WEBINAR WEDNESDAY
The State of Admissions
September 2, 2020
Today’s Panelists

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Michigan State University
An association of schools and non-profit organizations in Africa working with High-Achieving, Low-Income (HALI) students to help them access international higher education opportunities.
Africa Map of HALI Organisations

- Liberia, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria
- Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo
- South Africa, Swaziland
- Ethiopia, Somaliland, Burundi, Rwanda
- Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania
- Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
AFRICAN SCIENCE ACADEMY (ASA) Pre COVID
- Financially challenged, Gifted, African girls interested in STEM
- Recruited from national schools
- Complete CAIE International A-levels in one year
- Support to apply to universities
Current situation in Ghana

- International borders are now open (1st Sept 2020)
- Partial opening of schools, however most closed till January 2021
- Strict restrictions in place for face to face gatherings

How ASA has been affected

- Unable to complete student recruitment as closed borders and uncomplete academic year
- Funding issues
- Currently supporting students from a distance

Differences in the impact of Covid-19 on schools in Ghana

- Access to the internet varies
- Many International schools still operating with online college counselling
- Many parents now have more opportunities to get involved in the process.
High School Trend– Impact of COVID-19

- Multiple Countries application– Canada, UK, Asia, Europe, Australia
- Decrease the matriculation in U.S
- Defer enrollment/ Gap year of Class 2020
- Online education vs. Campus engagement
- Test Cancellation/or inconvenience of AP test in Asia.
- Test Optional, Duolingo
- Cost sensitive – look for financial aid.
- Pandemic Protection Plan
- In accessibility of activities
- Stay in Home countries
High School Trend—Other decision factors

- Student Visa Application
- Job opportunity and Working Visa Possibility
- Immigration accessibility
- Student Well-being on campus
  - Safety and security (gun, missing, theft)
  - Friendliness vs. Racism
- Mental health
- Unpredictability of admissions expectation.
High School Trend—“Microscope on”

- Increase interest of major in Medical disciplines.
- Abidance by ED agreement
- Ethical Practice
  -- Authenticity of essay,
  -- transparency of information
  -- transcript credibility
High School Response in hybrid model

1. College Counseling Curriculum embedded tools to develop skills
2. Individual Counseling sessions including parents
3. Parents workshops
4. Virtual College information Session

- Understand the new context/challenge of application
- Enhance social emotional skills and ethical characters by BEING YOURSELF
- Rational comparison of education choices in different countries
- Research more possibilities, including pathway/dual degree options
- Precise and concise Self-demonstration in application profile
The UK Perspective - Context

- Admissions process with a heavy focus on final grades. Minimal grading available between GCSE and A-level.
- Predicted grades used to make initial ‘conditional offers’ but these are often ‘aspirational’.
- Means large numbers are made unsuccessful following receipt of results.
- Many of these ‘unsuccessful students will go to their ‘insurance’ choice or find a place through ‘Clearing’.
- Due to tuition fee caps many universities are heavily reliant on overseas student income.
- UK government cancelled final assessment for A-level in Spring with students issued calculated grades formed using an algorithm that noted GCSE performance, ‘centre-assessed grades’ and historic A-level attainment data.
- Due to concerns from less-selective institutions student number controls were implemented for domestic students.
- Government also stepped in to prevent making of unconditional offers.
Timeline of a crisis

5th July - IB results released
4th Aug - SQA results released
6th Aug - DfE announces appeals process for A-level
8th Aug - A-level results received by Universities
11th Aug - SQA announces that students will receive CAGs
12th Aug - DfE announces 'triple lock'
13th Aug - A-level results released to students
17th Aug - DfE announces students will receive CAGs
The UK Perspective - Looking forward

- Who will turn-up?
- Challenges for universities in 20/21
- Will exams happen in 2021?
- What allowances for students graduating in 2021?
- Post-qualification admissions
MSU: International Admissions Team in Fall 2019
MSU: International Admissions Team in 2020
MSU: How many international students will we have on campus this year?
MSU: Change upon change upon change...
MSU: Just a few of the admissions issues

• The move to online admitted student programming
• Test flexibility (test optional, Duolingo)
• Online tools
• May 1? June 1?
• Online “tours” and events
• Deferred admission and arrivals
• Online options
• Overseas partnerships – starting abroad
• Yet more online tools
MSU: Where are we? What have we learned?

• Living with ambiguity
• Life has changed
• The world is not only flat, but virtual
• Leading through change is difficult
• Supporting our students is critical
Questions and Thank You!

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WEBINAR WEDNESDAY
Helping Students Finance Their Studies Globally on Wednesday, October 7

SAVE THE DATE
Member Town Hall on Wednesday, September 30th