowler, I learned what pressure really feels like.. My team often relied on me in crucial moments and I learned more from the pressures and losses than from the wins.

As with most sporting journeys, mine has had its bumps, but it has instilled in me one invaluable quality: resilience. One of the early challenges I faced was not getting selected for the Lord's team. It was tough watching others make it while I didn't, as it would've been a dream come true, playing in a very elite, selective team at the very home of cricket. But instead of giving up, I used that as motivation. I put in a lot of work on the nets during Easter 2022 and 2023.

**In 2023, I finally got selected, which felt like a huge step forward in my cricketing career.** But just when things were working out, it came crashing down, I injured my back twice from over-bowling, and I was out for months. On top of that, I tore the webbing in my ring finger three times during the summer of 2023, which made bowling impossible, a nightmare for a leg spinner. I rushed back too soon each time and ended up making it worse.

**The following year things started to look up; I had my best season yet, becoming the highest wicket-taker at my club at just 15.** It was surreal playing at a men's club full of other aspiring cricketers with much more experience, some already having played in serious tournaments such as the County Championship and even the IPL. As I was settling in and refining my form, I realised something was off. My bowling action had

changed, and I didn't realize it immediately, assuming it was just fatigue from constantly playing. However, it soon became a significant challenge; I couldn't correct it. My muscle memory faltered, my bowling lost its rhythm, and I entered one of the most frustrating phases of my cricketing journey, where doubt and wavering passion began to overshadow my love for the game.

A steadfast promise to never give up on cricket kept me going. Between September 2024 and July 2025, I spent countless hours in the nets, yet didn't play a single match, a test of patience indeed. Just when I thought it couldn't be any worse, it did.. I had my GCSEs fast approaching. I felt completely defeated, struggling to keep my academics on track, unable to play matches, and anxious about my form.

Determined not to be overwhelmed, I turned to technology and mentorship, recording my bowling, dissecting every movement with software, and working with coaches from London to New Delhi to pinpoint and fix the flaw. Together, we studied every movement, every angle, every release point. It took months of frustration, patience, and a lot of trial and error, but by the end of July, I fixed it. The hard work, frustration from setbacks, and cold winter sessions had finally paid off. It took a lot of patience and discipline, but it was worth it. My action was back. My confidence followed soon after.

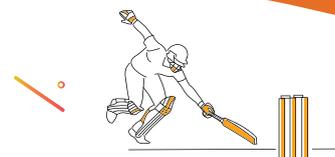
**Looking back, for me Cricket has been my biggest teacher.** It's been a journey of growth, resilience, and self-discovery. How to manage pressure and stay focused, balancing academics to analyzing and correcting my form, every challenge has taught me the value of perseverance, teamwork, and introspection.

From being named "Most Improved Player" in my very first season to becoming my club's top wicket-taker in 2024, each milestone reminds me how far I've come - and how much further I want to go.

As I prepare to join the Lord's Youth Programme from winter 2025, I'm more determined than ever to keep learning, pushing my limits, and enjoying every moment of the game I love. I know this journey is just the beginning and I can't wait to see where cricket takes me next.



## Counselor's Perspective



Excelling in his GCSEs, Kabir is also actively engaged in research projects, internships, and cricket while studying in London. University Connection is committed to guiding students like Kabir in making informed decisions about their future, helping him find universities that offer both outstanding academic opportunities in mathematics and technical creation, as well as excellent sports programs. For support with sports admissions or broader college and career guidance, [feel free to get in touch with us here.](#)

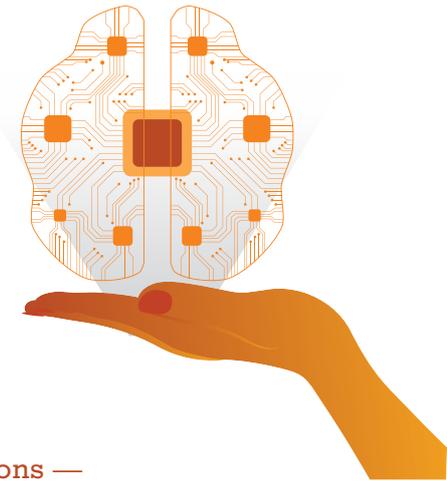


# PARTNER Spotlight

## Use of AI for Counselors

By Raj Mehta, CEO of Arci (edtech SaaS)

“Some see AI as a threat to counseling, but technological revolutions seldom erase professions — they transform and redefine them...”



AI is here to stay. The launch of ChatGPT, quickly followed by other large language models (LLMs) from the world’s biggest tech companies, has sparked a new industrial and technological revolution. History shows that breakthrough innovations reshape industries: Electricity in the early 1900s, radios and automobiles in the 1920s, the internet in the 1990s, software in the 2010s, and now AI in the 2020s. **Education will not be an exception, and the role of college counselors is already being reshaped.**

Some see AI as a threat to counseling, but technological revolutions seldom erase professions—they transform and redefine them. Counselors who adapt to **AI will be better equipped to enhance their practice, leveraging it to provide even greater value to students and families.**

With rising demand for guidance, poor student-to-counselor ratios, evolving global admissions policies, and overwhelming amounts of information, counselors are under pressure—the need is clear. While their primary role is to guide students, a great amount of time is spent on administration, communication, and repetitive tasks. AI, with its ability to research, reason, and problem-solve, can be agentic by taking on the heavy lifting so counselors can focus on what matters most.

**Here are some practical ways counselors can leverage AI today:**

- **College Research & List Building** AI can filter thousands of universities quickly by academics, costs, majors, and location. When paired with school-specific or proprietary data, it can generate insights and recommendations that help students see options beyond the usual “top 20”.
- **Application Support:** While counselors are the voice of reason and overall alignment of the application with the university of choice, AI can provide first-pass feedback on essays by checking grammar, structure, and clarity, before a counselor reviews them. This saves time, allowing counselors to focus on deeper storytelling and authenticity.
- **Admissions Predictions:** By analyzing historic trends, AI can offer data-driven insights that help balance “dream, target, and safety” lists. Counselors no longer need to build every list from scratch. AI can generate a tentative list, leaving them free to refine and contextualize.
- **Administrative Efficiency:** AI can automate reminders, track deadlines, and monitor progress across large cohorts. Tools like Google’s Gemini, now built into Google Workspace, allow counselors to literally chat with their data in Sheets to generate instant summaries and insights.

- **Parent Communication:** AI chatbots can handle FAQs (“When is the SAT deadline?”) and auto-generate progress updates, ensuring parents receive timely, professional communication without overloading counselors.
- **Global Admissions Trends:** AI can scan policy changes, news, and admissions reports to keep counselors updated. Tools like Perplexity can even automate weekly digests, so counselors stay ahead of evolving patterns without relying on hours of manual research.
- **Impact for Under-Resourced Schools:** Many schools still lack trained counselors. AI tools can act as a first layer of guidance, helping students explore international opportunities they might otherwise never encounter, while teachers or part-time advisors provide additional support.

As powerful as AI is, the human role in college counseling is irreplaceable. Here are key areas where counselors matter most:

- **Human connection:** Empathy, encouragement, and motivation.
- **Contextualizing AI outputs:** Interpreting which AI outputs truly fit a student’s goals.
- **Family dynamics:** Balancing expectations and easing anxieties.
- **Ethical oversight:** Preventing bias or over-standardization in recommendations.
- **Promoting responsible AI use:** Ensuring students don’t misuse AI in ways that undermine integrity, such as outsourcing entire essays.

The most exciting opportunity lies not in AI replacing counselors, but working alongside them. Used responsibly, AI makes counseling more efficient and, in turn, more personal, allowing every student to access thoughtful, timely, and relevant guidance. The paradox is simple: the more we allow AI to streamline the process, the more space counselors have to strengthen the human connection.

**And isn’t that the essence of great college counseling?**

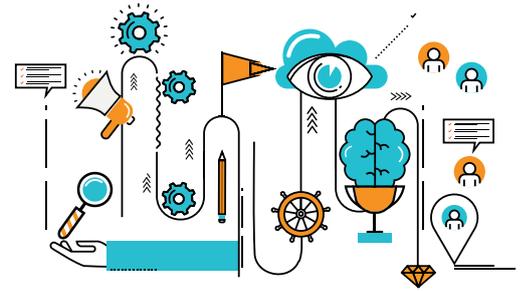
### Disclaimer

The views expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of University Connection, UCONNECT, or its constituting team of Research Counselors



## Beyond College Majors: Skills That Get You Hired in 2026

By Varun Sharat, Founder of HeadStart Careers



**“Imagine being asked in an interview how you’d fix a supply chain mess that spans three countries. It’s not a test of textbook knowledge — it’s about how you think, adapt, and balance competing priorities...”**

Fast-forward to 2026: the international job market is busier, faster, and more interconnected than ever. Yes, your degree still matters—it proves you can put in the work and master complex material. But here’s the catch: employers aren’t just scanning résumés for your major anymore. They’re asking a bigger question—can this person actually thrive in today’s world of constant change?

What really counts are the skills that cut across industries, countries, and job titles. And the graduates who stand out aren’t necessarily the ones with the “perfect” major, but the ones who bring curiosity, adaptability, and people skills to the table.

### Digital Fluency: Speak the Language of the Future

Think of digital fluency as today’s workplace passport. Whether you’re crunching numbers in London, managing patients in Singapore, or running logistics in Nairobi, technology is at the center of it all. It’s not enough to know the basics—you need to be comfortable learning new tools as they roll out.

And then there’s data. Companies everywhere are obsessed with it. Being the person who can take raw numbers and turn them into clear, actionable insights is like having a superpower. Want to stand out? Don’t just memorize formulas—learn how to tell a story with data.

### Adaptability: Your Secret Career Armor

If there’s one constant in today’s economy, it’s change. Energy firms are chasing renewables, retailers are going digital-first, and AI is rewriting job descriptions. Employers know that the skills you graduate with in 2026 won’t look the same five years later.

That’s why adaptability is your career armor. Show that you’re not afraid to keep learning—whether through a certification, coding bootcamp, or side project. The message this sends is powerful: I don’t just survive change, I thrive in it.

### Problem-Solving: Humans Still Have the Edge

Sure, AI can crunch numbers faster than we ever could—but what it can’t do is think creatively about messy, real-world challenges. That’s where you come in. Employers want people who can weigh trade-offs, connect dots, and design solutions that make sense technically and ethically.

Imagine being asked in an interview how you’d fix a supply chain mess that spans three countries. It’s not a test of textbook knowledge—it’s about how you think, adapt, and balance competing priorities. That’s the skill that keeps humans ahead of the machines.

### Communication: Connecting Across Borders

You can have all the technical skills in the world, but if you can’t explain your ideas clearly, you’ll be overlooked. Employers want team players who can present to executives in Paris one day and brainstorm with engineers in Mumbai the next.

And communication isn’t just about talking—it’s about listening, showing empathy, and working smoothly with people from all backgrounds. English may be the global baseline, but bonus points if you speak another language or at least show cultural curiosity. In a world where teams stretch across time zones, being that “bridge-builder” makes you invaluable.

### Emotional Intelligence: The Real Leadership Superpower

The best workplaces of 2026 won’t be led by bosses who bark orders. They’ll be led by people who inspire, support, and bring out the best in others. That’s emotional intelligence — understanding people, building trust, and creating a culture where everyone can thrive.

Employers know teams succeed when they feel valued and connected. Show that you can lead with empathy and inclusivity, and you’ll be the kind of person companies fight to hire.

### The Bottom Line

Your major? It’s the entry ticket. But the real journey starts with the skills you build on top of it—digital fluency, adaptability, problem-solving, communication, and emotional intelligence.

### Want to get ready for 2026? Here’s a cheat sheet:

- Get comfortable with digital tools and learn to “speak data.”
- Keep learning—courses, certifications, and side projects all count.
- Share your experiences in terms of impact, not just tasks.
- Put yourself in diverse situations—cross-cultural projects, internships, or volunteering.
- Practice leading, even in small ways—every initiative matters.

The future belongs to people who connect knowledge with action, and culture with collaboration. Your major might open the first door, but these future-ready skills are what will carry you through the rest.

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# UNIVERSITY Spotlight



## Think Japan: Beyond Sushi & Ramen - Top Reasons to Study Abroad

By Amrita Ghulati, Director, School Engagement and Partnerships, Acumen

If Doraemon, Pikachu, or Shin-chan ever lit up your childhood, or if anime still sneaks into your weekends, then Japan already lives in your imagination as a land of brilliant stories and design. However, Japan earns a spot here for something even more significant: its serious commitment to educational equity and world-class learning. At a time when shifting geopolitics and changing visa regimes make it harder for students to find truly welcoming destinations, Japan stands out. Many universities charge international students the same fees as domestic students, and with a national plan to host 400,000 international students by 2033, it is turning equity into a verb, not just an adjective. Scholarships, English-taught programs, and strong student support ensure that access, quality, and value travel together. If you want a study destination that's fair, future-facing, and firmly global, keep reading.

To make the 'Why Japan' answer easier and true to Japanese style, let me present it in bullet points (pun fully intended!).

### Top 10 reasons to study in Japan:

World-class learning, Japan style: Home to 10 universities in the QS Top 250 and 30+ Nobel laureates- the highest in Asia- Japan doesn't just join global education; it defines it: rigorous, innovative, and consistently excellent.

- **Affordable excellence:** Tuition ranges from ₹5-10 lakhs (USD 6,000–12,000) per year, often 3-4 times lower than the US or UK. Scholarships and student support make world-class education accessible, allowing students to focus on their studies without worrying about financial concerns and rest easy with the ROI conversation.
- **Safety first:** Ranked #12 on the 2025 Global Peace Index, Japan offers peace of mind for families and independence for students. Tokyo (#2), Kyoto (#18), and Osaka (#62) all feature prominently in the 2026 QS Best Student Cities ranking — blending calm with opportunity at every turn.
- **City contrasts, cultural blend:** A morning stroll through Kyoto's temples, an evening in Tokyo's neon-lit tech districts- traditional meets futuristic, tranquil meets buzzing, all in one student journey.
- **English-ready, bilingual-strong:** With 900+ English-taught programs, you can start without Japanese. All universities offer language learning, so bilingualism is built into the experience- a true career multiplier worldwide.

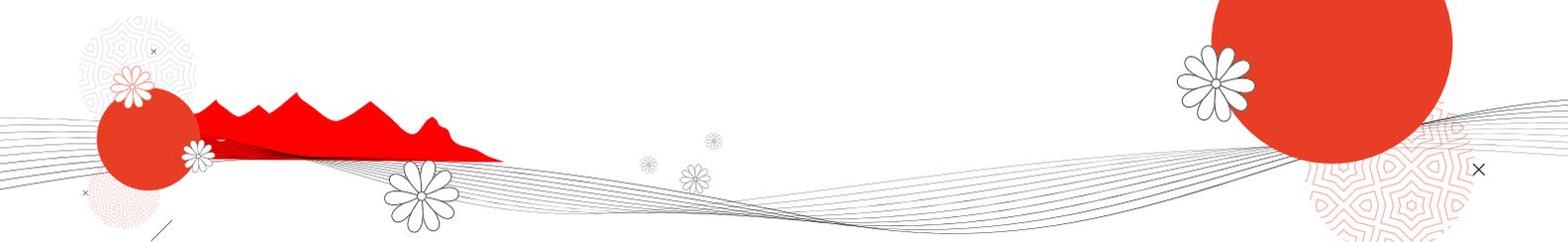
- **Specialized edge:** Japan excels in programs shaped by real-world challenges: sustainable urban design and disaster-resilient architecture at the University of Tokyo, marine technology at Kobe University, and advanced robotics and sustainable building design at Kyoto University. Niche meets necessity, preparing you for careers the world is racing toward.
- **Global collaborations:** Japanese universities are not islands. University of Tokyo partners with Harvard and Oxford, Kyoto University with Stanford and Cambridge, giving you access to research networks, exchanges, and joint projects- so your time is rooted locally and connected internationally.
- **Work + stay opportunities:** Students can work 28 hours/week during term and full-time in vacations, while post-graduation stay-back options of up to 5 years (depending on your qualification & circumstances) make Japan a career-friendly study destination.
- **Industry linkages that power careers:** Universities connect students with industry to turn learning into real-world skills. Nagoya University works with Toyota, Denso, and Chugai Pharma, while Doshisha University partners with Deloitte Japan, Mitsubishi UFJ, and animation studios, offering hands-on experience in engineering, business, IT, and creative fields.

All-season student life: Japan's geography is part of the degree. Ski Hokkaido's powdery slopes in winter, picnic under Kyoto's cherry blossoms in spring, hike the Japanese Alps in autumn, or surf Okinawa's beaches in summer- four seasons, four different student lives, unforgettable years beyond the classroom.

So next time you hear 'Japan,' don't stop at anime or sushi, imagine studying where design meets discipline and invention sparks daily life. (Pro tip: mention the Walkman (yes, another brilliant Japanese invention!) to your parents, they'll smile, nod, and then scan the Navi Japan QR code (iOS and Play Store). Explore universities, scholarships, and English-taught programs, and picture yourself learning, creating, and thriving in a classroom that challenges, inspires, and totally gets your style.

Japan isn't just a place to study, it's a playground for curious minds and future-makers.

*Are you ready to level up?*





## Empowering Global Learners: The Transformative Journey at Xavier University, Cincinnati



By **Tsvety Karaivanova**,  
Director of Admissions, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

In today's rapidly globalizing world, the pursuit of an international education has become a defining aspiration for many students from all over the world. At Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, we are privileged to be part of this transformative journey, fostering an environment where students from diverse backgrounds come together to learn, grow, and make a meaningful impact on the world – with a staggering 98% student success rate – which means, within 6 months of graduation, 98% of our undergraduate students were employed full-time or began their desired graduate program.

Xavier University is more than an institution of higher learning—it is a vibrant community dedicated to nurturing the potential within each student. We recognize the unique dreams and challenges faced by international students, and we are committed to providing a supportive and inclusive campus experience tailored to their needs.

Our approach to education emphasizes experiential learning that blends rigorous academics with real-world application. Through **close-knit classrooms, more meaningful faculty interaction, immersive internships, service-learning projects, and collaborative research opportunities**, students develop critical skills such as leadership, innovation, and problem-solving — all essential for success in today's complex global landscape.

What sets Xavier apart is our dedication to holistic student development. **Beyond the small class size of 11 to 15, we offer a range of resources, including personalized academic advising, cultural organizations, and mental health support services that help students navigate the transition to life in the United States.**

This commitment to well-being ensures that our students thrive both intellectually and personally during their time with us.

The diverse and dynamic campus community at Xavier enriches the educational experience by fostering dialogue and understanding across cultures.

Students from India and across the world find not only academic rigor but also a welcoming space to celebrate their heritage and contribute to a global learning environment.

Moreover, our extensive alumni network and partnerships with industry leaders open doors for meaningful internship and career opportunities. These connections empower our graduates to launch impactful careers worldwide, embodying the values of service and leadership that Xavier champions.

At Xavier University, we believe education is a lifelong journey—a journey that starts with a supportive and enriching first step. We are proud to collaborate with educators, counselors, and families across India and South Asia to guide students toward achieving their dreams in a globally connected world.

We suggest you discover the stories of transformation and success that define the Xavier experience, and join us in shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

**Our applications are open for Fall 2026, and we look forward to seeing your applications!**





# Your Education Digest: Snapshots of events that matter

Are you hosting an event for your institution?  
Send us details, and we will be happy to feature relevant events  
within this section of UCONNECT

## SMU Counselor's Dinner

On 26th August, at a recent Singapore Management University (SMU) Counselor's Dinner, the Orange Team attended a warm and insightful evening, meeting several counselors and engaging in meaningful discussions about student opportunities. One key highlight was the 2025 introduction of a CCA Transcript, designed to showcase students' Co-Curricular Achievements and leadership on campus. The SMU team emphasized their focus on holistic education, encouraging students to explore interdisciplinary learning, hands-on projects, and global exposure. Clear guidance on application timelines and board-specific requirements was also shared. The event proved both informative and inspiring, offering valuable insights for students preparing for higher education.



## The Initial View Fair

On 23rd August, the Orange Team attended the Initial View Fair, connecting with U.S. university representatives from Brandeis, Babson, Binghamton, Vassar, Haverford, Ohio Wesleyan, WashU, Boston College, Northeastern, and more. The event provided a valuable opportunity to ask questions and gain insights to better support students. Universities reassured attendees about flexibility with late entries and visa processes amid political uncertainties. For CBSE students, only Haverford and Northeastern currently offer advanced credits, with varying criteria. A key takeaway: universities highly value students who stay meaningfully engaged in their free time, as consistent personal growth often shines through in essays and applications.



## U.S. University Brunch in Delhi

Recently, the Orange Team attended a delightful brunch in Delhi with Mr. Brandon, Associate Director from the University of Rochester, Ms. Liana, Director of Undergraduate Admissions from Case Western Reserve University, and several esteemed IECs. The discussion covered key topics such as the current U.S. situation, safety concerns for international students, trends in application rates, OPT (Optional Practical Training), and guidance on whether students should consider applying to U.S. universities. The atmosphere was warm and engaging, with thoughtful insights and genuine care addressing every query. Special thanks were extended to Afshana for organizing the meaningful gathering on short notice.



## Gresham Global's GACC Education Fair

On 17th September, the Orange Team attended a Gresham Annual Counsellors Conference (GACC) event featuring presentations from universities including Leeds Arts University, EHL Hospitality Business School (Switzerland), University of Guelph (Canada), Norwich University of the Arts (UK), and University College Birmingham (UK). Each institution highlighted its strengths, ranging from hospitality and culinary programs to arts and agriculture/food sciences. The event also featured financial partners supporting students' education journeys: HSBC offering banking and financial services, Credila providing unsecured loans up to ₹1.5 Cr, and Reeudo assisting with cross-border education payments. Overall, it was an informative platform offering valuable insights and resources for aspiring international students.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Third Weave, TOC's annual meet, returns on 20th December 2025 at Holiday Inn, Aerocity, Delhi — built deliberately as an experience that matters and serves your purpose. Click here to register: <https://www.theoutreachcollective.in/thethirdweave>
- World University of Design invites you to an exclusive 2-day event: SRIJAN- | Innovate – Explore – Create | A special on-campus initiative designed for School Principals & Counsellors.





## Check your Orange Quotient (OQ)

### Can you spot the connections?

In this edition, we've put together 5 groups featuring interesting topics filled with fun, culture, and STEM knowledge. Each group has 4 items that belong together.

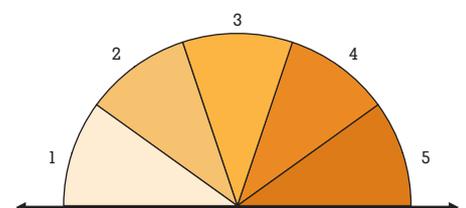
**Your challenge: Can you spot all the connections?**

Cherry Blossoms	Maia Learning	Hanbok	Sumo
Dorothy Hodgkin	Black Hole	Cialfo	Britain's Nobel Chemist
Bridge U	Sushi	Interstellar	Kimchi
Woosong	University of Oxford	Arci	Back to the Future
Cosmos	Seoul	MEXT Scholarship	Nobel Prize 1964

### Hints

1. Think about cultural highlights that define education, sport, food, and nature in Japan.
2. Consider the things that are unique to Korean culture - from language and clothing to food and sports.
3. These are modern digital tools designed to make Counselors' work a little easier.
4. All items are connected to a pioneering woman in STEM and her work in chemistry in the UK.
5. These are films or series that explore science, space, and the natural world.

### The Orange Meter



**Answers**

1. Cherry Blossoms, Sushi, MEXT Scholarship, Sumo
2. Seoul, Woosong, Hanbok, Kimchi
3. Cialfo, Bridge U, Maia Learning, Arci
4. Dorothy Hodgkin, University of Oxford, Britain's Nobel Chemist, Nobel Prize 1964
5. Cosmos, Black Hole, Interstellar, Back to the Future

## Share your story via UCONNECT

We are proud to be connected with a diverse network of individuals and organizations that resonate with our mission of empowering career choices one student at a time. We welcome and value insights from students, parents, partners, and educators on a wide range of topics and issues, and look forward to sharing their perspectives.

To be featured in UCONNECT - The Education Newsletter, you can write to us at

[connect@universityconnection.in](mailto:connect@universityconnection.in)

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