

第六届巡展“申请讲座”实录——北京站 2014 Application Q&A Workshop – Beijing

Host: Claire Du, Director and Founder of China Liberal Arts College Tour
Colleges: Amherst, Carleton, Franklin & Marshall, Occidental (Oxy)

General Q&A 统一问答

1. Q: How important are standard tests? Are there cut-off lines? What is the flexibility of the cut-off lines?

Oxy: A high standardized-test score is an indicator, though not the best, of the applicant's ability to communicate and express nuance ideas in class, and Oxy believes that to ensure the productiveness of college education it is necessary for applicants to have a strong standardized-test score.

Amherst: Each house has different policies, but Amherst does not have cut-off lines. Standardized tests cannot holistically represent a student's ability; nevertheless, it is largely related to a student's ability.

F&M: It's difficult for students in a test-based culture to understand selective admission. We hope our students to be competent.

Q: 标化考试有多重要? 有录取分数线吗? 这样的分数线是有弹性的吗?

Oxy: 针对我们学校而言, 标化考试达标证明了学生可以没有沟通问题, 并能在课堂中自如表达观点。我们知道 SAT 与 ACT 分数不能完整的反应学生的能力, 但其中也可以看出学生的批判性思维或是逻辑推理能力。这样的能力对保证有效的大学学习十分重要, 因此标化考试是必要的申请条件。

Amherst: 每个学校的录取政策不同, 但是 Amherst 没有录取分数线, 可以看到的录取数据是被录取学生的 SAT 均分。标化分数虽然不能完整表现学生的各项能力, 但是一定是与学生的能力相关的。大学录取更注重申请学生的整体素质, 而不仅仅是分数。

F&M: 应试招生和选择性招生是完全不同的概念。我们更希望学生在学校能有学术发展同时, 也注重学生作为一位社会人是否有与校园文化相符的特质, 而非仅仅关注学生成绩是否达标。

2. Q: How is a decision made? How many people will review an applicant's package? How much attention would be paid and rounds of discussion would be done before a decision is made?

Carleton: At least 2 admission officers (AOs) will review one applicant's package and complete a review form. Background information, standardized test scores, GPA, activities list, essays, and letters of recommendation are in the application package. 2-13 AOs will come together to make a final decision.

F&M: College admission is a human process, and based on the need of colleges. AOs will admit applicant of the best fit.

Q: 招生办到底是怎样完成招生工作的?

Carleton: 至少会有两位招生官一起阅读一位学生的材料，材料内容包括：学生背景，标化成绩，成绩单，活动，个人陈述，和推荐信等。招生官在看完材料后会填写一张评论单。在招生办做决定时，会有 2-13 位招生官聚在一起提供不同的意见，因此不会因为其中一位招生官心情不佳而影响大家的录取结果。

F&M: 招生是一个以人为本的过程。或许你会觉得有时招生官的录取决定很随机，但其实一切录取决定都由学校的需求为标准。招生办会选择最适合学校的学生。

3. Q: About essays: What type of essays are admission officers looking for? Especially for Chinese students, is there a way of thinking about how to write essays?

Oxy: Write about everything outside the application form e.g. personal qualities, contribution to the community.
Authenticity is crucial: be real, be yourself.
Proof read to avoid mistakes.

Amherst:

Be flexible and creative.
Essays should not be an exclusively factual account, emphasize more on different perspectives, and one's thoughts on different levels.

Q: 大学希望在个人陈述中看到什么? 有什么中国学生需要注意的吗?

Oxy: 一切在其他申请材料中没有表现的东西。大学想从学生的个人陈述中了解学生的个性和学生在所在的社区内扮演了怎样的角色。更重要的是真实性。个人陈述有字数限制，因此不应该写成自传，能展示个人特点即可。另外，要提

醒大家在写完个人陈述后需要好好检查，不要因为拼写错误闹笑话，并给招生官留下不好的印象。

Amherst: 个人陈述需要展示其他申请材料以外的东西，并且应该展示学生对所描述的经历的思考而非事情本身。我们希望看到学生能用不同的角度思考问题。

4. Q: Should essays focus on how and why a thing happened, and its impact, rather than the story itself?

Carleton: Schools want to know the motivation behind what students do, and why to be out in the world.

F&M: Don't over worry. Don't try to make up uniqueness. Think about how AOs would introduce you to other colleagues by describing you in 2 or 3 sentences and work on that direction. Do it yourself!

Q: 所以个人陈述应该着重描写事情发生的原因和造成的影响吗?

F&M: 我们想通过了解学生去做一件事情的原因发掘他们的兴趣所在，进而得知这个学生是个什么样的人。学生们不应该过多担心他们的文书不够特别，也不需要专门为了显得自己的独特之处花太多心思。在写文书的时候，想一下招生官看完了会怎样一两三句话概括你。这样就可以把握文书的方向。最后，一定要自己写文书，不要请他人代写。招生官有各样的方法检测文书到底是不是由学生自己写的。

5. Q: So if I'm nerdy, I should write about how I'm nerdy?

Carleton: Is there a problem of being nerdy?

Q: 假如一个学生是书呆子，他就应该完整的展示自己的书生气?

Carleton: 是呀。做书呆子有什么不好的吗?

6. Q: Many Chinese students do activities to fill their check-lists rather than because they are devoted. What are colleges looking for? How can colleges tell if applicants are truly passionate about what they do?

Carleton: We want students to pursue things that make them happy, and excited to get up every day. Student should think about ways to spending time that maximizes the enjoyment they gain.

Amherst: Colleges recognize that opportunities for extracurricular activities in China are not as abundant in the US. Colleges want to see activities in which applicants made a difference, or participation in a long-term, even if applicants only participated in small number of events.

Q: 有些学生好像是为了完成活动清单上的活动而机械地去山区支教，或是去做志愿者。那么大学想从学生做的活动中看到什么？

Carleton: 我们希望学生能做真正给他们带来乐趣，给予他们起床的动力的活动。学生们应该思考如何最有效地把时间利用在能让他们感到快乐的活动上。

Amherst: 我们知道在中国，课外活动机会不如美国。美国有青年活动的文化，有各式各样的体育运动与社团。即使参加的课外活动少，只要能在参加活动时对活动作出贡献，坚持参加喜爱的活动就可以了。

Questions from Audience 观众问答

1. A farther: International schools and local schools in China are different in terms of academic pressure and activity chances. How do admission officers manage the difference?

F&M: Admission officers value student based on context, and the potential ability of students to make full use of opportunities in college.

一位父亲：中国的国际学校与其他学校有很大区别，因为国际学校课业轻松，有更多的精力做活动。请问大学招生时对学生所在的学校类型有特别的考虑吗？

F&M: 我们评估学生是都会考虑学生背景，比如学校学习氛围。对于在中国传统学校学习，高中时期只参与了一两个活动的学生，我们也会预测他们会如何利用大学中丰富的活动资源以判断学生的潜能。

2. Q: Because of limited vocabulary, some Chinese applicants can only write their essays in very simple English. Other students who hire people to write for them have beautiful but fake essays. How do colleges see this problem?

Carleton: Schools expect applicants to at least have the ability of accurately expressing ideas. The standards are set to ensure that students can handle class work. On that basis, teachability and potential of future progress are valued more.

Q: 因为英语的限制，有些中国学生的文书很简单，当然无法跟雇佣了文书写作公司的学生的文书相比。大学招生时会怎样考虑这个问题？

Carleton: 虽然我们知道中国学生的英语书面表达不可能完美，但是我们要求学生至少能准确表达自己的想法，因为只有这样他们才可能在学校中学习发展。学生的语言水平还是会纳入考虑的。

3. Q: So as long as the applicant's English is understandable, ideas conveyed are more important?

OXY: Some applicants try to sound sophisticated but end up convoluted, making their essays ineffective. No applicant has to have perfect English, but should have English at a level that prepares students thrive.

Q: 所以只要能让人读懂，文书中表达的想法比语言更重要？

Oxy: 有些学生为了展示自己的英语水平特意用了许多高端词汇，却使文章变得很复杂难懂，适得其反。我们不期望每一位学生都有完美的英语，但学生必须要有足以帮助他们在学校学习生活的基本英语水平。

4. Q: What are 3+2 programs with engineering like?

Amherst: For Amherst, Students get 2 degrees: LAC degree and engineering degree. 1st and 2nd year in Amherst studying maths and computer sciences, or other science subjects, 3rd year in Dartmouth School of Engineering, 4th year back in Amherst, 5th year in Dartmouth School of Engineering. Students apply after they completed 2 years in Amherst. Terms and condition for each school are different.

Carleton: Such programs are not the only choice, if students want to pursuit a career in engineering. Graduate programs are also a good choice. Problem solving ability is the most important ability an engineer should have, and can be trained in LACs.

Q: 文理学校的 3+2 工程项目是怎样的？

Amherst:文理学院的宗旨是不提倡以职业为终点的专业培训，所以大多没有工程项目。但是在 Amherst，3+2 项目是这样的：大学前两年，学生在 Amherst 学习数学或其他自然科学的课程，并以前两年的成绩为基础申请 3+2 项目。第三

年，参加项目的学生会在一个综合大学，例如达特茅斯学习工程，第四年回到 Amherst,第五年再到达特茅斯的工程学院。在完成学业后，学生会拿到 Amherst 和达特茅斯工程院两个学位。每个学校的情况都有不同的情况。

*Carleton:*其实要学工程还有许多其他选择，比如可以读研究生。文理学院教育学生成为解决问题的人，工程师就是这样解决问题的人，所以文理学院的学生很适合做工程师。

5. Q: Inequality of educational resources in China is severe. Do colleges have different standards for students in different regions in China?

Claire: The tour is meant to help admission officers better understand regional cultural, linguistic, and economic differences in China. That's why China LAC tour has been to Changsha, Wuhan, Zhengzhou, to show that admission officers can't apply the same standards to students in parts of China.

F&M: Students will not be disadvantaged because of limited resources. Such problems are not exclusive to China.

Q: 中国教育资源分配极不均衡，招生官会对不同地区来的申请学生有不同的考虑吗？

*Claire:*这就是当初举办文理学院巡展时想要改变的问题，我们想向招生官展示，并不是中国的所有地区都如北京上海繁华。这就是为什么在历年我们把巡展带到了长沙，武汉，郑州，今年要带到成都和杭州。我们想展示不同地区的经济文化差异，正是因为这样的差异学校不应该用同样的标准看待不同地区的学生。

*F&M:*招生官对无法享受更好的教育资源的学生会有不同要求。教育资源不均衡并不只是中国的问题，所以招生官不是第一次遇到这样的情况不必担心。

6. Q: Should essays relate to activities? Or else how can applicants show merits and meanings of the activities they have done?

Amherst: In common app there is section to allow students explain more about their activities. Not necessary to write in essays.

Q: 文书中是不是应该提到活动，不然怎么能显示活动的特点和我对它的感受呢？

Amherst: 其实 Common Application 中已经有这样的一栏活动详细信息，提供给学生机会细节展示活动。

Advice/Tips 来自 AO 的建议

Oxy: Prepare well. Be aware of deadlines, and don't expect exceptions. Informative websites are useful.

F&M: Be yourself and confident of whom you are. Applicants confident in what they can bring are most attractive.

Carleton: Like things outside of college application. These can be sources of relaxation in college studies afterwards.

Amherst: Relax and enjoy the process, though impossible but crucial. College application is an opportunity to develop self-knowledge. Love as much schools as possible, and have confidence.

Oxy:好好准备，看清递交材料的截止日期。虽然有时招生官会心软，但是不要期望总会有。学校官方网站上都会有详细信息。

F&M:老套但实用：做好自己。要相信自己，因为这样的自信最吸引招生官了。

Carleton:要有大学申请以外的生活。喝茶，慢跑，折纸飞机，一切能让你开心的事情都很好，因为这些活动可以让人放松，更因为这些爱好使一个人变得有趣。大学课程压力很大，这样的放松也是很重要的。

Amherst:希望你们享受申请过程，放轻松。这个境界基本无法达到，但是这也是很重要的一点。

申请也会让你对自己有更深刻的认识，你会意识到自己是个怎样的人，想要成为怎样的人。

最后，大胆地喜欢学校吧，越多越好。被录取的机会很小，但是喜欢的学校越多，录取结果终究会有更多你喜欢的学校。对自己要有信心。