

GAC032 Education and Career Navigation: Finding Your Pathways

GAC Study and Communication Skills

What this module is, and how it is marked

GAC032 is about designing your own next step: understanding what you are good at and what you want, then choosing and applying to courses that fit.

Assessment is a set of documents — a **personal profile** 个人档案, an **education and career plan** 教育与职业规划, interview practice, and a **college application essay** 大学申请文书 — plus coursework.

- Everything here is used for real. The profile becomes the personal statement, and the plan becomes what you say in an interview.
- △ Honesty outperforms ambition. A plan built on interests you actually have is easier to defend than one built on a job title that sounds impressive.

Create my profile

- A **personal profile** collects **interests** 兴趣, **strengths** 优势, **values** 价值观 and **experience** 经历 in one place.
- Evidence, not adjectives: "I fixed the school's printer queue" says more than "I am good with technology".
- **Skills** 技能 are transferable; a **subject** is not. The student who ran a fundraiser has project management, whatever they study next.
- Ask two people who know you to add to the profile. Self-assessment misses what is obvious to everyone else.

Build up your supports and knock down your barriers

- A **support** 支持 is anything that makes the path easier: a teacher who will write a reference, a relative who studied abroad, a scholarship.
- A **barrier** 障碍 is anything in the way — cost, a language requirement, a missing subject, a deadline you did not know about.
- Most barriers have a **workaround** if found early: a foundation year, a test retake, a different intake. Found late, they are walls.

- List both explicitly. A plan that names its barriers is what an interviewer means by realistic.

Connect your profile to your goals

- A **goal** 目标 must be specific enough to plan towards, and it may be a direction rather than a job title.
- Work backwards: the job needs a degree, the degree needs subjects and a language score, the score needs a test date, the test date needs registering by a deadline.
- △ Check the **entry requirements** 入学要求 of real courses now, not later. They are published, and one of them will change what you do this year.

Find good fit colleges

- **Fit** 匹配度 has several dimensions: the course content, the entry requirements, the cost, the location, and the support for international students.
- Build a list with a **range**: some ambitious, some likely, at least one safe.
- Read the **module list** of the actual degree, not the university's front page. Two degrees with the same name teach different things.
- **Cost** includes living costs and visa requirements, which is where the GAC034 budget belongs.

Develop your college and career pathway

- An **action plan** 行动计划 has dates. Applications, tests, references and documents all have deadlines that do not move.
- Practise the **interview** 面试: why this course, why this university, why you, and what you did about your interest.
- The **application essay** is the personal statement of GAC003, at higher stakes: evidence first, and specific to the course.

Build up your career skills

- Employers and admissions readers both look for evidence of **skills**, not claims of them.
- Build a **portfolio** 作品集 as you go: the project, the report, the site, the video. Every GAC module produces one artefact worth keeping.
- **Networking** 人脉 is asking people who do the thing you want to do what it is actually like, and most of them answer.

- Keep the profile current. It is easier to update in June than to reconstruct in December.