

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Top Talent, Elite Colleges, and Migration: Evidence from the Indian Institutes of Technology](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.nber.org/papers/w31308>

Author(s)	Prithwiraj Choudhury, Ina Ganguli and Patrick Gaulé
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**Tweet:** 36% of the top 1,000 scorers on the Indian Institutes of Technology entrance exam move overseas after graduation, and 62% of the top 100 scorers migrate. Of top-scoring graduates who emigrated, 65% came to the US. @prithwic @inaganguli

**Summary:** We document a salient correlation between an individual's score on the Joint Entrance Exam exam and migration up to eight years later among the top exam takers. Among the top 100 scorers, for instance, 62% have migrated abroad, primarily to the U.S. and for graduate school. Among the top 1,000 scorers, 36% have migrated abroad, which is still sizeable but much lower. Our results suggest that elite schools play a key role in shaping migration outcomes, both in terms of the overall propensity and the particular migration destination. Our evidence supports the view of elite education as mainly signaling a potential migrant's ability or quality of their human capital, and providing access to valuable networks. U.S. graduate programs—a key pathway for migration—are especially keen to recruit the best and brightest. However, to identify the best and brightest, they must rely on external information and signals, and elite home universities may provide these.

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