In our final piece of our conversation with Jordan [UNKNOWN] from the University of Pennsylvania, we're going to get a little more information from her and hopefully some extra advice [SOUND]. Jordan, Penn has one of the highest undergraduate international student populations of the Ivy League. Mm-hm. And right now I believe it's about 12% of Penn's undergrads are international students. Does the university want to see that number increase, decrease, stay the same and why? Penn is proud of its commitment to attracting an international, truly global, diverse class. And I mentioned before that the diversity of our international population is, is the real story and [SOUND] unique feature of Penn. That with students coming directly from 109 countries at an undergraduate [SOUND] level, it's an enormous fee. And what is nice to see again is the fact that we are seeing students applying from so many different places. That we're seeing much more diversity in our applicant pool than maybe even five or ten years ago. Which is great because of features like this where [SOUND] students can learn much more about the process earlier on and plan for it. And really understand, I think, the opportunities of the higher education system in the United States [SOUND] and how it might be very relevant, you know, for our much more connected world and global opportunities these days. With regard to, you know the person who's changing or growing. Mm-hm. I definitely don't ever see it retreating. I definitely [SOUND] see it, you know, as something that Is always going to be reflective of the world around us and, for example, that the incoming class last year was about 14 percent. So it definitely is something that changes. It's usually something that is responding to whoever applies in a given [SOUND] year. And so what we're excited to see is how that might change in the future. But Penn is, it's, you know, stays strongly committed. To attracting students from all around the world. We've let students know that this course is about the admission process and not about the financial aid side of the process. But can you briefly talk about Penn's financial aid policy [SOUND] for international students? Sure. So for international students Penn is need aware, which means that it is something that we are aware of as students apply. We are when a student applies, for financial aid, and [SOUND] they're admitted, we guarantee to meet 100% of their financial need and it's without the use of loans. So it's, it meets full need. It's without the use of loans. You don't pay any of it back. Mm-hm. Mm so if you apply for aid and you're admitted you will get all of the aid you needed. You might hear sometimes where universities will admit students but not necessarily fill their full need, whereas at Penn, always we'll fill your full need. So it doesn't matter the amount of aid that you need it's just simply the fact that you're applying for aid that ends up putting you into separate consideration. We have to be very aware of the students that we are admitting internationally who apply for aid simply because there's a limit to the amount of money that we're able to spend in a given year. Penn spends about oh, I think it's six million dollars annually aiding international students at the undergraduate level. So it's definitely, there is funding available, but it, it does have a limit to it. Jordan maybe you can share a little advice with, with the students. Sure. Based on your experience. Is there a common mistake that international applicants make? In the admissions process? And can you give any advice on how to fix it? That's a really good question. I don't know if this problem is unique to international students, but I do see, you know, the common mistake being. That there are so many pieces of the application that are well put together and then when it gets to that supplemental essay question, they haven't really articulated why it is that they
applied to Penn. And so just going back to the basics. Really thinking about helping us understand and be excited right along with you, you know, as we're reading your application. The other piece of it might be not being yourself. I think that of the over 35,000 applications that we'll receive 27,000 of them might sound [LAUGH] exactly the same. And it's simply because students are approaching it with the idea of what does they, what do they want from me, what do they want to hear. And there's a lot of well intentioned advice out there but sometimes it really diminishes a student's own unique voice. And so what you want to make sure is that through the application It's you. It's, you know, your voice is coming through. If your friend found this application they would say, absolutely this sounds like you. >> Mm-hmm. >> You just want to make sure that you introduce yourself and leave it at that. At the end of the day, if you feel like you, that this application really represents you, then you can feel confident at that at the end of the day. >> Finally, Jordan. >> Uh-huh. >> Outside of even the admission process. >> Sure. >> Is there a piece of advice that you would like to share with international students. >> Mm-hm. In general about anything? >> Mm-hm. Yeah. I mean, I applaud you for being so thoughtful and the willingness to go on this exciting journey. You know, it's not an easy thing to go so far away from home for education in general let alone to a new country. Country, a new culture, a new system and it's wonderful to see that there's students out there who are interested in thinking about this and contributing to this whole world of knowledge. And, who are going to take their ideas and go back to home countries or other parts of the world and really transform things in so many ways that it's really exciting. I definitely would share the piece of advise that there's so many people behind you, I'm sure. >> Mm-hm. >> For every student that's out there applying. There are so many people who are so interested and rooting for your success. Teachers, parents, friends, so many supporters and they've been with you this whole way. Definitely ten, take the time to thank them, you know? Thank them for everything that they've done and for always being there. >> Mm-hm. >> But at the same time get in the driver seat. You know. >> Mm-hm. >> A lot of time your teachers and parents and friends are so good at tell, telling us what makes you special and you need to understand that for yourself. You need to feel confident in your uniqueness and your talents and what makes you, you. And that's really what's going to shine through in your application. >> Well Jordan, we want to thank you so much for taking the time to be with us today and [LAUGH] for answering all of these questions. >> No problem, I hope it was helpful. >> Great, thanks. And students, we will be posting information on the course site about how you can find out more about the University of Pennsylvania and connect with Penn and Jordan.