



Seeking Global Educational Opportunities? Look for an Expert.

An IECA-member independent educational consultant (IEC) has the knowledge, experience, and expertise you need.



Who benefits from hiring an IEC

An IECA member educational consultant with an international specialty has the knowledge and experience to help students and families in many circumstances, including:

- Students who seek educational opportunities outside of their country of residence, both from and to the United States.
- Expat students who want to return to their country of citizenship for education
- Students outside of the United States who have learning disabilities, mental health issues, substance use, or behavioral issues and seek appropriate placement.



How Families Benefit from IECs

IECs with international specialties are uniquely qualified to help you and your child learn about a wide range of educational opportunities around the globe and choose one that best meets your needs. Internationally focused IECs have lived outside of the United States and have spent years visiting and learning about educational systems around the world. They know the special challenges that students face during the admissions process and the transition to a foreign education. Their expertise encompasses:

- College and university bachelor, graduate, and gap year programs
- Day school/boarding school placements
- Therapeutic placements and programs with support for students with learning differences
- Summer enrichment and internships.



An IEC's top priority is identifying a good educational fit for your child

IECs provide unbiased advice about school and university options and admission processes in the United States and other countries. Their goal is to find the educational option that is the best match for each student. They focus on:

- Understanding each student's academic, social, cultural, and financial needs and desires
- Thoroughly assessing each student's educational and experiential backgrounds, capabilities, and interests
- Identifying the best options using the information they gather
- Following the highest ethical standards.

IECs work directly for the students and families who hire them and receive no money from universities, schools, and educational programs or institutions, which distinguishes them from agents and recruiters. (See [Understanding the Difference Between IECs, Recruiters, and Agents](#) for more information about these differences.)



Understanding the Difference Between IECs, Recruiters, and Agents

IECA members are hired by—and compensated by—students and their families. Because they receive no money from and have no obligation to any school, university, or other educational institution, they refer students to any school or college that is the best fit for a student’s academic, social, and cultural needs.

School and college recruiters are compensated directly by a specific school or college. Their job is to recruit as many applicants to that school as possible—even if admission rates among those students are low. A recruiter can, however be a good source of information about a specific college or school.

Agents hold contracts with a few schools or colleges. They are only paid if they convince a student to enroll in those schools. It’s been reported that agents often recommend those contracted schools exclusively, regardless of whether it is a good fit for a student, and many agents have been accused of unethical practices. Two-thirds of US colleges, including most well-known and selective colleges, refuse to work with agents.

About the Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA)

IECA was founded in 1976 as a nonprofit, professional association of established independent educational consultants. As the nation's respected voice of the profession, IECA sets the standards, leads the discussion, and serves as the public face of independent educational consulting to the media, colleges, and other professionals. When a family chooses an independent educational consultant who is a member of IECA, they are assured that the consultant is experienced, highly trained, and committed to the profession's highest standards for ethical practices.

IECA members help find the right school, college, or program for your student. IECA member educational consultants are independent from educational institutions, never accept payment from a school or program in exchange for placement, and work only in the best interest of the student and the family.

To find an IECA member, search our online database at www.IECAonline.com or call our office for a free copy of our print directory: 703-591-4850.



Independent Educational
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