

'Economics and IT, most popular courses in the UK'

MICHAEL DRISCOLL, Vice-Chancellor, Middlesex University, London tells Suhita Roy why UK has become the preferred choice for Indian students

Why should one choose UK instead of the US?

Well, first of all an undergraduate degree here is of three years, which is similar to India while in the United States it takes four years to become a graduate. Our postgraduate degree course is of one year so while in the US one can graduate in four years in the UK one can become a postgraduate in the same time. It might seem at the first glance that studying in the UK is more expensive but that's not the case as the over all cost is lower here. The drop-out rate in our universities is lower and the success is greater. Plus the historic ties we share with India makes it a comfortable place for the students.

What are the benefits of studying in the UK?

Students can become a part of the alumni and can look for job opportunities in the country. With the Indian economy rising and international companies ready to hire people on the basis of their talents, it's easy for Indian students to get a job anywhere in the world after graduating from our universities. Also in the UK a student can study and work at the same time.

What, according you, is the reason of Indian students going abroad for studies?

The education system in India is very good and at par with the world. It's because when students who don't get admission in the top colleges of the Delhi University even after scoring above 90 per cent do they take up the option of

studying abroad. Also the exposure that students get during their college life here helps them in the future. The course curriculum of Delhi School of Economics is similar to that of any university in Britain so they stand on even ground. St Stephen's College works on the similar patterns of Oxbridge University. We don't say that we provide a better degree but as there are lesser number of universities in India, students choose to come the UK.

What's the ratio of Indian students in England?

The exact ratio is hard to predict but it's at least three to four per cent, which I think is quite a substantial amount.

What subjects are usually preferred by them?

Students usually prefer Economics, Business Management and Information Technology. Also various vocational courses are also quite a hit with the students.

What's the method of teaching?

A student learns through lectures and seminars, the library is also there to help the out. We involve students in various discussions also. There is more learning than what is done in the class room. London is where the action happens. A student can learn a lot here not only from the syllabus but also from the theatres, museums and art galleries. In the campus they meet with students from other countries and learn about their culture too. We encourage students to participate in various co curricular activities such as charity work and sports.



Does your University provide any counselling?

We provide counselling and induction sessions at the very onset. Usually students don't face much of a problem as they are well in tune with the cosmopolitan culture. Their problems are no different from other

students like financial, matters of the heart and at times unable to cope with the studies.

Also, students who have certain dietary restrictions don't need to worry as we provide kitchens in the hostel rooms where students can cook their own meals.

