

Best city to study in

Joseph M Camilleri

31st July 2020

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Many students from around the world study in a city other than their home town, many also studying abroad. Their stay in another city is generally of a temporary nature in order to study in an institution that is renowned for their level of academic achievement in a particular subject. Other students choose to follow a multi-year programme in some other city or indeed some other country.

This offers many benefits to the students, over and above the education itself. These benefits include the experience of living in a different part of the world, and absorbing an entirely new culture. Experiencing life in a cosmopolitan city, is probably the best preparation for work life within a multi-cultural international organisation. Living in a city where the student is immersed in a language other than his/her mother tongue is highly effective in accelerating the learning of a new language. Other advantages include: making new friends and discovering new interests. Other key advantages are the gaining of new experiences and the related personal development. Studying in a different city also opens up new career opportunities which may otherwise not be available.

1.2 Problem

Such student often have a choice to make between two or more cities, as to where to relocate for one or more years to complete their studies. While each student's case is different in some way, the decision is sometimes driven by:

- having received a scholarship to a specific institution; or
- a desire to specialise in a field of study at a particular educational institution.

On the other hand this is not always the case, and often students are required to choose amongst a number of institutions, each located in different cities or even different countries around the world.

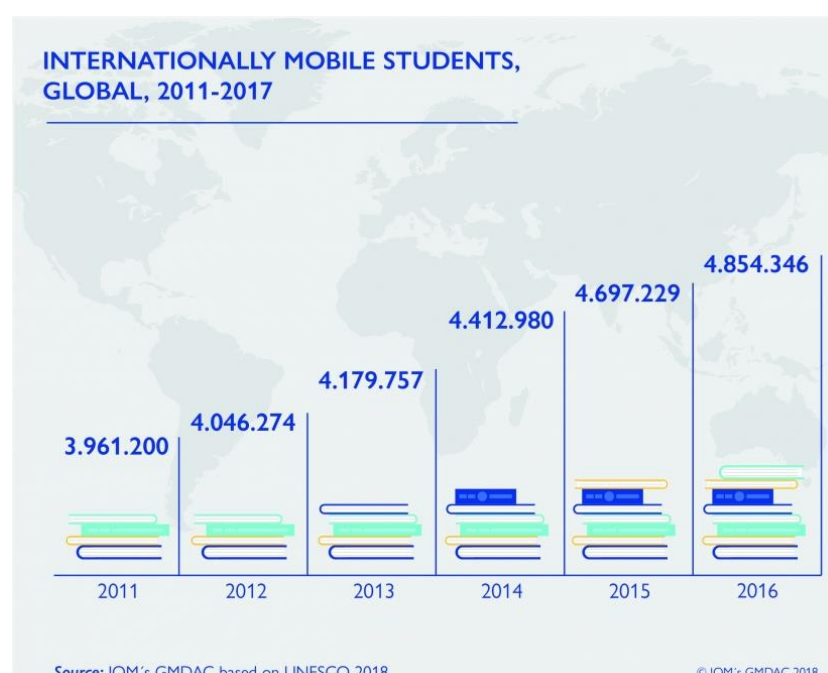
Hence, the final decision will also be influenced by the preferred country and city where that institution is located. Putting it another way, when a student chooses to study in a specific institution they are also choosing to live and study in a particular city.

The objective of this assignment, is to provide some assistance to students in establishing preferences and choosing from amongst a number of viable options in relation to their preferred city and country.

1.3 Interest

There were 1.7 million students from abroad who were undertaking tertiary level studies across the EU-28 in 2017. Across the EU-28 in 2017, some 436 000 students from abroad (25.5 % of the total) were studying in the United Kingdom, far more than in any other EU Member State. More than one third (37.8 %) of the students from abroad who were undertaking tertiary level studies across the EU in 2017 were from Europe, 30.1 % were from Asia and 13.0 % were from Africa. [source: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Learning_mobility_statistics]

A total of 341,751 [United States] students studied abroad for credit in 2017-18, representing a 2.7 percent increase from the previous academic year, according to the annual "Open Doors" report, published by the Institute of International Education with funding from the U.S. Department of State. [source: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/11/18/open-doors-data-show-continued-increase-numbers-americans-studying-abroad>]



The aim of this assignment is to enable prospective students to analyse and compare different cities around the world, in relation to their own personal interests. For example, if a student is also an outdoors activities enthusiast he may give greater consideration to studying in a city which offers more opportunities for such outdoor activities. Similarly a student may choose one city over another having given consideration that one city hosts a greater number of colleagues and universities, and thus offering greater opportunities to interact with others students and make new friends.

----- end of section -----