The Kings Academy students celebrate exam success
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The staff at World Education Network looks forward to including you in our England.edu education community.

Jacqui

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Visiting Cambridge England can be much more than touring the famous Cambridge University and College campuses. The well-known English city offers visitors a chance to punt along the Cam River, reflect in one of the beautiful cathedrals and browse in Great Britain’s oldest bookshop.

When deciding between visiting two of the world’s most famous seats of higher learning – Cambridge or Oxford – travel writer Jan DeGrass took a friend’s advice to take “light and elegant” over “gloomy and depressing.”

“Though academia sets the tone, the (English) city is so much more than Cambridge university colleges, as we found out during a full day of sightseeing,” writes Jan. The day started downtown across from an oddly named park: Christ’s Pieces.

“Cambridge is an angular city full of geometrically correct buildings, manicured squares of lawn, green quadrangles and dramatic spires.”

Passing through the gates of King’s College leads to one of the most well-known past-times – punting on the Cam River in small, flat punts. You can even rent your own punt boat to join the generations of punters who leisurely ply the waterway as long you avoid the reserved section of the river reserved for Cambridge’s famous rowing team.

Away from the water, you can find stunning architecture such as Church of Holy Sepulchre, one of England’s four surviving Norman round churches built after the Knights Templar returned from the Holy Land.

Outside Cambridge, Grantchester offers its pubs in a pastoral setting – “cream teams among the apple trees.” Notable poets and authors such as Rupert Brooke, Bertrand Russell and Virginia Woolf frequented Grantchester’s farmhouse teashop – The Orchard.

“For me, the big attraction of Cambridge was not its splendid colleges or even its thriving outdoor market,” says Jan.

“On Trinity Street opposite the colleges, I was drawn into the orbit of what is billed as the oldest bookshop site in Britain, home of the Cambridge University Press. You might imagine a fusty place of ancient tomes – given that scholars first arrived at this location in 1209 – but this bright, modern, relaxing store, so seductive to bibliophiles, is crammed with the world’s most erudite texts on every subject from paleoethnobotany to the birth of the blues.”

Jan concludes that “it is possible to self guide around Cambridge – sights and shopping are all within walking distance.”

“We took ourselves on a brief tour of St. John’s College (founded 1511) where students clattered busily across its quaint Bridge of Sighs modelled after Venice. It was truly picturesque.”

The Author: Jan DeGrass is a travel writer for www.Travel-Wise.com
The first question you should ask yourself is “Why study Law?”

Probably, you have a view of lawyers, perhaps received from a family member, friend, or even from your favourite television programme. You may wish to be a successful lawyer in order to enter into politics, business, international finance and banking or simply practice law in your home town or city. A law degree is certainly considered a smart career move as it commands status, prestige, employment and promotion prospects and it often has a good or even large income attached to it. Law and legal activity is the foundation stone of all social change - this means that your contribution to your nation’s development can be made through a legal career. So, if it’s law for you, then the next question is: Where should you study?

The English Law may sound distant and irrelevant to you, but in fact the opposite is true. The United Kingdom’s colonial past resulted in a huge empire, now long gone. However, our legal system was transported across the oceans and superimposed upon people throughout the world. Canada, USA, West Indies, Israel, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Australia and New Zealand are but some of the countries which adopted English Law and their legal systems, continue to be based upon this legal process which is called “common law”. The commonwealth countries still continue to work according to the common law although the local jurisdictions have developed their own rules and case law. Overseas legal professions also recognise the validity of the English Law degree and the associated professional qualification.

Studying law in the United Kingdom means a three year undergraduate degree programme which results in an LLB. This is an academic qualification but is not a license to practice as a lawyer. Lawyers are divided into solicitors and barristers and these people undertake different tasks in which is called a split profession. However, many commonwealth jurisdictions have a fused profession and no such distinction is found. The evidence shows that overseas law graduates usually seek to qualify as a barrister at law before returning home rather than qualify as solicitors, as this takes considerably longer to complete.

The barrister’s course lasts for one academic year and is called the bar vocational course. It is offered by a number of universities throughout England and Wales and also in London. During this time the student will have joined one of the four Inns of Court based in London. At the end of the course the successful student will be ‘called to the bar’ which in effect means the professional qualification to practice as a lawyer has been granted. Becoming a barrister will normally be accepted as a sufficient qualification to practise law in the home jurisdiction although a “top-up”, domestic course may be required by the local bar council.

Having described the process of qualification as a barrister, let me touch on the more immediate issues of where to study law. It is unlikely that you would wish to study law in Scotland, or even Northern Ireland, as there are significant regional differences in the law and its procedure, especially in Scotland. In England and Wales there are over ninety university law schools. As the tuition fees are largely standard, the financial question become less important. However, studying in London is particularly expensive as the cost of living in the capital city can be as high as 25 per cent above that of living in a regional city. Being relatively poor in London can be distressing as the quality of housing is variable and travel-to-work times can be long and costly. You should ask yourself what size community attracts you, where are the prime locations, what is the reputation of that particular law schools, and what do they offer which might be attractive to you?

You might be attracted to a sleepy, small town in the country which houses a ‘green field’ new site, again in the country, such as Essex or Warwick. There are various ‘new’ university law schools throughout England and many in London, such as the universities of Westminster or North London. The ‘new’ university law schools will probably ask for lower entry grades, but you should always seek to get into the best possible university that will accept your qualifications. Each university has a reputation and standing, and associated I.T. facilities.

The location is important as you may wish to be in a city rather than in the country. Where ever you chose, you should check out the quality and cost of the accommodation. Does the university guarantee you university accommodation of a high standard for three years and can you walk to the law school from your flat, room or hall? If you have to use public transport then your living costs will rise. In addition, you may be some distance from the university which could make student social life difficult to enjoy.

The academic standing of various law schools can be obtained by asking for the Research Assessment Exercise, December 1996, which was a government organised evaluation of all law schools. This independent exercise took almost three years to complete and is the latest and most accurate evaluation of the different law schools. In addition, you should read the individual prospectuses, visit the web sites, and seek as much information as possible about the various schools that attract you.

A law degree from Britain sets you on the right career path to fulfil those requirements as well as your personal ambitions.

The Author: Professor Philip Thomas is Director of External Affairs in the Cardiff Law School at Cardiff University, U.K.
Top pick holidays in Spain

There are many different types of vacations and holidays a couple, family or individual travelling alone can take. All may be equally enjoyable as long as they take into account the preferences of the traveller. Destinations around the world may offer beach front accommodations or city skyscrapers with a view, but a holiday in Spain is one place that you can get both, and not even have to leave the region.

City or Sea?
Spain is filled with old cities rich in art, culture, entertainment and filled with great food. The beauty of this destination however is that you can be in such an exciting and interesting city and just a few minutes later be relaxing at the beach or taking in a round of golf.

When you travel to the Costa Blanca region on Spain’s east coast you are within dipping distance of the beautiful waters of the Mediterranean Sea. The Alicante Airport is central to this region and a short driving distance to all the quaint cities along this coast. The climate is perfect just about any time of year, although it can get quite hot in the city in the summer. Other than that, you can expect sunshine and moderate temperatures just right for swimming and comfortable for sightseeing.

The big city Life
Museums and culture abound in any of Spain’s cities, but the large metropolitan capital of Madrid is a world centre for finance and commerce. Madrid is the kind of city where you can take care of business and then spend the holidays in Spain without feeling like you got stuck on some business trip when you’d rather be sightseeing.

In Barcelona you can experience the second largest of Spain’s cities and a city that is the capital of the autonomous Catalonia community. It lies on the north east tip of Spain along the Mediterranean Sea and at the mouth of both the Llobregat and Besos rivers. Just above is the Pyrenees mountain range about 100 miles to the north.

Barcelona was host of the 1888 World’s Fair (called Universal Exposition at the time) and welcomed the 1992 Summer Olympics.

What to do during holidays in Spain
Spain is well known for its festivals and fiestas. You can party hard and relax equally as hard. Any time of year you can visit the Merida Theatre, but the festival is every summer. It is then that the Greco-Latin authors show off their works on the stage in a classic Roman-style theatre.

Other events in Spain include:
Flemenco in Andalusia where this traditional dance is performed like never before.

The Battle of Wine. Held in Haro this fiesta dates back to a village scuffle over who owned some of the local crags. The re-enactment begins with a Mass and concludes with a calm but odd pouring of wine over the opposing sides.

Fiestas de San Fermin. This takes place in the city of Pamplona and is better known as the running of the bulls. Here thousands of people run with bulls, trying to outrun them without being trampled. It all begins on the 6th of July at noon at the town hall. It is the next day where the actual run takes place as the doors to the Santo Domingo corral open and the bulls begin their relentless chase of people running in front of them. The craziness goes on for the next week from July 7-14th with a run repeated each day. The total run takes no more than 3 short minutes and covers only 825 metres. It is followed by other parades and festivities meant to honour the Patron Saint of Pamplona.

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http://www.world-first.co.uk
How far is Dubai Tax Free in reality?

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one of the major reasons why so many travellers fly across Dubai’s airspace is the duty free goods they can buy from its international airport. However, contrary to the popular belief, Dubai is not a tax free territory. It does provide certain tax incentives for various businesses to function and grow economically. The trend of tax benefits began making rounds with the announcement of Jebel Ali Free-trade zone in 1985. Several more have been added into this list since then, until recently. These additions include Maritime City, the Internet and Media Cities, the International Financial Centre and the Airport Free Zone.

Oil revenues were the main segment of Dubai’s per capita income in the post oil exploration period of 1960s. This however, transformed dramatically once the free zones began showing dividends. As a result, no longer do they have to rely on the oil reserves for their economic well being. The amount of foreign investment has been going up remarkably in the post free zones period, and makes much of Dubai’s commerce boost right now. This is a quick overview of what these free-trade zones are all about and where they are expected to lead Dubai in the years to follow.

The Jebel Ali Free Zone

The Jebel Ali Free Zone is the largest of its kind in the entire middle east and one of the most tax friendly across the globe. The administration has spent over £1.3 billion on its development since its commencement in 1985. Closely linked with the state-of-the-art Jebel Ali Seaport and the cargo village of Dubai international airport, the free trade area provides amazing turnaround for sea-air transportation. It also gives an access for companies to an estimated consumer market of over 1.5 billion in the countries surrounded by the Gulf and Red sea. Companies are initially allowed to have a 15 year tax exemption period, which is then allowed to be renewed by another 15 years. Over 2000 companies from across the world are functioning at this juncture from this free zone.

Dubai Internet City and Dubai Media City (DIC)

These zones were created in 1990 to address to the growing demands of media and communications companies seeking benefits on a par with the Jebel Ali Free Zone. A fifty year tax exemption is granted initially, and no restrictions of local partnership or sponsors are applicable for the investors in these areas. Leading names such as Microsoft, Canon, McGraw-Hill, Reuters, and CNN are already among the major stake holders of this free trade entity. Benefits for the investors include a highly advanced technical infrastructure for their business operations apart from the general tax booties they could enjoy.

The Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)

DIFC was created in 2004 with an intent on providing financial companies with a permanent foothold in the region. This will lead to the strengthening of economic activities in the UAE and the Middle East as a whole. There are no constraints on how long the companies may remain under various tax benefits, thus making investments in this zone far more lucrative. DIFC carries six segments including the Banking Services, Capital Markets, Asset Management & Fund Registration, Reinsurance, Back Office Operations and Islamic Finance.

Dubai Airport Free Zone

Established at the international airport in 1996, the Dubai Airport Free Zone already holds over 460 companies from various sectors. Benefitors enjoy 100% tax exemption, 100% ownership rights, easy access to airport facilities, rapid cargo clearance and an availability of cheap labour. Companies such as Bang & Oulfsen, Boeing and Caterpiller are some of the stake holders in this free trade area.

The Dubai Maritime City

The Dubai Maritime City will be the latest addition to the growing list of free zones in Dubai. An estimated marine area of 2.5 million square meters will be handed over to the marine and maritime related industries. The zone is expected to be completed before the end of 2006.

As Dubai’s administration continues on with their free trade policies, the share of oil revenues in the GDP is bound to go down further with each passing year. The development of free zones was aimed on achieving this miracle for Dubai’s populace and they have handsomely succeeded in doing so until this date.

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Study SWOT analysis

Management skills are vital knowledge for each student who is willing to have success in study. A good knowledge in management is required to organize, improve, monitor, assess and set goals in learning. Good management is required to organize study time properly so that the huge amount of study material and information required to be learnt will also allow sufficient time free activities as well.

One of the most useful skills developed in management and required during study is assessment and analysis. Both steps are usually applied while company’s managers are trying to find future strategies, determine future tasks and objectives and correct/advance the tasks implemented before. The best way to provide sufficient and clear analysis is SWOT analysis.

SWOT was introduced in management study in order to teach managers to provide quick and effective assessment of company’s recent strategy and activities. SWOT analysis includes four points which can clearly show the present statement. They are: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

From business viewpoint study process can also be seen as a company strategy which is aimed to achieve definite goals by implementing determined tasks and objectives.

Thus, SWOT analysis can be effectively applied in the study process. SWOT analysis can show student’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in study. This will help a student gain the list of activities necessary to implement study tasks quickly and effectively.

For example, strengths can be seen as skills and knowledge which have been gained in recent time and have helped a student gain high scores and awards for definite topics. Strengths can also be the availability of necessary resources, friendly study environment (good assistance of teachers, tutors, classmates or parents) and educational background (a student has gained necessary knowledge and skills during his/her earlier study somewhere).

Weaknesses in study SWOT analysis are usually referred to those skills and knowledge which have caused difficulties in their understanding, comprehension and mastering. As well as strengths, weak points of study can be shown in lack of necessary resources, poor study environment (there is no any assistance available) and absence of educational background. However, it would not be useful to see strengths-weaknesses chain as the line of opposites. Sometimes weaknesses can oppose opportunities and strengths can cause some threats and vice versa.

Opportunities can be developed through strengths listing. A student should see his/her strengths in order to determine his/her opportunities. For example, if a student has listed educational background as his/her strength he/she can develop extra free time opportunity because some knowledge and skills will not require additional efforts and, therefore time. Extra free time can also be developed as an opportunity to do some extra work (additional course, part-time work, sports or club activities etc.)

Threats should be seen as the consequences of weaknesses. For example, if absence of study resources has been listed as weakness there is a threat of untimely implemented or incompletely implemented study tasks. Unfriendly study environment can lead to the threat of exams failure and poor scores.

The Author:
The article was written by Sharon White of masterpapers.com
Study in the land downunder

The http://study.australia.edu site outlines some of the exciting possibilities of study options for international students in Australia.

Australia is a popular venue for students from many countries. It has the third largest number of international students in the English speaking world. Australia is a safe and welcoming environment for visitors from all around the world. It offers a very high standard of education with qualifications that are recognised worldwide.

An extensive range of study and teaching options are available in Australia to international students, teachers and university staff. Schools, English Language Training Centres, Colleges for vocational education and Universities for higher education provide an extensive range of courses and programs. The Australia Education system offers over 12,000 courses that are recognised internationally and are of world class standards.

Australia has a dynamic multicultural society in which students can learn and travel in an English speaking country.

Australia is the largest island and the smallest continent in the world. It lies between the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific Ocean. It is about 11,000 kilometres southwest of North America and 3,200 kilometres southeast of mainland Asia.

The population of Australia is approximately twenty million. More than four-fifths of the people live in cities and towns that are generally in coastal areas near the mouth of a river and as close as possible to a good ocean harbour. The main cities are Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Hobart and Canberra and are all State Capital cities. Most Australians enjoy an excellent standard of living, good educational opportunities and a relaxed lifestyle made possible by the outstanding natural and economic features of the country.

Australia boasts a fantastic temperate climate. It is a land of bright sunshine, surf beaches, tropical rivers, rainforests, mountain ranges, red deserts and rich green coastal plains.

The flora and fauna are interesting and unique, with kangaroos, koalas and wombats included in the array of wildlife.

http://study.australia.edu
How to enjoy a Merry Christmas tour in China later this year

As the yuletide season approaches, people start planning their vacation trips and holidays thinking of different ideas on where and how to spend Christmas. As usual Christmas around the world is almost the same but if you want to have an unforgettable December filled with some oriental feeling, forget about the worries of the past, pack your bags and come and experience a unique Christmas celebration touring China and its many beautiful cities.

Even though the Chinese people do not celebrate Christmas like the Christians do, a small amount of people however recognize the holiday and embrace the tradition. Christians in China celebrate the season by lighting their house with brightly coloured trees of lights made out of paper chains, paper lanterns and paper flowers. The young children hang muslin stockings and await the arrival of a Chinese Santa Claus whom they call Dun Che Lao Ren (dwyn-chuh-lau-oh-run) which means “Christmas Old Man.” To give them gifts filled with candy bars.

With the number of tourists and expatriates in the country, many Chinese cities are now decorating the stores and streets with “trees of lights” to feel the spirit of Christmas. For a group of people or family who want to tour China in Christmas, there are quite a number of places of interest and tourist attractions to see and visit.

Starting off at Hong Kong, lots of gigantic snow men and Christmas decorations are seen in big malls and stores on the island, the famous Hong Kong Disneyland is jam packed with tourists and locals from around. Victoria Harbour, Victoria Peak and Ocean Park are also very good tourist spots to see in Hong Kong. The island is filled with happiness as people stay with their families and friends to enjoy the season.

Moving on to Mainland China, Shanghai is the New York of China. It is a place where tradition and modernity intertwine. From the old cities to the tall skyscrapers, spending Christmas on the Bund along the banks of the Huangpu River is breathtaking and fills you with admiration of Shanghai metropolis. A tour in Shanghai is not complete without shopping on Nanjing Road – the longest and busiest commercial center in China. After shopping, you may want to change directions and head north to Beijing, the country’s capital and the city known to be the most historical city in China.

Beijing is one of the major tourist destinations in China, therefore, spending Christmas in this beautiful city is a must. At the Avenue of Eternal Peace, buildings and stores are decorated with Christmas ornaments and people special food to eat and spend with their families. The Beijing Opera popularly known as Peking Opera which is the national opera of China depicts the real Chinese culture with its accompanying music and costumes which makes it very artistic and breathtaking. It is definitely one of the most entertaining musical opera to witness for a unique Xmas. The Tian’annmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven are some architectural landmarks for tourists in Beijing.

If you decide to extend your stay, experiencing the Harbin Ice festival or its opening is another memorable occasion to experience during a Christmas tour in China. The opening event features the explosion of fireworks over large sculptures of ice blocks. The affair is very colorful and just puts one in the mood for festivities. This event usually starts from the 1st week of January, so the timing is perfect.

Planning your Christmas holiday at the end of the year into the beginning of another western new year in a country like China provides a wonderful Christmas experience of a lifetime.

The Author:
Lola Adewoyin writes for Passport to China.
Five secrets to studying abroad in France

If studying abroad is wonderful then studying abroad in France is wondrous.

Here are some treasures on how to best explore one of the most beautiful countries on earth in between all of those pesky tests and papers...

1. Don’t bring anything that might have to be dry cleaned! You will find doing your laundry in a Laundromat quite expensive compared to the UK, the prices for dry cleaning are astronomical, as it’s still not a very common practice. Should you discover a red wine stain on your favorite ‘dry clean only’ shirt that made its way into your suitcase against better advise, look for a Pressing or Blachisserie and ask for a “nettoyage à sec” (TIP: Before forking over for a dry cleaning bill, the best way to get a red wine stain out of clothes is by pouring its friend white wine all over it, honest!)

2. Because the water in France is a lot “softer” than in the UK, your hair and skin may not feel as clean even after washing. For this reason, it’s best not to bring your own products from home, but to buy products here that are specially adapted and produced according to the minerals in the water. You can go to any of the beauty supply stores and talk to a sales lady about it and they can direct you to a product that’s right for you.

3. For a truly interesting movie going experience in Paris, be sure to visit La Pagode. The manager of the store Bon Marché imported a real pagoda from Japan for his wife to use as a ballroom! Unfortunately they soon divorced, and it was turned into a movie theater that makes for a brilliant experience…be sure to ask for the salle japonaise. (57 rue de Babylone 75007)

4. When headed to the cinema, the matinees are always cheapest. But pay attention to the rules of each movie house, because in some this may be any film played before noon, but in others it may just be the first film of the day. Many theaters also have reduced ticket prices on Mondays and Wednesdays. (TIP: Be sure the film is in VO, version originale, played in English with subtitles and not dubbed over in French, VF!)

5. If you are studying abroad in Nice, be sure to visit one of the few internet cafés in the city, located at 8 Rue Vincent, just at the corner of Rue Pontin in the Old Town. They have wi-fi and cable TV, great food and snack, and Happy Hour for drinks starting at 5 pm. Plus it’s run by a lovely Englishman who has been living in Nice for over 15 years, and is a great resource on where to go and what to do in the city.

The Author:
Kevin Browne studied in Strasbourg, France while attending Holy Cross College. Kevin is the founder of TravelGuy! http://www.tiptopwebsite.com/travelguy.
Wide open. That aptly describes your iMac display options. Because now you have three widescreen models to choose from — including the most spacious of them all, the new 24-inch iMac. Powered by the NVIDIA 7300 GT graphics card, it offers a dramatic 1920 x 1200-pixel view of the world. How wide do you fancy your horizons?

You get the picture? Whether you’ve got your eye on the 17-inch, 20-inch or breathtaking 24-inch iMac, you’ll enjoy a splendid widescreen performance from every seat in the house. And, talk about performance, graphics on the 24-inch iMac are powered by the NVIDIA GeForce 7300 GT, which delivers up to 60% performance increase over the 20-inch model. It comes with 128MB of GDDR3 SDRAM and offers great games performance and sensational response for video and photo editing. Of course, if you’d like to climb to the performance peak, you can outfit your 24-inch iMac with the NVIDIA GeForce 7600 GT with 256MB of GDDR3 SDRAM for up to 2.3 times faster performance than the 20-inch iMac.

A 2.16GHz or 2.33GHz Intel Core 2 Duo. Up to 39% faster than its predecessor.(1) A built-in iSight for instant video conferencing on the move. Front Row with Apple Remote to dazzle everyone in the room. Now available in 15- and 17-inch models.

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http://england.edu/store.html