

How to choose the ideal country?

The most popular study-abroad destinations for Indian students are the USA, the UK, Canada, the EU (Ireland, Germany, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland), Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore. These developed economies present multiple great choices to students. However, in order to choose the country most suited to you, the following factors should help you choose your ideal destination.

1. Academic Quality

This is a very subjective factor because of the sheer quality of teaching and research and academic infrastructure in the countries mentioned above. However, a quick glance at global university rankings should help you ascertain the top options abroad. It is generally accepted that certain countries are hotspots for certain programs and careers (the US for Computer Science, Germany for Mechanical/Automobile Engineering, the US and the UK for Business programs, Europe for Design, etc.), however, there are multiple other countries that also have some exceptional programs in these domains.

2. Career Prospects

This factor is dependent on the destination country's economy and the availability of top academic programs specific to that. It is general knowledge that the US, especially the state of California, is the global hub for Computer Science; New York, Boston, Chicago, London, Singapore and Hong Kong are global financial centers. The fact that your study abroad destination is a highly-developed economy means that they usually have a demand for skilled labour. Your intended program's university webpage is an excellent source of information to understand the career paths of past graduates. It is very difficult for you to recover the cost of your international education with an Indian job as quickly as you can with an international job.

3. Cost

Obviously, there is a cost associated with pursuing your education abroad, and sitting at the wrong end of the ForeX conversion scale for the most popular study abroad destinations means that costs add up very quickly. The better you plan your finances, the easier it is for you to repay your sponsors. Typically, a great fit university that puts you in a position to secure a good job is available for most budgets.

Country	Typical Length of Master's	Average Total Cost (INR)
USA	2 years	50-65L
UK	1 year	30L
Canada	2 years	30-40L
Australia	2 years	40-50L
Ireland	1 year	20-30L
Germany	2 years	15-35L

4. Immigration

A lot of students use education for dual purposes - as a means to upskill and get great jobs, and as a pathway to immigrate to that country. The typical visa route is Student Visa >> Post-study Work Permit >> Work Visa >> Permanent Residency >> Citizenship. Often, the length of the post-study work permit is dependent on the type and length of the program, so it is imperative to be aware of those implications while plotting your study abroad journey.