

Guidance Bulletin 34, 18th December 2017

Summary of the term To exchange ideas and to share good practice the guidance counsellors from across the Ecolint Foundation met with the Director of Education on 15-Sept-17 and there was a meeting of counsellors from around the world at the Re-thinking Counselling conference in Toulouse on 10-Nov-17. An introduction to guidance was given to all Year 12 students on 06-Sept-17. A talk on career choices was given to the IBCP class on 05-Sept-17. Information evenings were offered for Year 12 parents on 11-Sept-17 and Year 13 parents on 12-Sept-17. A coffee morning for Year 11 parents with a presentation on guidance was held on 21-Sept-17. On subject choices for the diploma and career-related programmes there was a presentation to Year 11 students on 15-Nov-17 and an information evening for Year 11 parents on 23-Nov-17. All Year 11 student have had the opportunity for an individual meeting with me to discuss subject choices. Those who missed their meetings will be offered another appointment at the start of next term. Candidates for Oxford and Cambridge have had practice interviews and preparatory sessions with teachers. A UK Universities Forum was held by five admissions staff on 14-Sept-17. A US College Evening with three expert US admissions staff and an SAT/ACT preparatory company was presented on 22-Sept-17. A Canadian Universities Fair was held on 03-Oct-17. In total representatives from sixty universities and colleges visited Campus des Nations this term. These visits included institutions in the USA, UK, Canada, Switzerland, Spain, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Singapore, Australia and France. My own international contact has a long record. At the school where I was working as a guidance counsellor in 1992, among the destinations on the list of the graduating students there featured Libre Université Bruxelles, University of California Berkeley, University of Cambridge, University of Cape Town, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Dickinson College, University of Edinburgh, McGill University, University of Michigan and University of Oxford.

Year 13: Bocconi University Milan The deadline for applications is 18-Jan-18. The selection test will be held in Milan on 02-Feb-18. With teaching in English, Bocconi University offers three-year bachelor degree programmes in economics and management. For more details go to www.unibocconi.eu.

Year 13: University College Utrecht Live Q&A session at 13:00-13:45 with admissions staff through https://www.facebook.com/events/1600529660041058/?notif_t=event_calendar_create¬if_id=1512645024252750 on 18-Dec-17. The deadline for applications is 01-Feb-18. For more details about the courses on offer go to <https://www.uu.nl/en/organisation/university-college-utrecht>.

Year 12 and 13: Notes from the visit by the University of Southern California on 07-Nov-17 USC was founded in 1880, decently old by American standards, positively ancient by Californian. It was the first institution of higher education in the southern part of California. It is situated in the second largest metropolitan area in the USA. Geographically, California is the size of France. Economically, if it were a country, it would be the sixth largest in the world. Although situated in the busy heart of Los Angeles, yet it offers a quietly sheltered campus. While USC is a large research institution, it is small and personal. The faculty to student ratio is 1:8. There are some 170 different majors on offer and as many minors. The students comprise a diverse body, so whatever an individual background, a comfortable place can be found. Rather than being a competitive campus environment, it is collaborative and laid back. Undergraduates are encouraged to contribute to research, which requires intellectual curiosity, such a quality needing to be signalled in the application. USC has an international viewpoint. In fact USC is ranked sixth in the USA for the number of undergraduates studying abroad. With its multicultural feel, international students are assured of support. The curriculum is flexible, although there are general educational requirements. The admissions office is looking for academic roundedness in the applicants. An extreme example of such roundedness might be an engineering major with a minor in dance. Students cannot apply undecided. Instead they must list a first and second choice of major. About 60 per cent of undergraduates do adjust their choices while they are studying at USC, but this is really possible only within humanities, the creative arts such as film not allowing for switching. There are over 850 clubs and societies. Almost all undergraduates live on campus in their first year. Thereafter many choose to move to flats in the residential areas nearby. The essay for the Common Application is reflective, not academic, because the admissions office is looking to create a community. Reflecting allows for seeing who will fit best into the atmosphere and ethos of USC. Letters of recommendation are required from a

teacher or guidance counsellor. The admissions office is not fazed by the many moves some international students make between countries as they grow up. It also likes to see a full list displayed in the application of extracurricular activities. Some programmes need extra materials such as a portfolio or supplementary essay. While there are no specific entry requirements for the IB diploma, the choice of subjects needs to make sense, for example Mathematics at Higher Level for Engineering. SAT is required. About 16 per cent of applicants are admitted. For non-native speakers of English, TOEFL can be waived depending on the SAT score. The deadline for merit scholarships and the creative arts is 1st December. To be competitive a 6 or 7 is required in each subject and so a total score of at least 38. However, taking into account the holistic review outlined above, this is not the sole means of selection, so a score of 45 will not necessarily guarantee admittance. For more details go to www.usc.edu.

Years 12 and 13: Notes from the portfolio workshop held by Paris College of Art on 06-Nov-17

Paris College of Art teaches exclusively in English. Graduates gain a US degree. There is considerable flexibility in the courses offered when compared with the tighter structure of most UK institutions. The first year of the undergraduate course is a foundation for exploring different media and styles. It should not be confused with a portfolio foundation year, which is the standard route for admissions into a bachelor degree in fine art in the UK. After the foundation year, students can choose to specialise, for example in the business management of art and design. A portfolio needs to present successful pictures. At the same time it should show how developments and improvements are constantly being made. Applicants need to ensure that what is submitted complies exactly with the specifications detailed on the instructions. At a small institution such as Paris College of Art, applications are handled on an individual basis, so there is often time to contact applicants if further visual ideas are required. At larger institutions, by contrast, there is no opportunity to chase after applicants. If artwork has to be submitted via a web portal, the quality of the reproductions must be carefully considered. For example, photographing against a white background will allow for crisper imaging. When arranging a portfolio themes are important: portraits, landscapes or still life. The media used will play a part: pen and ink sketches, photographs or oils. With discretion 2D and 3D can perhaps be mixed. Brief captions should be added. These may include the amount of time spent on a particular work and the conditions under which the ideas were executed. Photoshop, for example, is definitely a skill, but its use should be signalled as such; to pretend otherwise would be deceitful. For more details about Paris College of Art go to www.paris.edu.

Years 10, 11 and 12: SCAD Summer Seminars Savannah College of Art and Design introduces students to life at a SCAD campus (Atlanta, Savannah or Hong Kong) as well as to the range of creative disciplines available at The University for Creative Careers. Workshops can be chosen from a host of academic programmes, including animation, fashion, film, jewellery, photography and more. Students are instructed by SCAD professors, alumni or selected graduate students in small classes of no more than twenty. For more information visit www.scad.edu/ss.

Years 10, 11 and 12: Summer School in UK Arts University Bournemouth is offering a range of courses for students aged from fourteen. Among the many suggestions there is a two-week residential course (23-Jul to 03-Aug-18) in creative arts, a three-week introduction (24-Jul to 10-Aug-18) to fashion design and a three-week course (24-Jul to 10-Aug-18) in British architecture. For more details and to book a place go to www.aub.ac.uk/summer.

Years 10, 11 and 12: University of Chicago Andrus Hatem, an alumnus of Campus des Nations, is currently studying at the University of Chicago. He will be available from 14:00 to 16:00 on Tuesday 19-Dec-17 at Starbucks on 26 Rue du Mont-Blanc in Geneva to offer friendly and informal advice on the application process and his view of the institution.

Years 10, 11 and 12: International Summer School in Croatia Integration Twenty-First Century offers English classes, afternoon workshops (robotics, drama, business and film), IB subject preparation and sports on the Adriatic coast. For more details and to book go to www.integration21.hr.

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