

Exercise walk-through

4.4

Find Good Fit Colleges

GAC Study and Communication Skills

Method — Key knowledge: separate availability from preference

Fit concerns the relationship between a learner's needs and a course's actual conditions. First check whether required conditions are met. Unknown information stays unknown until a suitable source confirms it. Only then compare preferences such as course tasks, feedback or class size. A famous name cannot replace a missing requirement.

A cost comparison must state its scope. Add each included cost once, using the same period and currency. Keep an unconfirmed award separate from the unfunded total. Ask an authorised person about formal conditions; a friend's experience can suggest a question but cannot confirm the current rule.

Method — Source A: Lina's priorities and information record

Lina wants a course that uses supervised design projects and feedback on her own contribution. She has a completed secondary qualification and a language certificate recorded at fictional Level L2. Her family can make 124,000 RMB available for the first year, including travel. She prefers smaller discussion classes, but she has not set a maximum class size. Her own reader-tested poster is evidence of an interest in revision; it does not prove that a particular college is suitable.

For this practice, the following entries come from fictional current admissions and fee notices. Lina has not received an offer or an award. Her friend says Riverstone is famous and that “everyone gets its maximum award”. The friend has no award letter or authority to confirm eligibility.

Method — Source B: comparison record

Item for the first year	Northbridge	Riverstone
Required qualification	Completed secondary qualification	Completed secondary qualification
Required language evidence	Level L2	Level L3; whether Lina's L2 permits a preparation route is unknown
Tuition	70,000 RMB	65,000 RMB
Accommodation	30,000 RMB	35,000 RMB
Other necessary living costs	20,000 RMB	25,000 RMB
Lina's travel estimate	3,000 RMB	3,000 RMB
Award	No award confirmed	Competitive award up to 15,000 RMB; none confirmed
Project feedback	Supervised projects; individual feedback stated	Group projects; individual feedback not stated
Discussion class size	Unknown	Unknown

Method — Source B: comparison record

The travel amounts are estimates, not college fees. Both totals exclude unexpected expenses. No timetable, class-size guarantee or preparation-route fee is supplied. Do not invent one.

Method — Worked example: an award scenario is not a confirmed budget

Riverstone's unfunded first-year estimate is $65,000 + 35,000 + 25,000 + 3,000 = 128,000$ RMB. This exceeds Lina's available 124,000 RMB by 4,000 RMB. If she later receives a confirmed 15,000 RMB award usable against these costs, the scenario would be 113,000 RMB. An advertised maximum alone does not justify using that lower figure now.

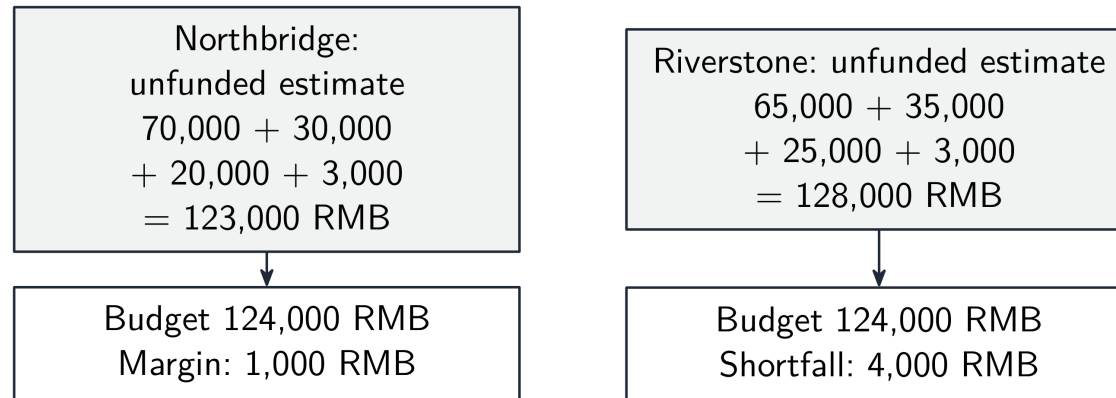
Method — Worked example: an award scenario is not a confirmed budget

Claim	Status and useful next check
Lina meets Riverstone's stated L3 requirement	Not met by the recorded L2 certificate; ask admissions about any preparation route and its conditions.
Riverstone gives individual project feedback	Unknown; ask the course team how individual work receives feedback.
Riverstone is affordable because of the maximum award	Unconfirmed; keep the unfunded scenario and request formal award information.

Different questions go to different offices. A course team may explain feedback; admissions must clarify entry routes. A response should resolve the actual uncertainty, not merely repeat that the college is good.

Method — Worked example: an award scenario is not a confirmed budget

Riverstone's unfunded first-year estimate is $65,000 + 35,000 + 25,000 + 3,000 = 128,000$ RMB.



Travel included; unexpected costs excluded
No unconfirmed award deducted

Evidence, limits and the next check for this worked example.

Exercises 2.1-2.3

2.1 Classify Northbridge's stated language condition and its discussion class size as met, not met or unknown. Give the evidence for EACH classification. [2]

2.2 Calculate Northbridge's first-year estimate including travel, and the amount remaining from Lina's available budget. [2]

2.3 Explain THREE separate problems with "Choose Riverstone: it is famous, has lower tuition and gives everyone 15,000 RMB." Use the record. [3]

Exercises 2.1-2.3

2.1 Classify Northbridge's stated language condition and its discussion class size as met, not met or unknown. Give the evidence for EACH classification. [2]

2.1 Language: met, because Lina's recorded L2 matches Northbridge's L2 requirement. Class size: unknown, because no size is supplied. Neither classification proves an admission offer.

2.2 Calculate Northbridge's first-year estimate including travel, and the amount remaining from Lina's available budget. [2]

2.2 $70,000 + 30,000 + 20,000 + 3,000 = 123,000$ RMB. $124,000 - 123,000 = 1,000$ RMB remaining. This is a margin before unexpected expenses, not confirmed spare money after all possible costs.

2.3 Explain THREE separate problems with "Choose Riverstone: it is famous, has lower tuition and gives everyone 15,000 RMB." Use the record. [3]

2.3 Fame does not establish fit with Lina's feedback needs or eligibility. Lower tuition is only one cost: Riverstone's unfunded first-year estimate is 128,000 RMB, above Northbridge's 123,000 RMB. The award is competitive, up to 15,000, and unconfirmed for Lina; not everyone receives that maximum.

Exercises 2.4·3.1

2.4 Write ONE question that would clarify Riverstone's language route. Name the appropriate office and ONE additional cost or condition to check if a route exists. [3]

3.1 Compare the two colleges on language eligibility, unfunded first-year cost and individual project feedback. For EACH criterion, give an accurate detail for both colleges. Retain uncertainty where information is missing. [6]

Exercises 2.4-3.1

2.4 Write ONE question that would clarify Riverstone's language route. Name the appropriate office and ONE additional cost or condition to check if a route exists. [3]

2.4 For example: "Does my recorded L2 certificate allow a preparation route to this course, and what evidence would that route require?". Ask admissions. Check any added tuition, route duration, later language requirement or application deadline; each is unknown, not a supplied fact. Accept a comparably precise question without implying an offer.

3.1 Compare the two colleges on language eligibility, unfunded first-year cost and individual project feedback. For EACH criterion, give an accurate detail for both colleges. Retain uncertainty where information is missing. [6]

3.1 Award 2 per paired comparison, B1 for each accurate college detail. Language: Northbridge's L2 is met; Riverstone's L3 is not met by L2 and any alternative route is unknown. Cost: Northbridge is 123,000 RMB including travel; Riverstone is 128,000 RMB unfunded on the same basis. Feedback: Northbridge states individual feedback within supervised projects; Riverstone's individual feedback is unknown despite listed group projects. Do not replace unknown with absent.

Exercise 3.2

3.2 Write a 100–130 word provisional recommendation for Lina. Connect it to her priorities, compare both colleges, use the unfunded totals and language conditions, and name TWO useful next checks. Keep unexpected expenses and unconfirmed awards visible. [8]

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3.2 Local analytic rubric, $8 \times B1$: provisional choice connected to Lina's priorities; accurate Northbridge language status; accurate Riverstone language status with alternative route left unknown; accurate paired unfunded totals; preserves award uncertainty; first useful check; second distinct useful check; coherent 100–130 words retaining unexpected-cost risk and no invented offer. Example: "Northbridge currently looks more workable for Lina because its stated language condition matches her L2 certificate and its supervised projects include individual feedback. Its first-year estimate with travel is 123,000 RMB, leaving only 1,000 RMB before unexpected costs. Riverstone has lower tuition but a higher unfunded total of 128,000 RMB. Lina does not meet its stated L3 condition, and any preparation route is still unknown. Its competitive maximum award is not confirmed money. Before deciding, Lina should ask admissions about Riverstone's possible route and any additional costs. She should also ask both course teams about discussion class sizes. Northbridge is a provisional option, not an offer or proof of perfect fit; the small budget margin needs careful review."