



From the Counselor’s Desk...

As the 2025–26 admissions cycle draws to a close, let's take a moment to give a huge shout-out to the Class of 2026.

Early mornings, long school days, and then showing up again to work through essays and refine ideas, even when motivation dips. It's never just about a few months; every acceptance is a result of sustained effort.

But sometimes, for many strong applicants, the cycle does not end with a clear yes or no. The decision is a waitlist.

Movement on the waitlist typically happens in the month of June, after accepted students have paid their deposit and confirmed their seat. However, the waitlist is unpredictable. Here is what the data tells us: Stanford's waitlist admit rate has ranged from 0% to 36% in the past decade. In 2022, Michigan took just 77 students off the waitlist. The very next year, that number jumped to 955. At Amherst, in the 2024–25 cycle, 1,105 students were waitlisted but only 8 got in.

The best course of action would be to commit to the best offer, engage with that school, and picture yourself there. The waitlist does not go away, but it should not be running the show either.

To the Class of 2026: Celebrate your journey and the effort you put in to get here. You deserve it!

On Point 2026 Acceptances



Raise the Bar...

With summer approaching, parents and students want to know the value of summer schools, internships, and research as they decide what will “look good” on an application. However, true distinction in a competitive landscape is built through the **depth of engagement** a student brings to their chosen field, **moving beyond passive attendance toward active, intellectual contribution**.

Take the example of a student who built on their foundational interests in quantitative data and analysis to conduct independent research that culminated in a social impact platform connecting donors and NGOs.

Ultimately, a successful summer is not a standalone event but a bridge. It should be the period when a student proves they can take the theoretical concepts they’ve learned in the classroom and apply their understanding to the real world.

So as you plan the months ahead, think less about which program looks best and more about what the experience could lead to next. Ask: Will this help me go deeper? Can I build on it? What will I have to show beyond a certificate?

No single summer defines a profile. But each one can add direction.

College Spotlight :
Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL)

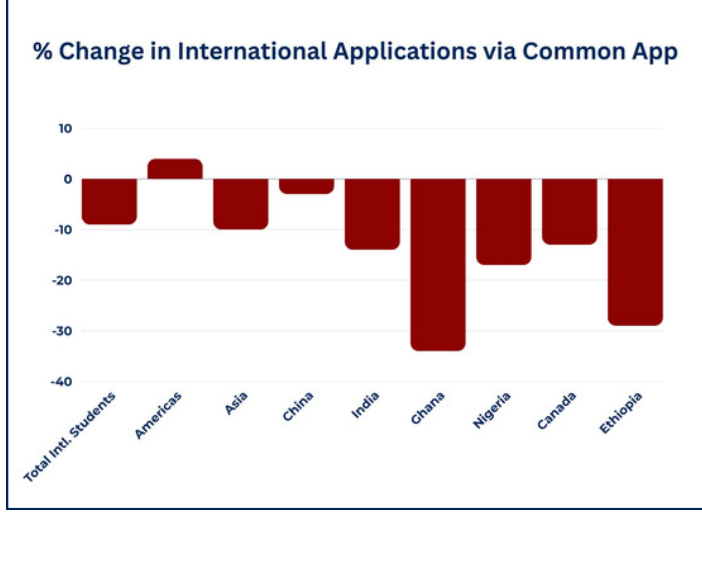


For students exploring hospitality and experience-led business, EHL has consistently ranked among the top institutions in global rankings since 2019. With campuses in Lausanne, Passugg, and Singapore, the experience is both global and immersive. What sets EHL apart is the integration of hands-on operational training with core business fundamentals, strategy, and leadership, supported by mandatory internships and industry immersion. Through the EHL Alliance, students connect with a global network of companies across hospitality, luxury, consulting, and finance, and thousands of recruiters engage with EHL’s talent pipeline each year.

While EHL is known for its advanced training facilities and strong culinary exposure, the focus is not on becoming a chef, but on managing and leading service-driven businesses. EHL is the right fit for students who prefer a traditional, theory-heavy academic environment, and are comfortable with hands-on operational training in the early years.

[Learn more](#)

What’s Happening In Higher Ed?



US Admission Trends

According to the Common Application's March 12 report, more than 1.4 million first-year applicants applied across 911 institutions, up 2% from last year, submitting a record 9.4 million applications in total. International applications dropped by 9%, with declines across nearly every region.

Amid geopolitical pressures and more restrictive visa policies, **US enrollment is declining**, with Indian students particularly affected by changes in immigration and post-study work opportunities.

Beyond the Big Four

Japan has crossed **4 lakh** international students eight years early, driven by higher intake and workforce needs. Germany has reached **over 4.2 lakh** students, supported by STEM demand and post-study work options.

As many as 19 **foreign universities** are planning campuses in India, increasing local access to global education. At the same time, **geopolitical tensions** in the Middle East are forcing institutions to rethink long-term expansion and student safety.

New Zealand is expanding post-study options by introducing a six-month **graduate work visa** to support the international education sector’s long-term sustainable growth and help graduates transition into skilled roles.

AI in Higher Education

Companies are focusing on new hires having **skills with AI** tools rather than degrees alone. STEM freshers are projected to drop to a hiring volume of 150,000 in 2026 from 220,000 in the previous year due to more selective hiring processes. In turn, **universities are shifting from banning tools to integrating AI responsibly** into their learning environments.

AI, Data Science, and Sustainability are among the fastest-growing university majors **globally**.

Testimonial

“Thinking about everything that led to this, you have really pushed me to be my best throughout. I talked about my fire coming back but you had a big role to play in that. Being scared to say no to you at times allowed me to discover my own potential. Stugov, debate and my role in even my school life today is a direct result of the faith you put in me to go out there. I am grateful for all your support in this process and definitely wouldn’t have got this far without you.”

Navya Chopra
Cornell University
Class of 2030

