

# The big move

With more students looking to study abroad, India needs to take a second look at its academic culture and understand what is needs to offer today's youngsters



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Of late, there is a new wave of global movement: that of youngsters in the 18 to 25 age group going abroad for their studies. The allure of foreign universities is being buttressed by powerful campaigning. What are the factors causing this exodus? What is the impact on Indian society and economy?

### Factors

One of the reasons for this

exodus is the struggle to find jobs in India after graduation. Students believe that there is scope to lead a better life abroad. After completing their studies, they continue to live there to improve their lives, both financially and academically. Another aspect is the liberal lifestyle in many foreign countries, which offers students a level of freedom that may not be possible in their homes. A third aspect is the possibility of earning while they study.

There is also the perception that studying in a

foreign university carries more prestige than being in an Indian institution. It is also true that admission to prestigious Indian institutions is difficult and only a small percentage of students are able to find a seat. With the relative ease of admission in colleges abroad, more students are able to fulfil their dreams of higher education.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was meant to bring Indian universities on a par with foreign universities with focus on research, critical

thinking and problem-solving and offering equal opportunities for learning in diverse areas, improved teacher training and infrastructure development. But it will take time to implement and to be effective. While India overcomes the challenges of establishing research-based education, students opt to go abroad to find such an ecosystem.

### Consequences

The first impact of this is the potential loss of talented manpower. We often see media highlighting achievements of Indians abroad but rarely is the question of why they could not achieve the same heights here asked. We read of students in India developing new technologies but nothing is heard of what happened to these innovations. This loss can hit hard particularly in fields such as healthcare and engineering. Then there is the economic effect. Rarely do students who go abroad for higher studies come back to contribute to the Indian economy. Their life is bound up with the country they reside in.

All this should make us re-look our academic culture and come to new understanding of what we need to offer our students in this fast-changing world.

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## Gain perspective

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help



OFF THE EDGE  
Nandini Raman

I completed Class 12 with PCBM and took NEET twice but didn't get the required score. I want to opt for architecture or a science course but cannot decide. Can you help? Sabira

Dear Sabira,

The decision should be based on a combination of your core interests, abilities, career goals, and future prospects. Meet a career counsellor and identify which subjects you enjoy the most and feel passionate about. Assess your strength, skill, and aptitude. If you enjoy sketching, designing, or exploring spatial relationships, architecture could be a good fit. But, if scientific concepts, experimentation, and problem-solving fascinate you, then a science courses may be more suitable. Also research career prospects and opportunities — job demand, salary potential, industry growth, and professional advancement — in both fields.. Finally, reflect on your long-term goals, aspirations, and vision for your future career. Consider how each option aligns with your personal values, lifestyle preferences, and ambitions.

I am in the final year of B.Sc. (Physics, Chemistry

and Maths) but my interest is in History. Which will be a better option for my Master's: an M.A. or an M.Sc.? Which has better career opportunities? Akash

Dear Akash,

What do you want to do in the long term? Deciding between an M.A. or an M.Sc. depends on your personality, interests and career goals. Evaluate it carefully to make an informed decision. An M.A. in History will provide you with a deep understanding of historical events, theories, methodologies, and critical analysis and you can pursue careers in academia, research, museum curation, archival work, publishing, journalism, public history, cultural heritage management, education, and more. An M.Sc. in Physics, Chemistry or Maths will build upon your B.Sc., offering advanced coursework, research, and specialisation in your chosen field for careers in scientific research, academia, industry, government laboratories, technology, healthcare, finance, data science, and more. Understand your interests, and long-term career goals, your skills, strengths, and aptitude, career aspirations, job market trends and finally the demand for professionals in your

chosen field before you enrol into a Master's programme.

I am in Class 12 and attempted the CLAT recently. I didn't get a decent rank. I am also preparing for the CUET. What can I do after Class 12? Jyot

Dear Jyot,

What about LSAT or AILET? Identify other colleges and universities and check their admission criteria. Start your CUET preparation and set dedicated study time for it. Check out integrated law programmes like B.A. LL.B, BBA LL.B, B.Com. LL.B offered by reputed universities. Explore other undergraduate courses across Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Fine Arts, Media Studies and Sciences. Get a career profiling done by a competent career counsellor to identify your academic interests and then shortlist your choices. Many students also consider a gap year today to reassess options and enhance their skillsets and profile by working on self-improvement through internships, part-time jobs, and volunteering opportunities. If you decide to take a gap year, explore short-term diplomas or certifications in your area of interest as it will enhance

your knowledge base and add to your credentials.

I have completed BBA but am not sure if I want to be in this line. Apart from looking for a job/internship or applying for higher studies, how can I know what is the right career path for me? Supreetha

Dear Supreetha,

Seek guidance from a career counsellor to assess and evaluate your personality, interests, strengths, and potential career options. Identify what you enjoy most. Assess your strengths. Introspect on the values that matter most to you in a job and work environment. Explore different industries and sectors to understand available opportunities keeping in mind current trends, job roles and growth prospects. Make yourself job-ready and obtain relevant certifications that will enhance your current qualifications, help you gain new skills and upgrade your CV. Consider professional shadowing, networking and joining professional associations related to your areas of interest. Internships and volunteering are also great to gain practical experience and understand your career goals better.

**Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.**

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

## Design for the future

Design education needs to offer students a multifaceted toolkit that enables them to create solutions that transcend mere functionality.



FREEPK

from the collaboration of designers, engineers, and material scientists, each contributing their knowledge for an environmentally responsible solution.

### Responsibility

Moving beyond mere aesthetics, design education must also emphasise ethical and cultural considerations. Envision a designer who creates a visually stunning product but through environmentally harmful practices or by perpetuating harmful stereotypes. This underscores the critical need for students to develop critical thinking skills and ethical frameworks. By equipping them to consider the social and environmental impact of their work, design education empowers them to create inclusively and responsibly, addressing real-world challenges with integrity.

Thus, a holistic design education equips students with the tools and a mindset to navigate uncertainty and tackle complex problems. This derives from a foundation in critical thinking, problem-solving, and design thinking methodologies. Furthermore, design education fostering collaboration, communication, and empathy empowers students to work effectively in teams and navigate diverse perspectives. By embracing diverse skill sets, understanding the human experience, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and considering ethical and cultural implications, design education can empower students to become not just skilled creators but well-rounded individuals shaping a transformative design landscape.

The writer is the Founder, JD School of Design, powered by JD Institute of Fashion Technology.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

**Kotak Junior Scholarship**  
A CSR initiative by the Kotak Mahindra Group Companies.

**Eligibility:** Students who live within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and have got over 85% in the 2024 Class 10 board exam (SSC/CBSE/ICSE) and secured admission in Class 11 in institutions in the MMR; Annual family income must be ₹3.2 lakhs.

### SAVE THE DATE

**Admissions and scholarships**  
**Lovely Professional University (LPU)** has opened admissions for its B.Tech Biotechnology, B.Tech Food Technology, B.Tech Biomedical Engineering programmes  
**Eligibility:** 60% aggregate in Class 12 board exam (with Physics, Chemistry, English, and Mathematics or Biology or Biotechnology) or equivalent. Students have to qualify in LPUNEST, CUET or JEE Main

**LPU** also invites applications for its B.Arch. programme  
**Eligibility:** 50% aggregate marks in Class 12 board exam with English, Physics, Mathematics, and Chemistry or Biology or Computer Science or IT or Business Study or Engineering Graphics or Informatics Practice or Technical Vocational subject. Students have to qualify in NATA 2024. <https://www.lpu.in/>

**The University of Birmingham Dubai** invites applications for its MEng Mechanical Engineering programme. Scholarships are available.  
**Eligibility:** Between 75% and 90% in Class 12 (depending on board of education) with Maths as a subject. <https://tinyurl.com/4bxvjd5k>

Mohan Babu University,

**Reward:** ₹3,500 a month plus mentorship, academic assistance, career guidance, and exposure visits.  
**Application:** Online  
**Deadline:** June 30  
[www.b4s.in/edge/KJSP2](http://www.b4s.in/edge/KJSP2)

**Esri India Master's Scholarship Programme**  
An initiative from Esri India.  
**Eligibility:** Open to Indian citizens who are at least 18 years old and enrolled in the second year of a postgraduate programme in Geoinformatics or related

**Tirupati,** invites applications for its B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning) programme.  
**Eligibility:** Minimum 60% in Class 12 in the current academic year with Physics, Chemistry and Maths as subjects  
**Deadline:** July 31  
<https://www.mbu.asia/>

**CMR University, Bengaluru,** invites applications for its four-year B.Tech. Programmes from the School of Engineering and Technology.  
**Eligibility:** Minimum 45% aggregate in Class 12 with English as a subject and valid score in JEE, COMED-K, CET or CMRUAT. <https://www.cmr.edu.in/>  
**Amazon India** has opened registrations for the fourth edition of its Machine Learning (ML) Summer School.  
**Eligibility:** Engineering students (enrolled in graduate, postgraduate or doctoral programmes) from a recognised institute  
**Deadline:** June 21  
<https://tinyurl.com/2urvsux8>

**Institute of Bakery & Culinary Arts** has announced scholarships worth ₹ 1 crore with minimum amount being ₹ 10,000 and maximum ₹ 1,00,000. The grants will depend on the course structure and are available for all courses.  
**Deadline:** June 30

field covering remote sensing, GIS, spatial modelling, spatial analysis, digital image processing for GIS, and similar subjects.  
**Reward:** ₹1 lakh annually  
**Application:** By email to [gis.education@esri.in](mailto:gis.education@esri.in)  
**Deadline:** July 10  
[www.b4s.in/edge/GISU4](http://www.b4s.in/edge/GISU4)

**National Commission for Women Internship**  
An initiative from the National Commission for Women for students in undergraduate and

<https://www.chefibpa.com/>

**The University of Sheffield, the U.K.,** invites applications for its M.A. International Political Economy course starting in September 2024.  
**Eligibility:** A three-year Bachelor's degree with minimum 60% or first class in a relevant Social Science, Arts or Humanities subject or other related subjects. Overall IELTS score of 6.5 with minimum 6.0 in each component or equivalent. <https://t.ly/4my66>

**The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, the U.K.,** invites applications for its M.Sc. Artificial Intelligence & Applications course starting in September 2024. Scholarships are available.  
**Eligibility:** Minimum second-class (2:2) Honours degree or overseas equivalent. Minimum IELTS score 6.0 with no component below 5.5. <https://t.ly/.79yQ>

The Vattikuti Foundation has launched **Vattikuti Explorers**, a national competition to identify innovative thinkers among medical students in India.  
**Eligibility:** Third- and fourth-year medical students who wish to delve into specialised areas of research with accomplished robotic surgeons as mentors. <https://t.ly/ncmit>

**Geojit Financial Services** has announced education

postgraduate programmes.  
**Eligibility:** Unpaid internship is open to students in the first year. Paid internship programme is open only to students must be in the second year or higher and enrolled in specific fields of study: Law (LLB), Sociology, Social Work, or Gender Studies.  
**Reward:** ₹10,000 monthly  
**Application:** Online  
**Deadline:** Round the year  
[www.b4s.in/edge/NWCII](http://www.b4s.in/edge/NWCII)

Courtesy: Buddy4study

scholarships for deserving students from economically weaker sections to help them pursue career-oriented courses across diverse disciplines.  
**Eligibility:** Pass in Class 10 and 12 board exams with 80% and above. Annual family income must be below Rs.300,000.  
**Last date:** August 31  
For details, write to [deepak\\_john@geojit.com](mailto:deepak_john@geojit.com)

**The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)** invites applications for the IET India Scholarship Awards.  
**Eligibility:** Students in any year of a full-time regular UG Engineering course from an AICTE- or UGC-approved institution. All regular credit courses should have been cleared in a single attempt. Should have at least 60% aggregate or CGPA of 6.0 in a 10-point scale for semesters cleared so far.  
**Last date:** June 15  
<https://t.ly/VRK1j>

**IIMBx,** the digital learning initiative from IIM Bangalore, has launched an online BBA in Digital Business and Entrepreneurship. Applicants have to take the IMB DBE Entrance Test, an online qualifier test that will use aptitude-based testing.  
**Applications open:** June 15  
**Eligibility:** Indian nationals with 60% in Class 12 from a recognised board of education (55% for ST/SC candidates and PwD). <http://dbe.iimb.ac.in/>



