

1990

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Recommended Citation

Wood, Hugh B. (1990) "Suggestions to Nepalese Students who Wish to Study in the U.S.," *Himalaya, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies*: Vol. 10: No. 1, Article 12.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/himalaya/vol10/iss1/12>

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SUGGESTIONS TO NEPALESE STUDENTS WHO WISH TO STUDY IN THE U.S.

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Nepalese students desiring to study in the U.S. should understand some basic facts about gaining admission and financial assistance in American post-secondary institutions and ANEF's role in this process.

Colleges and Universities

There are over 3000 colleges and universities in the United States. About half of these offer extensive programs, including graduate work; the others offer more limited programs, and some only at the undergraduate (Bachelor's degree) level. Many of the latter group, however, have developed outstanding reputations. (The catalogues of many of these institutions are on file at the USEFIN office in Kathmandu.)

The Admissions Problem: For admission, nearly ALL colleges and universities require two things: (a) a good previous academic record, and (b) good test scores. Students with I Division scores will normally meet the "previous academic performance" requirement; student with II Division scores may gain admission in some of the smaller institutions, and generally will be able to earn a degree. Students with lesser academic achievement are advised not to seek admission in American institutions.

Nearly all U.S. institutions REQUIRE two standard test scores for admission: (A) the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), and (b) the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) at the undergraduate level, OR the GRE (Graduate Record Examination) at the graduate level. (Some institutions may waive some of these tests if the student has had a year or more of previous study in the U.S. with above average grades.)

American colleges and universities generally require a minimum TOEFL score of 500 for admission, but more than half require 550 as minimum. There is less uniformity on the minimum required for the SAT and the GRE, but scores above the 70th percentile are generally considered adequate.

Admission to certain disciplines often require additional test scores--for example, Business Administration usually requires the GMAT score.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Institutions generally require these scores by January 1 for consideration for the following September enrollment. It requires 6 to 8 weeks to receive your test score after taking the test. Thus, you should take the required tests about a year before you want admission.

Arrangements to take these tests may be made at St. Xavier's School in Patan.

The Financial Problem: Financial assistance from a college or university may range from no dollars to full funding of all costs; generally, if offered, it falls between these two extremes. The amount of any institutional grant is determined almost entirely on the previous academic performance and the test scores. ("Economic need" for Nepalese students is more or less assumed.) Academic performance below I Division is seldom rewarded financially. A TOEFL score of 600 or better, and a SAT or GRE score of above the 80th percentile are generally required to attract the attention of those who determine these grants.

Tuition costs at "private" institutions (those supported by endowments and charging the full, or nearly full, costs to the student) generally run from \$9000 to \$20,000; tuition at "public" institutions

(supported primarily by government funds) generally run from \$3000 to \$5000. The remaining costs--board, room, books, health insurance, transportation, and pocket money--generally run about \$4000 per year on the West Coast, \$5000, in Central U.S., and \$6000 on the East Coast. (WARNING: There are many exceptions to these generalizations.)

Community Colleges

In addition to the regular colleges and universities, there are about 200 "Community Colleges" scattered around the United States. These schools offer year programs (or less) and may include vocational and technical courses. These colleges offer only "Associate" degrees (requiring only two years to complete.)

Admission is usually on an "open" basis--that is, open to anyone at whatever his level may be. "Tutoring" services are generally more available in these colleges than in the regular institutions. Thus, previous academic performance minimums and test minimums are generally not required.

Financial Assistance, however, is rarely available in Community Colleges. Most of these colleges charge a low tuition for LOCAL, AMERICAN students but charge the full cost of education--about \$3000 to \$8000--to other students, including foreign students. The remaining costs may be slightly higher than those mentioned above because these colleges rarely have dormitories.

The Role of ANEF

The American Nepal Education Foundation is designed to serve Nepalese student as a volunteer, unpaid "broker," or as an agency that attempts to bring a capable student in touch with an appropriate college or university and sufficient funding to enable him or her to accept admission and the institution's grant offer.

To accomplish this goal, ANEF sponsors:

1. An annual "University List" which includes the names and credentials summaries of all eligible Nepalese students who request this service. This List is published each January 1, and is currently being sent to about 80 "cooperating" institutions. "Cooperation" means that (a) the institution has requested the List, (b) the institution's staff will conscientiously study the list and then request complete credentials from ANEF for those students who fit the institution's needs and program, and (c) if a student is selected, make every effort to assist him financially as needed, usually in the amount of at least the tuition.

Eligibility for this list includes: I Division scores, a minimum TOEFL score of 570 for undergraduate students, 600 or better for graduate students; a SAT or GRE score in the 80th percentile range; complete credentials, and a "release" statement. (See the "University List" brochure, available from the ANEF/Nepal Committee Office in the MOE.)

2. A "Special Grants" program which supplements the "University List" by describing specific grant offers from about 10 institutions. None of these offers are "full fund" offers, but they may be especially attractive for students who have access to \$2000 to \$5000 of personal or family funds.

3. Supplementary Services that are available to all Nepalese students who gain admission AND partial funding. These include: (a) telephone calls to the institution to explain the financial situation in Nepal, to try to get maximum funding, and to otherwise expedite the grant offer, (b) notifying specific institutions of outstanding applicants whose credentials and interests fit the institution's needs, (c) seeking a waiver or deferment of the application fee, (d) forwarding full and supplementary credentials to institutions, and (e) providing supplementary information both to the student and to the institution.

4. Financial assistance, insofar as possible, as long as our limited funds are available. Traditionally, we (a) first try to continue the annual grants for "carry-over" students whose

academic performance merit this, (b) second, back up the "Special Grants" program, and (c) then use any funds that are left over to help students "fill the financial gap," giving priority on the basis of previous academic performance and test scores.

Generally, ANEF cannot consider a grant for a student until he has received a tuition grant from a college or university. (This eliminates ANEF grants for most Nepalese students studying at community colleges.)

The Role of the Student

The student has a major role in gaining the opportunity to study in the U.S.; he has a major responsibility.

1. First, he should prepare a resume which give pertinent information about himself--name, address, birthdate, number of children in the family, names and locations of any now studying in the U.S., father's occupation, etc.; under "education," Division scores MUST be included (and class ranks, if available and above average), significant awards, if any, present occupation or school being attended, scores of any standardized tests already taken, etc.; work experience, if any; and statement of career plans and goals.
2. Second, he should study the various college "guide books" and selected catalogues (available at USEFIN) that will focus on his career choice and a better understanding of what American college life entails.
3. Third, he should write to a few selected colleges, enclosing his resume and asking, "On the basis of my resume, does it appear that I would (a) be admissible to your institution, and (b) be eligible for some financial assistance?" These letters should be sent to the Chairman or Head of the Department of the Discipline of interest. (This may be determined by studying the catalogue, if it is available.) Do NOT send the first inquiry to the Director of Admissions.
4. Fourth, the student can help himself by:
 - (a) Using the ANEF/Nepal office for information, determining his eligibility, securing brochures, discussing his situation, etc.
 - (b) If eligible, making formal application to ANEF and submitting full credentials.
 - (c) Submitting fully LEGIBLE credentials; they must be photo-copied several times when they reach the U.S.
 - (d) Answering all mail--from ANEF or an institution--PROMPTLY and COMPLETELY, including the return address on the letter (on the envelop is not enough--we do not file envelops), a P.O. Box if you have one, TELEPHONE NUMBER if you have one, and answering all questions. NOTE: typewritten letters are easier to read!
5. Fifth, arrangements must be made to be interviewed by the ANEF/Nepal Committee after your eligibility has been established, but before November 1 preceding the year of enrollment.

Final Suggestions

1. NOTE that the selection of all candidates is made by the colleges and universities, NOT BY ANEF! ANEF can help academically superior students, but can not "influence" the institutions in their selections.
2. An applicant should not request, or expect, a waiver or modification of any criterion of eligibility.
3. Keep in mind: Institutions, and ANEF/USA, generally begin to consider applications in early January and are ready by March or April to make their grant offers for the following September. It takes about a year of "lead time" to take the necessary tests, compile the credentials, make applications, be interviewed by ANEF/Nepal, and gain admission and funding.
4. Be sure to read the "Scholarship" brochure and "University List" brochure, available from the ANEF/Nepal office.