We're back with Jordan Pascucci, Associate Dean and Undergraduate Admission for University of Pennsylvania. And now, we're going to hear a little bit about Penn's application process. Jordan, now that we know a little bit more about the university, let's talk about Penn's process. >> Sure. >> Beginning with the basics. So can you tell us about Penn's admissions requirements. >> Sure. So, the University of Pennsylvania uses the Common Application. And students submit the Common Application and also the writing supplement for the University of Pennsylvania. Those two pieces together make the bulk of the completed application. The other requirements would be secondary school transcripts or school leaving certification exams, the SAT or ACT. And if you take the SAT, we ask for two SAT subject tests. The TOEFL is recommended for students who English is not a native, is not their native language. And then we ask for two teacher recommendations that come from academic subject teachers. And then in addition, because we use the Common Application, an official from your school would submit the school form report. >> Next, can you outline for us just the basic process and also the admission deadlines? Sure. At Penn, we have two decision rounds. Students can apply for early decision with a deadline of November 1st, and then typically decisions are released in mid-December. And then regular decision, the deadline is January 1st, and then decisions would be released at the end of March. At Penn, we actually also have a transfer process, so we do accept a limited number of transfer students, and they can apply with a deadline of March 15th. And their decisions will be released around the beginning of May. >> With two deadline options, what advice can you share with international students who are trying to decide whether to apply through early decision or through the regular decision option? >> The biggest thing you need to do is ask questions. Every university has a different policy. Early decision and early action and all sorts of other things that you'll hear about vary greatly from institution to institution. At Penn, we have an early decision program, which means that if a student applies early for that November 1st deadline and they are admitted, then they're bound to come to Penn. So they withdraw all other applications, even if it's in the UCAS system, if it's in another, you know, another country. You withdraw all other applications and you celebrate your acceptance to Penn. Early decision at Penn is a statistical advantage in the sense that we will admit sometimes upwards of 50% of the class in early decision. And that's out of, maybe over 5 or 6,000 applications, as opposed to over 30,000 applications in regular decision. We're not admitting different kinds of students, though. We're admitting students who know that Penn is their first choice, and they're able to articulate that in their application, and they're academically prepared. They've taken all of their testing, who are much more prepared, who are much more, you know, sure that Penn is their first choice institution. And they know why that there might be a particular program or reason that they've researched pretty well. And they understand exactly what that might mean in, you know, how they are prepared for it. So I would say that the key to asking yourself of whether or not you're ready for early application is, what does your academic record look like? Have you taken all of the testing? Do you have all the requirements in a row? And, are you prepared to submit by that November 1st deadline? And, when you do submit at that November 1st deadline, is that really what's going to enable you to put your best foot forward? Or, is there additional information that you should be waiting on then, in maybe, December or January, that would make it a more complete file at that time? >> So Jordan, in your
experience, are there certain parts of the process that tend to confuse international applicants? And if so, can you explain them a little bit? >> Sure, because Penn uses the Common Application, a lot of times, some of the fields that are required might not be a very internationally friendly. And so they might ask things in a way that just isn't quite right or doesn't quite match with the student's education system. And that's okay. If the student can rate not applicable or a student can fill it in as best they can, we understand that things don't always perfectly line up. And so as long as you're presenting information that's most accurate for, you know, the system you're studying and in what your circumstances are, we will work together with you to fill in the pieces if we have questions. A lot of students had questions about this year, listing your senior course schedule. It doesn't look the same in every country, and that's okay. So little things like that, I think, don't let it derail you from the overall process. It's just fill it out the best that you can, and if there was ever a question, a college or university would follow up. Same as true we get a lot of questions when it comes to the TOEFL or the I, IELTS. And so, I think that you have to ask the institution you are applying for. At Penn, we often feel that the TOEFL is providing us with the little bit more information. And so if a student does have the opportunity to take one or the other, that would be our preference, but every university is different. >> And we'll take a quick break and be right back with more from Jordan Pascucci.