1. **Maharishi University of Management (MUM)**

* ***Maharishi University of Management*** previously known as Maharishi International University is a private non-profit institute in ***Fairfield, Lowa***. It was founded by ***Mahareshi Mahesh Yogi*** in ***1973***. The chief feature of this institute is ***“consciousness-based education”*** system in which ***Transcendental Meditation Technique*** is practiced. It focuses on the development of peak potential of the individual.  Gratifying monetary objectives while exploiting apposite use of the environment and fetching spiritual contentment and pleasure to humanity, is one of the main objectives of this organization. The fee structure of the university is quite reasonable and less as compared to the other two universities. This non-profit organization provides quality education with affordable fee structure proving itself to be the best among the three of the universities that will be discussed below. The financial aid facility that the institution is providing to the needy students says it all for this university. More than 90% of Maharishi University’s students receive extensive financial aid. Additionally, Need-based scholarship programs are also available for international students. Maharishi University’s faculty includes some of the most well renowned PhDs from various universities including world eminent physicist John Hagelin.

**ACCREDITATION AND RANKINGS**

The university was qualified by ***The Higher Learning Commission*** and was became member of ***the North Central Association of Colleges*** ***and Schools.*** MUM is acknowledged by ***the US Department of the Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).*** ***International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE)*** accredits the business programs (BA, MBA and PhD).

A tier two rating was given to Maharishi University of ***“Management by the Best Colleges 2013”*** Masters Midwest Category of U.S. News & World Report college and university rankings which places the institute in the bottom 25% of colleges. The report listed its application deadline as rolling, acceptance rate as 41%, and student to faculty ratio as 12:1 and freshmen retention rate as 80%.

**CLASS STRUCTURE**

Maharishi University of Management functions on a block system. Students only take one course during one month period.

**TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION TECHNIQUE (TM)**

The Transcendental Meditation technique or ***TM*** is a form of silent mantra meditation. It is one of the most extensively used practices because of its effectiveness and consistency. The practice has been ascribed as both religious and non-religious. Religious aspect finds its roots in ***Hinduism*** and non-religious aspect is regarded as a practice for self-development and self-enlightenment. It helps in avoiding distractions and improving relaxed awareness. This technique was derived from the ***Vedic*** tradition of India by late Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and was brought to ***US*** in 1960s.

During meditation, the individual sits in a suitable position with eyes closed and soundlessly repeats a mantra (A word or sound from the Vedic tradition that is used to focus concentration). It is believed and experienced by the individuals that ordinary thinking process is “***transcended***” during the meditation process. It is state of utter consciousness.

Studies have shown that meditations reduce chronic pain, anxiety, high blood pressure, cholesterol, and the use of health care services.

The purpose of implementation of this technique is to improve consciousness, self-awareness, neural stability, power of thinking and self-satisfaction.

**THE BLOCK SYSTEM**

This system is implemented for low stress education and learning process. Instead of carrying 4-5 courses simultaneously, student take only course during a period of four weeks, which allows more focus and learning opportunity for students.

1. **George Mason University**

It is public research institute located in ***Fairfax County, Virginia.***

**ACCREDITATION**

George Mason University is accredited by ***the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools***(***SACSCOC***) to award bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees.

**RESEARCH**

George Mason University, an institution dedicated to research of significance, hosts around $100 million in funded research projects yearly. As of 1 February 2016, Mason is ranked among the highest research institutions (R1) in the country by ***the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education***. Mason moved into the highest research ranking based on a review of its 2013–2014 data that was performed by the ***Center for Postsecondary Research*** at Indiana University Schools of Education.

The research is focused on health, sustainability and safety. In health, researchers focus is on wellness, disease prevention, advanced diagnostics and biomedical analytics. Sustainability research examines climate change, natural disaster forecasting, and risk assessment. Mason's security experts study domestic and international security as well as cyber security.  
At George Mason University the student-faculty ratio is 17:1. The University’s most popular majors include: Criminal Justice/Police Science; Information Technology; Psychology, General; Biology/Biological Sciences, General; and Accounting. The average freshman retention rate of George Mason University is 88 percent. This shows the student satisfaction. However, the University has a much higher acceptance rate than Maharishi University which makes it a tough choice to get into. The university requires a GRE score of more than 320 for admission which is way too high in comparison to Maharishi University which has an acceptance GRE score between 300-310. The University somewhat gets too competitive for students and might hinder their personal and recreational life due to a lot of constant academic pressure even if one gets admitted to the University. Whereas, it is very important to effectively manage both academics and recreation in order to have a healthy body and mind.

1. **Rutgers University Newark**

It is a public research university located in state of ***New*** ***Jersey*** in the city of ***Newark***. It was founded in 1766 and is the eighth oldest university of United States. According to ***U.S. News & World Report***, Rutgers–Newark is the most diverse national university in the United States.

**RANKINGS**

***Times/WSJ*** ranked Rutgers University at ***198th*** position on while ***US News & World Report*** at ***115th*** and ***Washington Monthly*** at ***42nd*** position on National level.

As of 2014, Rutgers–Newark enrolls more than 11,000 students (more than 7,000 undergraduate, nearly 4,000 graduates). Rutgers–Newark awards approximately 80 doctoral degrees, 250 *juris doctor* degrees, 1,050 master's degrees, and 1,500 baccalaureate degrees each year and was ranked 12th in the nation for quality among small research universities by the 2005 Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index. The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education classifies the Rutgers–Newark campus as an institution with ***"high research activity."***

One of the drawbacks of the University is that RU Ndoes not offer a study abroad program. This somehow limits the students’ chances to interact and study with international students, exchange cultures and experiences; and utilize and enhance their management skills.

Also, Rutgers University Newark has a higher acceptance which makes it difficult for the applicants to clear the admission tests and become a part of the University’s programs. Only students with higher than 320 GRE score get a chance to be admitted to the University which makes it very selective, difficult and challenging at the same time. However, Maharishi University has a lower acceptance rate and gives students an opportunity to learn and improve in its environment with excellent faculty catering to all students on the same level and striving hard and ensuring academic growth and excellence.

The University is located in the State of New Jersey, at the center of the Boston to Washington, D.C. in the United States of America which makes it difficult for the students to cope up with the city’s expensive lifestyle. The cost of living in New Jersey is high; students’ social interactions and weekend outings add an added burden on their pockets. However, MUM is located in Fairfield, Iowa; social life here is much more easier and cheaper with lesser distractions of entertainment opportunities if one wills to stay focused on academics.

***Conclusion:***

The main objective of the education is to provide high quality educational and training opportunity that are suitable for the dynamic needs of the students. The institute equips the students with the skills and knowledge to take on the existing challenges in the society and contribute towards development. The university should be dedicated to providing faculty, staff, and students  
with the environment and infrastructure that help them develop potential  
for spiritual development, creative work, professional realization, and service. Considering these, it is right to conclude that Maharishi University of Management is better than rest for pursuing expertise in my field. The technique and methodology implemented in its system are very effective and helpful for personal growth and skill development. The block system rather than multi-course system is instigated in this institute which allows students to focus completely on one course at one time and reduces stress levels. The institute is multi-cultural students from all over the world come here to study and find a tremendously comfortable environment. The accommodation is at walking distance eliminating the daily traveling. The implementation of transcendental meditation technique is the prime feature of this institute. This method is very beneficial for self-development and spiritual growth. The University holds unmatched, highly skilled and well renowned faculty. The highly professional university staff helps students polish their talent and progress in their respective fields. The university consists of all the professional PHD teachers who have absolute firm grip on the subjects they teach in the university. This helps students excel in their respective fields and also help them gain interest in the fields they are interested. The unique way of teaching students by the highly professional staff also helps students gain interest in the studies resulting in better grades and further those students choose those fields for their higher studies. Furthermore, the financial aid facility for the students who cannot afford the fees but are hardworking and passionate to learn and gain knowledge is another very important aspect in choosing Maharishi University of Management among the other two universities. They give importance to talent of the students even if they cannot afford the studies. Thus, the major reason of choosing this university was because of all the above mentioned points and perks of this university. The lifestyle of the university is another great addition of why I choose this university among these three universities.