



THE COLLEGIATE PATH NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

VOLUME VIII

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FOUNDERS' LETTER

Hello and Welcome, TCP Mentees, Families, and Friends!

We are excited to present our eighth edition of ***The Collegiate Path Newsletter***, which includes our complete list of **acceptances** and **industry updates**.

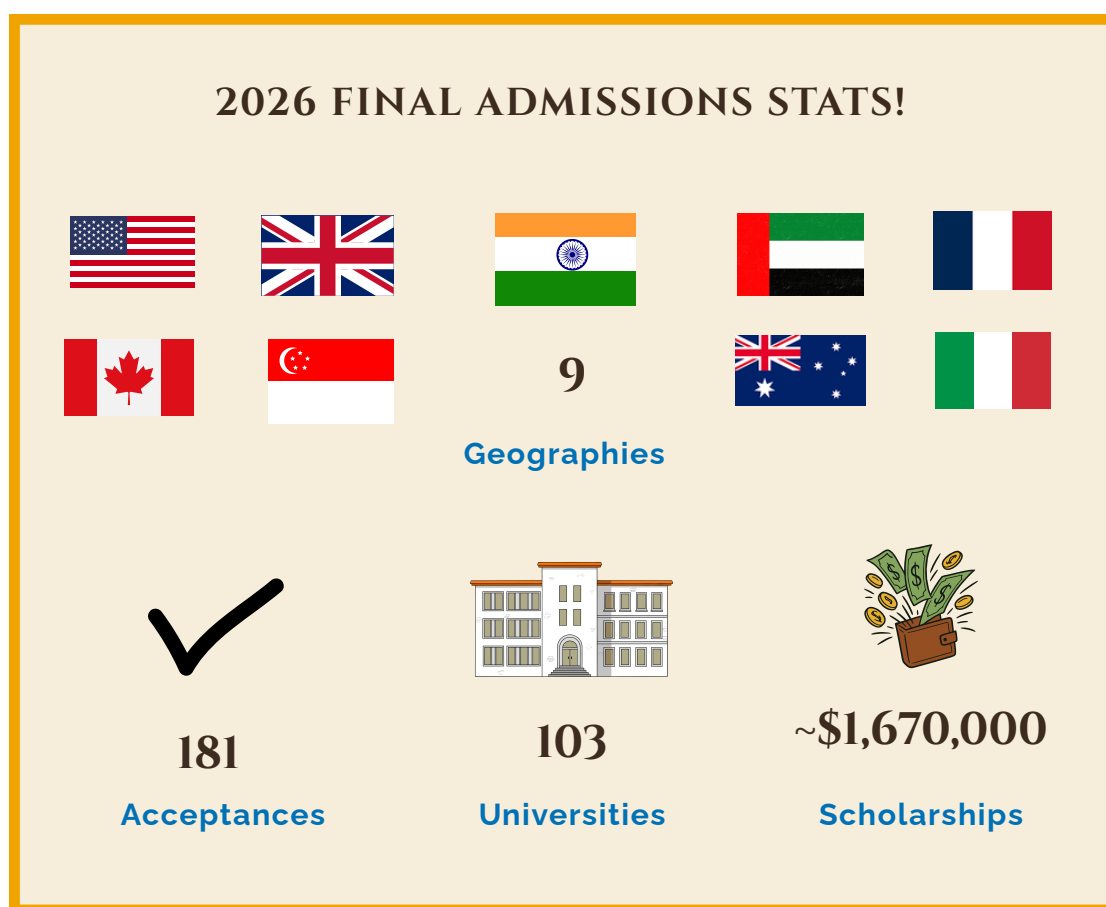
TCP25 cohort: First, congratulations to our applicants, who received **stellar admission offers** despite the current geopolitical and economic challenges. Our mentees showed **great resilience** in navigating these uncertain times while managing their demanding academic workloads and completing their applications. Their offers and scholarships came from **multiple geographies**, including the **United States, United Kingdom, Canada, United Arab Emirates, and India**.

While most mentees have decided on their **college of choice** (after decision calls with us and conversations with TCP alumni to gain insights), paid their **deposits**, and initiated their **visa process**, some are **still awaiting board results to confirm their U.K. offers** and **decisions** from geographies such as **Singapore and India**.

The **updated list** of undergraduate and graduate institutions where our applicants received offers is found in the next section. We will reveal where our mentees chose to matriculate in our **September Newsletter!**

Before the **TCP25 cohort** embarks on their college journeys this **Fall**, we will bid them farewell on our **June Send-Off Call**, where TCP “college experts” (our alumni) will share their experiences and words of wisdom. Please save the date and **join us** (you know who you are), as we are excited to **set you up for a great first term!**

Admissions Statistics: Each year, we crunch our application season numbers to understand trends and share insights with you. Our data reveals that the **United States remains the preferred undergraduate destination** despite prevailing challenges. However, we ensured our non-U.S. citizen/Green Card mentees each held offers in a **backup geography** in case of any visa challenges.



TCP26 cohort: We are excited to begin the **essay-writing process** with our current-year applicants. Amid studying for their pivotal **Grade 11 exams**, preparing for the **SAT**, finalizing their **summer plans** (be it internships, mentored research, essay competitions, pre-college summer programs, projects, or volunteering), and progressing on their **smaller application requirements**, they have learned how to manage their limited time and sequence tasks—skills that will make them more **college-ready!**

We have been introducing them to the nuances of **personal essay-writing** through our **Essay Boot Camp** Master Class series, which concludes in June, in time to work on their main essay drafts in **July**.

2026 ADMISSIONS SEASON AWARDS!



Highest Number of TCP Offers (U.S. & U.K.) :

8



7



Waitlists that Converted into Acceptances:



Deferrals that Converted into Acceptances:



Cornell University



TCP27 Cohort and Early Advising: Our younger mentees continue to keep us on our toes with their enthusiasm for exploring **new avenues**, enhancing their **study habits**, and beginning their chosen **summer engagements**. Many applied to **selective summer programs** and are participating in **prestigious essay competitions**—the full list of acceptances and competitions follows. We are eager to hear about their experiences and help them narrow their chosen specializations for college!

Events and Conferences: An evergreen priority is attending **conferences** and **college tours** to build stronger **relationships with industry colleagues** and stay up to date on changes to the higher education landscape. In **February**, we both attended **Confluence** in **Sri Lanka** to share best practices with other counselors based in Asia.

In **March**, we engaged in planning and team-building during our **annual retreat**, ensuring we bring the highest level of support for our mentees. **Meghna** also attended the **All India Independent Education Consultants (AIIEC)** conference in Manesar, India, where she led a panel discussion on the “**Changing Winds of Global Education**.” The headline from the session was that all counseling practices are seeing an **uptick in interest in Europe- and Asia-based universities**, which have **more complex application requirements**, e.g., **multiple rounds of deadlines**, their **own entrance tests**, and **specific subject levels and combinations** for eligibility, and interviews, along with the more standard motivation letters/essays, letters of recommendation, etc.

Amanda ventured to **Vietnam** in **April** for the **International Association for College Admission Counseling's (IACAC) Regional Conference**, where she met with numerous global university representatives and other counselors.

Earlier this **month**, **Meghna** completed an **AIIEC tour** across select Europe-based universities in **Italy, France, and Spain** to gain a more nuanced understanding of what each offers and requires—the **full list** of universities can be found further ahead. The list included both **private** and **public** European universities as well as **U.S. institutions** with European campuses.

INTERACTIONS WITH ADMISSIONS OFFICERS

Our team continues to participate in **online webinars** and **in-person events** with global university representatives to gain insights on new institutional priorities, including new majors/minors, and changes to their application processes.

Admissions officers have reiterated a common complaint about **applicant AI use**. **DO NOT USE AI to write essays**—as everyone who uses AI sounds the same! We have been disappointed by AI use among our mentees, and have caught it early to prevent it from recurring in essay writing. **AI use jeopardizes your chances of admission**, so we wish to avoid any future regrets!

Admissions officers also encouraged applicants to **display depth rather than breadth** in their **extracurricular activities**. Plus, contrary to popular belief, **"passion projects"** are not a requirement for any selective university. If an applicant does complete one, it must connect to their **established interests** and **visibly demonstrate their growth through** the project to enhance their college candidacy!

In **July**, **Amanda** will fly to **Pittsburgh** to attend the **International Association of College Admissions Counseling's (IACAC) Annual Conference**, the largest international conference for universities, schools, and independent counselors. She will also use this time to tour **select colleges and universities** in **Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia** to gather insights that will help future mentees fine-tune their college lists.

Wishing our mentees a **fun and fruitful summer break** or **start to the new school year**, depending on their school system. We look forward to using the next couple of months to gear up for another exciting **application season**!

Amanda and Meghna

2026 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES

OUR TCP25 COHORT'S GLOBAL UNDERGRADUATE OFFERS

(BLUE DENOTES MULTIPLE ACCEPTANCES)

American University

- AU Honors Program

American University of Dubai

Ashoka University

Azim Premji University

Bocconi University

Boston University

Bryant University

California Polytechnic State University

- Pomona
- San Luis Obispo

Case Western Reserve University

Cornell University

Drexel University

Duke University

Durham University

Emory University

FLAME University

Fordham University

Franklin and Marshall College

Georgetown University

Huron University, Canada

Imperial College London

Indian Institute of Management,
Bengaluru

Indiana University, Bloomington

- Kelley School of Business

King's College, London

Krea University

London School of Economics and

Political Science

Loyola Marymount University

Manipal Academy of Higher Learning

McMaster University

Miami University of Ohio

Michigan State University

Middlesex University

Mohammad bin Zayed University of

Artificial Intelligence

Mount Holyoke College

New York University

- Abu Dhabi
- NYC

Northeastern University

- Boston
- John Martinson Honors Program
- London
- New York

Oberlin College

Pennsylvania State University

Plaksha University

Pratt Institute

Queen Mary University of London

Rochester Institute of Technology, Dubai

Rutgers University

San Jose State University

Santa Clara University

Singapore Management University

Syracuse University

Texas A&M University

The Ohio State University

The University of Edinburgh

The University of Texas at Dallas

The University of Texas at Austin

- Civics Honors Program

Tulane University

Ulster University

University College London

University of Aberdeen

University of Birmingham, Dubai

University of Bristol

University of British Columbia

University of California, Davis

University of California, Irvine

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, San Diego

University of California, Santa Barbara

University of California, Santa Cruz

University of Cambridge

University of Dundee

University of Illinois

- Chicago
- Urbana-Champaign

University of Leicester

University of Manchester

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

University of Melbourne

University of Miami

University of Notre Dame

University of Nottingham

University of Ottawa

University of Pittsburgh

- Greensburg
- Oakland

University of Rochester

University of San Diego

University of San Francisco

University of Southern California

University of St Andrews

University of Toronto

University of Virginia

University of Warwick

University of Washington, Seattle

University of Waterloo

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Virginia Tech University

Wesleyan University

Western University, Canada

Yale University

2026 MASTER'S ACCEPTANCES

OUR GRADUATE APPLICANT OFFERS

(BLUE DENOTES MULTIPLE ACCEPTANCES)

Imperial College, London

London School of Economics and
Political Science

McGill University

Queen Mary University of London

Sciences Po, Paris

Trinity College, Dublin

Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth

University College, London

University of Essex

University of Manchester

University of Oxford

University of Reading

University of Toronto

- Ontario Institute for Studies in
Education

2026 SUMMER PROGRAM ACCEPTANCES

WHAT OUR MENTEES WILL BE DOING THIS SUMMER!

(BLUE DENOTES MULTIPLE ACCEPTANCES/PARTICIPATIONS)

- Ashoka Young Scholars Program
- [Ashoka Horizons Achievers Program](#)
- Boston University Pre-College Summer Challenge
- Bharat Fellowship, Masters' Union
- Cambridge Center for International Research (CCIR)
- [CaseCatalyst](#)
- Cornell University Pre-College Studies (online)
- [CreatEd Case Quest Challenge](#)
- CreatEd Personal Project Mentorship
- Columbia University Pre-College Program
- Georgetown University Summer High School Academy Program
- Harvard Undergraduate Global Research and Consulting Group (GRC) Essay Competition
- Inspirit AI
- [John Locke Global Essay Prize 2026](#)
- [Lumiere Research Program](#)
- Nanyang Technological University FinTech Scholars Program
- [National University of Singapore Science Summer Camp](#)
- NYC Summer Academy, The New York Times
- Polygence Research Program
- Stanford University Pre-Collegiate Game Design Course
- [TETR School of Business Summer "7-Day Base Camp", Shanghai](#)
- The Queen's Commonwealth Writing Competition 2026
- [Tulane School of Architecture, Pre-Summer Program](#)
- University of Chicago Summer Session (LEAD)
- University of St Andrews Summer Academic Experience
- TribesForGood
- Wharton Global Youth Summer Program, University of Pennsylvania
- Yale Young Global Scholars Program
- Young Founders' Lab
- YTS+, Plaksha University

PHOTO ALBUM



CONFLUENCE 2026



AIEC 2026



IACAC 2026

COLLEGE TOUR 2026 - PART I

ITALY

MILAN

- Bocconi University
- Istituto Marangoni
- Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart)
- IED Istituto Europeo di Design

FLORENCE

- Polimoda Fashion School
- Marist College

FRANCE

PARIS

- École Polytechnique
- The American University of Paris
- Sciences Po

SPAIN

MADRID

- IE Universidad (IE University)
- Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M)

BARCELONA

- Esade Business School

DID YOU KNOW?

OUR PICKS FOR THIS EDITION'S UNIQUE COLLEGE FACTS!

Study the Arctic at Bowdoin College!

The **Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum & Arctic Studies Center** at **Bowdoin College** offers undergraduate coursework (including a concentration) in **Arctic Studies**, along with field, lab, and **museum** experiences to understand the culture, society, and environment of the **Arctic lands and peoples**. Bowdoin is located on the **North Atlantic coast** in **Maine**, which extends into the **Arctic**. Considering this region is undergoing **rapid changes** due to climate instability and **global warming**, the 158-year-old department is more important than ever!

Race a Buggy at Carnegie Mellon!

One of **Carnegie Mellon**'s oldest traditions, where designers, engineers, mechanics, and athletes partner in the annual relay race, the **Sweepstakes**, during the **Spring Carnival** in April. Together, they produce a **buggy**—an aerodynamic vehicle with **no engine**. Each team has six members, five pushers and a driver, who have to push the buggy down Flagstaff Hill in Schenley Park (Pittsburgh). Additionally, choosing a **quirky name** that reflects team energy, design, and CMU tradition is a must! Interdisciplinary problem-solving—yes!!

WRITING AND STUDY SKILLS CENTER

SHOULD YOU PARTICIPATE IN PRESTIGIOUS ESSAY COMPETITIONS?

Last year, one of our **Early Advising** mentees was shortlisted for the **John Locke Institute Essay Competition** in the **Junior Category**. He chose the topic **"Who is more powerful: Donald Trump or Elon Musk?"**—a question he was intrigued to answer. As part of the process, he spent multiple weeks researching **power** and examining the influence both individuals wield as **businessmen and authority figures** within the economic, political, and social landscape. He wrote a **well-researched essay** based on his insights, supported by **facts, examples, and data**.

Although he did not place in the Top 3, being shortlisted earned him an invitation to the **John Locke Institute's awards ceremony**, a prestigious recognition and proud achievement! For someone with **little essay-writing experience and no particular interest in writing**, he gained new skills that need no certification to prove their value!

We have seen other mentees benefit tremendously from these opportunities. A TCP26 cohort mentee received the **Distinction Award** at the **2026 Lumiere Scholars Essay Competition**, reflecting not only **strong writing** ability but also the mentee's **intellectual depth and originality**. Similarly, another Early Advising mentee earned a **High Commendation Prize** at the **John Locke Institute Essay Competition 2025** after **independently** researching, structuring, and writing her essay, which reflected her authentic voice, critical thinking, and initiative.

Why are we telling you these stories? There are **multiple opportunities** throughout the year to participate in **prestigious essay competitions**, and we at the **Writing and Study Skills Center** encourage our mentees to pursue them. Beyond the possibility of winning, there are countless benefits to participating in writing competitions, and **college admissions committees very much recognize these benefits!**

Why participate in Writing Competitions?

- Develop **strong research** and **critical thinking skills**.
- Learn to **form, structure**, and **defend an argument** effectively.
- Improve **writing clarity, organization, vocabulary**, and **analytical depth**.
- Build confidence in expressing **original ideas** and **perspectives**.
- Learn to follow **guidelines** and **submission requirements**, such as formatting, citation styles, referencing systems, word limits, and submission protocols.
- Develop **resilience, discipline**, and **perseverance** through drafting, editing, and receiving feedback.
- Strengthen **writing skills** for high school, college applications, and beyond!

If you are wondering what it takes to write a **strong competition essay**, remember that it is rarely written in a **single sitting**. Rather, it **develops gradually** through exploration, research, reflection, drafting, and revision.

Steps to Writing a Competitive Essay

1. Choose a **topic or question** that genuinely interests you.
2. Conduct **in-depth research** from reliable and diverse sources.
3. Brainstorm **ideas** and develop a clear **argument** or perspective.
4. Create an **outline** and write **multiple drafts** while refining analysis and structure.
5. **Edit** carefully for clarity, grammar, flow, referencing, and adherence to **competition guidelines**.

At the **Writing and Study Skills Center**, we guide our **mentees** through the entire **essay writing process** to ensure they meet the competition's requirements and general writing guidelines while maintaining their own voice, creativity, clarity of thought, and expression. So, what are you waiting for? Here are a few **prestigious essay competitions** you can register for (with the typical deadline indicated in brackets).

Prestigious Essay Competitions to Consider

- **Harvard Undergraduate Global Research and Consulting Group (GRC) Essay Competition** (December - January)
- The **New York Times Student** Editorial Contest (February - April)
- **John Locke Institute** Essay Competition (Register by March, submit by May)
- **Queen's Commonwealth** Essay Competition (April)
- **Lumiere Scholars** Essay Award (April)
- **Bennington Young Writers** Awards (November)
- **Harvard International Review Academic Writing** Contest (Spring deadline in May, Summer deadline in August, and Fall/Winter deadline in January)

If you are excited to hone your **writing skills** and enter one of these **competitions**, stay tuned for our **Writing for Essay Competitions Master Class** coming soon!

2026 COLLEGE TOUR - EUROPE



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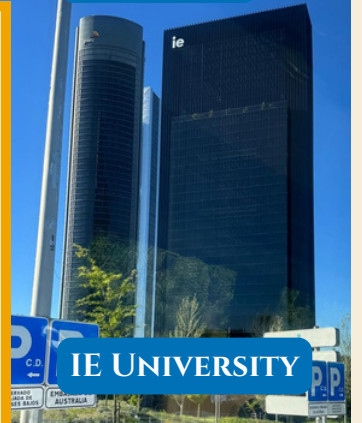
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MARANGONI

SUMMARY OF EUROPE TOUR

- Universities in **Italy, France, and Spain** offer greater **breadth** and **interdisciplinarity** compared to those in the **United Kingdom**. Some institutions allow students to pick their specialization after the first year.
- In addition to **academics**, these high-quality institutions **emphasize work-readiness** through mandatory **internships** and **global exchanges**.
- **International students** typically form **60-80%** of the student population.
- It is **mandatory** to learn the local **language** to graduate!



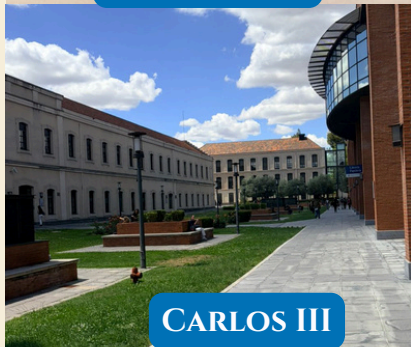
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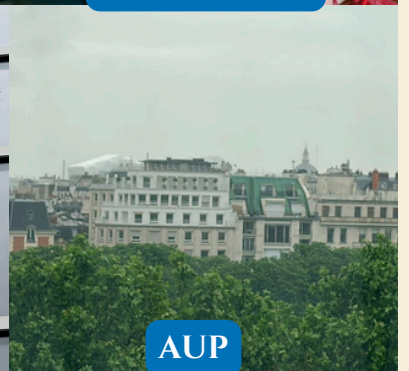
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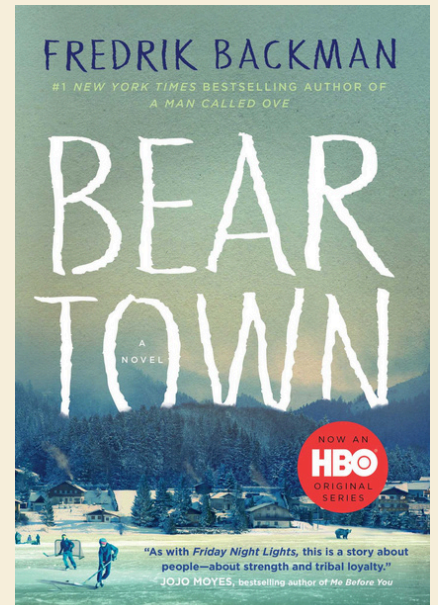
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MENTEE BOOK BUZZ

THIS BOOK HAS PASSED THE “TEENAGER TEST”!

BEARTOWN, FREDRIK BACKMAN - FROM A YEAR 13 STUDENT IN MALAWI

Beartown is a book that I struggle to believe is **fiction**. Every character's motivations, flaws, history, relationships, and character arc felt painfully real. I was almost easily convinced that the book was set in a real town and that I was living amongst these characters. The most interesting part, in my opinion, is how the book captured the complexity of its cast. Nobody felt entirely good or bad, even when it made logical sense that they should only be one of the two. I often found myself sympathizing with people I would not have in real life, which genuinely made me ponder the extent of my own empathy.



What I loved most was the way **Backman** understood people so deeply, even the ones acting at their absolute worst, explaining (but not excusing) their behavior. The town itself also feels alive in an almost suffocating way. Everyone felt trapped, and the writing intrigued me, leaving me enthralled enough to finish this book in a day.

What makes the book even MORE devastating is that none of the emotions were ever played up for drama. Every single incident was believable, which made everything 10x more gut-wrenching. In some places, it is uncomfortably honest about real life, and no matter what your pathway in life is, you WILL end up seeing yourself in this book.

I also think the book's greatest strength is that it refuses to simplify and water down something difficult. There is no perfect victim, hero, or even justice, which is why the book can cause so much emotion for some readers. It is a good study of human behavior, as it shows how communities protect themselves from the truth and how people often convince themselves they are doing the right thing even when they are not. The main theme was how fear and loyalty can distort morality. So many scenes made me feel genuinely frustrated because I could recognize how realistic everyone's reactions were. There was no escapism in this book. You keep waiting for somebody to do the brave thing, but they hesitate or look away entirely. That honesty made the emotional impact more profound and sometimes difficult to digest.

The writing itself is beautiful. I had to stop and stare at the wall because some sentences felt so raw, and I ended up sobbing multiple times! This book is genuinely heartbreaking and a difficult read. Despite that, I would rate it 5 stars—though I would not wish the trauma the characters undergo on my worst enemy!

