



## Think Education • Think Intelligent

Every week, education expert Sanjeev Verma will answer your queries on studying abroad. E-mail queries to [features@gulf-times.com](mailto:features@gulf-times.com)

### How do I look into developing career options?

— Sue Baker

As a student, when deciding to go and study in a university/college, people should understand well in advance what they aim to achieve as a result. But in most cases, most students are not so sure of what they want to study and what they aim to accomplish. This is mainly because most students are unsure of their capabilities, potentials, aptitude and ability, that they don't know where to start. Therefore, it is essential to start off with career objectives.

By doing a significant amount of research on the career prospects and marketability, most students will be able to narrow down their focus significantly to major areas.

Students should be able to evaluate each of the areas based on how fulfilling the career is, how practical it is and at the same time if it satisfies their financial requirements.

In most cases, students tend to base their choices on expected earnings, social status, and kind of lifestyle post graduation. However, very rarely do they look into the work-related commitments like long hours, shifts and weekend and holidays. Currently strong career possibilities include areas like medicine, engineering, computer/information science, and business. These areas comparatively offer a great range options for most applicants and most also choose to remain within these.

However, there are quite a number of other fields that mostly develop through summer internships, special exposures, hobbies, sport, and travel that initiate the curiosity and enhance interest. It is therefore advisable to engage in a number of these activities to discover one's desires and interests.

It is also important to note the role of graduate education to enhance focus or specialisation or at times even completely change direction of career. The fact that graduate degrees also provide these possibilities has enriched a lot of lives, and helped students become even more focused and target areas of their interest.

*(Sanjeev Verma began with Ernst & Young and progressed to set up the Gulf operations of IDP Education Pty. He now leads Intelligent Partners, developing a wide range of solutions in areas of international education)*