

# Analysis of Problems Faced by the Indian Students to Apply for Higher Education at Foreign Universities

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**Abstract:** *The main problem for students who want to apply to abroad universities for further studies is that they do not know which university suits their profile and which university they should target. More than 750,000 Indian students were reported to be studying in foreign schools in 2018, according to the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. There is a need for a discussion on this topic, between applicants and the universities to help them accordingly and to clarify the doubts which are arising in their minds reaching them with maximum help for their admits. Also, there are multiple factors that affect the individual's thinking for the same. This paper is based on the research work done to enlist the problems faced by students while applying for further studies abroad at universities.*

**Keywords:** International students, Study, Challenges, Students from India, Higher education, Student migration

## I. INTRODUCTION

Studying abroad is becoming increasingly popular, and many nations are working hard to attract more international students. Nearly 4.5 million postsecondary students are anticipated to be studying outside of their home country, with Asian countries accounting for about 53% of them (OECD, 2013). Between 6.5 and 7% of overseas students are expected to increase each year. During the academic year 2014–2015, around one million international students, mostly from China, India, South Korea, and Saudi Arabia, studied in various educational institutions in the United States (Institute of International Education, 2016). The United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, France, and Canada are the top six nations that host about half of all overseas students. International student migration (ISM) has increased dramatically in recent years, and there is now a large body of literature on the subject, including multiple monographs and edited collections. (Alberts and Hazen 2013; Baas 2012; Bilecen 2014; Brooks and Waters 2011; Byram and Dervin 2008; de Wit et al. 2008; Gürüz 2008; King and Raghuram 2013; Robertson 2013; van Mol 2014; Waters and Brooks 2011) [1]. There are various advantages to receiving an education in a country with a strong educational system and a positive learning culture. International students, on the other hand, encounter a variety of hurdles while pursuing their education in another country.

New rivals are entering the global talent competition at the same time as individuals' interest in higher education grows. Competition is intensifying among an increasing number of educational institutions, and it is spreading to national governments, which are implementing active promotion campaigns and implementing targeted immigration laws. Many industrialized countries are altering their policies to make themselves more appealing to highly skilled migrants, with increased student mobility being one of the techniques used to accomplish this aim. To attract international students, governmental initiatives such as easy and transparent visa access, the ability to work while studying, and extended job-search periods following graduation have been implemented.

Different teaching styles, low language proficiency, academic expectations and assessment that differ from home countries, unfamiliar living conditions, personal apprehensions, financial hardship, personal safety issues, unfamiliar local healthcare system, difficulty adjusting to different weather and food, social and cultural isolation, and separation from family and friends are just a few of the challenges. The review is based on the findings of challenges and studies of the students pursuing abroad studies.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

We have studied and surveyed several documents and research papers that are associated with our problem statement. “International student migration: a comparison of UK and Indian students’ motivations for studying abroad” by Russell King and Gunjan Sondhi. It listed that in its comparative examination of two international student migration (ISM) streams, one from the Global South to the Global North (India to developed Anglophone countries) and the other within the Global North, this paper opens new ground (the UK to North America, Europe, and Australia). These two ISM movements represent different positions within the global system of international student movements, necessitating a critical examination of the assumptions that underpin such a comparison, which calls into question the dominance of 'knowledge' about ISM derived from 'the West' as a theoretical template. Data is collected using two methods: an online questionnaire survey of UK and Indian students who are studying abroad or have previously done so, and in-depth interviews with the UK and Indian international students [1].

“Personal and Professional Challenges and Benefits of Studying Abroad” by Madeline Milian, Ed.D. Matthew Birnbaum, Ph.D. Betty Cardona, PhD. Bonnie Nicholson, M.A., University of Northern Colorado. They stated in their paper that studying abroad has become a global trend, putting the United States in the enviable position of being the most sought-after location for people seeking post-secondary education. International students bring both financial and cultural benefits to higher education institutions, thus they are increasingly putting effort into attracting them. This study enlisted the participation of international students at Regional Western University (RMU) to learn about their motives for joining the university, as well as the perceived challenges and benefits of studying abroad. Our participants agreed that having a friend or relative who had previously attended RMU influenced their decision. Language problems in the academic context, a lack of knowledge of culturally anticipated classroom norms, and transferring new information to the context in the originating country were all challenges [2].

“Motivations for studying abroad and adjustment challenges faced by international students in Singapore” by Shaheen Majid, Ravichandran Balaji, Mannan P. Shivalini, and Antonette Shibani. It mentioned the market for international students has grown to be a multibillion-dollar business, and some countries are putting forth significant efforts to attract them. Depending on the school system and socio-cultural context of the host country, overseas students may confront a variety of transition issues. The study's major goals were to look into the perspectives of international students studying in Singapore, as well as their motivational reasons and the challenges they confront. The data was collected through a questionnaire, and 140 international graduate students from two public universities in Singapore took part in the study. Students studying abroad saw the following primary advantages: learning about various cultures, improving self-confidence, gaining overseas work experience, and enjoying living independently [3].

“Motivations and Constraints of Moving Abroad for Indian Students” by Metka Hercog & Mindel van de Laar states that in a climate where nations compete for overseas students, it's critical to understand students' migratory preferences. This research examines the factors that influence international migration aspirations among Indian science and engineering students. It draws on data from a poll of students at five Indian institutions, as well as qualitative information gleaned through interviews. We looked examined how students' personal and familial backgrounds, university-related characteristics, social networks, and living place choices influenced their decision to move overseas. Students' intended relocation abroad is strongly influenced by the sort of university and subject of study they attend [4].

“International their Challenge and Adjustment to College” by Esther Garza, and Norma Guzman. It mentioned that the number of international students enrolled in higher education in the United States has increased dramatically in recent decades. The experiences of overseas students in academic and social contexts were investigated in this study. International students face academic problems, social isolation, and cultural adjustment, according to the findings of qualitative interviews. Communication with professors, classmates, and staff was among the academic hurdles. As a result, individuals must struggle with social isolation when participating in various group activities. They must tackle the various ways of thinking and act in the United States from a cultural standpoint. To overcome these obstacles, students have relied on resources mostly supplied by the institution [5].

“Factors influencing Indian their choice of overseas study destination” by Abhishek Bhati, Robyn Anderson. I stated that there had been an upsurge in the number of Indian students studying in Singapore at Australian universities. There has been a commensurate reduction in the number of this category of students studying in Australia during the same time period. The goal of the research is to figure out why the present cohort of Indian students studying at an Australian university in



Singapore opted to study there rather than at an Australian campus. A qualitative technique was used in the research, which included focus group interviews and an online survey. The findings contain various elements and considerations that influence students from India's decision on which university to attend and where to study abroad [6].

### III. CHALLENGES

There are some of the major aspects which hinder their interest to pursue further education abroad. Some of the major aspects have been listed below.

1. **Financial Issues:** Studying in a reputable industry while studying abroad entails a high cost of education and living expenses. Students are constantly concerned about this. The process of financing international education is long and complicated. Managing cash in a foreign place is a difficult task for a student. Budget and monthly allowances are examples of limitations. When compared to the United States, the United Kingdom, and other European countries, the rupee has a low value. Paying expenses becomes a stress, and sacrificing basic amenities becomes a regular occurrence. It leads to an extremely frugal way of life. This element of their experience teaches him how to manage money in some way. The hurdles, which include opening a bank account, extensive documentation, and the lack of readily available Forex services, add to their concerns.
2. **Learning Methodology:** Different countries have different educational systems. In most countries, teaching methods and student evaluation are more stringent than in India. Even the syllabus, in this case, is more application and mind-based than the rote learning that is commonly performed in India. Additional activities, such as seminars and workshops, are required for students to attend and learn. Foreign university systems are not lecture-based at all. They are more practical and based on experience. A pupil is compelled to use his intellect. As a result, an Indian their performance scale swings, at least in the first few years. There are weekly rankings and class standings available. This can sometimes demoralize the child. Despite their best intentions to go to a distant nation, student may be tempted to travel around or visit the area on more than one time. student must put their inner wanderlust on hold until the weekend so that student can go out and live life to the fullest. Remember that student is there to study, and if their grades fall below a certain level, student may lose their scholarship or possibly be dismissed from the school. On weekends, all of the place's student want to see and the museums student want to visit will still be open. So, concentrate on their academics when necessary, so that student can enjoy the break from their programme.
3. **Language Barrier:** It is possible to overcome the language barrier. student can sometimes use the internet to become acquainted with their basic words. There's no need to be concerned about the remainder because they will pick it up gradually. A human being is continually learning something new. There are other language development courses available. Enrolling for such motives may appear to be advantageous. Students from India who travel to countries where English is the first language, such as the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia, may find it challenging to overcome the language barrier. Students may find it challenging to communicate successfully in English and, at times, to grasp what native speakers are saying. English terms and phrases may be used differently in different nations. Although standard exams such as the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), IELTS, GRE, and GMAT must be passed before a student may be admitted to an international university, matching the pace, accent, and tone of foreign peers can be difficult. Working part-time can help relieve some financial stress. Fortunately, part-time jobs for students with the most flexible schedules are available right away. They can make enough money to cover their rent and some of their dining bills. Many universities offer students the opportunity to participate in internships. Aside from that, students have the opportunity to apply for scholarships. If the kid is too preoccupied with activities, he or she will not have time to reflect on his or her birthplace. Talking to people and visiting different parts of town helps keep their mind occupied. It becomes critical to maintain constant interest and amusement. Prepare yourself well in advance with the portions. Do not wait for assignments and weekly exam dates to be revealed; instead, create a schedule and set continual reminders for all daily chores. Make it a daily goal to complete a particular number of studies. Make a list of everything student need and prioritize their duties.
4. **Homesickness:** Feeling homesick is one of the most common problems that most Indian students confront when studying abroad. No matter how much student despise being at home in their own nation, student will miss it while student is overseas. While studying in a strange nation, student will miss their mother's food, their father's silent

gaze, their embarrassing friends, and the familiarity of things. But don't let it overwhelm you. Recognize that you're not alone. When you're feeling homesick and missing home, consider Skyping with family or friends, or engage in music or course work to assist student to deal. student will quickly adjust to their new surroundings and begin to appreciate their life as a student in a foreign country.

5. **Accommodation:** Finding a college hostel or an inexpensive apartment to live in is a challenge. Indians suffer from a strong sense of isolation. There are times when their foreign associates do not treat them nicely. They do not gain approval. Finding a place to stay that suits their budget is nearly hard. There are numerous compromises involved. Even after locating a budget-friendly place to stay, obtaining a healthy environment and food becomes a challenge. It's difficult to live a healthy lifestyle. Privacy concerns emerge for a variety of causes. It's not easy to make friends and acquaintances who can help in an emergency.
6. **Adaptation to a New Time zone:** Getting used to the new time zone can be difficult at first. One's biological cycle may be severely disrupted, and it will take time for the body to adjust to the new way of life. There may also be a time difference between their working hours and those in their home country. Issues such as calling their bank in the middle of the night to connect during regular business hours, or waiting for their relatives to call student at unusual hours. To prevent such scenarios, these students routinely utilise time-keeping applications, and they gradually become accustomed to the time difference, making things easier on their own terms.

#### **IV. COMPARATIVE BENEFITS**

There are always some aspirations from an individual after he or she gets into a heavy investment. They mostly look into the factors which will lead them to an ample number of returns on what they invested into. Similarly, after investing loads of money, time, resources etc. if any individual is pursuing abroad studies, he will surely expect to get something in return. Some of them are listed below.

1. **High-Quality Education:** The quality of instruction at international universities is vastly distinct, intuitive, and skilled. The programme is research-based while also adhering to industry-specific applications. The research facilities are top-notch, with cutting-edge technology instruments integrated into the labs. The faculty members come from a variety of academic backgrounds, which makes each class unique. The curriculum provides student with the required skills to succeed in this competitive economy. Adapting to various teaching techniques can also help student adjust to various management styles, allowing student to be more versatile in the workplace. International education promotes global learning, fosters understanding among people of all backgrounds and perspectives, and strengthens global citizens. One of the most valuable aspects of studying abroad is the opportunity to gain experience.
2. **Diverse Course Options:** Studying abroad opens up a wider range of courses, some of which include research opportunities and skill-based training for students. This broadens their horizons and introduces student to a world of new educational possibilities. Not only that, but some international programmes allow student to pursue many courses at the same time. As a result, student can pursue their love of literature while majoring in mathematics. IDP works with over 700 top universities and institutions throughout the world, so whatever you're seeking - from a highly ranked research course to a unique learning atmosphere – we can help student find it.
3. **Student Diversity:** One of the most significant benefits of studying abroad is that student will be surrounded by people from various intellectual, cultural, and religious backgrounds. There is so much to learn from each student, as well as share ideas and valuable knowledge that they have accumulated over time. When student chat and share ideas with students, student may always learn a lot. Discussing fresh ideas with their peers can always assist student in developing new ideas, learning about new prospects, and acquiring critical skills.
4. **Amplifies Network:** Studying abroad allows student to form lasting bonds with people from all around the world. student increase their international contacts while meeting folks who could become lifelong pals. Internships, job offers, and business partnerships are all possible outcomes of certain interactions. The university where student study will almost always have a huge population of students from the surrounding area and from other countries, allowing student to meet individuals from all backgrounds and cultures. The more people student knows, the more likely student is to be connected to intriguing career and social opportunities. student will learn about new cultural features and build cross-cultural awareness while studying abroad. When student start their job, student may be

working with people from various nations. they will be more comfortable with people from other backgrounds, value their unique experiences, and build deeper relationships with them if student study abroad. Our cultural background has been shown to have a significant impact on how we react to various situations in our lives. Getting a diversity of viewpoints can help student see things from a different perspective.

5. **Personality Development:** There's nothing quite like being alone in a foreign land. student could discover that studying abroad allows student to express their independence. Students who study abroad become pioneers in their new country and discover their own sense of wonder and enthusiasm. One of the biggest advantages of studying abroad is the opportunity to discover oneself while learning about a culture other than their own. Being alone in a new environment might be perplexing at times, as it will put their capacity to adjust to various conditions while also solving challenges to the test. By immersing oneself in another culture, student gain crucial life skills such as independence and adaptability, which are important for personal development. It imparts leadership qualities also. In practically any situation, strong leadership and team management skills are essential. Whether you're working on a class project with a group of international students or undertaking an internship overseas, knowing how to lead and inspire others will help student build deeper relationships
6. These abilities can help student gain confidence in both their personal and professional life. Studying abroad can be intimidating, but the obstacles student face will help student grow as a person. they will discover that student can often flourish in new, unexpected situations, and they will improve their communication abilities by learning a new language, which will help student boost their self-confidence even more. Self-reliance and resilience will be honed by quickly adapting to a new situation. their daily life can help student with everything from little activities like going to the doctor to major issues like learning how to bargain with a professor or adapting to another culture's management techniques.
7. **Better Job Opportunities:** student will have a different perspective on culture, language skills, a superb education, a drive to learn, and a terrific profile after completing their study abroad programme. Depending on their topic of study, studying in a different country opens up more job prospects. All of them are, without a doubt, incredibly appealing to potential employers. According to a recent survey, study abroad experience is very significant to 64% of employers. Approximately 92% of companies look for transferable abilities, such as flexibility in new situations, that are often earned via experience. Studying abroad can give their career a boost and make student more competitive in the workforce. Organizations looking to hire foreign staff frequently require proof that candidates can thrive in a global setting. Studying abroad, especially in a region where student want to work, allows student to highlight critical abilities and relevant experience on their resume, such as cross-cultural communication and knowledge of international policy.
8. **Discover other cultures:** their exposure to a foreign culture allows student to broaden their perspective. student will learn about new cultural features and build cross-cultural awareness while studying abroad. When student start their job, student may be working with people from various nations. You'll be more comfortable with people from other backgrounds, value their unique experiences, and build deeper relationships with them if student study abroad. Our cultural background has been shown to have a significant impact on how we react to various situations in our lives. Getting a diversity of viewpoints can help student see things from a different perspective. Our cultural background frequently influences how we react to certain situations. Getting a diversity of viewpoints can help student see things in a different light. Studying abroad allows student to meet people from various backgrounds, broadening their horizons and expanding their thinking. Furthermore, the greatest approach to learning about another culture is to immerse oneself in it, which is best accomplished by living in another country.
9. **Higher Salary:** With so many career choices and so much room for advancement, students can easily land higher-paying jobs. Most well-known multinational corporations, as well as small and major businesses, have their headquarters in another country. When compared to their native nation, the job roles entail significant responsibility and require greater compensation. According to a recent survey, study abroad students start with a 25% higher starting pay than those who do not study abroad. Students majoring in sociology, theology, computer science, religious studies, physical geography, and electrical and electronics engineering earn the highest salaries.

**V. CONCLUSION**

This research examines the factors that influence the decision to study abroad in the context of Indian scientific and engineering students. We looked into the influence of personal and familial history, university-related characteristics, social networks, and living place choices on students' motivations for going overseas. Going abroad for work right after graduation is extremely rare. Going abroad for advanced education or joining a company in India on a campus placement are the two most prevalent options, following which people have frequently moved abroad for particular tasks. For most Indian students, studying abroad is still an unaffordable financial burden. On the other hand, there is majority of the factors which gives a boost to the idea of abroad study like job opportunities, higher salary etc. It not only gives a positive impact but also helps to visualise big.

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