

Get more bang for your buck from an Admissions Consultant

The Scope of Admissions Consulting



Most candidates view 'Admissions Consultants' (AC) as glorified editors, who help them prepare the torturous application material required for applying to the leading universities of the world. ACs prefer this view, as keeping the handshake short and sweet allows them to service more clients in a packed admissions season and earn more money. The candidates don't miss the uncomfortable advice about career choices and courses, confident that everything would automatically fall in place once the admission is secured.

Graduating from a top university does not guarantee career success. Every candidate should evaluate which program/university will provide the best ROI, and avoid succumbing to brainwashing or peer pressure. Such is the fascination for a foreign education that most candidates don't care to understand why so many graduates from top universities struggle

with derailed careers, lack of jobs, and high debt. An excellent example of this problem are people who go for an MBA after doing a PhD, only to work as a business development manager in the same industry where they could have worked as a top consultant, subject matter expert, scientist or academician. How can anyone justify investing 5-7 years in doing a specialized masters and PhD and then giving all that away for an MBA - a degree they could have done even before the PhD, and then settling for a post-MBA job that does not utilize the high-value PhD in any way? Higher education is an expensive and time-consuming activity, which should be undertaken only after careful research and consultation, and not out of everyday whims and fancies.

Honest conversations with ACs can stop candidates from becoming victims of immature choices that wipe out the value they have worked hard to build over many years. ACs work with hundreds of students and develop a solid understanding of graduate careers and profiles having demand in the market. They can advise candidates on how to manage their professional and educational decisions. Candidates who are some years away from applying can learn how to improve their profile. Career changers can learn how they can fit transportable skills from their current occupation to a future job, and how higher education can help them make the transition. Candidates looking for career enhancement can understand how a particular degree can equip them with the skills and knowledge required to move to the next level.

Candidates should hire ACs to guide their decisions, and not just to implement the choices they have already made. Essay editing is the last step of the Admissions Consulting process, which become relevant only when after the larger strategic decisions. Candidates should not avoid the reality check, because at the end of the day they would have to cope with the consequences of their choices. Higher education is merciless in its quest for 'right fit' and 'competence,' and is not a panacea for repairing broken careers or resolving larger life issues. It bestows stardom on a few, moderate success on a majority, and chews and spits the rest after consuming enormous time and money. Candidates must make sure they don't turn up in the 'spit' of higher education.

A good AC can provide life-changing advice, but it is the client's (candidate's) responsibility to show interest and extract the advantage. Using an AC just for editing essays is like using a MacBook Pro only for surfing the internet.