

SPARK PREP NEWS

SPARKPREP



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Q3/2023





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WEBINAR

NU & LAC - Choosing the right university

Exploring your job opportunities after graduating in the U.S

Whether you prefer the vibrant energy of a National University or the intimate setting of a Liberal Arts College, both have unique advantages to consider. Remember, a 'fit' school will offer the best opportunities for personal growth and pave the way for your career path. It's crucial to choose a university where you can thrive academically, socially, and personally.

This webinar was delivered to help our students make well-informed decisions for their future academic and professional success. We're glad to partner with the Career Pass Institute (CPI) in this event and have our experts to guide you through every step of the way.

Topics discussed during the webinar:

- Understanding the difference: National Universities vs. Liberal Arts Colleges – Which one aligns best with your academic and career goals? Learn about the unique characteristics of each system to make an informed choice.
- Insider tips for college applications – Get expert advice on choosing the right schools for your college application process. Discover strategies to stand out in your applications and maximize your chances of acceptance.
- Unlocking opportunities for international students – Gain valuable insights into the job-hunting process in the US after graduation. Learn how attending a US school can open doors to exciting career prospects and enhance your professional journey.

About the speakers:

- Zoey Nguyen - Spark Prep's Admissions Expert
- Tony Duong & Linh Bui - CPI's Experts

The webinar was successfully held on July 02, 2023 with a recording available to watch anytime on our YouTube channel.

Follow us on social media to stay updated with the latest events and news!

HANOI & HO CHI MINH CITY

CREATIVE WRITING

Start writing your own stories with our Creative Writing course!

Learn creative writing to develop your ideas and start writing fiction, aid your written English and more. This course is perfect for you whether you want to write stories, essays or books. By the end of the course, you should be well on your way to writing your own story and sharing it with the world by submitting it to international literary competitions or getting it published.

The primary focus of this course is to improve at creative writing by creating a fictional short story and learning the essential elements that make a well-written, unique piece of writing. Students refine familiar techniques such as brainstorming, character development, plot structure, creating a setting, and the revision process. They will also be challenged to practice advanced writing techniques such as craft, pacing, voice, dialogue, tone, and more.

Course Information

Date: August 1-4, Tuesday - Friday (the expected dates might vary)

Time: 2:00 - 5:30 pm

Duration: 14 hours

Location: Hanoi & HCMC

Number of Students: 4 - 7

Student Grade: Entering 9 - 11, with IELTS 6.0+ or equivalent. Students are not required to have prior professional writing experience. The course will be more interesting if you already have a passion for writing, especially in the form of short stories, narratives or fiction.

Contact us for more information about registration and promotion.

GAIN A COMPETITIVE EDGE WITH A THOUGHTFULLY CURATED ACTIVITIES LIST TAILORED TO YOUR UNIQUE STRENGTHS

Special support for students starting to use the package Only in 2023

Limited Time Offer: Receiving special support for crafting a compelling Activities list in your college application when signing up for our Short term admissions coaching package

Your Activities list is a crucial component of your college application. It provides admissions committees with a window into your passions, interests, and contributions beyond the classroom. Showcasing a well-rounded, strategic, and impactful Activities list can set you apart in the college admissions process.

How our package can elevate your application:

Strategic Guidance: Our experienced college application coach will work closely with you to identify activities that best align with your intended majors and interests. Whether it's international competitions, research opportunities, or other pursuits, we'll help you strategically select the most impactful activities to highlight.

Personalized Approach: Each student is unique, and so should be their Activities list. We tailor our guidance to showcase your individual strengths and passions, ensuring your application stands out from the rest.

Comprehensive Support: We provide hands-on assistance in crafting concise, compelling activity descriptions that showcase your accomplishments effectively, leaving a lasting impression on admissions officers.

Call us to learn more about our services and secure your spot for college application success!

The short term admissions coaching package is the best option for students who have less than 1 year to prepare for their college applications. Let us know when you wish to know about student proposals designed to fit each student's specific goal and timeline.



SPARK PREP CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE PROJECT "SELF-GUIDED CAREER GUIDANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS" PUBLISHED BY HUONG NGHIEP SONG AN

Are you a high school or university student seeking an exciting opportunity to study abroad? Do you dream of embarking on a transformative journey that aligns perfectly with your passions and future career aspirations? If the answer is yes, we have some fantastic news for you!

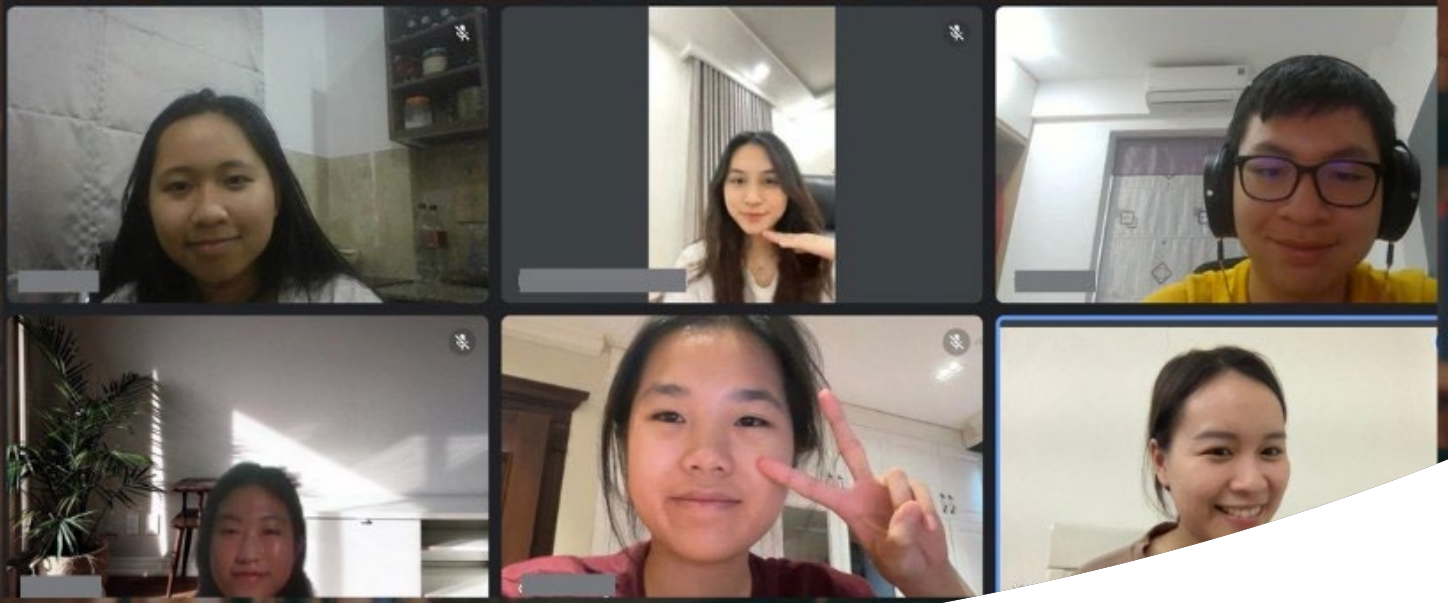
We are thrilled to announce the release of the ebook "Self-guided Career Guidance for International Students". This is a unique project carried out by Huong nghiep Song An (a Career Advising company) and contributed partly by Spark Prep team. This comprehensive guide is designed specifically to support ambitious students in navigating the path to your dream study destination and preparing for a successful future career.

The material can assist you in:

- Uncovering your perfect study destination: The ebook provides invaluable insights and advice on choosing the right destination based on your intended majors, cultural interests, and lifestyle preferences.
- Getting tailored advice for your intended majors: Picking the right major can be a significant decision with long-lasting implications. We can help you identify your academic passions and align them with potential majors that suit your unique strengths and interests.
- Preparing for your future career: We understand that studying abroad is not just about the academic experience; it's also about preparing for your future career and personal growth. You will find essential tips and strategies to help you leverage your international education, build a strong professional network, and position yourself for success in the competitive job market.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to set yourself on the right course toward a fulfilling study abroad experience and a successful future career. Download the ebook today and embark on a journey of self-discovery and growth!

Visit our page to get your copy: <https://sparkprep.com/khoa-hoc-va-ebook>



CELEBRATING YOUR NARRATIVE WRITING JOURNEY WITH SPARK PREP!

As the Narrative Writing course came to a close, we couldn't be more thrilled to celebrate the incredible progress and hard work each of our students has put into refining their writing skills.

The purpose of this course was not only to improve the students' writing skills but also to equip them with a valuable tool that will undoubtedly benefit them in their college applications and beyond. We believe that the power of storytelling lies in each student's unique voice and perspective, and your ability to communicate your experiences, passions, and aspirations through a well-crafted narrative will make your applications stand out among the rest.

After completing the courses, all students are invited to schedule a one-on-one consultation with our experienced writing coach to get additional support as you continue refining your writing skills and prepare for the college admissions process.

Once again, thank you for being a part of this enriching journey with us! We can't wait to see your stories unfold with confidence in all your college applications.



Narrative Writing Class - Student Testimonials:

“Teachers' way of imparting knowledge enhances students' initiative. I like how Ms. An breaks down the theory of complex writing methods into simple and easy to understand steps. Through her patience, she created a positive learning environment that encouraged all students to participate in the classroom. With effective and engaging teaching methods, I believe that not only me but also my classmates have improved their Narrative Writing skills.”

“The course gave me an interesting experience when listening to my classmates' writing and receiving suggestions from everyone to improve my story. The course also helped me open my eyes when I was guided meticulously from the process of forming to completing a personal story.”

“I find the teaching content is built with a tight and practical structure, helping us to learn Narrative Writing from basic to advanced. The exercises in the course are creative and useful to help me hone my writing skills and gain more confidence in communicating my ideas effectively.”

“The course brings in-depth content that I have never heard of before (eg global/local revision), especially the knowledge is very interesting and interesting so I never get bored when learning.”

“Teachers' way of imparting knowledge enhances students' initiative. I like how Ms. An breaks down the theory of complex writing methods into simple and easy to understand steps. Through her patience, she created a positive learning environment that encouraged all students to participate in the classroom. With effective and engaging teaching methods, I believe that not only me but also my classmates have improved their Narrative Writing skills.”

“With an interesting way of teaching and communicating, Ms. An captured our attention by asking various questions in the lecture slides. Furthermore, she gives me very helpful advice after school - something I find quite rare in other teachers.”



A Recap of the Spark Prep Class of 2027 Graduation Ceremony

CONGRATULATIONS
2027
CLASS OF

We know the future holds incredible opportunities for discovery, and we're excited to hear about how you continue to challenge yourselves as you move through college and beyond. Good luck to you all, and congratulations again - Every one of you." - Message from Luke Taylor & Cori Marquis - Our Founders of Spark Prep.

We hope this message finds you all in great spirits and still basking in the joy and excitement of the recently concluded graduation party. The Graduation Ceremony was a heartwarming celebration of our graduating students' hard work, dedication, and outstanding achievements throughout the year. Every step of this journey we have embarked on together is significant, and we believe it's crucial to acknowledge the growth and progress that each student has made.

GRADUATION CEREMONY



GRADUATES

27

To our graduating students, we extend our warmest congratulations once again! As you embark on the next chapter of your lives, transitioning to colleges and universities, always remember the dedication and perseverance that brought you to this point. We have no doubt that you will continue to excel in all your endeavors and make a positive impact on the world.

At Spark Prep, we take immense pride in being a part of your academic journey. As you navigate through new challenges and embrace new opportunities, always remember that we are here cheering you on every step of the way.

Once again, congratulations on your graduation, and we wish you all the best in your bright future ahead!

Scan QR code to watch our event recap video



STUDENT'S STORY



Hoang Nghia Duc - our outstanding student won numerous scholarships and financial aids from many U.S universities

In the application cycle 2022-23, Nghia Duc has been accepted to 5 prestigious universities (equivalent to more than VND 17.6 billion), including Washington and Lee University - #11 LAC (\$62,960/year), DePauw University - #45 LAC (\$42,000/year), Olaf College - #63 LAC (\$31,000/year), Rhodes College - #55 LAC, and Temple University - #121 NU (\$21,500/year). All these universities have been listed as the best universities with exceptional undergraduate teaching in the US - according to the U.S. News 2022.

During 3 years at Hanoi-Amsterdam High School for the Gifted, Duc has proven himself as an outstanding student with impressive results in test prep: IELTS 8.0 Overall, SAT 1520/1600; and a 9.7/10 GPA.

Since primary school, Duc got fascinated by English and financial issues through interesting news and the novel The Great Gatsby he spent time reading after school hours. Growing up with the love and care of his grandparents, Duc gradually aroused his passion for learning and discovery in any circumstances. This motivated him to become an active participant in debate competitions and help him win many high prizes in English contests.

Besides academic development, Duc also made positive contributions to the community where he has been a part of. With the prevalence of “the culture of begging” in Vietnam, Duc aimed to become a financial analyst to promote development-oriented policies for socio-economic infrastructure, vocational training based on in-depth research, and then provide job opportunities, as well as raise awareness about the importance of self-reliance towards sustainable development for the country. To cultivate

CONGRATULATIONS!



HOANG NGHIA DUC

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY
DEPAUW UNIVERSITY
OLAF COLLEGE
RHODES COLLEGE
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

knowledge and real-life experience, he also spent time in various extracurricular programs such as planning activities for children suffering from wartime Agent Orange, leading all offstage work and serving as Head of Organization, Vice President of the Club in different organizations... All of those valuable experiences were consistently presented in his college application components.

To help Duc get an edge in the admissions process, Spark Prep's coach showed him how to use structure, tone, and personal narrative effectively in his essay. For "Why School" essays, Duc was advised on how to choose words, research reviews, and discussed with alumni to better understand the learning environment of colleges he intended to apply to, and write persuasive and in-depth essays to impress admissions officers. During the writing process, the "Essay Tracker" tool developed by Spark Prep also helped him track the completion progress of each essay, allowing Duc to manage his time and finish them in a timely manner.

STUDENT'S STORY

HAVERFORD
COLLEGE

Uyen - Our excellent student got into the top U.S. university with a full-ride scholarship

Uyen was a dynamic and talented student who started working with Spark Prep in 11th grade. With her constant efforts, Uyen has been accepted to Haverford College with a full-ride scholarship of \$90,382/year for 4 years of education (total value of \$361,528 - equivalent to VND 8.4 billion) - which could be regarded as a rare case in the application process. The college was ranked #18 among the top liberal arts universities with exceptional undergraduate teaching in the US – according to the U.S. News 2022.

During high school, Uyen became captivated by abstract philosophical and anthropological theories. She was always eager to discover the human-nature relationship, especially in the golden age of technology. With her progressive and inquisitive spirit, Uyen wrote lots of essays on these topics and won many prestigious awards in national and international writing competitions.

To enrich her knowledge and real-life experience, Uyen participated in many meaningful extracurricular activities and internship programs. She held different positions from volunteer, and intern to Founder/President/Vice-President in various organizations, and undertook key responsibilities such as editing publications for the school's website, coordinating research seminars, organizing training sessions/academic discussions for students, etc. All of those valuable experiences were perfectly expressed in her college application components.

CONGRATULATIONS!

UYEN

HAVERFORD COLLEGE



★ **TOP 18**
TOP UNIVERSITY
IN AMERICA

WITH A FULL SCHOLARSHIP



To increase her admission chances, Spark Prep guided her on how to research college information and suggested a school list that matched her academic goal and potential. To support Uyen better in preparing for the A-Level History exam - which was one of the most challenging parts of her study, Luke - our coach - helped Uyen gain more confidence by showing her how to dig deeper into historical events and analyze as well as interpret historical sources. For her personal essay, Uyen was taken through ways to pick up fascinating ideas in the essay flow and choose the right words & sentences to convey her story in the most compelling ways. In the final stage of her college application process, Uyen learnt about emotional balance and could make the most of it to maintain her mentally healthy habits. This contributed greatly to the success of her college application and was said to be one of the best things she appreciated when working with Spark Prep.

STUDENT'S STORY



Northwestern
University

Tran Minh Huy - top 1% of SAT test-takers got into Northwestern University

Minh Huy started working with Spark Prep when he was in grade 10. Thanks to early college preparation and constant efforts, Huy has been accepted to Northwestern University with a Biological Sciences major in early decision. This prestigious institution was ranked #24 in U.S. News Best Global Universities and in the top 32 universities offering high training quality in biological sciences majors.

During his years at Berkshire School (Massachusetts, USA), Huy delivered his outstanding academic performance by achieving 117/120 TOEFL, 1560/1600 SAT and 4.2/4.3 GPA, with high scores in the sciences subjects.

From an early age, Huy got attracted to biology through interesting English books and materials he read with his mother every evening. With the unconditional love and support of his mother, Huy gradually nurtured his interest in new scientific theories and health issues. Aiming to develop a new treatment for human disease, Huy spent a lot of time in the school laboratory researching DNA samples, antimicrobial peptides, and protein modification. His passion for science exploration acted as a great source of inspiration, which was exquisitely displayed in his personal statement.

Motivated to pursue such a challenging major as Biological Sciences, Huy actively conducted many research projects and found learning opportunities outside of school to enrich his knowledge from real-life experiences. With his remarkable performance, Huy became a prominent member of the Advanced Math and Science Research at Berkshire School with significant contributions such as leveraging binding prediction programs to simulate protein-to-spike virus interactions, performing cell splitting, and conducting mammalian cell transfection.

To help Huy hone his important research skills, Spark Prep recommended him enroll in online science seminars & courses and instructed him on how to write and present research reports. During that process, Huy learned different scientific approaches, analysis/argument skills, and techniques to increase coherence and cohesion, which laid a solid foundation for his academic pursuit.

CONGRATULATIONS!



TRAN MINH HUY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Specialization in Biological Sciences

Top 1% ✨
highest SAT score in the world

Apart from that, Huy also played important roles in several extracurriculars such as: leading cultural activities & monthly meetings for the school community, editing newspaper articles, organizing poetry discussions, overseeing tutoring sessions in his high school, etc.

During the college application process, Huy also encountered difficulties in improving his SAT scores and writing personal statements. In order to enhance his deeper comprehension skills and higher-order thinking on the SAT, Spark Prep's coach helped Huy consolidate his knowledge in reading, writing, language, and math; as well as shared helpful tips & strategies to answer each type of question. With strategic test-taking techniques, Minh Huy achieved the SAT breakthrough when he increased his score from 1410 to 1560/1600 – which put him among the top 1% of test takers. For personal statements, Spark Prep showed Huy how to choose ideas/stories/style/voice/tone for the essay, find meaningful moments of his personal life, and create hooks and messages that he wished to deliver.

In each essay, Huy expressed his desire and efforts to contribute to the community through his endeavor and passion for science. Spark Prep's coaches greatly appreciated Huy's hard work throughout the college application process, especially the way he always asked insightful questions, improved his performance based on constructive feedback, and exerted a lot of effort on crafting his personal statement.

Thanks to an effective study planner with his coach, Huy made great progress in his time management skills. With the support of Spark Prep's "Activity Planner/Organizer" and "Resource Tracker", Huy also sharpened his skills in researching, analyzing, and managing personal tasks, which contributed a lot to the successes in his academic life and beyond.



Spark Prep's Personal Development Bootcamp

Our Personal Development Bootcamp was designed to ignite students' leadership potential, foster personal growth, and empower them with invaluable insights for the college application journey! We offered the comprehensive backdrop for a transformative experience. All participants were invited to stay engaged in dynamic workshops, interactive activities, and inspirational discussion sessions.

The three themes of this summer camp:

Leadership and Character: Unleash the leader within you as we delve into essential leadership skills and qualities. Learn how to inspire others, communicate effectively, and make a positive impact in your community.

Growth and Values: Embrace personal growth and explore your core values. Discover what drives you, understand your passions, and create a roadmap to achieve your dreams.

Academics: Get ahead with our academic sessions! Sharpen your study skills, develop research techniques, and prepare for the challenges of higher education.

Our Bootcamp's Purposes:

- Empower students to unlock their full potential and excel in all areas of life.
- Equip participants with essential tools and strategies for the college application process.
- Foster a supportive and nurturing environment for personal and academic growth.
- Create lifelong memories and lasting friendships with like-minded peers.

Program Info:

Date: July 22 & 23, 2023

Time: 09:00 - 16:00 - 1.5 hour lunch/rest break

Location: Hanoi & HCMC

Student Grade: Entering Grades 9 - 12

Number of Students: 9 (maximum)


English Proficiency: IELTS 6.5+






SPARK PREP - EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING & TEST PREP COMPANY

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