

THE TRUE VALUE OF STUDYING ABROAD REVEALED

- *New bespoke formula - The Caxton Ranking - combining tuition fees, employability, living expenses and local cultural factors reveals 10 of the best overseas universities*
 - *The USA and Australia lead the way in The Caxton Ranking*
- *British students could save £15,000 per year by choosing an overseas education, shows new study by Caxton Premier into the true value of studying overseas*

For the first time, 10 of the top overseas universities have been assessed for more than just quality of education and cost of tuition. The Caxton Ranking looks at the return on investment of education in top universities worldwide based on a bespoke formula of the quality of living, local house prices, employability, World University Ranking and cultural advantages.

The study, to mark the launch of Caxton Premier and account management service by leading foreign exchange specialist Caxton, reveals that the USA tops the list, with Stanford and Harvard leading the way, with the University of Melbourne, Australia in third place.

The research also found that British students could make savings of around £15,000 per year – nearly two years' tuition fees in the UK - by opting to study at certain institutions overseas. For example, Brits choosing to study in Hong Kong, China and Germany will benefit from a better value education, where the costs involved in moving, living and studying are more cost effective than the equivalent standard of university in the UK.

Living and studying at Lund University in Sweden, which has a vibrant cultural scene and a World University Ranking of 66, is £9,919 per year¹, compared with the UK, where the cost of living and further education can reach up to £26,000 annually². Meanwhile, Maastricht, one of the oldest cities in Holland, offers a desirable destination for visiting parents and friends with all-in costs of just £11,961 per year.

The exchange rate is also an important deciding factor in more than half (54%) of parents' and students' country of choice. The analysis shows that savings of up to £3,700 per year³ can be made by using currency specialist Caxton Premier.

With many British students yearning to broaden their horizons and open up career opportunities, the Caxton Premier study examines many factors contributing to the true value of studying abroad. By analysing the price of tuition fees, travel, accommodation and living costs, and weighing these factors against the international academic standing of the universities, employability and cultural factors, it offers a more rounded and comprehensive comparison of the costs and advantages involved in overseas study in education hotspots across the globe.

¹ Data from Numbeo - the world's largest database of user contributed data about cities and countries worldwide.

² Business Insider, <http://uk.businessinsider.com/most-expensive-universities-in-the-uk-2017-2/#17-the-royal-central-school-of-speech-and-drama-1>

³ Savings made using Caxton Premier by securing the best rates, compared with using Natwest and Lloyds for international currency transfers. Based on cost of living and education; rates correct as at 1/6/2018

The Caxton Ranking – The True Cost of Overseas Study

University	World University Ranking ⁱ	Employability Ranking ⁱⁱ	Cost of living annually	Cost of living over four years ⁱⁱⁱ	House prices ⁴	Savings with Caxton (duration of study)	The Caxton Ranking	Culture factor
Stanford University - US	2	1	£45,189	£180,756	£490,698	£3,702 (4)	1	Golden Gate Bridge, California Academy of Sciences, Pier 39
Harvard University - US	3	3	£45,524	£182,096	£436,292	£3,725 (4)	2	Museum of Fine Arts, USS Constitution Museum, The Freedom Trail
University of Melbourne – Australia	32	7	£23,559	£94,236	£278,779	£2,275 (4)	3	Federation Square, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Cricket Ground, National Sports Museum
National University of Singapore, Asia	22	30	£25,974	£103,896	£736,624	£2,538 (4)	4	Night Safari Singapore, Sentosa
The annual cost of further education and living in the UK can reach up to £26,000, £78,000 over three years and £104,000 over four years								
University of McGill, Montreal, Canada	35	42	£29,505	£118,020	£148,849	£2,667 (4)	5	Mont Royal, Basilique Notre-Dame, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
University of Hong Kong	44	20	£25,033	£75,099	£1,188,419	£1,779 (4)	6	Victoria Peak, Lan Kwai Fong, Man Mo Temple
Peking University – China	41	23	£18,236	£72,944	£680,841	£1,924 (4)	7	Forbidden City, Beijing Ancient Observatory, Beijing Capital Museum
Lund University – Sweden	93	Not Ranked	£9,719	£29,157	£175,241	£1,021 (3)	8	Lund Cathedral, Botanical Gardens, Kulturen, Skrylle Nature Reserve
Maastricht University – Netherlands	103	171	£11,129	£35,151	£147,527	£1,120 (3)	9	Basilica of St. Servatius, Vrijthof, Bonnefontenmuseum
Ludwig-Maximilians, Germany	66	131	£9,097	£36,387	£329,450	£1,140 (3)	10	Oktoberfest, Frauenkirche, Peterskirche

In addition, the findings of an independent poll by Caxton Premier reveal that 49% of Brits currently studying in the UK think that foreign universities offer good value for money. While 70% of students surveyed said that tuition fees in the UK are too high.

Whilst attending top universities such as Stanford or Harvard in the USA more than doubles⁵ the overall cost of getting a degree in the UK (£180,756 at Stanford vs £78,000 in the UK), future employability, the quality of education, the cultural experiences they present and the more intangible, qualitative aspects of studying abroad, means these institutions provide an attractive offering for ambitious students who want to qualify at the world's best institutions.

Edward Gott, Head of Premier Clients at Caxton, said, "There's a rising trend for families considering a higher education abroad for their offspring. There are more than 11,000 British young people studying in America alone, with applications up 30% since 2013. The number of UK students in Canada, France, Germany and the Netherlands has also increased since 2010. Value for money is one of the primary reasons for considering a move, as is the opportunity to broaden one's horizons.

"We're working closely with a number of our Premier clients who fund children at overseas universities, as well as retired or mature students looking to study abroad. Living in a foreign country presents a number of challenges – from making regular payments for tuition fees and living costs, to working out a savings plan and managing unexpected currency fluctuations.

⁴ Numbeo research data

⁵ Based on figure of £26k annual UK fee (£78,000 over three years – the average length of a degree course in the UK)- <http://uk.businessinsider.com/most-expensive-universities-in-the-uk-2017-2/#17-the-royal-central-school-of-speech-and-drama-1>

"All clients like to budget and manage costs and we take time to understand their needs, hedge their specific currency exposure and set up the transfer of funds to work like clockwork. It takes the headache away and allows them to focus on the fun stuff."

The Caxton Ranking was created in partnership with *Spear's* magazine to mark the launch of Caxton Premier. By managing clients' overseas currency transfers and securing the best rates, Caxton Premier can save customers thousands of pounds per annum, enabling students to make the most of their time and money, and open up doors to incredible experiences around the world.

For more information, please contact CaxtonFX@tinmancomms.com / 020 7440 9826.

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Notes to editors:

For further information, please contact June Field, Head of Communication (June.Field@caxtonfx.com / 020 7042 7648) or visit www.caxtonfx.com/premier.

Research into the The Caxton Return on Investment Ranking of Overseas Study was carried out by *Spear's* on behalf of Caxton Premier in May 2018. The ranking is taken from a sample of ten of the top overseas universities, chosen by location.

Independent research by 3GEM polled 1000 British parents and 750 British students on behalf of Caxton Premier in May 2018.

About Caxton Premier

Whether financing a child's education at one of the world's top universities or investing in overseas property, Caxton Premier allocates customers their own dedicated account manager to take the pain out of payments. Its expert account managers will analyse the market to secure clients the most beneficial exchange rates for transfers, so customers needn't worry about often frustrating currency conversion and can focus more on how to make best use of their funds.

About Caxton

Caxton is an international payments company, founded, run and regulated in the UK. Launched in 2002 by Rupert Lee-Browne, with £25,000 start-up capital, the business now turns over £1 billion a year. Lee-Browne's model has been to undercut traditional providers while offering higher levels of customer service.

Caxton pioneered the use of online platforms and pre-paid currency cards to offer customers simpler, quicker, safer and more cost-effective international payments. A Caxton Card allows customers real-time management of multiple currencies, with free international ATM usage and the ability to buy, hold and sell currency at locked-in exchange rates.

Caxton's London-based advisers offer expert guidance to customers, to ensure they get the best value from their foreign currency exchange.

The business was recently awarded a 5-star rating by MoneyFacts for its customer focus, and holds a 5-star rating on Trustpilot, an independent customer reviews site.