

WHO GETS IN? | PRESS KIT

Press kit

Reports, the register behind them, cleared quotes, approved biographies, and the things this research must not be reported as saying

Everything in this kit is cleared for publication. If you want to check a figure rather than take it on trust, ask for the register.

107

CODED SELECTION SIGNALS

69

CITED OFFICIAL SOURCES,
GRADE A

0

PRIVATE CLIENT RECORDS
USED

Hassan Akram

Founder and Principal Advisor, Elite Careers Strategy. Research lead: accountable for coding decisions, publication rulings, source grading and corrections.

PRESS KIT . SEPTEMBER 2026 . GLOBAL ELITE SELECTION MONITOR V1

Who Gets In? is published by Elite Careers Strategy. Research lead: Hassan Akram. Media enquiries:
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SECTION 01

The estate.

ASSET	WHAT IT IS	SCALE
Report 01	The Application as an Auditable Claim. What 57 elite-selection signals reveal about ownership, judgement and authenticity in the age of AI.	57 signals, 48 cited sources
Report 02	Same Candidate, Different System. How published selection architecture differs across six markets.	50 signals, 21 sources
Journalist briefing	Report 01 in two pages: thesis, three findings, method and limits.	2 pages
Source register	Every cited official source with its ID, institution, page and host.	71 entries, grade A

Table 1. Everything cleared for publication.
Source: Global Elite Selection Monitor V1. Evidence dates 30 and 31 August 2026.

SECTION 02

Approved quotations.

Attribution: Hassan Akram, Founder and Principal Advisor, Elite Careers Strategy. Fresh quotes on request. He will go on the record on any figure in the register.

AI is making polish abundant. Judgement is not.

On AI and the graduate application

The evidence does not show that AI caused live assessment. It shows that live assessment was already there, and that AI has made its purpose harder to ignore.

On causation

The information around elite professions is not secret, just unevenly distributed.

On access and information asymmetry

Most candidates are failing at one of the three gates and preparing for all of them.

On the three-gate model

I would rather understate causation than turn a candidate's achievement into a marketing claim.

On outcome claims

SECTION 03

Research lead and firm.

HASSAN AKRAM, 100 WORDS, FOR BRIEFINGS AND ARTICLES

Hassan Akram is Founder and Principal Advisor of Elite Careers Strategy, a London-based advisory firm. He works with internationally mobile families and candidates navigating selective careers in corporate law, investment banking, private capital and consulting. Before founding ECS, Hassan worked on the recruitment side across those sectors and has reviewed more than 10,000 applications and candidate materials. His wider work examines how powerful institutions decide who gets in: how they assess evidence, judgement, potential and fit, and how artificial intelligence is changing the value of traditional applications. He studied History at University College London.

HASSAN AKRAM, 50 WORDS, FOR SPEAKER LISTINGS

Hassan Akram is Founder and Principal Advisor of Elite Careers Strategy. Drawing on hiring-side experience and more than 10,000 application materials reviewed, he advises families navigating selective careers. His work examines how institutions assess evidence, judgement and potential as artificial intelligence reshapes recruitment globally.

FIRM BOILERPLATE

Elite Careers Strategy is a London-based private advisory firm for internationally mobile families and candidates navigating highly selective professional careers. ECS provides diagnosis, preparation and judgement across applications, interviews, assessment centres and final-round conversion. Its work is supported by codified frameworks, simulations, private client infrastructure and a governed evidence register. ECS does not guarantee outcomes, place candidates with employers or claim institutional affiliation. Engagements are selective and begin with a Private Diagnostic.

SECTION 04

Reporting limits and attribution boundaries.

SUMMARY

The research describes what institutions publish about their own processes. It does not rank them, estimate selectivity, or claim AI caused any of it.

INSTITUTIONAL SESSIONS

Hassan has delivered invited sessions for student and MBA communities connected with Harvard Business School, Yale School of Management and MIT Sloan, and has spoken at the Festival of Education, Wellington College. These were invited community sessions. They are not institutional affiliations, employment, faculty status, partnership or endorsement, and should never be shortened to imply otherwise.

APPLICATION VOLUME

'More than 10,000 applications and candidate materials' is Hassan's own count across hiring-side and advisory work. There is no external register that verifies it, and he will say so on the record.

RESEARCH INDEPENDENCE

The Who Gets In? reports use public institutional material only. No private client evidence appears in any report, and nothing in the programme implies affiliation with or endorsement by any institution referenced.

TURNAROUND

Data checks and source verification: same working day. Interview: within three working days. Corrections: against the source, with the review date updated.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hassan Akram is Founder and Principal Advisor of Elite Careers Strategy, an independent advisory firm in London working with candidates and families on entry to the most selective employers and universities. He is the research lead for the Global Elite Selection Monitor and is accountable for its coding decisions, publication rulings, source grading and corrections.

ABOUT THE MONITOR

The Global Elite Selection Monitor is a standing register of published selection practice at elite employers and universities. Version 1 holds 107 coded signals citing 69 official sources, held in a 71-entry source register, across six markets, every one graded A and carrying a scheduled review date.

Each signal records one verifiable selection signal from an official employer or university page, with its own source ID, observation date, grade, publication ruling and analyst note. Sources carry a scheduled review date; findings are corrected in place and the correction is stated in the report rather than made silently.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Akram, H. (2026). Who Gets In? press kit. Who Gets In?, Report press kit. London: Elite Careers Strategy.

CORRECTIONS AND VERSIONS

Issued September 2026 against the Monitor as at 31 August 2026. Corrections to published figures are listed in the section they affect. If you believe a signal is miscoded or a source has changed since the observation date, write to hassan@accessecs.com and the entry will be re-checked against the live source.

COMMENT, DATA AND REPRODUCTION

Journalists may quote any passage of this report with attribution to Who Gets In?, Elite Careers Strategy. The underlying signal-level data behind any figure is available on request. Interview within three working days; data checks and source verification same working day. Contact hassan@accessecs.com.

DISCLAIMER

No affiliation with or endorsement by the firms or institutions named is implied.

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