Get the Edge: Five Features of a Competitive ISEP Application

1. **Be Realistic and Reasonable**
   - Check list of “Sites Open for Applications” in Student section of ISEP website
   - Recognize the admission criteria, academics, and competitiveness of the host university in comparison to your own academic needs and qualifications as an applicant
   - Consider alternative options and be flexible
   - Think outside the box!
   - **Theme:** Show effects of a well thought out vs. not well thought out application in terms of placement possibilities

2. **Be Thorough and Attentive to Detail**
   - Complete application with all required information/documentation/payment
   - Include quality academic references from university level professors who know you well
   - Read and review every piece of material before sending it to ISEP
   - Submit the application to ISEP before the priority deadline—faxed applications will not be processed or entered
   - **Theme:** It is disadvantageous to submit a late or incomplete application

3. **Make a Good Impression**
   - Emphasize neatness and professionalism—application appearance and organization, etc.
   - **Express individuality in personal statement** — let us get to know you
   - Be sincere and honest about personal goals and qualifications
   - **Theme:** Program Officers are subjective: presentation, individuality and honesty counts!

4. **Be Specific**
   - Show you have done your homework: provide well researched Course Request List(s)
   - Demonstrate **why these specific host sites** are a good fit for your academic and personal needs
   - **Theme:** Convince us! Sell yourself

5. **Finalization**
   - Placements cannot be made without all complete documentation
   - Incomplete applications will not be considered for placement
   - Submitting late applications may reduce the chance of being placed at one of your requested sites
   - A complete and well-researched application is essential for the Program Officer to make decisions and for the Host University to confirm the student
   - **Theme:** It is essential that the application process is completed by all involved parties: Home University, ISEP, Host University.