

Q&A

Every week, education expert **Sanjeev Verma** will answer your queries on studying abroad. Post your questions at 'Education Q&A' on www.khaleejtimes.com.

Higher studies in US, Canada

Q: I have two sons. One is going to complete his 9th standard (Accounts) and the other one is in 8th standard (Science). I plan to send them to the USA or Canada for higher studies. Which is the right time to send them? — **Ahsan**

A: The US and Canada are the choices for many parents given the access to high quality education in both countries.

Universities in the US and Canada look at a number of things for admissions to college. High school transcripts, teacher recommendations, SAT and TOEFL scores, participation in extracurricular activities and sports are major factors that influence chances of getting in. Students must also display leadership and progressive skills. A good high school ensures the overall development and awareness of children. The US and Canadian universities place a high

degree of emphasis on non-academic activities that tend to be testimonies of overall skills on top of academic qualifications.

To help develop these range of skills, students must be encouraged to participate in activities and groups while in school and over the summer. Children should be active in school clubs and programmes, maintain excellent academic grades and balance their studies with extracurricular activities.

Enrol your sons in a summer school programme in the US in summer to understand better the requirements of the university and facilitate their exposure to the different environment.

(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.)