



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

How can I look for scholarships and college loan opportunities?

Everyone wants to have that scholarship, loan or financial aid that will incredibly reduce the burden of going to a college.

While more and more people search for alternatives of financing their college education, colleges, to a large extent, are also trying to make ends meet to stay afloat.

Hence, colleges tend to make sure their costs are covered and as a result confirm full paying students faster than those that are looking for financial aid.

First and foremost is research. If you are interested in finding a good financial aid or scholarship, you need historical data. You need crucial information, most likely, information that college counsellors would have in detail.

So make sure you consult the right people. Then you have to do a lot of financial planning, and determine which scholarships suit you and which you are likely to get. Remember, they don't grow on trees. For every scholarship you apply, there will be a few more thousands vying for it. Be proactive and talk directly to the college, admission officers and faculty.

But you need to make sure you have strengths that will help you deserve that scholarship and be effective in explaining it as well.

On the other hand, financial support can come in the form of college loans. A lot of local banks in the Middle East provide loans given you have a local guarantor that can sign on your behalf.

(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.)