EDUCATIONPILIS

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A French connection

The Director of SciencesPo's Centre for Asia, Pacific, Africa and Middle East talks about the institution's interest in welcoming international students, especially from India

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ne of our key mottos is diver-Etienne Cazin, Director, the Centre for Asia, Pacific, Africa and Middle East, SciencesPo. This doesn't come as a surprise given that international students currently make up 50% of the French university's student population. Established in 1872, Sciences Po has emerged as a leading destination for Humanities and Social Sciences, and was ranked third in the 2022 QS Rankings for Politics and International Studies globally. The university offers UG, Masters, and Doctoral programmes and currently has around 15,000 students.

"With students from 150 countries, we keenly encourage our young students to think about cultural differences different perspectives," says Cazin, emphasising how the institution does not just focus on attracting students from a few specific countries.

Six core disciplines

The undergraduate degrees, which centre on six core disciplines of Law, Economics, Humanities,



Sciences and Sociolare taught across seven campuses around France. For the Master's degrees, SciencesPo has seven graduate schools and 30 programmes including International Affairs, Public Affairs, Journalism and Urban Studies.

Political

History,

"It is a great asset for us to have Indian students. Ten years ago, there were nine; now we have around 320 with a majority in the

SCIENCES PO AND R. RAVINDRAN

undergraduate grammes." The Indian connection does not end there. SciencesPo has a network of 480 partners

globe across the which includes 13 educational institutions in India, which

includes IIT-Madras, IIT-Bombay, O.P. Jindal Global University, Delhi, and Christ University, Bengaluru. "All our students are required to mandatorily study two semesters abroad, and we are keen that they study in colleges in India, as it will be an interesting experience for them," he said, adding that he hopes to enter into more partnerships with in-

stitutions.

Language issue

Regarding the need to know French to study at SciencesPo, Cazin is quick to reassure that "there are programmes which are taught in English, and it is totally feasible to come here without knowing French, depending on the programme chosen." He also explains the various methods by which the institution supports its students "with all of their concerns, be it physical or mental health or safety. This is especially important given how many international students we have, who live far away from their families." The campus also has several cultural associations that are inclusive and make students feel welcome.

Talking about future plans in working with Indian educational institutions, Cazin says they are looking forward to developing partnerships at various levels. "Apart from student exchanges, we are also looking at staff exchanges and collaborating on research. When we have good partners in the academic world, we want to take this forward holistically. In India, we can have great partners at every level, especially research."

SCHOLARSHIPS

Credit Suisse Scholarship

for MBA and MA (Economics) Students

Aims to help qualified candidates bridge the gap between the cost of the programme fees and their ability to pay.

Eligibility: Applicants must be enrolled in MBA or MA (Economics) programmes at a designated institution and scored 60% or above in passed Class 12 and graduation and demonstrate significant financial need, defined as family income less than or equal to ₹5 lakhs per annum (subject to verification)

Rewards: Up to 80% of total fees or a fixed sum of up to ₹2 lakhs, whichever is lesser Deadline: December 24 Application: Online b4s.in/plus/CSE4

Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship and Mentorship **Programme**

Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. aims to provide foundational support to deserving and meritorious people who may lack resources.

Eligibility: Students who have passed Class 10 with at least 75% marks or Class 12 with at least 60% marks in the 2022 board exams and are pursuing higher secondary, three-year graduation, or four-year professional courses (Engineering/ MBBS/ BDS) respectively. Annual family income must be less than $\mathbf{\xi}$ 5 lakhs per annum. Rewards: Up to ₹50,000 per year for up to four years, depending on current level.

Deadline: December 31 **Application:** Online b4s.in/plus/KISF6

Saksham Scholarship **Program for Drivers'** Children

Mahindra Finance aims to support children of drivers (all light motor and small commercial vehicles such as taxi, jeep, car and delivery vans) who hold a valid driving license.

Eligibility: Applicants must be in school (class 1 to 12) or in college (upto post-graduation) in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. Those in class 9 onwards must have scored 60% or more marks in the previous final examination. Annual family income from all sources must not be more than ₹4 lakhs. **Rewards:** Scholarship ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹20,000 for 1 year. Deadline: December 31 **Application:** Online

b4s.in/plus/SKSP1 Courtesy: buddy4study.com

SAVE THE DATE

■ Master's in Public Health in International **Development**

The University of Sheffield, the

U.K., invites applications for its Master's in Public Health in International Development course starting in September 2023. This explores the intersections of international development and healthcare policy and practice, while developing the skills to work in health and development organisations. Optional modules on food security, public health, urban development, and climate change are also available. Eligibility: A three- or four-year Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 60% or first class in in a Social Sciences or Medical subject from a recognised university. Overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or equivalent. Visit https://bit.ly/3iQtK4z for

LADY TATA MEMORIAL TRUST

Applications are invited for the below Scientific Research Awards Young Researcher Award - 2023 And

> Junior Research Fellowship 2023-24 And

Institutional Research Grant 2023-24 And

Teacher's Training Program

YRA award is instituted by the Lady Tata Memorial Trust (LTMT) to annually recognize and reward young Indian scientists with outstandin track record in biological sciences and potential for high quality research with a deep commitment to find innovative solutions to major problems related to human diseases, blood disorder with special references to leukaemia and for scientific research towards alleviation of huma

Applications are also invited for Junior Research Fellowship, IRG and Teacher's Training Program for the year 2023-2024.
For Detailed Information and online application process, please access

our website www.ladytatatrust.tatatrusts.org



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Kounal Gupta

umerous overseas universities favour applicants with strong IELTS test results, as part of the admissions process. One of the components of the test that Indian students find difficult is Speaking, which accounts for 25% of the total score. According to industry experts, 62% of Indian students have a hard time communicating in English. Therefore, here are some tips that can help them do well in this segment.

Conversational tone

When talking to the examiner, keep your tone conversational. Use pauses and emphasise words to ensure he/she understands what you are saying. This is a conversation so keep the examiner engaged. Do not memorise answers, as that tends to disrupt your natural tone. Think of it as candid photography and speak.

Confidence is key

The examiner gets the first impression from your introduction. So keep it simple and speak calmly. The examiner will judge the candidate not by his/her opinions or perspectives but by how he/she conveys the message in English. Other important aspects as good body posture, smiling and making eye contact while speaking. All this shows confidence.

Accent does not matter The IELTS is an international test that is taken by a diverse number of people from different countries. So a variety of accents is usual. What the

What matters in the **IELTS** speaking test is the quality of language. So the best way to develop speaking skills is to converse with other people who are fluent in the language and correct your mistakes.



Speak with confidence

Five ways in which a student can develop English speaking skills for the IELTS exam

examiner will consider is the pronunciation of words. The best way to develop clarity in pronunciation is to listen to podcasts, news and documentaries. To practise, record yourself speaking and listen to that to measure your progress. Another efficient way to learn is to use online dictionaries with pronunciation guides.

Develop vocabulary It is not enough to know complex words. The student must know how to use proper words in appropriate places. A cru-

cial exercise to develop

this skill is to test oneself every day by describing events through a different set of words. This not only helps build vocabulary but also develops a speaking style. Follow the 5x5x5 rule! (Stick five sticks at five places in your room and change them every five days)

Grammar matters Grammatical structure is

crucial in conveying the correct meaning in the speaking test. Therefore, the student needs to be fluent and not pause for too long. Use simple present tense while speaking. In the case of passive voice, formal and impersonal words should be used. The only way to master grammar is to practice and more practice.

What matters in the IELTS speaking test is the quality of the language. So the best way to develop speaking skills is to converse with other people who are fluent in the language and correct your mistakes.

The writer is CEO, Henry Harvin

Speciality exam is a single admission test for aspirants who seek admission into colleges for various DM/MCh and DrNB Super Speciality courses of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 (as per Section 61 (2)). The NEET-SS 2023 is tentatively scheduled to take place in the second half of 2023. The 150-minute exam is in MCQ format with 150 questions, each with a single correct answer.

he NEET-Super

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Dr. Sandeep Sharma

For each correct answer, a candidate is awarded four marks, and one mark is deducted for every incorrect answer. Here are some tips to help aspirants boost their preparation for the 2023 exam:

New exam pattern

It is now imperative for aspirants to read all systems of subjects extensively. All questions will now be from the curriculum of the Post Graduate Exit level of the primary feeder broad speciality subjects.

As a result, the entire subject is vital rather than just the super-speciality being the target. The exam will be more comprehensive and multiple-choice questions

from every system of the subject will be present. To give an example, MCQs can be framed even from therapeutic aspects and organ transplantation.

Crack the NEET

Super Speciality

Exam 2023

What can aspirants for the NEET

Super Speciality Exam do to boost

their preparation? A few tips...

Define resources

To ensure that preparation strategy is streamlined and smooth, aspirants must define the resources and study materials that they will refer to. Standard primary textbooks such as Nelson's Textbook of Paediatrics are essential and will build a strong foundation. Additionally, aspirants must be up to date with recent syllabi, selected portions from speciality books, and national health programmes. By referring to different, diverse, and comprehensive study materials during preparation, aspirants can perform better.

Clinical orientation Questions that are clinical in

nature and test patient-management approaches are increasing in number. Therefore, it is necessary to incorporate adequate clinical MCQ testing into their preparation strategy. Increased practice for questions on ventilator graphs, ECGs, and EEG interpretation in the medical branches, as well as on key surgical approaches and instruments in the surgical branches is advised.

Time management

Identify how much time to spend on each question. To be able to comfortably attempt all 150 questions, candidates must prioritise taking full-length mock and practice tests. This will enhance speed and ensure that they are able to attempt all questions at a desirable speed.

Revision plan

In order to revisit weak areas and less familiar topics, create a detailed revision plan and revise all major systems in the primary feeder subject. Given that the syllabus is vast, it is important identify and study high-yield areas. To ensure no important topics are missed, create an exclusive revision strategy during the last one month and follow it diligently.

Stay healthy

Competitive exams often make aspirants feel stressed and anxious. Therefore taking care of physical and mental health is crucial. Maintain a proper sleep cycle and eat healthy diet. Taking regular breaks helps one remain motivated and increases chances of performing well.

The writer is a PrepLadder Educator.

Crunch those numbers

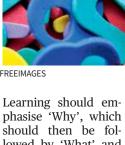
How can teachers help students overcome the fear of Maths? Here are some tips.

Neelakantha Bhanu **Prakash**

ften, maths is perceived as a subject causes fear and anxiety. Many have faced Maths phobia at some point and try to avoid situations involving numbers.

Several studies have shown that Maths learning took a big hit during the pandemic and the subsequent online classes compared to reading. It is imperative to bridge such gaps in learning and change the way students perceive Maths. Here are some tips on helping students get rid of their fear of numbers.

Encourage dents to ask 'Why': To make Maths more relatable, emphasise the WHY. Instead of introducing a topic through a textual definition, ask why they want to learn it. For example, when talking about fractions, ask how one can determine whether a glass is half full or half empty. Asking the right questions before a concept is introduced gives context to what they are going to learn and stays in the memory.



Performance Art and Mind Sports:

Game-Based



When Math is introduced in interesting and relatable formats, students can visualise what the question requires and solve it in their minds. Encouraging students to showcase their talent and knowledge introduces an artistic facet in learning Maths, which is a vital component of strengthening conceptual understanding

Learning: Classroom textbook-based

learning can be tiresome and boring. Gamification of learning techniques can help change the perception of Maths and provide new and easy ways and rectify mistakes. Games could be as simple as asking students to keep adding a number when their names are called. Not only does this keep students attentive, but also increases their

and speed. **Problem-solving** approach: Pose a problem, decode it, and present the concept and solution... this encourages the students to spend more time on

arithmetical accuracy

the subject. For example, while teaching the concept of area and perimeter, the teacher can ask children to measure their room using this parameter. Focussing on repetition is also an important aspect and the key to etching a concept in students' memory is to link it to previous and future learning.

One size does not fit all: Maths curriculums are designed by establishing what students should know in a particular class. This methodology may be unsuccessful if the child does not understand what they have learnt, how it can be applied practically and what is next in learning. It is similar to giving a child a piece of five different jigsaw puzzles daily and expecting them to complete them. Instead, curriculums must focus on creating a Maths journey.

After giving them a solid foundation of the concepts required, students must be taught to explore how these can be applied in the world around them.

The writer is the founder and CEO of Bhanzu, a Maths ed-tech start-up

G. Mallikarjuna

he advent of Information Technology (IT) and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) has boosted the demand for many related academic programmes such as B.Tech Computer Science, B.Sc. Computer Science, and Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) that allow students to gain the knowledge and skillsets required for direct entry into these sectors.

The BCA programme has been increasingly gaining popularity leading higher education institutes to update the curriculum at a much faster rate than that of other programmes. Here are some reasons why this course has gained prominence in the recent past:

Growing demand: According to latest reports, IT service companies in India have created over 5,00,000 new jobs in 2022. This is likely to increase in the future, as various industries are adopting digital technology. Thus, A BCA degree opens up the door for a ca-

reer in the IT sector. Learning options: Many reputed universities are offering BCA in the online mode with the same academic curriculum and rigour as the physical programme at a lower cost. This gives the students the flexibility to learn anywhere and anytime.

Broad curriculum: The curriculum covers foundational concepts in computers and its applications such as programming language (HTML, Java, C, C+, and other advanced ones). Lab practicals and projects help them get a firm hold on coding and programming. Additionally, the curriculum covers Software Engineering, Database Management, Cloud Computing, Computer Networking, Mobile Applications, and other subjects that are sought-after skills today.

Wider opportunities: A BCA student learns many fundamental concepts in the computer and software domain, each of which is now evolving into an independent domain. From computer networking and mobile application development to coding, data science and cloud computing, a BCA graduate earns credentials in various



Enter the IT sector

The Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) course offers great career prospects for students

domains. There are also higher education options such as Master of Computer Application (MCA) or M.Sc. in Computer Science, M.Sc. in Data Science, Master of Information Management (MIM), Master of Computer Management (MCM), and Master of Business Administration (MBA).

Affordable: Compared to the B.Tech /B.E programmes, a BCA is both affordable and available. This allows a student to select an institution that suits his/her requirements.

Entry jobs in the IT sector offer equal opportunity to BCA graduates and B.Tech/B.E graduates. As long as the demand for IT professionals keeps growing, BCA graduates will have great career prospects.

The writer is Director, Directorate of Online Education, Manipal University Jaipur