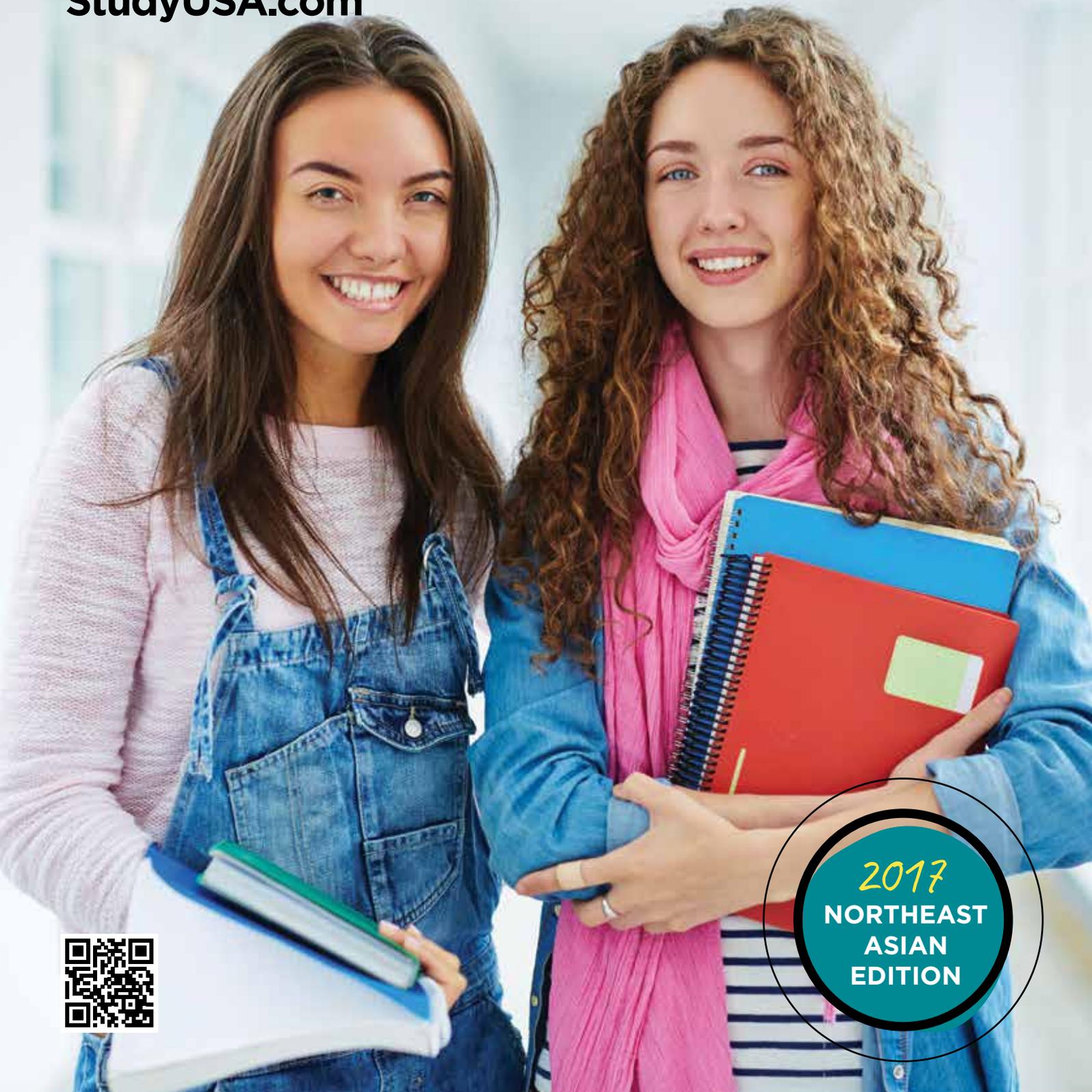


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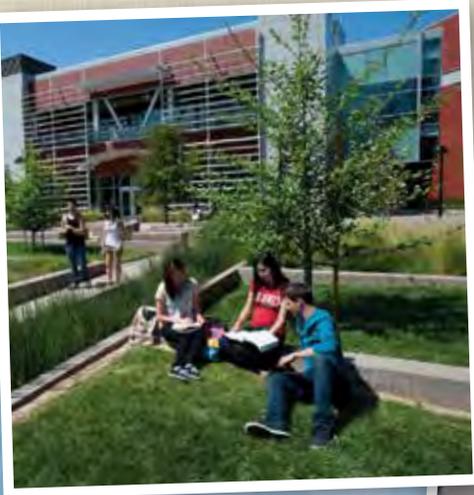


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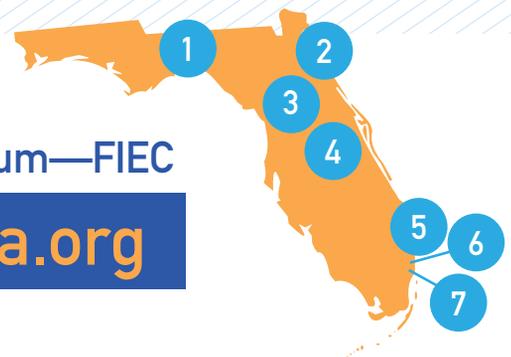


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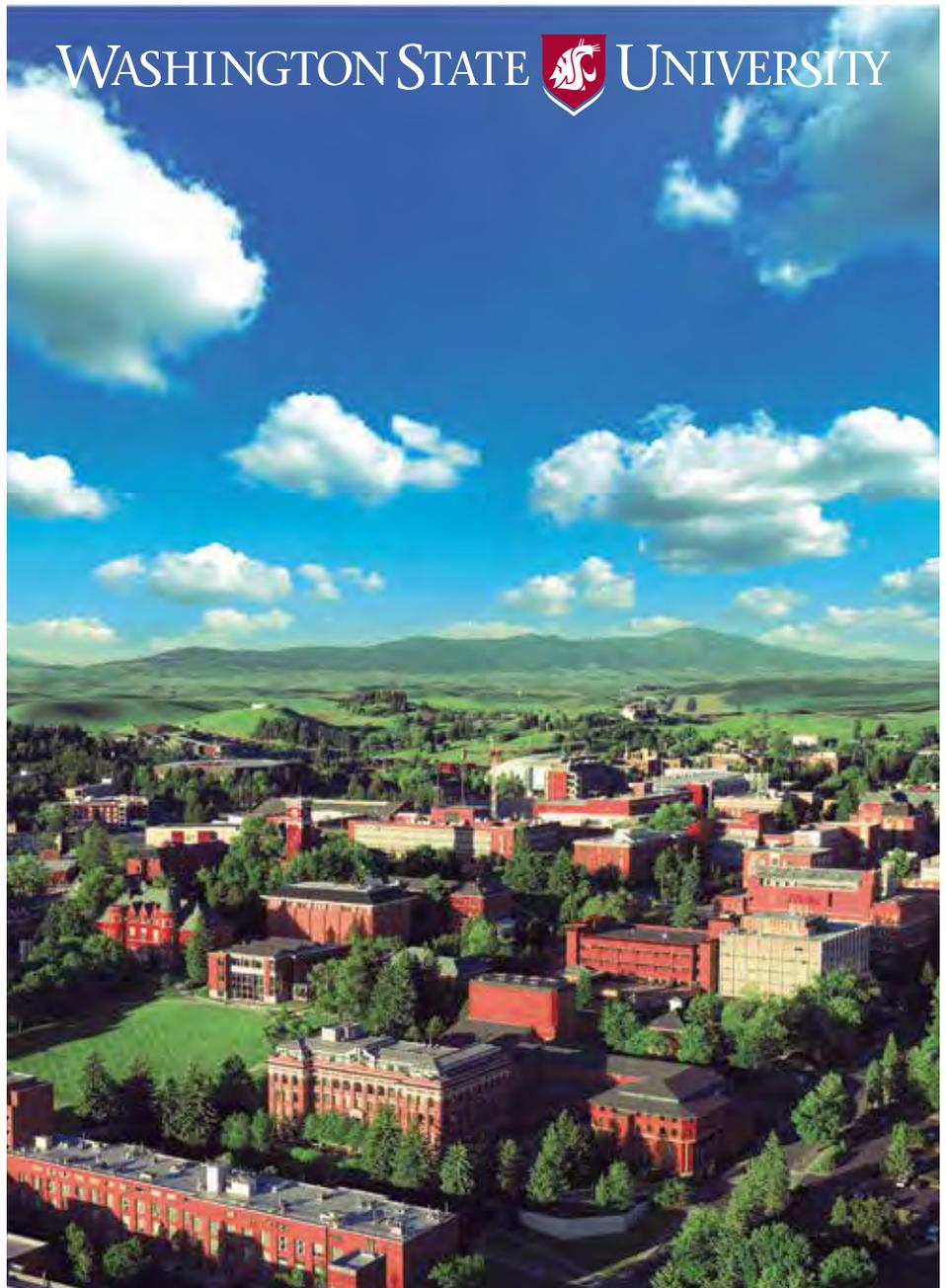
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WHAT YOU SAID!

Study in the USA magazine helps me a lot to pursue my dreams studying in the U.S. It has been a dream of mine. I have been working hard to get me there.

Citra FROM INDONESIA

Study in the USA has brought me a lot of ideas about USA. I have learnt about the many opportunities being offered to U.S. international students.

Malaku FROM HOLLAND

You're doing a great job. I am a school counselor and I had received a copy of Study in the USA magazine during the last fair in Bangkok. I'll make it sure that our high school students are updated on the information about getting into U.S. universities.

Junjun FROM THAILAND

I'm studying in Wroclaw, Poland, but I want to start some studies in the USA in 2 years time. First of all, I want to know the language very well and then go abroad.

There are some colleges I'm interested about. They sent me some folders and I'm amazed about some offers. In my opinion, your website is very helpful. I have a wide range of variety of all offers I received and I can choose exactly what I want to study. Thank you :)

Paulina FROM POLAND

I really liked your magazine because it is easy to read and you have useful tips for international students. I liked the article on preparing for the visa interview and education expenses. Keep up the good work!!

Gianina FROM ITALY



Your site answers all questions that may arise in my mind. Therefore I am satisfied. Just keep it up.

Leah FROM KENYA

My advisor gave me a copy of your magazine, and it helped me a lot in deciding to study in the United States. Thanks for your inspiration! :)

Senko FROM JAPAN

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Suzanne Panferov

Suzanne Panferov
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Patricia Szasz
President
EnglishUSA
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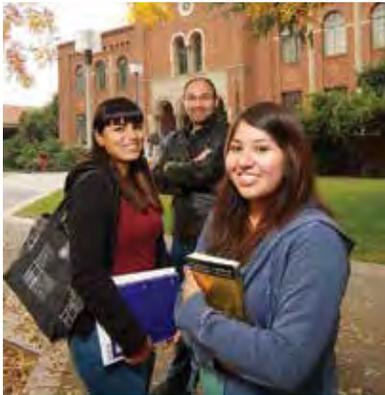
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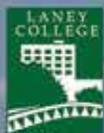
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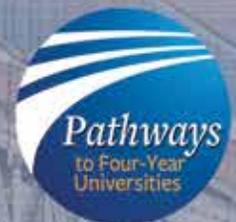


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It would mean that you have more opportunities.

Studying in the United States and abroad doesn't just give you tangible degrees and certificates. Your experience says something about who you are. Living and studying in another country—especially where your language isn't spoken—is challenging, requires courage and a positive attitude. Sometimes these characteristics are more influential than your degree.

Life here, both as an international student and visitor, will probably be different from what you expect. You may be pleasantly surprised to find that the images from films and television programs are not always true. Americans come in a variety of sizes, colors, and shapes. In general, they are very friendly and will be interested in learning about you and your country.

For any international student, the USA has a lot to offer: one of the most prestigious, top ranked higher education systems in the world, eclectic cities, beautiful natural parks, culture, history and a very multicultural population.

Diversity and Variety

The United States offers variety.

There is a wide range of schools, countless areas of study and specialty degrees. If you are interested in studying business, you are not relegated to just general study, but can choose from many concentrations: accounting, marketing, international business, business management, business administration, or finance. (There are many more!) This type of specialty study is available at the undergraduate, graduate and doctorate level, too.

One option you may not be aware of is studying at a community college, which is a two-year school in which you can begin your

university study. You can complete the first two years of your bachelor's degree at a community college and then transfer your credits to a four-year university. This is extremely common in the USA. Community colleges offer lower tuition costs, smaller class sizes and more personal attention. Many community colleges also offer intensive English language programs.

Or, you can begin your studies at a four-year university or college. The variation and number of choices reflects the diversity and enormity of the U.S. You can study at a large public university or college. If you prefer a more intimate campus and a smaller community, you may choose a small private university.

The land and people of the USA are also incredibly varied. Wherever you choose to

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study, you will encounter a regional culture rich in history and local traditions. For instance, the West Coast region has many beaches, outdoor activities, the people have a relaxed attitude and you will probably find many local international communities. The Midwest has many large research universities and the people are known for their hospitality and kindness. The USA is a multiracial society that is still absorbing new immigrants, which makes it a very dynamic and exciting place to experience. While students must exercise caution in a few locations, streets and university campuses are generally clean and safe.

A Unique Higher Education System

U.S. universities and colleges may differ from those in your home country in several ways. For one thing, small class sizes are very common. There may be as few as 10 to 20 students in a class, giving you the personal attention you need in order to succeed.

While in class, students are encouraged and expected to contribute to the discussion. Professors meet with students in their offices or even share coffee or meals with them. The close relationship between students and faculty serves to motivate students and fosters a personal approach to the curriculum. Studying in the U.S. gives you the opportunity to gain a mentor in your given career field, an invaluable resource.

You may be surprised at your professors' willingness to challenge authority. Academic freedom is one of the hallmarks of a U.S. university. You will notice different perspectives on instruction. Here, students are trained to observe and analyze a problem, then solve it. You will be expected to listen to your classmates and challenge their points of view. The goal is pragmatic: this will help you gain confidence and the ability to organize and present an argument.

Most American university students live on or near the school campus. You will have many opportunities to join planned and informal activities with other students, such as hiking, skiing, museum tours, excursions to new cities, and visits to local tourist attractions. Imagine visiting New York City and taking a ferry to the Statue of Liberty! Many schools have international student organizations and clubs that also plan activities. This interaction with other students will enhance your English language skills. Your fellow students will also teach you about American culture and about the diverse cultures represented on any U.S. university or college campus.

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The United States is the leader in many areas of technology and research. While studying here, you will be exposed to advanced technology and research. You may be fortunate enough to meet, and even study, with the leading scholars in your chosen field. Why not study with the best?

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INTERVIEW

Jonghan Kim from South Korea is a sophomore majoring in Accounting at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California.

Why did you decide to study in the USA?

My primary language of education has been English in an American international school. In addition, I have always wanted to study in the U.S. because it is one of the best places to pursue my accounting major.

Why did you choose Orange Coast College?

Orange Coast College is one of the top community colleges in transferring to four-year institutions, while at the same time it is relatively small in scale compared to other top community colleges.

What do you like best?

It is the best community college in transferring, which is the most advantageous aspect of it. In addition, Orange Coast College is very distinguished from other community colleges in many aspects such as possession of 3D printers. Orange Coast College is the Harvard of community college.

What do you miss most?

The biggest thing would be my family and home food, which I can't get from abroad.

What was your biggest surprise?

I found the slow-paced yet productive U.S. life to be very surprising. I am from an Asian environment, where everything is done at an extremely rushed and fast pace. What I found surprising is that when doing the same amount of work under same amount of time, U.S. does it at a much more relaxed pace.

How have you handled: ... language differences?

I am always willing to learn the language differences. It is very interesting to see how expressions differ in languages.

... finances?

I started to work on campus to supplement my living expenses because I did not want to put financial pressure on my parents. Later on, I started to solely use my income for my living expenses.

... adjusting to a different educational system?

Personally, I did not have to adjust to a different educational system since my high school was an American international school.

What are your activities?

I work on campus as a student assistant at the International Center and I run a soccer club as a president. I also used to make films with my two friends and worked with a food blogger for her website.

How easy or difficult was making friends?

It is difficult to make friends in general. A lot of students only attend two years and then transfer, and other students are working employees who are seeking to advance their education.

How relevant is your U.S. education to your personal goals and to the needs of your country?

I am planning to transfer to a four-year university and achieve a CPA or a CFA certificate. I am also planning to find work through internships and job opportunities from my transfer school.

What is your advice to other students who are considering a U.S. education?

It is an opportunity that is definitely worth challenging yourself for. It may cost you time and money, but if you really do try and put in effort, you will get what you deserve. ★



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SCHOOL, COLLEGE *AND* UNIVERSITY?

IN the United States, the word “school” describes any place where people learn. You can call a college a school and you can even call a university a school. You can use the word “school” for any English language institute, graduate program, or secondary school (high school).

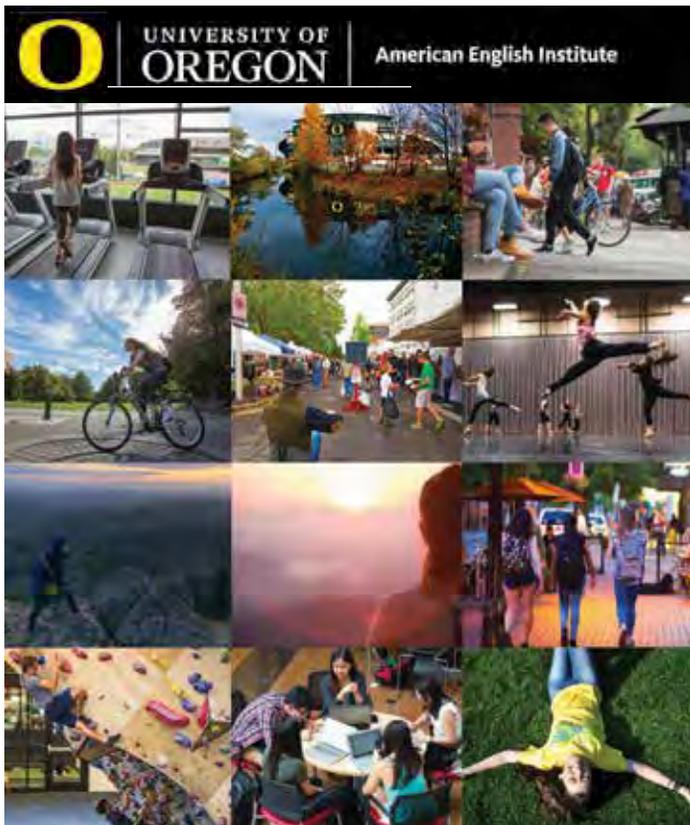
College or university follows after high school, or secondary school. A college in the USA is not a high school or secondary school and typically begins in the thirteenth year of school when a student is around 17 or 18-years-old. A two-year college offers an associate’s degree, while a four-year college or university offers a bachelor’s degree. Programs that offer these degrees are called “undergraduate” schools. A “university” is a group of schools for studies after secondary school. At least one of these schools is a college where students receive a bachelor’s degree.

The other schools in a university are “graduate” schools (also known as “postgraduate”) where

students receive advanced degrees. Therefore, a university offers both the bachelor’s degree and graduate degrees such as the master’s (M.A.) and doctorate (Ph.D.). You can earn a bachelor’s degree at either a college or a university. However, students in the USA prefer to use the word “college” rather than the word “university” when they talk about the four-year undergraduate programs and when referring to their bachelor’s degree. They say, “going to college” and “a college degree” when they talk about undergraduate programs at either a college or a university.

Most colleges are separate schools. Some colleges are part of a university and are located on the university campus. (The campus is the school buildings and surrounding area.) A few colleges offer graduate programs in selected subjects. Usually, however, it is universities that offer graduate programs. So, Americans generally use the word “university” and not “college” when they talk about graduate study. ★





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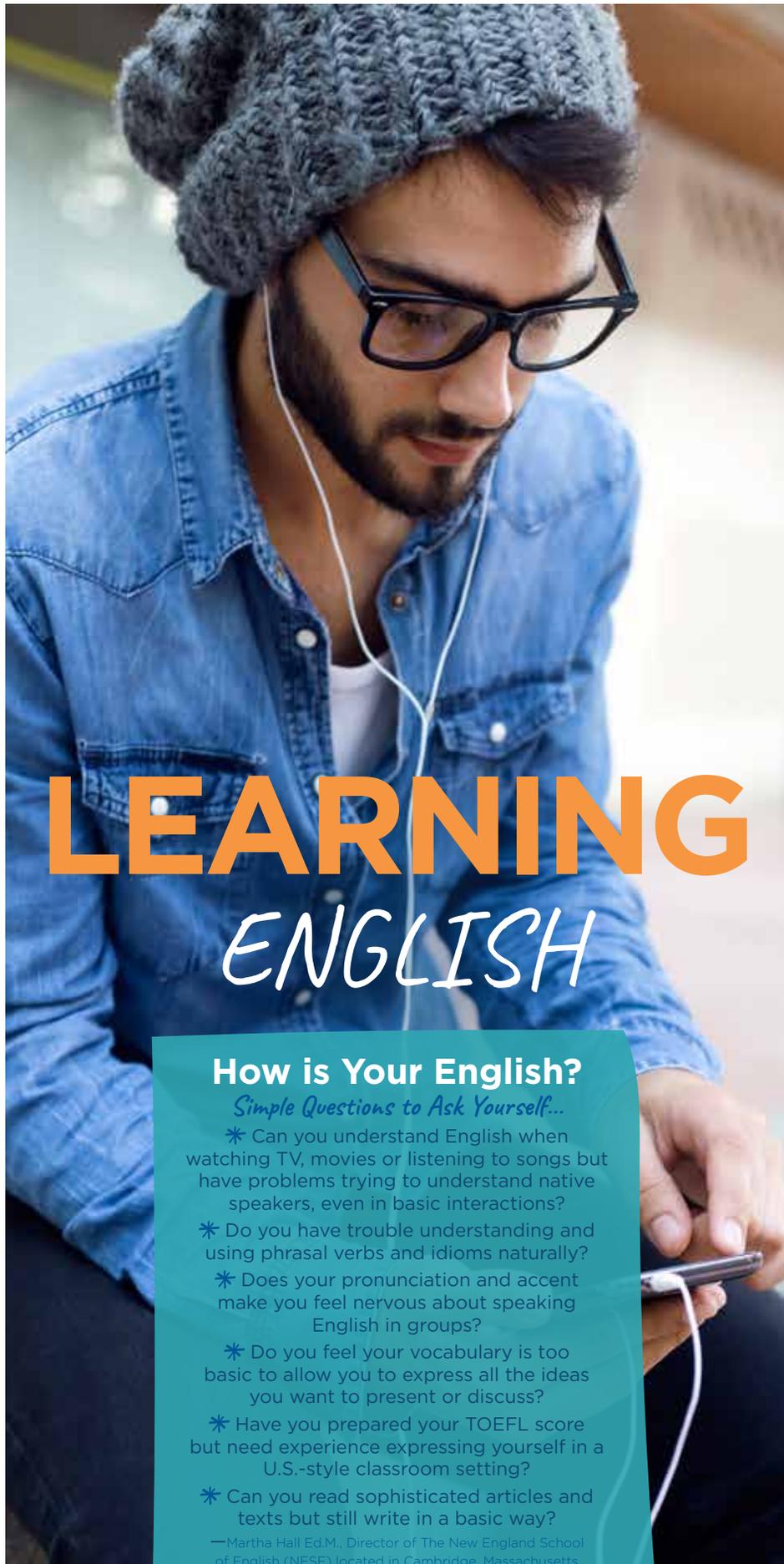
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- * Do you have trouble understanding and using phrasal verbs and idioms naturally?
- * Does your pronunciation and accent make you feel nervous about speaking English in groups?
- * Do you feel your vocabulary is too basic to allow you to express all the ideas you want to present or discuss?
- * Have you prepared your TOEFL score but need experience expressing yourself in a U.S.-style classroom setting?
- * Can you read sophisticated articles and texts but still write in a basic way?

—Martha Hall Ed.M., Director of The New England School of English (NESE) located in Cambridge, Massachusetts

What better place to come than the USA, the “Land of Opportunity,” to learn English?

Each year, tens of thousands of students do exactly that. Many come to prepare themselves to enter colleges and universities in the United States; others come to learn English while experiencing American life; still others come to improve their English, to qualify for a better job at home.

Maybe an English language program is not at the forefront of your mind and you think your English skills are just fine. But, you should carefully consider completing an English language program if English is not your first language, especially an intensive English language program. Improving your English language skills will give you a higher TOEFL or IELTS score, which means that you will have even more universities and colleges to choose from. (Remember, each institution has different English proficiency requirements.) You will also have a much easier time in your classes and a more enriched education with strong English language skills.

The classroom environment and higher educational system in the United States is very unique. You will be expected to participate in class discussions, share your opinion, debate and explain your reasoning, give class presentations and work in groups with your classmates. Class participation, along with tests, quizzes and projects will be one of the factors that determine your overall grade for the course.

Learning and improving your English will give you a good foundation for your university education.

Types of English Language Programs

College and University Programs

The United States is a large and diverse place with urban and rural, large and small, public and private colleges and universities, as well as private English language schools. Many U.S. colleges and universities offer full-time intensive English programs. An intensive English program must meet a minimum of 18 hours per week for students to qualify for a student visa. Most intensive programs provide 20-25 hours per week of classroom instruction. Students usually enter these programs at the beginning of the academic semester (term or quarter).

An advantage of these programs is that students can usually live on campus and

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Founded in 1855, the University of San Francisco has a tradition of educating people from around the world. Since 1974, the university has offered intensive English courses to non-native English speakers.

USF's Summer Intensive English Program (IEP) is a member of the American Association of Intensive English Programs (AAIEP). USF is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

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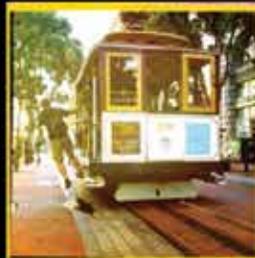
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CHANGE THE WORLD FROM HERE

have full use of the college or university library, the recreation and sports areas, as well as other facilities. They can practice English with the university students they meet in their dorms and cafeterias.

At some schools, students in advanced levels of an English program may be permitted to take a few university courses while they are completing their language study. Another benefit of taking university-based ESL classes is that students on F-1 visas may work on campus up to 20 hours per week.

It is important to note that intensive English programs are usually not part of the college or university's academic degree programs; therefore you may or may not receive academic credit. Students enrolled in ESL institutes are not necessarily admitted to that college or university. Find out if university or college offers conditional admission and the requirements.

Keep in mind that public colleges, universities and community colleges often cost less than private universities and colleges.

Proprietary English Language Programs

Some private English language schools also prepare students to enter U.S. colleges and universities, and many are actually located on or near a college or university campus. Others are located in a downtown office building or a mall. (Keep in mind that only some of private English schools provide housing or arrange homestays.)

At some private ESL institutes advanced-level students may take one or two academic courses at nearby colleges or universities. Many ESL schools also offer vacation ESL programs in which students learn English while traveling to interesting places or participating in activities.

At private schools, schedules may be more flexible compared to colleges and universities. New sessions may begin every few weeks. This can be an advantage to those students who are interested in short-term study.

Finding the Right Program for You

It is important to do your "homework" before choosing a school. Consider the questions on this page. Look at the schools listed in this copy of *Study in the USA*®, and visit StudyUSA.com to read about individual schools; some of the descriptions are in several languages and you can contact

1/student tip

Do not worry about the English issue. English is just a language; it is all about practice. Be bold and speak English to people.

Xujie Zhao, from China, Computer Networking at Wentworth Institute of Technology



My English has improved a lot in these last months since I began the IEP [Intensive English Program] program. My vocabulary has expanded. Studying English has helped me in my reading as well.

Romina Ruiz, from Mexico, Intensive English Program at University of San Francisco



I would say do your best in school. Do your homework as well. Then, practice by listening to your favorite singer in English, reading the newspaper and speaking with natives.

Raquel Sousa Gomes, from Brazil, English at Pace University's English Language Institute



Practice, practice, and practice by speaking with diverse people, watching American TV programs, reading only English materials, and taking notes in English.

Thiraphat Meesumrarn, from Thailand, PhD in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of North Texas



the schools directly. Go to your local educational advising center for resources to help you identify schools that interest you.

You are embarking on an exciting and rewarding adventure. Choose carefully, and you will have a wonderful, rewarding experience. ★

How Should I Choose a Program?

- 1/ Think about what kind of program you want to attend. Do you want a serious academic program or a casual vacation program?
- 2/ How much money can you spend on tuition, room, meals, activities, books, etc.?
- 3/ Where do you want to go to school? Do you want to study in a large city, small town, in a suburb, or in a particular part of the country?
- 4/ Find out if the teachers are professionally trained and experienced language instructors.
- 5/ What is the average class size? Ideally, classes range between 10-15 students.
- 6/ What living accommodations does the program provide? Does the program make all housing arrangements for you, or will they help you find housing?
- 7/ What services will the school provide: international student advisors, assistance with university or college admissions, orientation, healthcare, counseling?
- 8/ What extracurricular activities are there? Are there clubs or sports teams to join?
- 9/ What is the school setting? Is it a large or small school?
- 10/ Does the school permit advanced level students to take classes at the university or a nearby college?
- 11/ Is the school accredited? Many college and university ESL programs are accredited through their university or college.

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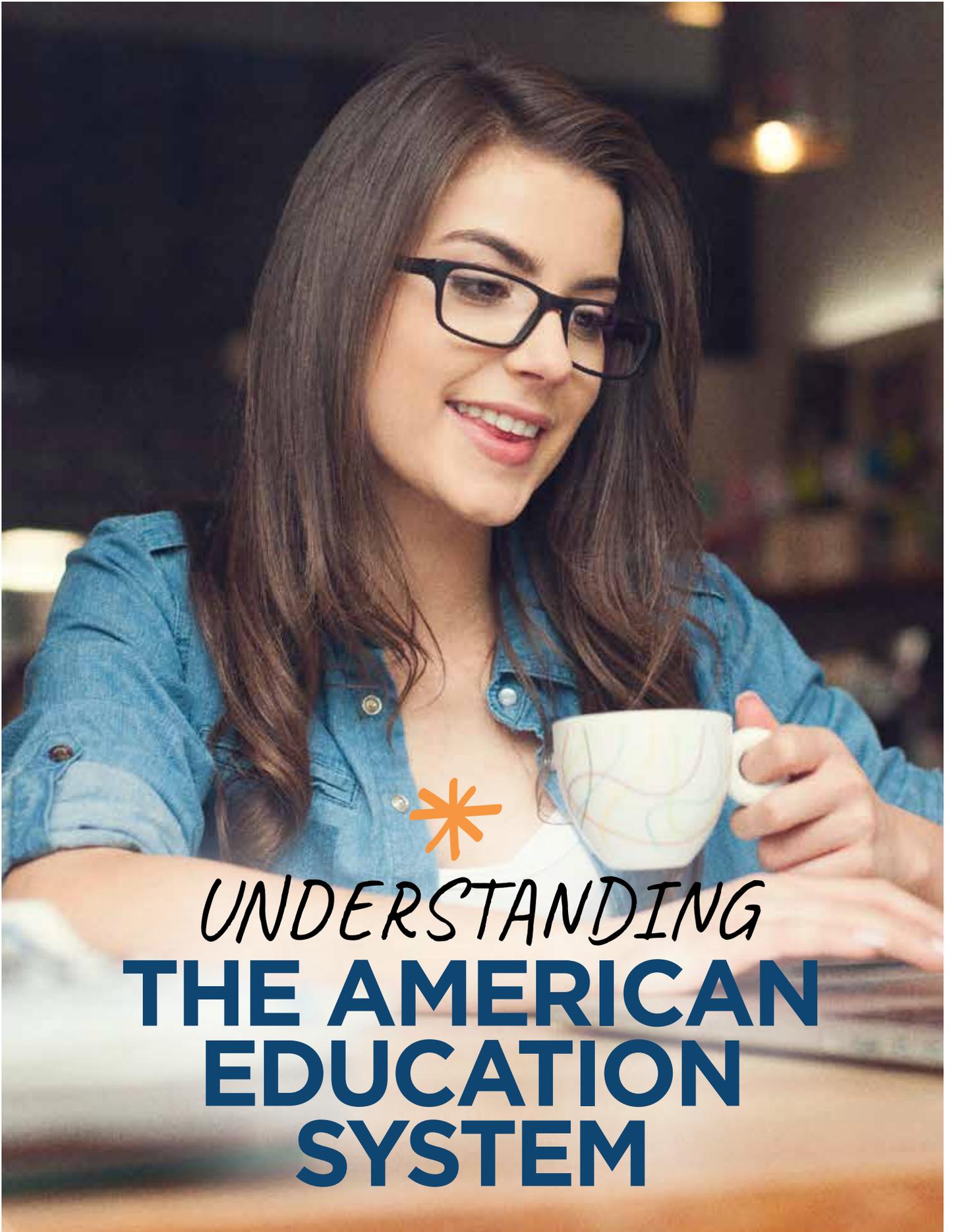
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UNDERSTANDING
**THE AMERICAN
EDUCATION
SYSTEM**

THE American education system offers a rich field of choices for international students. There is such an array of schools, programs and locations that the choices may overwhelm students, even those from the U.S. As you begin your school search, it's important to familiarize yourself with the American education system. Understanding the system will help you narrow your choices and develop your education plan.

The Educational Structure

Primary and Secondary School

Prior to higher education, American students attend primary and secondary school for a combined total of 12 years. These years are referred to as the first through twelfth grades.

Around age six, U.S. children begin primary school, which is most commonly called "elementary school." They attend five or six years and then go onto secondary school.

Secondary school consists of two programs: the first is "middle school" or "junior high school" and the second program is "high school." A diploma or certificate is awarded upon graduation from high school. After graduating high school (12th grade), U.S. students may go on to college or university. College or university study is known as "higher education."

Grading System

Just like American students, you will have to submit your academic transcripts as part of your application for admission to university or college. Academic transcripts are official copies of your academic work. In the U.S. this includes your "grades" and "grade point average" (GPA), which are measurements of your academic achievement. Courses are commonly graded using percentages, which are converted into letter grades.

The grading system and GPA in the USA can be confusing, especially for international students. The interpretation of grades has a lot of variation. For example, two students who attended different schools both sub-

mit their transcripts to the same university. They both have 3.5 GPAs, but one student attended an average high school, while the other attended a prestigious school that was academically challenging. The university might interpret their GPAs differently because the two schools have dramatically different standards.

Therefore, there are some crucial things to keep in mind:

- * You should find out the U.S. equivalent of the last level of education you completed in your home country.
- * Pay close attention to the admission requirements of each university and college, as well as individual degree programs, which may have different requirements than the university.
- * Regularly meet with an educational advisor or guidance counselor to make sure you are meeting the requirements.

Your educational advisor or guidance counselor will be able to advise you on whether or not you must spend an extra year or two preparing for U.S. university admission. If an international student entered a U.S. university or college prior to being eligible to attend university in their own country, some countries' governments and employers may not recognize the students' U.S. education.

Academic Year

The school calendar usually begins in August or September and continues through May or June. The majority of new students begin in autumn, so it is a good idea for international students to also begin their U.S. university studies at this time. There is a lot of excitement at the beginning of the school year and students form many great friendships during this time, as they are all adjusting to a new phase of academic life. Additionally, many courses are designed for students to take them in sequence, starting in autumn and continuing through the year.

The academic year at many schools is composed of two terms called "semesters."

grading policy

Grade	Grade Point Value	
A	93-100%	4.00
A-	90-92%	3.67
B+	87-89%	3.33
B	83-86%	3
B-	80-82%	2.67
C+	77-79%	2.33
C	73-76%	2
C-	70-72%	1.67
D+	67-69%	1.33
D	60-66%	1
F	0-59%	1
I	Incomplete	0

(Some schools use a three-term calendar known as the "trimester" system.) Still, others further divide the year into the quarter system of four terms, including an optional summer session. Basically, if you exclude the summer session, the academic year is either comprised of two semesters or three quarter terms.

The U.S. Higher Education System—Levels of Study

First Level: Undergraduate

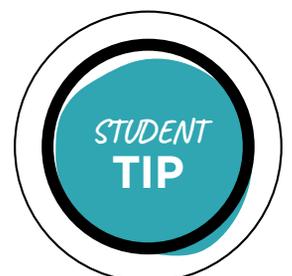
A student who is attending a college or university and has not earned a bachelor's degree is studying at the undergraduate level. It typically takes about four years to earn a bachelor's degree. You can either begin your studies in pursuit of a bachelor's degree at a community college or a four-year university or college.

Your first two years of study you will generally be required to take a wide variety of classes in different subjects, commonly known as prerequisite courses: literature, science, the social sciences, the arts, history, and so forth. This is so you achieve a general knowledge, a foundation, of a variety of subjects prior to focusing on a specific field of study.



[In the U.S.] I can decide on my major when I'm ready; and if I change my mind, there are still some general units that are accepted for every major and I just need to take additional classes to fulfill the requirements to transfer to a four-year university.

—Vy Cao, from Vietnam, Biochemistry at Alameda College (one of the Peralta Colleges)





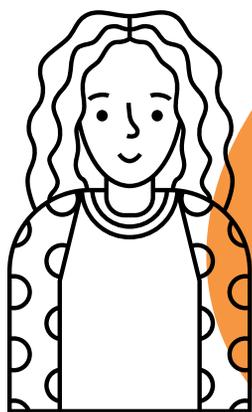
freshman

Jane begins her undergraduate studies at Highline College



sophomore

She takes many prerequisite courses and earns her associate of arts (AA) degree from Highline College. She's ready to transfer to university!



junior

She transfers to Washington State University, majoring in Marketing. She takes two quarters (one semester) of classes and realizes she would rather major in Computer Science. She meets with an advisor and officially switches majors.

senior

Jane graduates!

Many students choose to study at a community college in order to complete the first two years of prerequisite courses. They will earn an Associate of Arts (AA) transfer degree and then transfer to a four-year university or college.

A “major” is the specific field of study in which your degree is focused. For example, if someone’s major is journalism, they will earn a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. You will be required to take a certain number of courses in this field in order to meet the degree requirements of your major. You must choose your major at the beginning of your third year of school.

A very unique characteristic of the American higher education system is that you can change your major multiple times if you choose. It is extremely common for American students to switch majors at some point in their undergraduate studies. Often, students discover a different field that they excel in or enjoy. The American education system is very flexible. Keep in mind though that switching majors may result in more courses, which means more time and money.

Second Level: Graduate in Pursuit of a Master’s Degree

Presently, a college or university graduate with a bachelor’s degree may want to seriously think about graduate study in order to enter certain professions or advance their career. This degree is usually mandatory for higher-level positions in fields like library science, engineering, behavioral health, and education.

Furthermore, international students from some countries are only permitted to study abroad at a graduate level. You should inquire about the credentials needed to get a job in your country before you apply to a postgraduate university in the USA.

A graduate program is usually a division of a university or college. To gain admission, you will need to take the GRE (Graduate Record Examination). Certain master’s programs require specific tests, such as the LSAT for law school, the GRE or GMAT for business school, and the MCAT for medical school.

Graduate programs in pursuit of a master’s degree typically take one to two years to complete. For example, the MBA (Master of Business Administration) is an extremely popular degree program that takes about two years. Other master’s programs, such as journalism, only take one year.

The majority of a master’s program is spent in classroom study and a graduate student must prepare a long research paper called a “master’s thesis” or complete a “master’s project.”

Third Level: Graduate in Pursuit of a Doctorate Degree

Many graduate schools consider the attainment of a master’s degree the first step towards earning a PhD (doctorate). But at other schools, students may prepare directly for a doctorate without also earning a master’s degree. It may take three years or more to earn a PhD degree. For international students, it may take as long as five or six years.

For the first two years of the program most doctoral candidates enroll in classes and seminars. At least another year is spent conducting firsthand research and writing a thesis or dissertation. This paper must contain views, designs, or research that have not been previously published.

A doctoral dissertation is a discussion and summary of the current scholarship on a given topic. Most U.S. universities awarding doctorates also require their candidates to have a reading knowledge of two foreign languages, to spend a required length of time “in residence,” to pass a qualifying examination that officially admits candidates to

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L-R: Photo by Tommy LaVergne, photo courtesy Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, photo by Tommy LaVergne.

Rice University is an EO/AA institution

STUDENT TIP

I like that schedules are flexible, classes are fun, and the variety of activities I can participate in.

—Xujie Zhao, from China, Computer Networking at Wentworth Institute of Technology



TYPES OF U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION

1/ STATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

A state school is supported and run by a state or local government. Each of the 50 U.S. states operates at least one state university and possibly several state colleges. Many of these public universities have the name of the state, or the actual word “State” in their names: for example, Washington State University and the University of Michigan.

2/ PRIVATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

These schools are privately run as opposed to being run by a branch of the government. Tuition is usually higher at private schools than at state schools. Often, private U.S. universities and colleges are smaller in size than state schools.

Religiously affiliated universities and colleges are private schools. Nearly all these schools welcome students of all religions and beliefs. Yet, there are a percentage of schools that prefer to admit students who hold similar religious beliefs as those in which the school was founded.

3/ COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Community colleges are two-year colleges that award associate’s degrees (transferable), as well as certifications. There are many types of associate degrees, but the most important distinguishing factor is whether or not the degree is transferable. Usually, there will be two primary degree tracks: one for academic transfer and the other prepares students to enter the workforce straightaway. University transfer degrees are generally associate of arts or associate of science. Not likely to be transferrable are the associate of applied science degrees and certificates of completion.

Community college graduates most commonly transfer to four-year colleges or universities to complete their degree. Because they can transfer the credits they earned while attending community college, they can complete their bachelor’s degree program in two or more additional years. Many also offer ESL or intensive English language programs, which will prepare students for university-level courses.

If you do not plan to earn a higher degree than the associate’s, you should find out if an associate’s degree will qualify you for a job in your home country.

4/ INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

An institute of technology is a school that provides at least four years of study in science and technology. Some have graduate programs, while others offer short-term courses.

the PhD program, and to pass an oral examination on the same topic as the dissertation.

Characteristics of the U.S. Higher Education System

Classroom Environment

Classes range from large lectures with several hundred students to smaller classes and seminars (discussion classes) with only a few students. The American university classroom atmosphere is very dynamic. You will be expected to share your opinion, argue your point, participate in class discussions and give presentations. International students find this one of the most surprising aspects of the American education system.

Each week professors usually assign textbook and other readings. You will be expected to stay current with the required readings and homework so you can participate in class discussions and understand the lectures. Certain degree programs also require students to spend time in the laboratory.

Professors issue grades for each student enrolled in the course. Grades are usually based upon:

- * Each professor will have a unique set of class participation requirements, but students are expected to participate in class discussions, especially in seminar classes. This is often a very important factor in determining a student’s grade.
- * A midterm examination is usually given during class time.
- * One or more research or term papers, and/or laboratory reports must be submitted for evaluation.
- * Possible short exams or quizzes are given. Sometimes professors will give an unannounced “pop quiz.” These may not count heavily toward the grade, but is intended to inspire students to keep up with their assignments and attendance.
- * A final examination will be held after the final class meeting.

Credits

Each course is worth a certain number of credits or credit hours. This number is roughly the same as the number of hours a student spends in class for that course each week. A course is typically worth three to five credits.

A full-time program at most schools is 12 or 15 credit hours (four or five courses per term) and a certain number of credits must be fulfilled in order to graduate. International students are expected to enroll in a full-time program during each term.

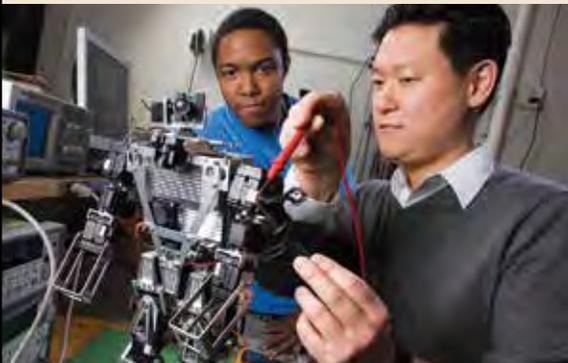
Transfers

If a student enrolls at a new university before finishing a degree, generally most credits earned at the first school can be used to complete a degree at the new university. This means a student can transfer to another university and still graduate within a reasonable time. ★

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INTERVIEW

Zheng Runbo from Zhejiang Province, China is studying intensive English at Texas Intensive English Program in Austin, Texas.



Why did you decide to study in the USA?

Because the United States is where there are many top world universities and is famous for its education quality. In America, students can apply for their favorite university according to their own will.

Why did you choose Texas Intensive English Program?

I asked some friends for advice and they said that this intensive English program had some advantages over other programs. The comprehensive courses and strong academic atmosphere attracted me most to the University of Texas. It is widely recognized as one of the best public universities, and it is located in Austin. So it is a special place for me.

How has this program helped you to handle future study at a U.S. university?

I have been studying here for nine months and my English has improved a lot. Before I came here, I didn't dare to communicate with foreigners. But now I am proficient at spoken English, and I like talking with foreigners.

What do you like best?

Austin is known as "Live Music Capital of the World." Rock and roll, jazz and blues are played in shops and pubs. I also like the pleasant climate in Austin. During the day, people can enjoy life outdoors; in the evenings, they can enjoy music in the bars.

What do you miss most?

I miss the food in my hometown most, especially the chicken noodles cooked by my mother. I also miss being with my father. Before going abroad, when I got into trouble, I could turn to him for help. But now, I have to handle the problems by myself.

What was your biggest disappointment?

I am disappointed that there are only a few Chinese restaurants in Austin.

How have you handled: ... language differences?

I often watch movies and TV to improve my spoken English. If I cannot understand the usage of a word well, I will consult my classmates who are glad to help me. I also have learned some useful gestures. For example, if I hold up my thumb to a local person, I mean that I agree with him.

... finances?

As for the finances, I manage to spend them wisely. Because I make a budget every month, I have never borrowed money from others and my savings are still increasing.

... adjusting to a different educational system?

The educational system in America is greatly different from that in China. For example, American universities advocate that students should learn by themselves. Students can put forward any doubt in the learning process. In class, I often participate in the discussions actively; after class, I always write the papers carefully.

What are your activities?

My favorite sports are jogging and bowling. I also like playing basketball and football with friends. In my view, all work and no play make Jack a dull boy. And I also joined a student association.

How easy or difficult was making friends?

In the USA, making friends is very easy. Americans are very friendly. When I arrived in Austin, I was deeply impressed with Americans' hospitality.

How relevant is your U.S. education to your personal goals and to the needs of your country?

My career goal is business, and I am very interested in Human Resource Management (HRM). My experience and education in U.S. is relevant to my personal goals to a great extent because U.S. education emphasizes the importance of practice. I think in America I will be given many opportunities to be an intern in big corporations. Since in China the HRM specialty is still in the embryonic stage, the U.S. education will definitely give me a chance to make contributions to enterprises' management.

What is your advice to other students who are considering a U.S. education?

For the students who are considering studying English in the USA, firstly, they should have a good command of basic English skills before applying. Secondly, they should seize every opportunity to practice their spoken English. Thirdly, during the first three months after their arrival in America, they will be faced with "culture shock." Then they will be very homesick. They can communicate with friends or go hiking to reduce anxiety. Last but not the least, when studying abroad, they should work hard to build a solid foundation for their future careers. ★

"When I arrived in Austin, I was deeply impressed with Americans' hospitality."



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CHOOSING

A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

By David P. Anderson

The United States attracts millions of international students to its universities and colleges because the USA offers so many choices and some of the best facilities in the world. With more than 3,000 colleges and universities in the United States, the options are almost limitless. Yet, because the choices are so varied, deciding which program to attend is not an easy choice. Therefore you will have to determine your priorities.

One of the best characteristics of the American higher education system is that there are many great school options for just about everyone, from community colleges to career schools to private, liberal arts colleges to large, public universities. Other factors you must also consider are the geographic location of a school, its size, and the degree programs it offers.

As an international applicant you have a special challenge. You may have never visited the USA, or seen the campuses that interest you. It's important that you take extra care to find out about each school's location and the kind of people who study and teach there. These considerations can be as valuable to you as the quality of the school's academic programs.

Begin your search early and consider your long-term goals

First, you should take plenty of time to research your potential choices. It takes a long time to identify which colleges might be appropriate, so it is important to begin this process 12 to 18 months before you wish to begin your studies. (Keep in mind that the school year begins in August or September in the United States.)

Many of you also need to consider that you will need three to nine months of an English as a Second Language (ESL) program to prepare for high-level academic work. See the list of questions in the sidebar at right.

Educational Advisors

With all the choices, it helps to know where to find relevant information so you can narrow your search. Many students turn to educational advisors for guidance. "Educational advisor" is a broad term and different people and organizations can fill this role for you.

The United States government has advising centers (either sponsored through the Public Affairs Section of a consulate or embassy), as well as EducationUSA and

Fulbright Commission offices throughout the world. Your country may co-sponsor a binational center with the United States government—these centers are a good resource. There are also not-for-profit organizations such as AMIDEAST and the Institute of International Education.

Many of these organizations do not charge a fee for advising, but may charge for services such as photocopying or postage. Most of them have informational brochures and catalogs, as well as Internet access for researching universities. You will also find valuable information about important examinations like TOEFL, SAT, ACT, GRE and GMAT. These tests may be crucial to your admission.

It is common for advising centers to hold group-advising sessions in which students watch videos about universities and life at American colleges. After the videos, an advisor is then available for comments and questions.

Many countries also have private educational advising agencies, but they do charge a fee for services. These companies generally have more resources than the non-profit advising offices, and have direct relationships with many intensive English programs and universities. For a fee, they can help you make a decision about which schools interest you and then help you through the application and visa process.

Some students seek advice from family members or friends who have studied in the United States. The benefit is that if you know and trust them, and you can ask specific questions about the institutions they attended. Keep in mind, however, that these informal educational advisors may only have information about one or two institutions, so it is not in your best interest to only depend on their feedback. Everyone has a unique study abroad experience—you need to decide what's right for you.

Internet

Of course, because of the Internet, today's students have access to much more information than previous generations. The challenge can be that there is TOO MUCH information, which can make finding reputable sources difficult. It is usually best to use the Internet as a tool when you want to research specific institutions or academic degrees.

Just like this copy of *Study in the USA*,

WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION DO I WANT?

- * What are my career goals?
- * Am I willing to move away from home and live in a new country for four years or more?
- * Have I considered the total cost (including living expenses) for this education?
- * Have I determined what type of credentials my future career path requires?
- * Does my home country impose any regulations with respect to studying in the United States?
- * What types of student organizations interest me?
- * Do I have any particular religious affiliation that needs to be considered?
- * Are the American universities or career schools' degree programs recognized by the government of my country?
- * Where can I find information about American universities?

multilingual websites like **StudyUSA.com** are specially designed for international students like you. You will find comprehensive information about studying in the USA, such as how to choose a program, getting a visa, and the estimated costs of tuition. There are also numerous featured profiles of universities, colleges and English language programs. From these profiles you can contact programs directly for more information and apply online. Use the customizable search engine on StudyUSA.com to help you pick the schools and programs that fit you best.

A Copy of Study in the USA®

Look throughout this Study in the USA magazine to find many excellent programs that welcome international students.

Factors to Consider

We have gathered some criteria to help you throughout your search. All of these factors can be important, but depending on your preferences, some may be more significant than others. Think about these things to refine your priorities.

1 / ACADEMIC FIELD (MAJOR)

Unlike universities in most countries, at universities in the USA you do not usually have to decide your main field of study (major) when you first enroll. However, if you know what you wish to study, make sure that each of the universities to which you apply has an accredited program in this area. Almost all colleges and universities offer popular majors, such as business and information technology. But if you are interested in some more specialized fields, such as marine biology or archaeology, it is important for you to check ahead.

Aside from a few specialized institutions of higher learning, most colleges and universities in the USA offer a wide variety of subjects. It is nearly always possible to study your major and pursue other subjects at the same time. Traditional liberal arts colleges normally award bachelor's degrees in the sciences and in the arts. These schools have the additional advantage of offering a close association with its professors and their research.

You might decide to attend a school that mainly offers courses in your area of study. There are U.S. colleges that are exclusive to one field, such as business or engineering, for example. On the other hand, perhaps you would rather study at a school where a wider variety of subjects are taught. This gives you more options and flexibility.

2 / DEGREES & GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Be sure in your research and application process that you are seeking information and applying to the correct degree program. If you have finished secondary school (high school), or have completed some university studies without having earned a degree, you are applying for undergraduate studies (this means for a two-year associate's degree or a four-year bachelor's degree). For most of

these programs, you do not have to apply for a specific degree, but just for admission to the college or university.

Master's and doctoral degrees are considered graduate programs, sometimes referred to as "post-graduate." It is crucial that you make sure that the schools that interest you have the appropriate graduate degree. A degree program that is merely an evening or weekend program may not be intensive enough for you to maintain your status as a full-time student. (Many MBA programs are evening and/or weekend programs.) Furthermore, unlike undergraduate admissions, your application needs to be submitted directly to the department at the university to which you are applying.

For most graduate degrees, you will have to submit standardized test scores from exams such as the GMAT (for graduate business programs) and the GRE. To qualify for these degrees you must have the equivalent of a four-year university degree.

3 / ACADEMIC STANDARDS & PRESTIGE (RANKINGS)

Admission to some U.S. colleges and universities—particularly the most famous and prestigious ones—is highly competitive, especially for international students. An educational advisor is useful in determining whether you have a realistic chance of being admitted. For the majority of students, it is more practical to find a quality institution where they will be academically challenged, rather than insisting on attending one of the top 50 universities in the United States.

Research each school's admission standards and how your own record will measure up against them. Ask your counselor and teachers about your probability of being admitted to your selected schools. Be aware that most colleges and universities base their admissions decision on academic performance. Your extracurricular activities will also be considered. Scores on standardized admissions tests are important, but your marks or grades from school are more important.

4 / LOCATION & REGION

Geographic region and location can be highly influential. You will be living in the United States for possibly years and where you choose to study could affect your overall experience and your access to professional opportunities. Think about what you would prefer, or at least which areas are acceptable to you. In total numbers, the

FACTORS to CONSIDER

- * Academic Field/Major
- * Degrees & Graduate Schools
- * Academic Standards & Prestige (Rankings)
- * Location & Region
- * City, Suburb or Town
- * Total Cost for Your Education
- * Large University or Small College
- * TOEFL requirements (or TOEFL waivers)
- * Accreditation
- * Types of Accreditation

majority of international students in the United States live on or near either the East or West Coasts. Are you from a tropical climate? If so, you should consider whether you would enjoy living in New England, with world-class universities but a cold climate.

Along with the geographic location, think about extracurricular activities. Are you interested in any specific type of cultural, sporting or recreational activity to practice outside of your class time? Some people are attracted to mountain areas, such as Colorado or Vermont, for skiing or snowboarding. Others wish to live near Florida's Atlantic coast or in Southern California so they can surf. Theater fans are drawn to cities like San Francisco or New York City. Some students prefer to live close to communities of their countrymen, making places like New York City and Los Angeles popular. Other students choose to be somewhere in "Middle America" where they can have an almost complete cultural immersion.

It may surprise you that many of the United States' most important research



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Christa Schulz, Director, International Programs
 Telephone: (360) 416-7734 Fax: (360) 416-7868
 E-mail: internationaladmissions@skagit.edu Website: <http://www.skagit.edu/international>

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 City of Burlington <http://www.ci.burlington.wa.us>



universities are located in small cities or towns such as Lawrence, Kansas, or Madison, Wisconsin. These cities might not be famous in other countries, but are well known “college towns” with relatively low cost of living and a high quality of life.

5 / CITY, SUBURB OR TOWN?

Concentrating on the issue of location, the type of area can be as important as the region. Be aware that the majority of universities are not located in the center of large cities such as New York City, San Francisco or Chicago. Many of the great universities—that attract thousands of international students each year—are in small cities and towns. This can be a very big adjustment for students from huge cities, so take that into consideration. Yet, tens of thousands of students each year settle into their studies in small cities or towns. Most people can adapt to a new reality.

One compromise can be a suburb—residential areas outside major cities—where there are many attractive colleges. Suburbs give the tranquility and space needed for world-class facilities but are close to the excitement of large cities.

If living in a metropolitan or large city is really important to you, there are hundreds of schools in the heart of major cities.

6 / TOTAL COST FOR YOUR EDUCATION

Try to calculate the total cost for your studies, including living expenses. You can often get this information via colleges’ websites. Elite, private colleges and universities usually have higher tuition costs than public universities. There are a few private institutions with very competitive costs compared to public universities.

Generally speaking, the areas away from the East and West Coasts have a lower cost of living, in some cases, considerably lower. California’s two excellent university systems—University of California and California State University—have dozens of attractive campus locations with relatively inexpensive tuition. But, the cost of living can often be twice that in other states, so your total cost may be higher in California. Please be aware that costs increase every year.

7 / LARGE UNIVERSITY OR SMALL COLLEGE?

Most international students enroll at large,

research universities. Typically these are public universities that are supported by their state government. These offer good “brand names” on your resume. Abroad, schools like Yale University and the University of California, Berkeley are well known to families and future employers. But before you decide on these large schools, remember that there are hundreds of smaller universities and colleges that might also be good options for you.

Small colleges generally provide a more sheltered environment and smaller class sizes. Usually they have a better ratio of students to faculty, therefore you may receive more personal attention. This often eases the educational and cultural transition. Integration into student life can be easier at a smaller college.

Large, research-focused universities have more technical majors like architecture and engineering. And, if they are public, the tuition costs tend to be lower. These schools will have more international students and it is likely that other students from your country will be there.

8 / TOEFL REQUIREMENTS (OR TOEFL WAIVERS)

For most international students, the TOEFL examination is a source of anxiety. But, unless you have been educated in the English language it is almost unavoidable. Each program sets its own requirements and usually the more prestigious the university, the higher the TOEFL score requirement. Always research requirements of each individual school and program before you apply.

Some universities have what is called a TOEFL waiver option and this is very attractive to international students. It generally involves studying at the university’s intensive English language program (or another affiliated English program) through the completion of the final level. Some private language schools, such as ELS Language Centers, have agreements with many universities that allow students who successfully complete the English program to apply for and/or be granted admission without the TOEFL score.

9 / ACCREDITATION

Accreditation is the certification that a school or program meets a prescribed academic standard. It is very important to know that a college or university is accred-

LIBERAL ARTS

U.S. undergraduate students often attend a university for a year or longer before selecting their degree major. Some students later change their major, even though they might have to spend more time studying as a result.

If you are still unsure about the academic focus you would like to pursue, you are not alone. Each year, many thousands of U.S. students enter their college or university as “undecided.” To discover what appeals to them, they typically opt for the liberal arts: an academic area that offers a broad range of choices in various fields. It is designed to give graduates a well-rounded educational foundation.

Liberal arts education is an academic area that offers a broad range of choices in various fields. At a school with a strong liberal arts program, you will be required to take courses in subjects from the sciences to the humanities: philosophy, history, music, arts, and literature. By taking classes about different disciplines you are given the chance to explore other fields and learn new topics. You may discover that you have talents in areas you had never before considered. This may even lead you to pursue a field that you had no interest in prior to attending college or university.

You will most likely complete some liberal arts courses as they are weaved into the curriculum of most programs. You may enroll in a primarily liberal arts program simply because it is a valuable experience. A liberal arts education exposes you to new academic subjects and ideas and cultivates lifelong skills. Effective communication and critical thinking skills are essential to any career. In fact, many students desire a broad and balanced education from a liberal arts college before going on to graduate school or a specific profession.



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ited. If you attend a college or university that is not accredited, you will not be able to transfer your credits to an accredited college or university. Your home country may not recognize your degrees, and you may not be able to get the job you want.

There is no national government authority or Ministry of Education that sets higher education standards in the USA. Some states authorize or approve schools, but this refers to financial and licensing requirements, not the quality of education.

Instead, colleges and universities have formed associations that set the standards themselves. These associations, called “accrediting bodies,” evaluate each U.S. college and university. If the institution meets the accrediting associations minimum standards it receives an acceptable rating; it is now designated as “accredited.” This means it earns the right to be listed on the accrediting association’s list of acceptable schools. A school must maintain these high standards in order to remain accredited.

10 / TYPES OF ACCREDITATION

There are different types of accrediting bodies: institutional and professional. Your government may also require that you earn a degree from a school with both types of accreditation. Institutional accreditation is based upon the entire school. Professional accreditation is based on the standards kept by a particular school, such as law, medicine, engineering, or business, and is determined by judges within those professions.

Helpful resources are the Council for Higher Education Accreditation at chea.org and the U.S. Network for Education Information at www.ed.gov/NLE/USNEI.

The degree-granting colleges and universities listed in this copy of Study in the USA® are fully accredited. Accreditation for schools or programs that do not grant degrees, such as English language institutes, varies depending upon its professional affiliation.



Orange Coast College, California

Contacting Schools

When you compile a list of colleges and universities that interest you, analyze your choices and narrow your list to six to eight schools. You can find school’s contact information within this magazine and on StudyUSA.com.

Before you contact the program, please be aware of the distinction between English language, undergraduate and graduate programs. Each program has its own designated admission office. If you will be an undergraduate student, write only to the undergraduate admissions office. If you will be a graduate student, be sure to write only to universities with graduate schools. In the case of graduate programs, you would contact the admissions office of the graduate school in which you would like to study. For example, if you are interested in a graduate level engineering program at a university, you would contact the school of engineering admissions office.

You can send an online request for information directly to colleges and universities via StudyUSA.com. Go to **StudyUSA.com** to read more about your list of schools and contact their offices.

If you contact schools through email, please understand that it is important for them to know how you learned about their school, so please mention *Study in the*

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Many countries do not have a direct equivalent of the American community college (also called “junior college”). A community college is a public institution where students can pursue an associate’s degree or the first two years of university study.

They have grown increasingly popular among international students because they do not have high entrance requirements and are very economical. For example, some students choose to earn an associate’s degree in a technical area and then return to their countries with this credential. Many others, however, use this as an economical path to their degree. You can complete the first two years of your bachelor’s degree or simply earn academic credits. Both are most likely transferable to a four-year university and without a doubt, earning some of your university credits at a community college will save you money.



USA®. The schools will send you an email and/or brochures with descriptions of the academic programs and activities. ★

David P. Anderson, Vice President - Recruitment & Partner Support; ELS Language Centers, the world’s largest campus-based intensive English program provider, offering pathways to 650+ universities worldwide, www.ELS.edu or www.UniversityGuideOnline.org.

STUDENT TIP

SIERRA COLLEGE PROVIDES A NICE EDUCATION IN A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY. WHEN I WAS YOUNGER I USED TO WATCH AMERICAN MOVIES, AND I WANTED TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. THEY ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT THE AMERICAN DREAM, AND I WANTED TO COME AND SEE IT.

—Paolo Kwan, from Hong Kong, Business Administration & English at Sierra College





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TIP

Most schools require similar application materials from international students—the application, fee, official transcripts, a bank statement, and a copy of the student’s passport. Many schools also ask for essays from the applicant; it is important that students make these essays personal, and about themselves (not their accomplishments and/or an elaborated CV). Have your essay proofread by a native English speaker.

—Mary Meulblok, Manager,
International Student Services, at
Pierce College in Washington State

APPLYING

FOR ADMISSION

Each U.S. university and college sets its own admission standards and decides which applicants meet those standards. Therefore, you must apply separately to each university or college.

Even if you have selected one school where you are sure you want to study abroad, you should still apply to other schools—it is possible that your “first choice” school may not accept you. At least one or two of your choices should be schools where you and your advisor are fairly certain you will be admitted. Remember that you are competing with prospective international students from all over the world for a limited number of spaces.

Most schools in the USA encourage prospective international students to contact their admissions office at least one year before planning to enter that school.

Follow these helpful steps as you apply for admission to U.S. universities and colleges.

Write to Several Schools

After you have selected the schools you want to attend, contact each school for an application form and more international student admission information. You can use the school advertisements throughout this magazine and **StudyUSA.com** as information resources to help you make your choice. On StudyUSA.com, you can contact schools directly to request information.

If you wish to apply for a graduate (post-graduate) program you should verify the admission requirements with the specific graduate school within the university. Many graduate programs have higher admission standards and some programs require applications to be sent directly to their department. You should be in good academic standing if you expect to be admitted to a graduate program. Contact either the admissions office of the graduate school or the chairperson of the department.

Please mention that you learned about the school from *Study in the USA*.

Send Application Forms

Universities and colleges in the USA usually base their admission decisions on a student's academic record and applicable test scores, such as TOEFL, the SAT or ACT. If you are applying to graduate schools, additional exam scores such as the GRE or GMAT will be required.

The admissions office or graduate school department will send you information about their academic programs and an application form. (You might be able to obtain a specific school's application form online or at your lo-

MOST APPLICATIONS WILL REQUEST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Personal information—Include your name, age, address, family background, birthplace, citizenship, and so on.

Activities—Make a list of club memberships, awards earned, team sports experience, or leadership roles you have held.

Education plan—Write a short essay explaining why you want to attend this school, what course of study you want to pursue, your career goals, and research plans.

Essay—Some schools require a personal essay on a topic of your choosing. See sidebar.

Letters of recommendation—The application form will include several blank pages for your letters of recommendation.

Ask several of your teachers to compose and mail these letters directly to the admissions office of each school you choose.

cal educational advising center.)

The fee for each application is US\$35 to US\$100. This money pays for processing your application and is non-refundable, even if you aren't admitted to the school. If you mail your application, make sure to contact the admissions office to confirm your application was received.

The admissions office will review your marks earned during the last four years of secondary school. Your results from your country's national secondary school examinations will also be reviewed. If you are applying to a graduate program your marks from university or college will be taken into consideration.

Ask the school you are now attending, or the school you have attended most recently, to mail a certified copy of your academic record or “transcript” to the schools to which you are applying. Prior to taking your admissions tests, you should arrange for official score reports to be sent to the universities or colleges that interest you.

Be sure to send your application to each

university or college well before the application deadline. This gives you some extra time to resolve any possible delays.

Register for Admissions Tests

Students applying to universities and colleges in the United States must take certain examinations (SAT, ACT, GMAT, etc.) that measure aptitude and achievement. International students must also take a test that measures English language proficiency. They are “standardized” so that students take the same test at every test center. Your scores give the admissions office a uniform international standard for measuring your ability in comparison with other students. These tests are given at test centers around the world.

Take the Admissions Tests

Your test scores are sent directly to the schools to which you are applying. You will be asked to indicate the names of these schools when you register to take certain tests, such as the SAT or ACT. In the case of computer-based tests, you will designate the schools at the exam site and the testing agencies will mail your scores directly to them. There will be a fee for scores that you request at a later date.

Receive Acceptance Letters

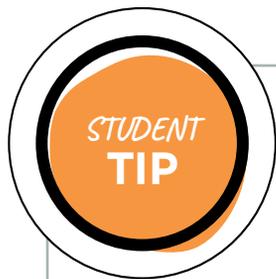
After the application deadline, you will begin receiving letters from your chosen schools. Some universities inform candidates of their acceptance soon after their documents have arrived in the admissions office; this is called “rolling admissions.” Other schools, however, wait several months and inform all candidates at one time.

Pay Your Deposit

Most universities require students to pay a deposit by a certain deadline in order to reserve a space in the entering class. For international students this deposit can be as high as a semester's or a full year's tuition.

You should send your deposit immediately if you are applying for financial aid or if you plan to live in university housing. Because many schools do not have enough campus housing for all the students, you will have a better chance of getting a room on campus if you send your housing application and room deposit fee as quickly as possible.

You may also be required to provide a statement indicating how much money you will have available during the years you will be attending the school. If you have a scholarship or a sponsorship from your government and/or company, you will need to send details of your award.



AN AWESOME LIFE EXPERIENCE IS WAITING FOR YOU IN THE FUTURE. YOU WILL LEARN SO MUCH MORE THAN YOU THINK. NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, SO GO AHEAD AND GIVE IT A TRY.

—Paolo Kwan, from Hong Kong, Business Administration & English at Sierra College



WRITE AN AWESOME ESSAY

You may not be familiar with the American practice of writing a personal essay to submit with your university application. Here are some tips on how to write an awesome essay!

Step 1 / THINK OF A GREAT TOPIC. Your essay topic should have personal meaning for you. It should reveal something about who you are, your values or interests, and how you are different from any other applicant. Write something about yourself that cannot be reflected by your grades, the list of classes that you've taken, or in any other part of your application. There are several questions you can ask yourself that will help you think of ideas: (1) What are you like? (2) What have you done? (3) What are your goals?

Step 2 / WRITE YOUR ESSAY. Good writing takes time. Don't rush or expect to finish your essay in one afternoon. Pay special attention to the introduction. Draw in the reader so that he or she is interested in finding what the rest of your essay will reveal. Use simple words to express your ideas; you don't have to use complex vocabulary words to show how much English you know. Use the language to express yourself, not to prove how smart you are. If you make a statement, give an example to demonstrate your point.

Step 3 / TAKE YOUR TIME AND ASK FOR HELP. Leave yourself enough time so that you can stop working on your essay for a few days—even a week—and then come back to it. This will allow you to read your essay with a fresh perspective. Also, have your friends and family read your essay—they will be able to see things you've missed or neglected to mention. Have fun, take your time, be yourself and tell your story well!

Test-Taking Tips

When preparing for any of the tests discussed in this article students should keep in mind that good English language instruction is an essential foundation. Consider going through an intensive English language program prior to your university studies. This will make your classes easier. Just like any field of study, English language proficiency can be achieved with continued study and practice.

Take plenty of time to prepare for each test. Use available preparation materials to familiarize yourself with the test's structure and guidelines. Instructions on taking computer- and paper-based tests are generally available for each exam.

Use available sample questions and exercises. Examples of authentic questions and previously used topics are often available, as well as sample tests. Get as much practice as you can before taking the actual exam.

Simulate the test situation. Find out as much as you can about the test environment, and practice in a similar setting. Allow yourself only the time allocated for the actual test. Practice working through sections as quickly and effectively as possible, identifying and focusing on areas where you need improvement.

Take advantage of all the resources available to you. The more you know about a test and how it is scored, the more efficiently you can approach it. The Internet is an excellent resource, and most online information is free.

Follow directions. Read all the instructions thoroughly and completely before beginning any test. Make sure you understand your objectives and how to achieve them. Don't worry if you don't know an answer—concentrate on the current question, and do the best you can, but don't spend too much time on any one item. Pace yourself so you have enough time to answer every question.

Be relaxed and confident. Get plenty of sleep before any exam. Remember, the more rested and better prepared you are, the more comfortable and positive you'll be during the test. ★



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- ▶ Conditional admission to Undergraduate and some Graduate programs
- ▶ Monarch English Transition program offers ELC students a direct way to meet English proficiency requirements for most academic programs at Old Dominion University without the need to pass the TOEFL or IELTS
- ▶ Conversation Partner Program - You are matched with American students to practice English

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odu.edu/esl

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Enrollment

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Alumni

More than 133,000 alumni in 76 countries and all 50 states



INVEST IN YOURSELF

FINANCING YOUR U.S. EDUCATION

Like many students, both international and American, you are probably concerned about how you will pay for your studies in the USA. Don't let this ruin the exciting plans you have made. With a little planning, you will come out ahead. If you are feeling overwhelmed by the cost, consider what an American education and degree will mean to your future. Education is one of the best investments you can make—an investment in yourself. Plus, the money isn't all going toward lab fees and library late book charges. You are also going to be having fun, spending money on things like ski trips and nights out on the town eating sushi with your new friends!

Make an accurate estimate for the overall cost of your study in America, and then create an accurate budget. There will be many components to your budget that you need to take into consideration. Be aware that many U.S. universities and colleges require that international students pay for their first year's tuition in one installment. In order to pay this sizable amount you and your family will likely need to start saving well in advance.

Despite this, don't let the cost of a university education in the USA scare you off! A U.S. education and proficiency in English paves the way to more secure and higher paying jobs. In the end, your education here will pay for itself many times over.

To finance your U.S. education, you may have to rely on financial aid packages, which include grants, scholarships, loans and work/study options. Make time to thoroughly research the funding opportunities available to you.

Scholarships

Very few U.S. universities and colleges are able to offer robust financial aid to international students. Therefore it is critical for you and your family to be responsible for all of your education, personal housing, and food costs. Scholar-

ships are for varying amounts and one will only cover a small portion of the total amount necessary for an academic year in the States.

You can write to the school of your choice to ask for a scholarship consideration form. But, you should first check with your family, government, home institution, and any other organizations to which you belong as a source for funding your studies. You will have greater opportunities and you won't be competing with students from all over the world. Plus, if the scholarship program originates from your country, the process may be easier for you.

Loans

Loans can make it possible for you to study as an international student in the United States. There are also international student loans that are available. While the majority of American students have to obtain loans to study, taking out a loan should not be taken lightly. Rigorously research your other options first. It is best to gain as much funding as possible—money you don't owe back—and then, if need be supplement the remaining costs with loans. Compare interest rates and terms at various financial institutions to find the best deal for the long term.

Just like any other investment, remember the return. You will be investing in your future career and earning power.

Work/Study

An estimated 75 percent of all full-time students studying at U.S. universities and colleges hold at least part-time jobs. If you are coming to the USA for more than a short-term program or exchange it is likely that you will have an F-1 Student Visa. With this type of visa you may qualify for work/study programs at your school. You might want to work extra hours while still in your home country, as visa restrictions in the USA reduce the number of hours you are able to work.

If are able to get a work/study job, be sure not to stress yourself by overloading your schedule with too much work and a full load of classes. You have come to the USA to study and you want to be able to enjoy and excel in your classes. However, an advantage to holding a part-time job is the extra money, as well as the practical work experience. Find a balance that works for you.

Entrance Exams: \$500

College or university admission exams, such as the SAT, TOEFL, and GMAT, can cost from \$50 to \$500. There may be additional fees for processing, sending your scores to schools, etc. You may have to take the exams more than once, so set aside the funds to do so. It's important to give yourself enough time to take the tests so that the school will receive your scores before the admission deadline. There are additional fees to have your score results rush-delivered.

Application Fees: \$250 - \$600

Application fees to cover administration and processing range from \$50 to \$75 per application. Most applicants apply to four to ten schools.

Tuition

Undergraduate: \$2,200 - \$32,405
Graduate: \$8,225 - \$28,466
Doctoral: \$10,354 - \$40,519

Tuition costs vary greatly from school to school and location. Depending on where you choose to study, your annual tuition can average from \$2,200 to \$32,405 (undergraduate). Typically, English as a Second Language (ESL) schools and community colleges cost less than colleges or universities. State schools, which are financed by the local state and U.S. government, cost less than private colleges or universities. However, most state schools charge a higher "out-of-state" rate for international students and you should budget for annual inflation of tuition costs,



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ANNUAL AVERAGE TUITION

by Type of Institution, 2015–2016

Public Two-Year Institution: \$3,435**Public Four-Year Institution:** \$23,893**Private Four-Year Institution:** \$32,405**AVERAGE ROOM AND BOARD**

by Type of Institution, 2015–2016

Public Two-Year Institution: \$8,003**Public Four-Year Institution:** \$10,138**Private Four-Year Institution:** \$11,516

around five percent. A helpful website for comparing tuition is collegeboard.com.

Room and Board:**\$8,003 - \$11,516**

Most students choose a dormitory or residence hall to live in for at least the first academic year. Some schools require that freshman live in the dorms during their first year. Two or more people usually share dorm rooms, which is a great way to make friends and you and your roommate can explore your American university or college together. Housing is also available on many campuses for married students and families.

Rural areas are often much less expensive than larger cities. In larger cities, and at English language institutes, students can live more economically off campus. Rental agreements in the USA often include first and last month's rent, plus a security deposit.

No matter where you choose to live, take a thorough inventory of the apartment with your landlord and note any pre-existing damage. Make sure to have a signed contract with rental terms and conditions for returning your deposit. If you don't understand something in your rental contract, have a friend help you. It is important that you understand what you are signing; don't feel pressured by your landlord to hurry.

Another option many students enjoy is living with an American family. This is commonly referred to as a "homestay." If your school is equipped, they can help you coordinate a homestay. Otherwise, the school can provide you with a list of companies that help arrange stays in family homes. Don't be afraid to ask for guidance.

The family provides you with your own room or a shared room, as well as breakfast and dinner in a family setting. Living with a host family is an especially good option for younger students who aren't used to living on their own. It is also one of the best ways to become fluent in English and gain a firsthand understanding of American family life.

Travel Costs: \$500 - \$3,000

To calculate your travel costs, investigate ticket

prices from your country to the USA. Air travel within the United States typically ranges from \$300 to \$700 per round-trip ticket.

Books and Materials:**\$900 - \$1,300**

You are responsible for paying for books, notebooks, computer accessories and other study supplies. Expect to spend around \$1,000 on books and materials each year. When possible, buy or rent used textbooks. Websites like efollet.com and amazon.com are good choices for buying used books. This will save you an enormous amount of money. You can also sell your books once the class is completed. Many school bookstores have a buy-back day. These are convenient, but depending on the textbook and time of year, you may consider selling your textbooks online.

Health Insurance:**\$350 - \$1,500**

As an international student at a U.S. institution, you will be required to have health insurance. To begin your search for insurance, check with the college or university you would like to attend to see what policies they have available for international students. You can then compare the services and prices offered through your school to those of other organizations and companies. Make sure that your insurance company and coverage meets the requirements of the school.

Additionally, most U.S. universities and colleges have a medical center that provides examinations or treatment for minor injuries and illnesses for a small fee. Campuses usually have counseling centers as well. These services cannot substitute for a health insurance requirement.

Personal Expenses: \$2,500

Of course, you will require all of the things that you usually need at home: personal care items, medicine, money for laundry, dry cleaning, transportation, recreation, entertainment, and so on. Carrying large amounts of cash is not advised anywhere in the USA. Very rarely is cash even needed; most purchases can be made by a debit or credit card.

Don't let all of this serious talk about money stress you! Remember, you are going to the USA

Student tip

"I have been working and saving for this for a long time. My government provides some help. Living in homestay is also helpful because dinners are provided, so I don't have to spend money on food."

Maria Kanerva from Finland is a Business Administration student at California State University, San Marcos, where she also attended the American Language and Culture Institute



"My parents give me a certain amount of money, which I can spend for my expenses each quarter. And my duty is knowing how to balance it in a good way so I would not be out of money while I am in the middle of the quarter."

Thao Tran from Vietnam is majoring in Biochemistry at North Seattle College in Seattle, Washington.



"Working as a Resident Assistant and as a student worker, I have managed to balance my finances and thus make some extra pocket money to spend in my leisure time."

Ioannis Tsangaris from Cyprus is studying Information Technology and Information Management Systems at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey



to study—and to have fun! Some of your money will be spent on fun things like ordering pizza or going out dancing! Maybe you'll want to splurge on an "I ♥ New York" T-shirt, or a pair of authentic, vintage Levis. Balance thrift and fun, and your study abroad experience is sure to be a financial success! ★

*Cost information from The College Board and eduPass

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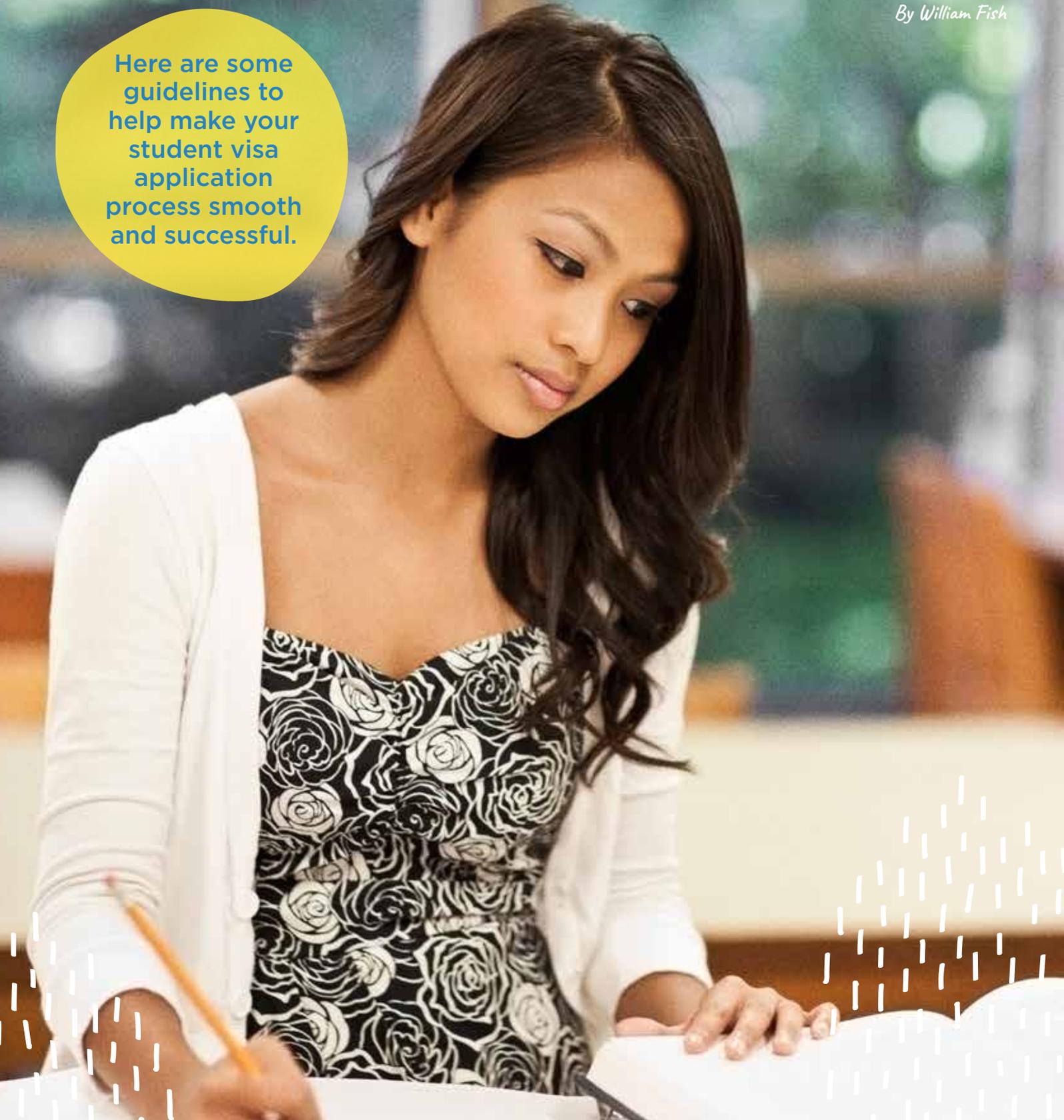
UTSA
www.utsa.edu/esl

The Office of ESL Services
The University of Texas at San Antonio
San Antonio, TX 78249
E-mail: eslservices@utsa.edu
Phone: (210) 458-7677

GETTING YOUR STUDENT VISA

By William Fish

Here are some guidelines to help make your student visa application process smooth and successful.



Getting your visa to study in the United States takes time but can be a surprisingly easy procedure. It is well worth the effort. In many countries, the number of student visas issued by the United States has grown significantly in the last year.

While the application process for an international student or exchange visitor visa can be confusing, hundreds of thousands of students are able to meet the requirements for a visa each year.

After a college, university, or English language school has accepted you for admission to full-time study, the school will send you a document called an **I-20** form, which is the application for an **F-1** visa.

If you will be an Exchange Visitor, the organization or U.S. Government agency that is sponsoring you will send you a **DS-2019** form, which is for a **J-1** visa.

You can visit the website of the United States Embassy or Consulate in your country at usembassy.gov to read about Nonimmigrant Visas. Go to the section on visas and read about the correct procedure currently in place for Nonimmigrant Visas.

1/ FIRST, your school or university will send you a form confirming that you have been accepted at an institution authorized by the U.S. Citizenship and Naturalization Service (USCIS) to enroll non-immigrant students (the I-20 for an F-1 visa or the DS-2019 for a J-1 visa). You will read and sign this form.

Be careful to make sure that the name and spelling on your passport is consistent with the name and spelling on your application for acceptance to the school. You must also make sure that the school has entered your name as it appears on your passport on the I-20 or DS-2019 Form.

All applicants' names have to be submitted for a security clearance. Citizens of some countries and students who will study certain subjects at a university have to undergo additional screenings that take several additional weeks of processing. Again, it is crucial that you allocate plenty of time for the visa application process.

2. SECOND, you will need to make an appointment for a visa interview and to pay some required fees. Student visas can be is-

sued up to 120 days before the starting date of your program stated on your form I-20. **Exchange Visitor Visas** can be issued any time before the date on the DS-2019. You should apply as early as possible for your visa.

Each U.S. Embassy has a website providing instructions on how to make an appointment for a visa interview and other information on the visa application process. The website for the Embassy in your country can be located at usembassy.gov.

The website can also tell you the expected wait time for a visa in your country. International student visa applicants should receive priority by the embassy or consulate.

6 TIPS FOR YOUR VISA INTERVIEW

- * Wear a business suit or dress
- * Be specific when you answer questions
- * Bring bank statements or proof of employment
- * Provide details of your study plans
- * Stay calm and be professional
- * Tell the truth

So, if your academic program begins soon, be sure to explain this when applying for your visa.

You may wish to visit or contact the nearest U.S. Department of State-affiliated EducationUSA advising center office in your country. They are located throughout the world and listed at educationusa.info/centers.php. The staff at these centers will be able to explain where to pay the visa fees and how to schedule your interview.

There is a US\$200 fee, which supports the cost of the computer system used to record your stay in the United States (SEVIS). You can pay this fee with an internationally valid credit card. Go to fmjfee.com/index.

html to pay, and make sure you print a copy of your receipt. You must pay the SEVIS fee at least three days before the date of your visa interview. Bring a copy of your receipt to your visa interview.

You will also need to pay an additional US\$160 for the visa application fee. Payment can be made in your country at the U.S. Embassy, Consulate, or at a bank that the embassy designates. Specific information on where to pay the visa application fee can be found at the website of the U.S. Embassy in your country.

3/ THIRD, the United States is using a new non-immigrant visa application form, **DS-160**, that should be completed online. This form replaces all of the other forms. Instructions for completing the form and links to the form can be found at <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>.

Complete the DS-160 form online completely. Again, remember to use the exact same order and spelling of your names as listed in your passport. Then you will print out the completed form and bring it with you to the Embassy when you go for your visa interview.

You will upload your photo while completing the online Form DS-160. Your photo must be in the format explained in the Photograph Requirements: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/photos/digital-image-requirements.html>

If the upload of your photo fails, you must bring the photo with you when you go for your interview.

4/ FOURTH, prepare for your visa interview. It is extremely crucial that you apply for your visa well in advance of the date your studies begin. If possible, apply three months before you plan to travel to the USA. This will give you extra time if there are delays at the embassy, or if you wish to appeal a decision in the event of a denial.

What you wear is important. Consider the interview a formal event. Business attire is appropriate. First impressions can be crucial, since there will be little time to speak with the officer, who will often have only a few minutes to conduct the interview and make a decision.

LAST YEAR 644,204 F-1 STUDENT VISAS WERE ISSUED, AND THERE ARE CURRENTLY 1.2 MILLION STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES ON F AND M VISAS!

Be prepared to give your information quickly and completely. If you are unable to answer the questions in English, and the visa officer does not speak your language, you can ask for an interpreter. Speaking English is not a requirement for a student visa. In fact, thousands of students come to the United States each year to learn how to speak English.

The visa officer needs to know your specific objectives, both academic and professional, for studying in the United States. Be prepared to explain why it is better to study your specific field in the United States than to study at home. Be ready to say exactly what you will study and for what career your U.S. studies will prepare you. Calmly state your education plans concisely and clearly.

If you are going to the USA to learn English and then earn a degree, you must be able to explain your complete program of study. Remember, it is not enough to just say, "It is better to study in the United States." Give valid reasons why it is better for you. Visa officers like to hear honest, direct responses to questions. They generally react poorly to applicants who give vague answers, memorize a speech, or make overly solicitous comments about how great and wonderful the United States is.

You should also be able to explain in detail why you chose to study at a specific school and be able to give information about that school and where you will live (dormitory, host family or apartment).

If you will return home to complete university studies after studying English in the United States, bring proof of your student status in your country. A letter from a university professor supporting your study plan can be helpful. Young people around the world are often unsure of their plans. However, in the visa interview it is best to give definite answers. If you seem to be unsure about what you will be doing, the visa officer may believe that you are really going to the United States for reasons other than education.

Grades do make a difference. If your marks are below average, be ready to provide explanation on how you are going to succeed in the United States. A letter from a school director, teacher, or from your U.S. admitting school stating that the proposed program of study in the United States makes sense and explaining your good prospects for success can be helpful. If there were special circumstances (such as a death or illness in the immediate family) that contributed

Once a visa is approved, you should receive your visa within a few days.

The USA issues different types of visas to students: A full-time student would receive an **F-1** or **M-1** visa.

Your spouse and children would receive **F-2** or **M-2** visas.

An Exchange Visitor would receive a **J-1** visa. Exchange Visitors come to the USA for consultation, training, research or teaching, or for an approved Au Pair or temporary work position.

to the poor grades, have the school explain those special circumstances.

The U.S. Department of State (DOS) has implemented an online tool that nonimmigrant and immigrant visa applicants can use to check the status of their application: <https://ceac.state.gov/CEACStatTracker/Status.aspx>

Financing

You must have adequate, demonstrable financial support to live and study in the United States. Visa applications are generally stronger if the financial support comes from family, employers, or other institutional sponsors located in your home country.

If your parents will pay for your education, bring documents that show how your family earns its income. Bring a letter from your parents' employers stating what they do, how long they have worked at those organizations, and how much they earn.

When visa officers see information that is contradictory or does not make sense, they do not grant visas. If your family can only show enough income to support you in the United States, the officer will become suspicious.

Large sums of money in bank accounts may not be sufficient proof of financial support. When providing information about your bank accounts, ask someone at your bank for a letter that states how long the account has existed and what the average balance in the account has been. That should convince the visa officer that you and your family have a long and stable history of business at the bank.

"Intent to Return"

Most student and exchange visitor visa applications are approved. The most common

reason for an application to be denied is that the person applying for the visa has not proven to the visa officer that they will return to their country upon completing their studies in the USA. This rule is called Section 214.b.

To determine your "intent to return" home, the visa officer will ask you a series of questions about your connections to your home country and about your study plans. Again, you will have to demonstrate to the officer that your family has the ability to pay for the first year of your proposed stay in the United States and that you have realistic plans to finance the remainder of your education.

You must have all of the required forms with you including your I-20 or DS-2019, the DS-160 form and the SEVIS payment receipt. You should bring any documents to demonstrate how you will pay for your education and why you will return to your country. Some examples of such documents are previous passports showing travel abroad, bank or salary statements, family documents or student records.

If all else fails...

If you are denied a visa there may be something you can do to reverse the denial. You may appeal the decision. In most cases, you will need to provide additional documentation that was not presented with the initial application. In some cases, a visa officer may request additional documents like proof of employment, or ownership of a home or business. You should respond with the information requested.

A fax or email from your U.S. school to the embassy or consulate in your city containing details about your qualifications, and requesting reconsideration, can be helpful in pursuing a successful appeal. Faxes should be addressed to the Chief of Nonimmigrant Visas at the Consular post in question. Fax and telephone numbers are available on the page of the Embassy or Consulate where you will apply for the visa on the Department of State web site at usembassy.state.gov. Look under "Contact Us." ★

William Fish meets regularly with U.S. Consular Affairs Officers in Washington, D.C. and in overseas embassies and consulates. He is President of the Washington International Education Council, which promotes international educational exchange. He can be contacted at wfish@washcouncil.org, www.washcouncil.org.



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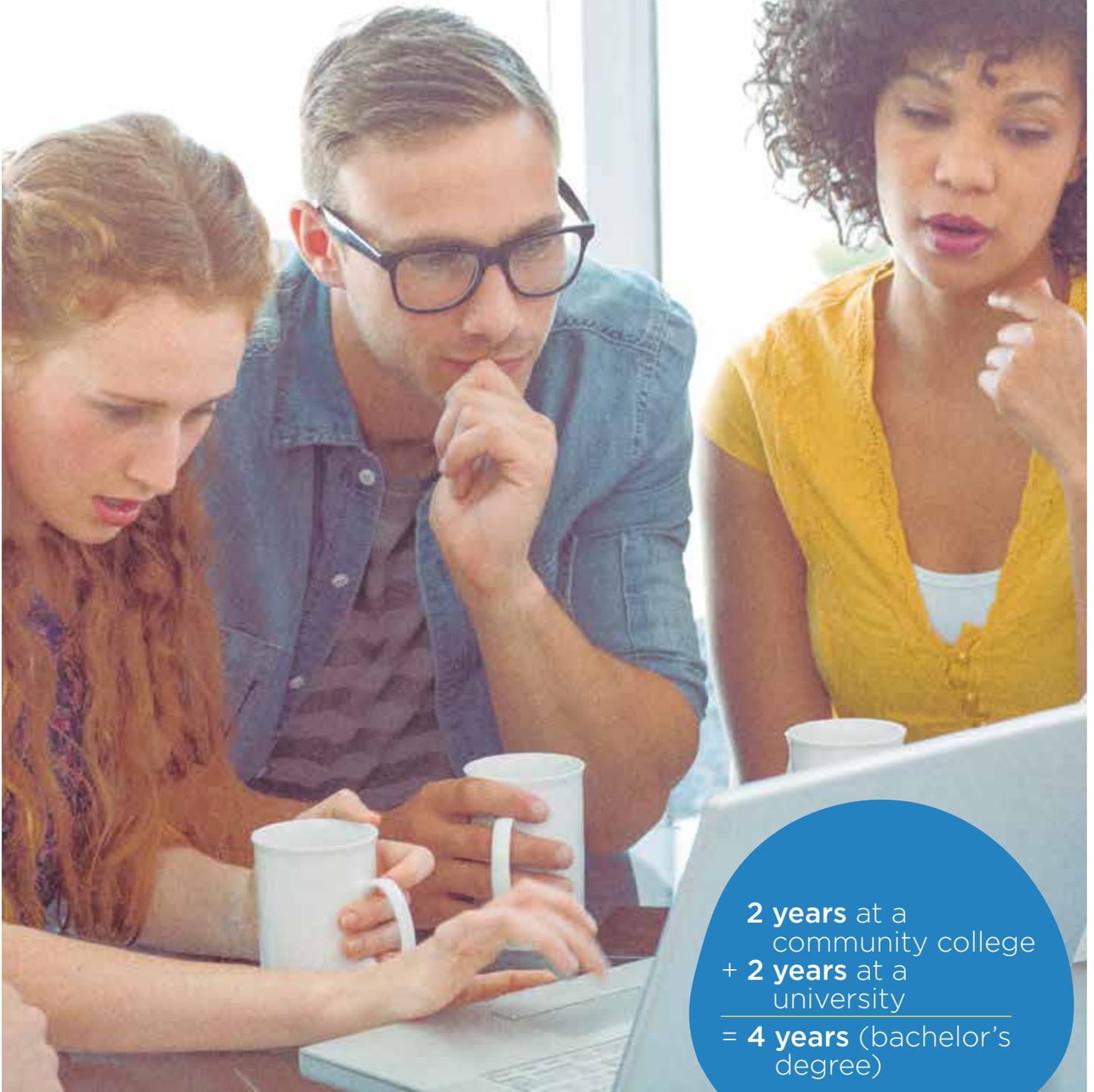
Homestays and On-campus Dormitories



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BEGIN YOUR BACHELOR'S DEGREE AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2 + 2 AGREEMENTS



2 years at a
community college
+ 2 years at a
university

= 4 years (bachelor's
degree)

Many American students—and over 91,000 international students—attend a community college for the first two years of university studies in the USA. With nearly 1,200 community colleges in the country, there are many benefits of this model in comparison to studying all four years at a university. Community colleges offer significantly lower tuition, smaller classes and strong student support. And oftentimes, they serve as pathways to prestigious four-year universities.

One of the great strengths of American higher education is the ease with which students can transfer from one college or university to another. For students who plan to earn a bachelor's degree the transition from community college to a university for the final two years can be quite easy. Students will attend a community college to complete lower division general education requirements and then transfer to a university. There, they can take upper division courses and thereby complete a bachelor's degree. Such an approach is commonly known as "2 + 2," though it may take more than four years to complete all of the courses required for a bachelor's degree.

In fact, many university advisors recommend that students attend community college "college transfer" programs first, and then transfer to universities for the final two years. For example, students studying at Santa Monica College, a community college, have transferred to UCLA upon receiving their two-year transfer degree.

Making Transfers Easy

Many colleges and universities have special arrangements known as "articulation agreements" or Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) partnerships with other institutions. Articulation agreements help ensure that the classes taken at a community college transfer easily to partner institutions with little or no loss of credit and time. For example, the 10 **Maricopa Community Colleges** in the metropolitan area of Phoenix, Arizona, work very closely with the **University of Arizona**,

Arizona State University and **Northern Arizona University** to make sure that Maricopa's courses will transfer.

University Transfer Admission Guarantee partnerships guarantee a community college student's admission upon completing specific requirements set by the university. These requirements may include a specific grade point average, coursework, and TOEFL score. Some majors are excluded from TAG agreements. For example, Business Administration is excluded from TAG agreements to the University of California, Irvine.

Most commonly articulation and TAG agreements will be between community colleges and four-year colleges and universities within the same state, but not always. For example, all the 115 California community colleges have articulation agreements with the **California State University (CSU)** system and the **University of California (UC)** system. For example, if a student successfully completes the general education requirements for California State University or the University of California at Santa Monica College, he or she can transfer to one of the universities and complete the last two years for the bachelor's degree.

These partnerships provide students an opportunity to save money on community college tuition and still transfer and graduate from a top-ranked university.

Whether students choose to study the arts or sciences depends on what they plan for their "major" field of study. During the first two years, students are studying a wide variety of humanities, social sciences, and natural science courses along with some foundation courses to prepare for their major.

Don't allow some of the challenges of transferring to deter you. If you plan ahead, a transfer can be an excellent way to accomplish your educational goals and enrich your experience with American higher education. Just as shifting gears in a car is a way to get more speed and power, transferring from one college or university to another can propel you to greater accomplishments. ★

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER FAIRS

Many community colleges host "transfer fairs" so their students can learn about opportunities to earn a terminal degree at a four-year university. At these fairs, usually held in a school auditorium on campus, students have a great opportunity to talk to admissions representatives from prestigious universities around the country.

For example, an international community college student studying in Seattle may transfer out of Washington State to places like California or New York. Representatives from other U.S. universities come to international transfer fairs to recruit outstanding international students into years three and four at their universities.

Sometimes several other community colleges in a region join as well so the fairs can draw even more universities to a multi-day event.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Community colleges are different than four-year universities. Here's how:

ADMISSION IS EASIER.

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores and academic requirements are usually lower for admission to U.S. community colleges than to four-year institutions. Many community colleges also offer ESL (English as a Second Language) programs or developmental math for students whose scores are too low to begin academic studies immediately.

COSTS ARE LOWER. Tuition at community colleges can be as much as 20 percent to 80 percent less than at four-year American universities and colleges. This is a tremendous cost savings for the first two years of the bachelor's degree.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

in classes, or at the institution in general, is often smaller than at four-year schools. Teachers and advisors are able to provide more one-on-one attention to students. Many U.S. and international students say that attending smaller schools for the first two years helped them make a good transition into larger four-year schools for the final two years.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENTS ARE MORE SUPPORTIVE.

In the U.S. educational system, students often compete for good grades. International students who do not speak English fluently are at a disadvantage. Often, they do better and feel more comfortable in smaller classes where there is less competition. In addition, community colleges typically offer free tutoring to support students' success.

ADJUSTING IS EASIER. Two years at a community college can help an international student improve English language skills and grow accustomed to the U.S. educational system and culture.

FIVE TIPS

for a Successful Transfer!

1/ START WHERE YOU WANT TO FINISH

First, find out exactly what the requirements are for admission to the school and to the academic program to which you want to transfer. Then, choose classes now at your current school based on what you know you'll need in the future.

2/ BE ORGANIZED AND READY TO WORK HARD

Exploring colleges and universities to transfer to in the future is exciting and fun, yet it does take effort. In addition to general admission standards, like the number of credits you have taken and your overall GPA, there might also be additional requirements for admission into your major, such as specific classes, a portfolio, a personal essay or even an interview.

3/ TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF YOUR RESOURCES

Work closely with advisors at both your current school and, if possible, at your future school. Clearly communicate to everyone what your transfer goals are so that you and your advisors are all working in concert with each other.

4/ ATTEND NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Don't assume that because you have already attended college you don't need to attend an orientation program for new students. Nothing could be further from the truth. Even though you are bringing college credit with you when you arrive, you are a new student, and you need to learn how to navigate the systems and resources at your new school.

Edmonds Community College, Washington



Edmonds Community College, Washington



5/ HAVE A DREAM SCHOOL, AND A PLAN "B"

If your dream has always been to attend a nationally ranked and highly selective university, then develop a transfer plan for this school and pursue it with enthusiasm. At the same time, keep yourself grounded and keep your options open. There are thousands of truly excellent colleges and universities for you to consider. Just because you haven't heard of a school doesn't mean that in the end it might actually be the very best school for you and become your dream school! ★

Elizabeth Lyon, Associate Director and Transfer Advisor at Edmonds Community College. Edmonds Community College, located 20 minutes north of Seattle, is a state college offering two-year university transfer degrees, English as a Second Language (ESL), professional degrees and certificates, as well as High School to University. The campus combines excellent coursework, award-winning faculty, and superior services to help students with all their needs while living in the United States.

STUDENT STORY

Dusan Djokic from Serbia is studying at Edmonds Community College in Washington State and plans to transfer his community college credentials to a university so he can study Business Administration.

I chose Edmonds Community College because I could get my high school diploma and also, at the same time, start earning my Associate of Arts degree. It was great opportunity for me to finish two programs in two school years. I am now one year ahead of my friends in Serbia. I am planning to work for one year on OPT (Optional Practical Training); then I will transfer to a university. My top two universities are California State University in Northridge or City University of New York.

Coming to America and Edmonds Community College was the best choice I could have possibly made. I realized that it is very important to stick to your goals and do not give up. There are so many opportunities on campus such as activities, clubs and jobs. Doing well in class and participating on campus will help you to be successful toward your dreams.



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Many universities offer conditional admission to academically qualified students who need to improve their English proficiency.



CONDITIONAL ADMISSION

By Jim Crawley

Choosing to continue your education in the United States is an exhilarating decision. As you begin your search for the right U.S. school you may feel hope, excitement, motivation and a little intimidation.

Some of you may know exactly what you want to study, and possibly you have even chosen a university or college. Others of you are dreaming of being in an American university classroom, but are not sure how to make the dream come true.

When you learn about a school's English language requirements, and realize your English language skills are not at a high enough level to begin classes, you may feel frustrated. Your academic marks meet the college or university admission requirements and you have the financial means to study in the USA. The only problem is your English language proficiency. This may cause you to delay your plans to study in the U.S., or to give up on a prospective school.

But there's another way ...

Many universities now offer "conditional admission" to international students who meet all other admission requirements, but need to improve their English language proficiency. Conditional admission provides talented and capable international students a pathway into university classrooms.

STEP 1 / Apply for conditional admission to a university

Not all universities and colleges offer conditional admission, so it is important to find out whether this option is available before applying for admission. Frequently, if the university has an intensive English program, or has an agreement with a local private intensive English program, applicants who are academically qualified may be considered for conditional admission. In this case, you would submit an application packet with all required original documentation, with the exception of the proof of English proficiency.

The university will evaluate your application documents and if you're academically admissible, the university could issue you a letter of conditional admission. This means that once you successfully complete the specified intensive English program and/or have the appropriate test score report (TOEFL or IELTS), you will be offered full admission to the university.

STEP 2 / Apply for admission to an intensive English program

Once you have been granted conditional

/student tip

"I received a conditional acceptance to complete my Master's Degree, but I had to learn English first!"

Alaa Alsabbah from Saudi Arabia first studied intensive English at an ELS Language Center in Portland, Oregon.

"I made a lot of progress in my one session in the IEP [Intensive English Program]. I was able to pass the TOEFL and enter my graduate program. My use of English, in terms of the skills, improved. My ability to read, write, and discuss in English improved so that I could take graduate classes."

Ramiro Garcia Olano from Argentina completed the Intensive English Program at University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and is now a Ph.D. student in Spanish Literature.

"My English has improved a lot in reading and writing skills because I always do assignments about these skills. This program helped me to prepare presentations, to search, read and write essays."

Ebru Ozkurt from Turkey studied intensive English at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

admission, you will also need to apply for admission to the university approved intensive English program. All the appropriate application, fees, and verification of financial support need to be submitted. The intensive English program will then issue you an admission letter and the appropriate immigration form, usually a Form I-20.

STEP 3 / Apply for your student visa

To apply for a student visa, you will need to take the admission documents from the intensive English program, original financial

support documentation, and the conditional admission letter from the university to the U.S. consulate or embassy.

Even though you may have limited English abilities, it is important that you are able to answer basic questions about the intensive English program and the university. Knowing the university and English program's location, what you want to study, and having the ability to briefly state why you want to attend that school can be very helpful in the visa interview. Although there are no guarantees in the visa interview, the more natural and comfortable you are with your answers, the more likely there will be a positive outcome.

STEP 4 / Confirm, confirm, confirm!

When you begin studying in the intensive English program it is important that you contact the university to which you've been conditionally admitted. You will want to confirm the conditions of the offer of admission, and the university will want to verify when you will complete the intensive English program. This will ensure that you start in the semester indicated in the letter of conditional admission.

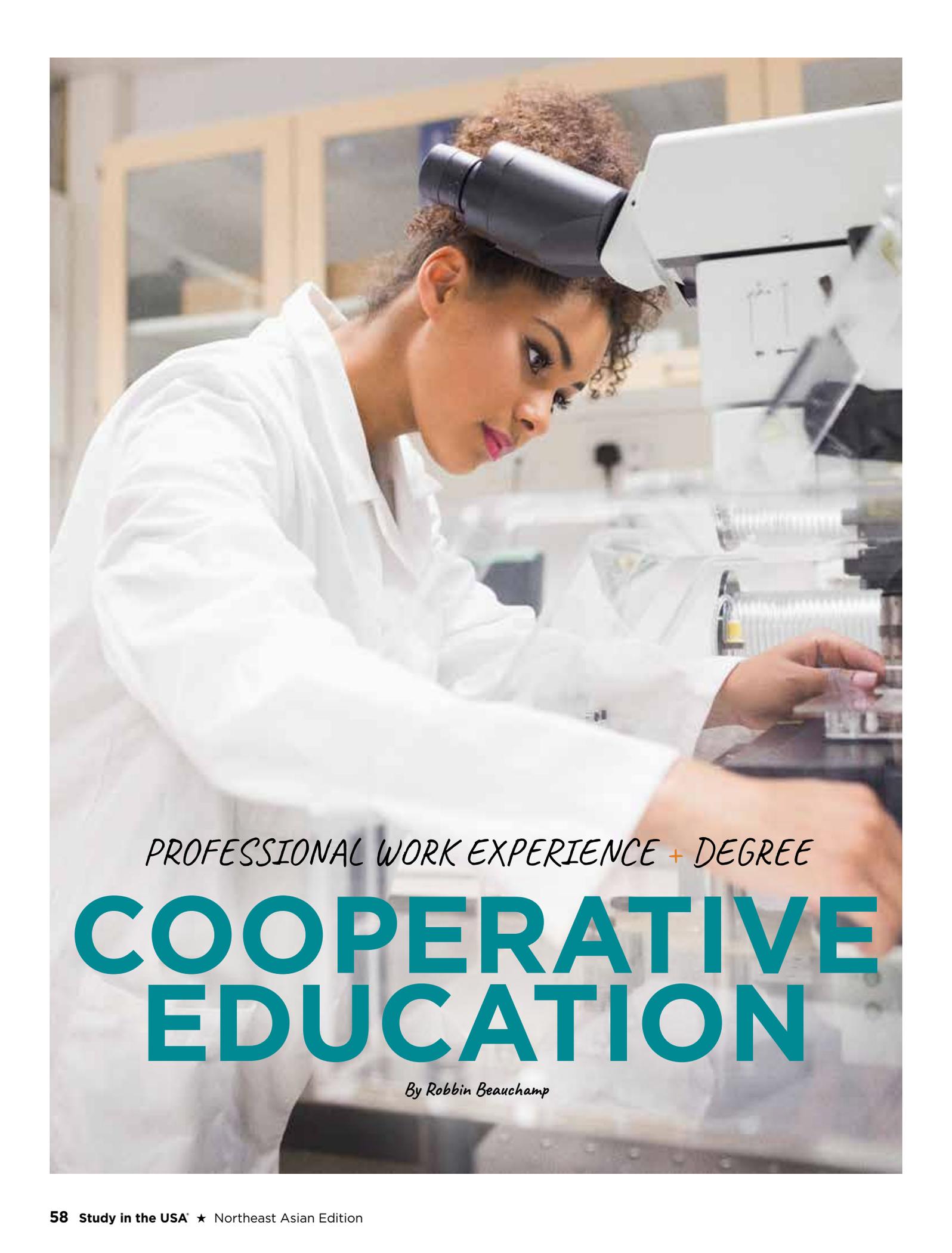
STEP 5 / Success! You've completed your intensive English program and are gaining full university admission

Once you've completed the intensive English language program, you will be transferring to the university. Remember that your student visa will be transferring as well. Therefore, you might be required to provide updated verification of financial support before the transfer can take place. Be sure and check for any other items that were outlined in the offer of conditional admission—all requirements must be met before a full offer of admission will be extended to you.

One last tip ...

The final word of advice is to take advantage of all the classes offered by the intensive English program and to speak English in and out of the classroom. You will not only become proficient in English during this time, but you will have practiced the study skills necessary for university success. ★

Jim Crawley, M.Ed. is Director of University Enrollment and Advising Services for ELS Educational Services, Inc., and previously served as the NAFSA International Enrollment Management Knowledge Community Chair.



PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE + DEGREE

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

By Robbin Beauchamp

The first step toward your career could be cooperative education (co-op). If you participate in a “co-op” program you enter the work force one step ahead of your classmates. You graduate with a university degree as well as professional work experience in your field of study.

Academic and Professional

As part of a long tradition in this country, over 900 U.S. universities and colleges offer co-op education programs. Cooperative education is a partnership between a university’s academic programs and professional employers, who provide off-campus work experience.

Your school should assist you in finding work with an organization. Your employer should monitor and evaluate your performance, pay you and supervise you.

Required for Graduation

At some universities, each student must complete a co-op in order to graduate. These programs are as diverse as the universities themselves. For example, everyone who earns a bachelor’s degree at **Wentworth Institute of Technology** participates in at least two semesters of co-op, which are built into the curriculum of each of Wentworth’s majors. A co-op is scheduled after the first three semesters of the bachelor’s program when a student has acquired enough knowledge and experience to deal with meaningful professional work.

Since Wentworth is an institute of technology, typical employers are architectural and design firms, engineering firms, and computer software companies. Wentworth students have completed co-ops at the Smithsonian Institution, Hong Kong Airport Authority, the Gillette Company, GE and Fidelity Investments.

Students are not limited to work near the university. International students who plan

careers in their home countries often complete their co-op semesters overseas.

Like a Real Job

At Wentworth, each student is assigned a co-op advisor and is encouraged to meet with their coordinator as often as desired. All students are encouraged to attend a five-week seminar, nicknamed the “Co-op Institute,” to prepare them for their co-op. Meetings with advisors can include résumé-writing, mock interviews and co-op search assistance.

Although your university may assist you in finding co-op opportunities, you are the one responsible for securing a co-op position. You will conduct a formal job search, interview for positions and earn a paycheck just as in the “real world.”

With this practice, students are much more astute than their counterparts who may have never searched for a job, negotiated terms, or landed a coveted position.

Co-op graduates are in high demand in the job market. Employers know that a co-op education integrates classroom theory, hands-on lab and studio work and real professional experience. Most graduates use their employers as professional references, and many also receive full-time job offers from them.

A co-op education supplements tuition and develops marketable skills. Those of us who administer the programs see this system as much more than that—it’s a great way to start your professional life. ★

Robbin Beauchamp is the Director of Cooperative Education and Career Services at Wentworth Institute of Technology located in Boston, Massachusetts.

Cooperative Education gives students the unique opportunity to practice classroom theory in a professional setting.

Helps students explore career interests

Paid positions help subsidize tuition costs

Improves job opportunities after graduation

Teaches students valuable job-search skills, such as resume writing and interviewing techniques

Promotes lifelong learning by integrating work and academic study

Enhances workplace skills like teamwork and critical analysis

Offers students financial earnings and work experience, encouraging those who may not have entered university or completed a degree program to reconsider

Improves students’ self-confidence and respect for work

Enhances professional development

TRY YOUR BEST TO GET A HIGH GPA. CHINESE STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE WORK EXPERIENCE WHEN THEY ARE IN HIGH SCHOOL, WHILE AMERICAN STUDENTS START WORKING WHEN THEY ARE IN SCHOOL. THEREFORE, WHEN YOU APPLY FOR CO-OP OR JOBS IN THE FUTURE, A HIGH GPA REALLY HELPS YOU TO MAKE UP THE DISADVANTAGE.

—Xujie Zhao, from China, Computer Networking at Wentworth Institute of Technology



STUDENT TIP



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- Intensive English Program that prepares students for study at U.S. Colleges and universities
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- SCC is located in the city of Orange, which has been named one of the 50 Safest College Towns in America by The SafeWise Report



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STUDYING TECHNOLOGY

AT A U.S. UNIVERSITY

TECHNOLOGY FIELDS OF STUDY

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING:

Combines the best of engineering and technology in areas such as robotics, simulation, and real-time systems.

COMPUTER SCIENCE:

Incorporates advanced work with software, programming languages, graphics, operating systems, and user interfaces.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT):

Installing and configuring software and hardware, data management, networking, engineering computer hardware, database and software design, and the management and administration of entire systems.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT:

Writing business application programs to instruct a computer to perform a variety of tasks. It involves analysis of the expected output, information flow, and writing and testing of the code.

WEB DEVELOPMENT:

Developing server-based applications using standard web protocols. It typically involves a combination of IT and software developer skills, alongside an ability to design a functional user interface.

When the electrical engineers of the late '70s and early '80s introduced the world's first mobile phones, they never would have imagined the world we live in today. Mobile phones now have features like mobile payment systems and video conferencing, all running on a multi-core processor in your pocket.

Today's economy has become an intertwined, international marketplace where ideas are the driving force rather than basic goods. Technological advancements continue to change the way people live their lives all over the world and employers are looking to capitalize on this. Because of this, individuals who possess a combination of technical training and a certain level of creativity are in high-demand.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment growth will be driven by the increasing reliance on information technology and the continuing importance of maintaining system and network security. In order to fill high-tech positions, employers are seeking well-educated and qualified individuals who understand the latest developments in technology.

Today's students will decide how technology will shape our future.

Technology Education in the USA

U.S. universities and colleges offer a greater variety of programs with a specialized focus in areas such as security, user interface design and geospatial technology. Program coursework incorporates both theoretical and hands-on practical training.

A new trend in technology education is a heightened focus on "soft skills." Soft skills are the interpersonal skills required to be effective in a professional setting. These include oral and written communication skills, project management, and teamwork. These skills will make you a more dynamic employee and increase your chances of success.

What to Look for in a Program

It is important that a program's cur-

riculum reflects the latest in technology. Therefore, the university or college must strive to update its curriculum so that it is relevant. There's nothing worse than spending a year focused on a specific platform, only to read a news article announcing that platform's pending demise.

The school should also provide the equipment needed to study your area of interest. For example, it wouldn't make sense to study network engineering at a school that did not provide the equipment needed for practical training.

Students in certain specialized degree programs may also have access to high-end, industrial tools and equipment. There's nothing more exciting than getting a chance to work with a piece of equipment that you've read about and otherwise couldn't afford. In addition to modern equipment, network connection speeds are equally important. Fast connectivity is now a high priority because distributed computing has become more common. Many American colleges and universities even offer gigabit Internet connections. This gives students the ability to develop new and creative uses for networked communications, without being encumbered by a limited Internet connection.

Seek schools that employ faculty with industry experience. It is also important that the program seeks the advice of technology professionals when shaping future curriculum. A school that regularly reaches out and works with the surrounding community will be the first to know about emerging technologies.

Degrees and Certificates

You can qualify for many careers in technology with a Certificate or Associate of Applied Science degree. These degrees can be earned at technical or community colleges, private specialized training schools, and for-profit training companies. In addition, you could continue with a bachelor's or master's degree if you are interested in a management, research or security position in technology. ★



Southern Illinois University

The Department Computer Science at Southern Illinois University is focused on the design, analysis, and use

of computer hardware and software. As an academic discipline, it does not focus on just one technology, programming language, or computer architecture. Rather, it seeks to ground the student in fundamental concepts that are applicable to many environments.

The Computer Science program offers an undergraduate major leading to the bachelor of science and bachelor of arts degrees, an undergraduate minor, and a graduate program leading to master of science and doctor of philosophy degrees. In support of these degree programs, the department offers courses covering all the major areas of computer science.

The rich diversity in the student body enhances programs by providing heterogeneous perspectives that complement the research, teaching, and service, as well as propels the frontiers of knowledge. The faculty's varied backgrounds and experiences mirror the community at large. By training the next generation of leaders and scholars in the field of Computer Science, we promote opportunities propagated well beyond Illinois.

The curriculum offered by the Department of Computer Science in the College of Science at Southern Illinois University Carbondale prepares its graduates for positions in the computer industry, as well as for advanced studies and research.

Computer science related jobs, such as software engineering, stand on top of the best-job ranking lists as reported in *Money* magazine year after year. Southern Illinois University graduates find careers in computer science available from a variety of employers and in all regions. Many of our graduates are involved in software development and are recruited by prestigious companies such as Boeing, Caterpillar, SBC Communications, Dell, Google, Ebay, Microsoft, State Farm, and Yahoo. Graduates gain employment as software engineers, systems analysts, programmers, and systems administrators.



MOBILE DEVELOPMENT

Innovation is the cornerstone of technology. Ten years ago, we were content to merely send a text message or maybe play a game of Snake on a two-color screen; today, we have mobile devices that can process more than the average desktop computer from that same era. Looking forward, we can only imagine what advances will come.

The definition of mobile development is evolving to not only include traditional mobile devices, but also tablets, gaming consoles, televisions, automobiles, and any other consumer device that has an operating system.

With the rate that mobile technology is advancing, it can be a difficult decision choosing the platforms and languages on which to focus. From one year to the next, existing programming languages advance and new ones are introduced, bringing new methods or features. Finding the right program of study is the first step to building the skills you will need in order to keep the pace and innovate within this field.

Getting an education in software development in the United States can take many different forms. While earning a degree exclusively from a four-year university is always an option, there are many different paths available. Due to their smaller size and emphasis on practical job training, community colleges and technical schools have the ability adapt to development trends quickly. These alternatives may suit your needs better.

In most mobile development programs, you can expect to start with standard programming courses. In these classes, you will learn the fundamentals of object-oriented programming (generally Java or C#), Unix, and basic web development.

As you advance through the program, classes will become more specific to mobile. Typically, courses will include mobile device user interface design, advanced development either in iOS or Android, as well as business and project management of mobile application development.

Finally, towards the end of the program, you will have to create and complete a practical overview project, often referred to as a “capstone” course. In a mobile development capstone course, you must utilize what you’ve learned throughout the program in order to build and market your own functioning mobile application. Upon completing your program, you can expect career opportunities as a mobile software developer, a mobile web developer, or a mobile solutions specialist. ★

Brian Turley is a Solutions Engineer at Ookla.

DIGITAL MEDIA

Wherever you are, digital media is playing an increasingly bigger role in the marketplace and in our daily lives. And with outsourcing on the rise, you can work for a prestigious international company from just about anywhere.

Digital Media Workers Are in Demand

Career skills in demand include digital video, animation, audio, web design, graphic design, video and interactive multimedia, to name a few. Digital workers can find jobs in consulting, education, the arts, the media—new and traditional—marketing communications and training.

So, if digital media is a good career choice for you, where do you start? Coming to the USA to study digital media arts makes perfect sense. Here, you can access the latest technology, learn from award-winning instructors and get hands-on experience in the industry.

Students Learn to Excel in the Classroom

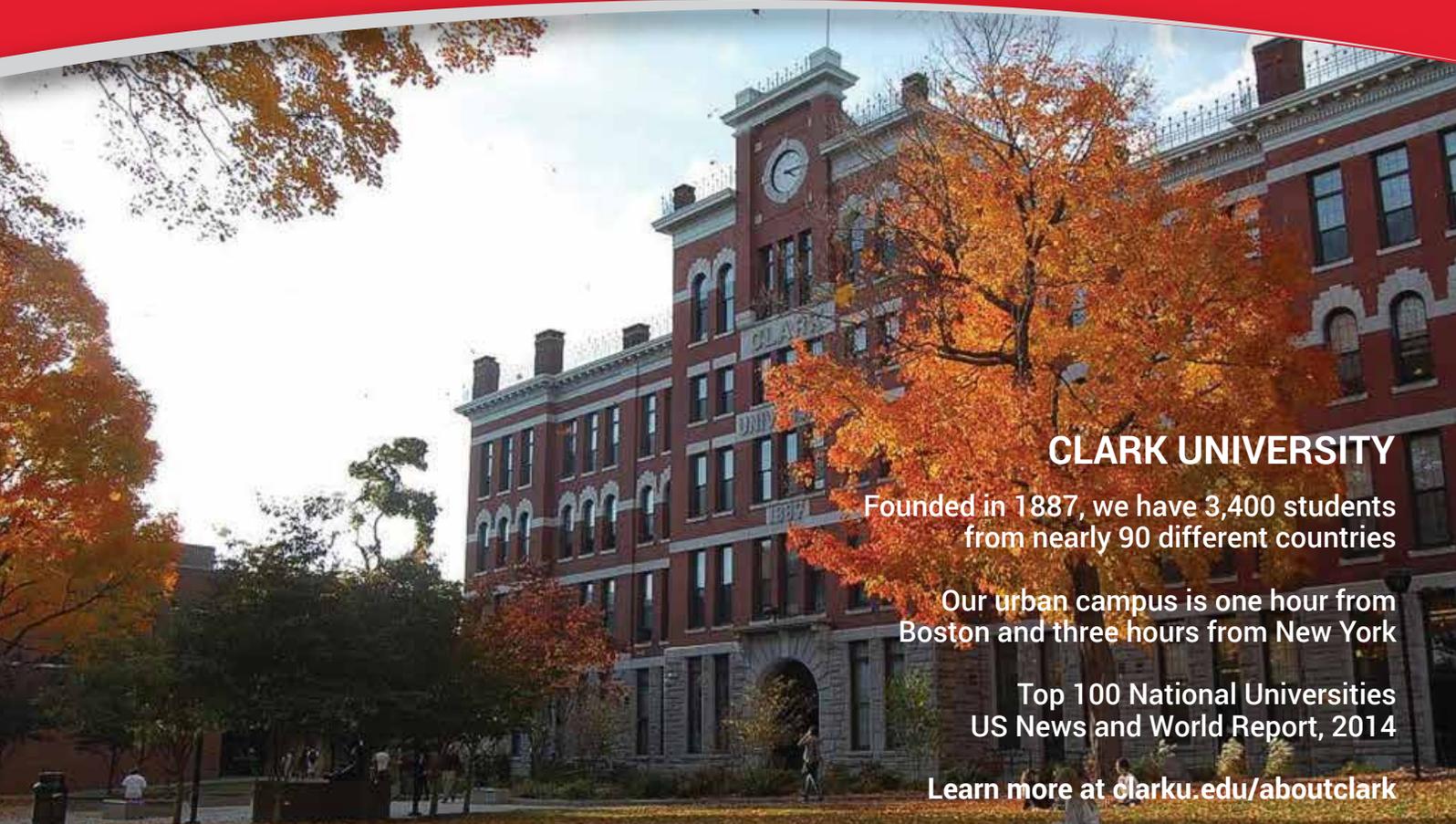
At many U.S. community colleges, students can earn associate degrees and vocational certificates in television production, broadcast journalism, television scriptwriting, graphic design, 3D animation/modeling, digital music production and digital media arts.

A digital music production certificate program offers instruction in various means of computer assisted digital audio production including sequencing, digital recording, recording studio techniques, mixdown and synchronization to video. It also covers the business of music as well as technologies for web audio design.

Completion of an associate degree prepares students to move into a four-year institution or into a professional art school. An associate degree also provides for entry into jobs in a variety of areas: advertising agency, printing business, design studio, web production, freelance designer or related fields. ★

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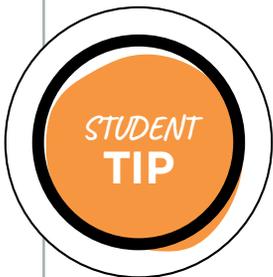
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ENGINEERING

THE FUTURE



At Edmonds Community College, I chose to major in engineering, which I'm not sure if I would have been able to choose in France. The system [in France] doesn't offer the same possibilities and resources like there are here in the USA. At Edmonds Community College, the courses I took were very interesting and not just theoretical. The classes are small enough that you can get to know your teachers and they are always available for their students. One of them helped me realize that graphic engineering is what I want to study, so now I'm not going back to France."
—Mathilde Idoine from France is completing her Associate in Science Degree with an Aeronautical Engineering track at Edmonds Community College in Edmonds, Washington



There are many unique answers when posing the question of “How?” How does this chair hold me up? How is that I can talk on my cell phone or chat on the Internet with someone across the world? How did this water in my glass become clean? Although the answer to each of these questions is unique, there is one simple explanation for all of these questions: engineering.

No matter where you are in the world, the evidence of engineering is universal. Today, engineers are developing solutions and building the latest technologies for everything from smart phones to solving the world’s most dire problems. The rapid pace of technology and the scarcity of natural resources have made the demand for engineers greater than ever.

The motivation to pursue an engineering degree may differ from student to student. For some, it is the desire to have a successful and profitable career. Others want to bring advancement and a better future to their communities. Then, there are students who are drawn to the field because they are naturally curious about how things work.

Your motivation may be unique, but your ambition to study engineering in the USA is not. Every year, more and more international students come to the United States to pursue undergraduate, graduate and doctorate engineering degrees. According to the 2014/15 Open Doors Report 184,603 international students were enrolled in U.S. engineering programs. It is one of the most popular fields of study among international students.

You may choose to study engineering for humanitarian reasons or because you desire a financially successful career, but no matter your reasoning, know that your talents are in high-demand and you have the ability to change the world. ★



Arizona State University

“The higher education in the U.S. is the best—it is the highest level of education a student can receive,” stated Octavio Heredia, Associate Director of Global Outreach at **Arizona State University’s Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering**. It is no secret that the United States provides one of the best higher educational systems in the world, but in terms of engineering programs, it is the access to research that draws many international students to the U.S.

“Students are looking for great research. They want access to it. ASU [Arizona State University] exposes them to research at the very beginning,” explains Heredia.

Students at Arizona State University, near Phoenix, do not have to wait until their junior or senior years to start working with advanced research and developing projects. The curriculum has been designed so that students will begin to feel and think like engineers on day one. Foundational courses in theory are balanced with classes and projects that challenge students to think critically and creatively. World-class faculty, including members of the National Academy of Engineering, National Academy of Science, as well as a Nobel Laureate, teach and motivate students. Many of the professors were once international students in the United States as well.

The *Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering* offers 20 engineering degree programs, such as *Computer, Aerospace, Electrical and Biomedical*. Bachelor of Science in Engineering and doctorate degrees are available.

Outside of the classroom, students have access to engineering-tutoring services, personalized advising and internships. Students intern for companies like Boeing, Intel and General Dynamics. There are also many unique competition opportunities, such as Microsoft’s Imagine Cup.

In 2012, Arizona State University students’ prize-winning invention earned them a spot in Imagine Cup’s U.S. finals. Using cameras and touchscreen technology, the students built a device designed to help the visually impaired take notes in class.

The students’ project is a perfect

example of what engineering can do: help solve some of the world’s greatest challenges.



Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

As the world faces growing demand for more effective and efficient in-

frastructure and environmental sustainability, the field of civil engineering will continue to grow faster than the general job market. At **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**, the *Master of Science in Civil Engineering (MS CIV)* program provides its students with education and experiences that are essential for leadership positions in the field. Graduates are prepared for careers in their desired fields, including industry and government.

Within the program, offered at the Daytona Beach campus, students may select technical electives to customize their learning experience in the areas such as Intelligent Transportation Systems, Structural Engineering, Sustainable Structures, Materials and Geotechnical Engineering or interdisciplinary technology. The program encourages crossover between civil engineering and other academic specialties that are relevant to civil engineering problems and provide valuable educational experiences.

On the Daytona Beach campus, there are numerous laboratories in the area of structures, materials, transportation, and environmental engineering. The impressive civil engineering faculty are constantly involved in externally funded research across the discipline. Currently, Dr. Brown is investigating bridges in aggressive environments, while Dr. Chen is studying the safety issues in transportation system. Other examples of the exciting research being done by faculty is Dr. Gurjar’s research in using mining screenings as sand substitute in PCC and in self-consolidating concrete.

The MS CIV degree is a 30-credit program offered as a general MS Civil Engineering degree with a thesis or non-thesis option.

By earning this advanced degree in civil engineering, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University graduates give themselves an edge in the job market and help themselves move on the fast track to management positions.



EXPLORING SCIENCE PROGRAMS *IN THE USA*

By Mike Wolterbeek

Students from around the world are coming to the United States in greater numbers than ever to study—and to study the sciences. When students come to the U.S. to study science they find the cutting edge of their discipline, with current knowledge gained through research.

They also find diverse and numerous fields of study from which to choose.

Science in the USA includes programs for chemists, astronomers, physicists, neuroscientists, geneticists, biologists, geologists, hydrologists, seismologists, climatologists, oceanographers, nurses—just to name a few of the thousands of areas to study. And students will find a growing number of multi-disciplinary programs that combine subjects to customize a course of study.

“In the U.S., professors at the forefront of current science are also teaching in the classroom,” says Jeff Thompson, dean of the *College of Science* at the **University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)**. UNR is ranked in the top tier of best national universities in nearly every science discipline.

“Students would gain more at a university where that [research] occurs, rather than schools without research where they have professors who may not have been involved in their discipline since they first became professors.”

In general, students may find a much more mature research complex in place in U.S. university programs. Other countries may have an academic system that is quite rigorous, but perhaps limited in the types of research equipment, resources and infrastructure to operate the equipment.

“International students coming to study in the U.S. benefit from access to some of the finest professors and research laboratories in the world,” says Allan Goodman, President of the Institute of International Education.

International students in the USA have access to a wealth of technical skills and problem-solving abilities that will prepare them for professional science careers either at home or in the United States. Twenty percent of all jobs now require some background in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM), according to a June 2013 study by the Brookings Institution.

“To me, the U.S. is the core of scientific research of the world, so it is the best place to get a good education,” says Francisco Suarez Poch, a Chilean student at UNR.

Poch earned his undergraduate degree in Chile and decided to come to the U.S. to earn his doctorate in hydrogeology at the University of Nevada, Reno’s renowned Interdisciplinary Hydrogeology program.

“One of the nice things about study in the U.S. is that you can be close to many research groups working in similar things so you can get very nice feedback. Sometimes this is hard if you are outside the U.S. or Europe,” explains Poch. Living and studying in the USA also gave him the opportunity to meet a lot of new people and do much more than just studying.



While studying in the United States he collaborated with his research professors to develop a solar-pond membrane-distillation desalination process to clean lake ecosystems endangered by low water and high salinity. He presented some of his solar-pond research at the annual Fall AGU (American Geophysical Union) conference in San Francisco, attended by 16,000 geophysicists from around the world.

He has since returned to Santiago and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile where he is an assistant professor teaching in the Department of Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering.

Francisco’s story is not uncommon.

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of science students involved with high-level research around the USA. Universities that host the most international students are also top research institutions, such as the University of Southern California, which hosts the most international students. The University of California, Berkeley, the Ohio State University and SUNY University at Buffalo are also all in the top 20



of universities that host international students.

“Physics programs and chemistry programs attract international students, especially graduate students, but also undergrads,” said Roberto Mancini, a professor at the University of Nevada Reno’s Physics Department.

“We always have undergrads working in the lab, and it provides them a path to graduate programs and advanced training.”

Mancini researches high-energy density plasma at the University of Nevada, Reno’s Nevada Terawatt Facility, which houses one of the two most powerful university-based pulse-power generators nationwide—the 2-terawatt Zebra accelerator. He is studying ultra-high temperature and non-equilibrium plasmas to mimic what happens to matter in accretion disks around black holes. He has guided international students through doctoral programs, some of them now working in prestigious labs such as Los Alamos Laboratory in the United States. He also teaches the latest in plasma spectroscopy, using an interactive, real-time web-based classroom that reaches students from Japan to Germany.

Just recently a Hungarian student studying and working with researchers at the Nevada Terawatt Facility graduated and returned to Hungary. He went immediately to work as a scientist in the new Extreme Light Infrastructure, a laser facility that aims to host some of the most intense research lasers worldwide.

International students will not only find outstanding research opportunities in the U.S., they also see things from a different perspective. Here, students have access to different climates to study, different ani-

mals and plants to study and a broader view of the different methods of science practiced in a variety of laboratories. Earth scientists, for example, have the opportunity to study different soil types, ecosystems or unique geographic features.

“Another distinguishing factor for students to consider when deciding where to study in the United States is whether independent thinking is encouraged,” says Thompson.

“A success meter in the U.S. is if students get to think independently, to analyze and to come to their own conclusions rather than the professor leading the student through presenting a problem as a set of facts. What the U.S. is good at is open-minded education; we teach students to think—with the emphasis that they learn to think independently.”

Perhaps noted American astronomer, astrophysicist and author Carl Sagan said it best, “Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge.”

As an academic advisor for international students, Jim Carr is impressed by the caliber of students who come from other countries:

“The students are extremely well educated; they are very bright and are acing (getting A grades in) their classes. They come here to receive up-to-date training in their area of interest, but even when students come to the U.S. for an education similar to what they can get back home they are looking to broaden their horizons, to interact with other students and learn about a new culture while getting their education. For science students, they can learn new research techniques, learn how to use the latest technologies and tools for their discipline and be exposed to a variety of viewpoints and approaches.”

Students who come to the U.S. can have the benefit of top-flight researchers and will find a culture of scientific curiosity, discovery and a bold quest for new knowledge. ★

Mike Wolterbeek is a Communications Officer at the University of Nevada, Reno.



University of Nevada, Reno

At first glance, one wouldn't think Doug Smith, the founder and lead scientist of the Yellowstone Wolf Project, and Kevin McArthur, former President of the Goldcorp Mining Company and current owner of one of the newest mining companies in Nevada, Tahoe Resources, have anything in common. But they do.

They are both **University of Nevada, Reno College of Science** graduates, and they are both successful business leaders. They made an effective transition from academia to the world of business, albeit with quite a different focus.

College of Science Dean, Jeff Thompson, has continually been inspired to see the connection between the disciplines of business and science play out in the corporate world. He wants today's science students to fully understand the possible career interplay a foundation in science can provide in the world of business.

“Most of the students we graduate from the College of Science work in the for-profit world,” says Thompson.

“We do a great job of training them in academia, and we emphasize how to succeed in the business world. What sets us apart from many institutions is our focus on training students to think on their own through research—both at the undergraduate level and the graduate level—working with professors who are at the top of their fields.”

Thompson points out many examples of College of Science alumni who have successfully navigated the business world's waters:

- ★ Opal Adams turned her geology degree into a successful venture as vice president of Enviroscientists, Inc.
- ★ Bill Honjas and Satish Pullammanappallil founded the seismic data processing software company Optim in 1997 and have expanded it into a successful international geothermal exploration company
- ★ Alan Krause a Mackay School of Mines graduate is president and CEO of the company that is building the massive new Panama Canal

The College of Science offers more than 50 degrees in 18 different majors,



everything from Atmospheric Sciences to Biology, Chemistry, Ecology, Geography, Geology, Mathematics, Neuroscience and Physics. The College is renowned around the world for its *Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering* programs and its Nevada Terawatt Facility with its research into high-density energy plasmas. UNR is also forging a successful path in neuroscience. The program also offers a successful path to medical school. A number of state-of-the-art labs support research and education throughout the college. Degrees are offered at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels.

The College of Science has an extensive research enterprise—the faculty generate more than \$26 million in extramural research funding annually. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classifies the University of Nevada, Reno as a comprehensive, doctoral-granting university with high research activity.

A few of the research centers include

- ★ Center for Transformative Environmental Monitoring Programs
- ★ Great Basin Center for Geothermal Energy
- ★ Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
- ★ Nevada Seismological Laboratory
- ★ Nevada Terawatt Facility

The College's *Department of Chemistry* Shared Instrumentation Laboratory is a free resource to the entire campus, making lab equipment available to all students as well as custom research instruments, computational facilities and workspace.

In addition to the labs, the northern Nevada region, with its high-desert environment, diverse geological attributes such as the Sierra Nevada mountains, Lake Tahoe and a number of other rivers and high elevation lakes makes field research a vital part of the programs at the University of Nevada, Reno.



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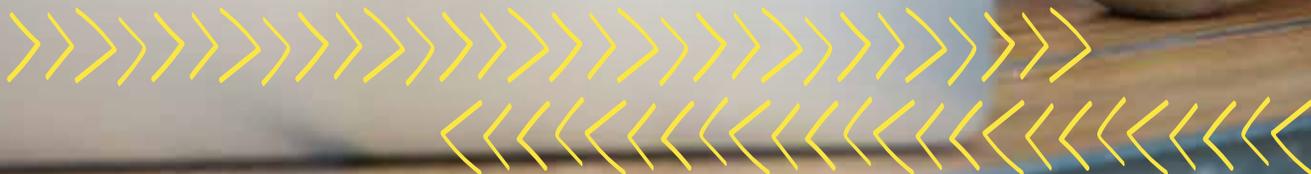
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PRE-MBA PROGRAMS

AN American MBA is well recognized and highly valued in today's international business environment. Leading American business methods and technologies continue to have a strong impact on business worldwide. Your decision to attain an MBA in the USA is a wise first step in your career growth and development. With an MBA you will have new career opportunities and access to higher positions and salaries.

However, most employers agree that merely having an MBA is not enough; employers also consider your previous experience and your potential when making hiring decisions. Therefore, if you desire a successful career in the current highly competitive business world you should take full advantage of your MBA program.

A pre-MBA program is an excellent way to promote success in an MBA program. First, you can improve your English and your performance on the TOEFL and GMAT. More importantly, you can develop business, academic and cultural skills that are valuable in an MBA program. A pre-MBA program will help you effectively build these skills by giving you the most current and accurate knowledge available. ★



Four important ways in which pre-MBA programs differ

1/ PROGRAM LENGTH

Depending on the school and the curriculum focus, programs will vary from a few weeks to a full year.

2/ CURRICULUM

Some programs focus on GMAT and TOEFL preparation. Other programs focus on developing skills in areas such as presentations, writing, communication, and business and cultural content. The ideal program will focus on both test preparation and academics. Programs like this will ensure students' readiness for the GMAT and TOEFL and to enter today's American MBA programs with greater confidence.

3/ SERVICES

Programs differ greatly in the range of services they offer. Services may include advising, university placement, and housing assistance. When researching programs, find out what services each school provides. This may be an important factor in your decision-making.

4/ TECHNOLOGY

Being well versed in technology—especially the latest software programs—is crucial in the modern business environment. Many pre-MBA programs have computer labs and courses that help students develop technology skills.



Eastern Washington University

The *Graduate Preparation Program* provides a bridge to academic and cultural life in the United States for students wishing to enter graduate programs at **Eastern Washington University**. With a combination of content courses and English language support courses, the students are well prepared for full acceptance into graduate studies in their majors.

Students generally take two quarters to complete the course of study. During their first quarter, they study any prerequisites in their major field along with the English language support classes. The support classes consist of extensive vocabulary studies using the Academic Word List (570 common academic words utilized in all majors) and words from their majors. The classes also include intensive writing using APA format as well as high level grammar related to common errors made by second language learners, in-depth reading strategies and practice and other strategies to help them meet with success in graduate school.

During their second quarter, the students usually take graduate level classes that can be included in their graduate transcript along with the English language support classes. The support classes are similar to the first quarter, but they are more intensive and focus on upper level writing skills such as research papers and literature reviews along with the vocabulary, and grammar support.

This program is unique because the focus is on preparing students for the rigors of graduate school in the United States by concentrating on areas where second language students typically struggle. The teacher works closely with each student by meeting individually with him or her weekly as well as in the group classroom setting where class sizes are kept small.



Susquehanna University

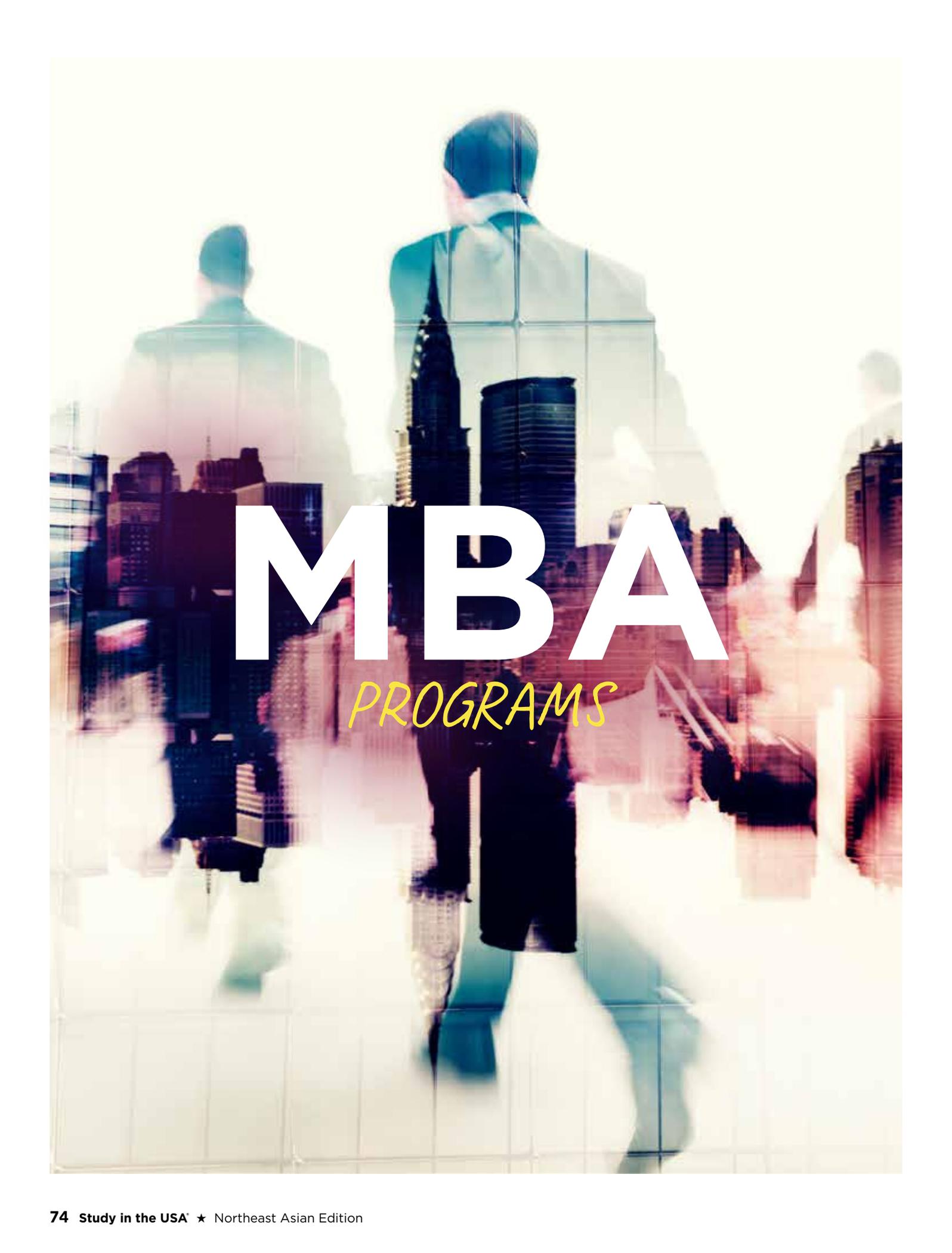
Susquehanna University, a premier liberal arts and sciences university in central Pennsylvania, is one of the few undergraduate business programs in the world to earn AACSB accreditation. Susquehanna University's *Sigmund Weis School of Business* maintains a highly qualified faculty, a rigorous curriculum, and continuous assessment and improvement processes.

Students benefit from the faculty's real-world experience in the classroom with business plan competitions, an investment laboratory with Bloomberg terminals, and visits to businesses and nonprofits in New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

The Bloomberg computer terminals give students experience with real-world tools that most business undergraduates at other institutions don't encounter. That experience provides Susquehanna graduates an advantage when competing for their first job out of college.

In addition, 90 percent of Susquehanna students complete a professional experience, such as internships or research, while enrolled. Susquehanna's 18,000-member, global alumni network provides many of these professional opportunities to students. In fact, alumni from renowned international companies visit campus regularly to judge student presentations, speak as guest lecturers, and seek out prospective interns and employees.

Through the structure of Susquehanna's curriculum and the incorporation of real-world projects and internships, students can begin their career upon graduation or pursue an MBA. *Sigmund Weis School of Business* students gain leadership experience, effective communication skills and opportunities to work in teams — all vital qualities for MBA schools.



MBA

PROGRAMS

If you are an international student or professional seeking an MBA you should consider the United States. American MBA programs are world renowned for giving students a competitive edge in the business world through excellent education, diverse specialized programs and unparalleled networking opportunities and resources.

There are over a thousand MBA programs in the U.S. You will find an array of options to fit just about any need—from specialized degrees to unique programs geared toward international students.

Diversity of MBA programs

One of the reasons thousands of international students enroll in MBA programs in the United States is because of the diversity of choices and concentrations. Graduate business students can focus their master's degree in finance, accounting, entrepreneurship, marketing, business management, supply chain management, global business and so many more. We live in a global market and it is growing. Gaining fresh knowledge and expertise in one area of business will meet an economic need and make you more professionally competitive. Furthermore, an American MBA will show that you have international knowledge and experience.

Regardless of degree specialty, most American business schools will train you in the principles of general business management. These principles include a combination of accounting, economics, finance, marketing, ethics and statistics.

Theory in Practice

At every level, the American higher education system is different. Foundational principles and theories must be taught, but they are only mastered through practice. MBA programs in the United States strongly reflect this teaching philosophy. You will examine real-world case studies and business scenarios in order to devise strategies,



business plans, budgets, etc. These types of projects will prepare you for real-life business situations and to approach them with practical knowledge.

“In logistics management class, we had case studies to discuss: Ford company, HP, Ralph Lauren, and so on. We assumed that we were managers and analyzed the problems and solutions. We applied strategies that we learned from the textbook to solve problems. This is a very good part,” explains Boonpa Ing-Anuraksakul, from Thailand, studying Logistics Management at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, Nevada.

The majority of MBA programs will have an internship requirement. Internships are an excellent way to really explore your future career and apply your studies. The companies for which you intern are thriving businesses and you will be working in a fast-paced environment. They will have professional expectations of you.

While internships provide you with a practical learning environment, they are also a prime setting for networking. Networking

is one of the most powerful tools for your career. While you are an intern, take advantage of the opportunity to meet and network with current professionals. They may help you get a job or be your future colleagues.

“An internship is a requirement in my curriculum. I believe this is helpful because the college encourages students to apply the skills outside the classroom and develop experience in the real world before graduating,” says Heejoong Kim, from Korea, studying Management and Marketing at Loyola University New Orleans.

An internship will not only give you valuable experience, you will find that having a reputable American company listed on your resume will be invaluable.

“When I graduate with my MBA, I will be competing in a very global job market. Having experience interacting with people from different cultures I believe will give me an edge in the professional world,” stated Juri Adrianto, from Indonesia, an MBA student in Information Systems at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey. ★

I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME AN ACCOUNTANT THAT FOCUSES ON INTERNAL CONTROL. DUE TO GLOBALIZATION, YOU HAVE TO SPEAK AT LEAST ONE MAJOR LANGUAGE FLUENTLY. I CHOSE TO STUDY IN THE USA TO HELP ME LEARN ENGLISH FLUENTLY.

—Juri Adrianto, from Indonesia, an MBA student in Information Systems at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey



STUDENT
TIP

HOW TO CHOOSE AN MBA PROGRAM

THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

1/ THINK ABOUT THE KIND OF ACADEMIC FOCUS THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU

By identifying your personal and career goals you'll help refine the list of schools. You will have a better idea of the educational features and offerings that best suit your needs. Do you want a general MBA degree, or a program tailored toward a specific career goal?

If you aspire to a career in a specific industry you may consider the school's location. Most MBA programs have relationships with local businesses and community business leaders. Therefore, attending certain schools may provide you with extensive networking opportunities and job prospects within your chosen field. New York City, for example, is one of the major banking and financial centers of the world, while the San Francisco Bay Area is home to many leading technology companies.

2/ IDENTIFY SCHOOLS THAT OFFER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SPECIFICALLY GEARED TOWARD INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Before beginning your application process determine which schools offer special enrollment programs for international students. Most American MBA programs are open to students with a bachelor's degree from a four-year university in the United States, or an equivalent degree from another country. If you attended a three-year university, you may need to complete preparatory courses in order to enroll in certain MBA programs. Golden Gate University, for example, offers a preparatory program called Bridge that allows international students to enroll in graduate study without

completing a second bachelor's degree.

Many U.S. schools also offer special services to help international students ease into their new academic environments. Along with academics, admissions and advising services for international students (and their dependents) can support integration into the local community. Some schools offer flexible admissions policies.

Please be aware of services and programs that help international students connect with each other, find roommates, and assist with immigration and visa issues. Be sure you know how much guidance you will receive regarding academic and career topics, as well as adjusting to the new academic environment.

3/ LOOK FOR PROGRAMS THAT FIT INTO YOUR LIFESTYLE

Many international students want to capitalize on their time earning an MBA in the United States by experiencing American culture. When you research an MBA program look at the school's location, as well. Find out about the area, its recreational activities, arts and entertainment programs, historical and sightseeing opportunities.

4/ FOLLOW YOUR DREAM!

International students are an important resource for American students; you provide a global perspective that is becoming increasingly important in our shrinking world. With such a wide range of programs available, you are sure to find a program that will give you the training and contacts to reach your goals.





Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

At **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**, the world's leader in aviation and aerospace education, the *MBA in Aviation Management (MBA-AM)* teaches students the

business, managerial, and fiscal skills needed in the global aviation/aerospace industries. Offered by the College of Business on the Daytona Beach, Florida campus, MBA-AM students study the operational and commercial needs of aviation/aerospace firms.

The *Master of Science in Aviation Finance (MSAF)* focuses on the unique needs of the aviation and aerospace industry: capital formation, financial planning, funding for critical infrastructure needs, and airplane acquisition and fleet renewal. Faculty working in conjunction with leaders from industry and government—many of whom are alumni—shape the curricula of the *MBA in Aviation Management* and *Master of Science in Aviation Finance* programs.

Alumni are employed throughout the aviation industry, at aerospace manufacturing firms such as Boeing, Airbus and Rolls-Royce, with airlines such as Delta, United, Etihad, Jet Airways and Korean Airlines, and in airports in cities such as Atlanta, New York, Singapore, Hong Kong and Abu Dhabi. Alumni returning to campus share the latest information and needs of the international air transport industry while providing internship and employment opportunities with airlines, airports, and consulting firms across the globe.



University of California, Berkeley, Extension

In less time than it takes to complete an MBA program you can earn a certificate that combines intensive management education with opportunities to apply your

knowledge at a U.S. business. The **University of California Berkeley Extension's International Diploma Programs (IDP)** gives you three options: a four-month program of study; an eight-month program, which is comprised of four months of study and a four-month internship; or the year-long Management and Business Track which incorporates study in two areas of business over an eight month period, plus a four-month internship.

The International Diploma Programs coordinate student internships at a variety of San Francisco Bay Area companies, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. Most students are placed at small to medium-sized companies so interns have a better chance of building close working relationships giving them a more meaningful internship experience. Student interns have recently worked for a broad range of companies: advertising, computing, entertainment, e-commerce, finance and banking, information systems, healthcare, hospitality, international trade, marketing, public relations, and telecommunications.

An internship-related project is integrated into the program. Students have helped build a company's client base by establishing contacts internationally, while another devised a software technology plan for a high-tech music database company.



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INSPIRING CREATIVITY

IN U.S. ART PROGRAMS



Artistic people may not look the same, understand each other's language or culture, but they share a common instinct—the desire to create. This desire begins in their imagination, but their tools for design can differ dramatically. While a painter uses brushes and paint, a digital animator uses computers and advanced software. If you have a passion to design and create the United States has excellent fine arts and design programs, some of the best in the world.

Wide Variety of Programs

You can find a wide variety of arts programs to suit your interests in many regions of the United States. For example, the USA is a leader of the digital arts revolution. Digital media and the expanding entertainment industry are creating a strong market for new technology, creative concepts and fresh talent. This has given way to many more career opportunities for graphic designers, 3D animators, digital editors and the like, all of whom need a foundation in the fine arts.

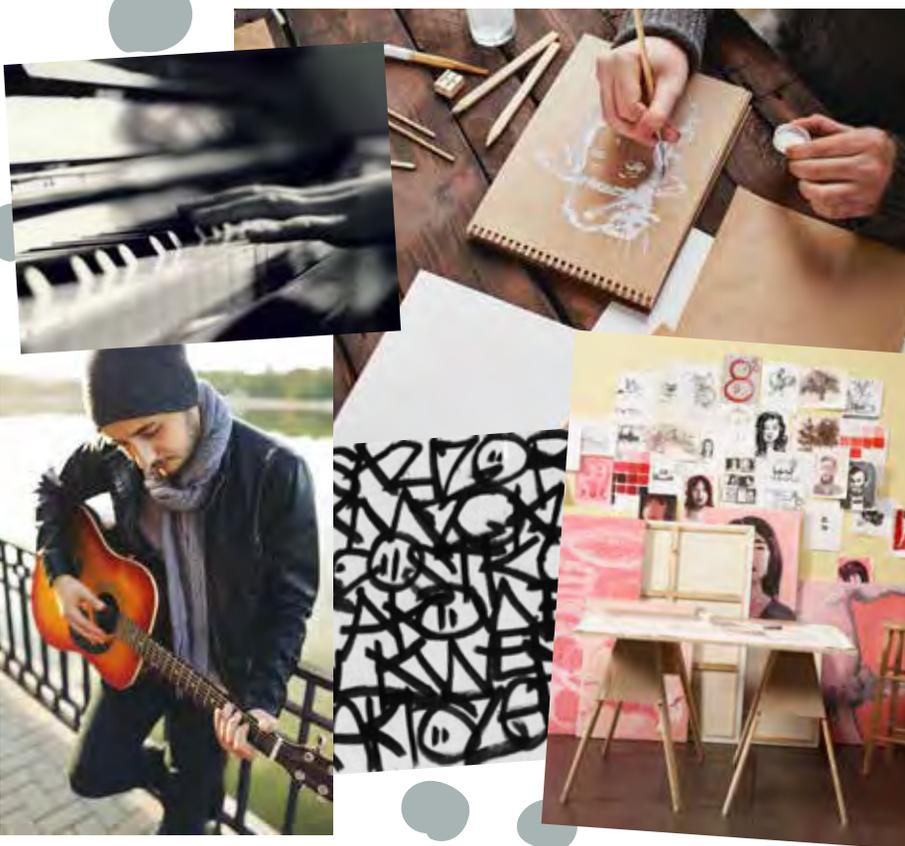
The global success of special effects films has bolstered the position of the USA, California in particular, as a leader in digital arts, while New York City is at the center of the theatre arts scene. Why not study right near the pulse of the film industry? You can pursue an undergraduate, graduate or doctorate program. Each of these programs offers different degree opportunities: two-year associate's, four-year bachelor's, master's or doctorate.

Selecting a Program

The school you choose should employ many practicing, successful artists and designers. You need a mentor who can not only teach you the theory of your discipline, but also help you gain the practical, real-world experience necessary for any career in the arts. Who better to learn from than professionals who are already established and recognized for their accomplishments?

Research the credentials of faculty members and read about their professional experience. You may even ask to speak with some of the professors or current international students. Gaining insight from those already in the program can be very helpful.

The school should also have a commitment to investing in new equipment, programs, and technology to keep up with the industry's lightning-fast pace. Having knowledge and experience with the most current technical programs and equipment will make you more appealing to employers.



Internships, work experience and job placement are also important factors to consider. The school should have contacts within the industry and assist its graduates with placement through recruitment drives, portfolio reviews and workshops. Find out where the graduates are working and ask about the placement rate for recent graduates. Is there an alumni network in place to help new graduates find positions?

Lastly, the reputation of the school is important. Do professionals in the field speak highly of the school? Does it have accreditation through organizations like the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, or the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools?

Pursuing your Goals

Admission to arts programs varies widely. Some schools require portfolios with examples of artwork or performance auditions, while others do not. You should also check whether TOEFL scores are necessary. Most schools greatly appreciate the diversity and unique dimensions that international students bring to campus.

Consider conducting informational interviews to learn more about the field. Interview someone who has a career in

your chosen field. What steps do they recommend to obtain this goal? What do they wish they would have known when they were your age? No matter what the admission requirements are, take the time to select the program that is right for you.

As schools in the USA embrace new technology and ideas it has made the United States a uniquely creative place to study. If you have a passion for art and design, couple it with show-stopping professionalism and training, and the sky is the limit. ★

The school you choose should employ many practicing, successful artists and designers. Who better to learn from than professionals who are already established and recognized for their accomplishments?



Skagit Valley College

At Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon, Washington, farm-to-table isn't

just a philosophy, it's a practice. Students in the *Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management* program plant and maintain gardens that produce fruits and vegetables for daily meals in the campus' Bistro Kitchen and Hot Express.

"We are passionate about growing our own produce," says Lyn Hight, the college's Food Services Manager.

Founded in 1978, the program has diversified to incorporate agriculture and sustainable food systems and practices such as composting—Skagit was the first college to start a composting program. Skagit is also developing culinary artisan programs as Washington State boasts many nationally recognized artisan cheesemakers, charcutiers and brewers.

Students in the program master the culinary fundamentals and techniques such as making stocks from scratch for daily soups and grinding meat for hamburgers.

The area around Skagit Valley College is fertile and agriculturally rich, lending it to many farmers, of both land and sea, and culinary artisans. Students take fieldtrips to meet producers like the farmers

at Taylor Shellfish Farms, the largest producer of Manila clams in the USA.

Students who complete the *Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management* program earn an Associate and Technical Arts degree. Many students either begin their careers or move on to advanced culinary programs.



University of Nevada, Reno

The conductor calmly raises his baton. There is silence in the hall as the audience

quiets in expectation. In an instant, the silence is broken. The pianist's fingers speed across the keyboard, pounding the keys with great might. In one section, bows race across strings and with deep breaths, musicians in another section blow into their instruments. Together, the University of Nevada, Reno's Symphony Orchestra engulfs the Nightingale Concert Hall with Saint-Saens' Piano Concerto No. 2.

The University of Nevada, Reno *Department of Music* is part of a lively *School of the Arts*. Students studying music are taught from faculty comprised of music performers, scholars, and composers. Professors and faculty personally guide and mentor students through the rigorous and challenging program.

The program is focused on building strong musical foundations, enabling students to develop their own musical "voice" and style. In addition to foundational courses, students can study unique history courses such as Television Music, Jazz Cultures, and History of American Musical Theater.

Other than their courses, students have numerous opportunities to practice their music and perform. Private music lessons are offered and students can participate in chamber music settings and large ensembles (including the renowned Nightingale String Quartet), both on campus and in the community. There are many festivals throughout the year organized by the Music Department, including the Reno Jazz Festival, the Winter Chamber Music Festival and the Argenta Festival. The University also collaborates with the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra and Reno Chamber Orchestra.

Taking advantage of the many performance opportunities is international student and pianist, Bomin Park. He has been the Nevada state winner two years in a row of the Music Teachers National Association Competition, and was honored with the Dean's Award for Artistic Achievement.

Students of the program are prepared to pursue careers in music, from teaching and performing, to musicology and composition. They can pursue *Bachelor of Art* degrees, *Bachelor of Music Education*, and *Music Performance* degrees, focusing on classical or jazz and improvisational music. The University also offers master's degrees in *Performance*, *Education*, and *Musicology*.

Many graduates are now teachers in major graduate programs across the U.S., or are playing in orchestras, chamber groups, and jazz and popular music groups worldwide. Mezzo-soprano Dolora Zajick, for example, has enjoyed a career performing in the premiere opera houses of the world, including the Metropolitan Opera in New York, Chicago's Lyric Opera, San Francisco Opera, and London's Covent Garden.



University of Nevada, Reno

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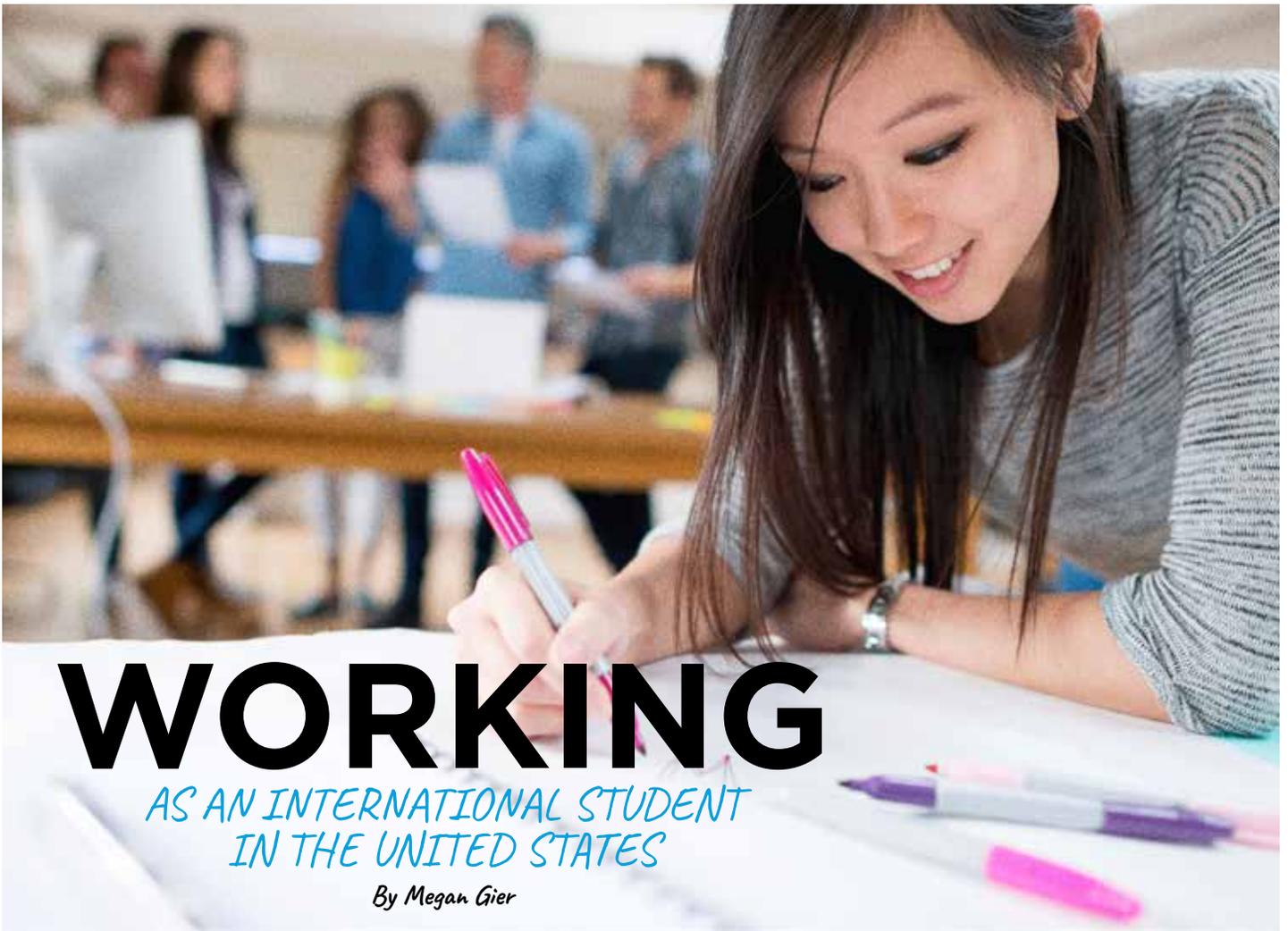
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WORKING

AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IN THE UNITED STATES

By Megan Gier

Many international students want to work while they are studying in the United States to earn extra money and practice their English. This can sometimes be a difficult and complicated process, but advance preparation can increase your chances of finding a job. Understanding the rules you must follow and knowing where to go for help in your job search are the keys to success.

The United States issues different types of student visas, but most international students receive the F-1, a nonimmigrant visa for full-time academic study. Because the F-1 visa is only for educational purposes, the U.S. government places restrictions on the employment options for F-1 holders. However, this does not mean that you cannot work if you have an F-1 visa. As long as you understand and follow the legal requirements, you can work on a student visa. Here are the most important rules for working in the United States on a student visa:

- * You must maintain full-time student status at all times.

- * You cannot work off campus during your first academic year of study. During that time, you are permitted to work on campus part-time (no more than 20 hours a week) while classes are in session.

- * After one academic year, you can work off campus in a position related to your field of study through the Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT) options.

These are not the only restrictions, and the office that issued your I-20 immigration document (usually the international student office at your school) is your best resource for understanding all the rules. Most international student orientation programs will provide information about employment options. Violating the laws may result in the loss of your student visa, so you must follow the directions of the international student advising staff at your school!

Now that you know the basic restrictions on employment for F-1 visa holders, where and how do you actually find a job? Universities in the United States often have a career

development office that maintains an online database of jobs and provides services such as career counseling, practice interviews, and resume-writing workshops to prepare you for the job application process. This is a great place to start your search. Many colleges also hold an on-campus job fair at the beginning of the semester, so you may find a part-time, on-campus position there. The campus bookstore, coffee shops, and other school-owned facilities often hire student employees at these events.

Graduate students have additional on-campus employment options; graduate assistantships in campus offices, as well as teaching and research assistantships, may also be available. Jinsun Baek, a former student of the **University of Illinois at Chicago's** (UIC) *Tutorium in Intensive English*, now works in the Tutorium's front office as a graduate assistant.

"Sometimes it's hard as a language learner to find a job on campus. It's important to be honest to yourself about your English proficiency, because you need to be able to com-

pete with American candidates, who are typically native English speakers,” says Baek.

However, other valuable qualities and workplace skills can help you overcome this potential obstacle. Through her enthusiasm and participation in program activities as a Tutorium student, Baek made a good impression on the school’s staff, which helped her to get hired there.

To obtain off-campus jobs, you must get permission for CPT (Curricular Practical Training) or OPT (Optional Practical Training). If your degree program requires an internship, this position counts as CPT. Talk with your program director to find a position that fulfills the requirements, and file the necessary CPT paperwork with your university. After completing your degree, you can remain in the United States for an additional year to pursue OPT in your field of study. The international student office on your campus will help you to complete the required OPT paperwork.

Search in the community around you for opportunities as well. Networking will take you a long way—talk to other international students at your school, search Internet job

databases, and contact the community of immigrants from your country if one exists in your area. Lexi Wang, a Chinese graduate student and research assistant at the Language and Culture Learning Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago, has some great advice for international students who hope to secure an OPT position after graduation:

“Set up your network *before* you graduate from the college. You can talk to your professors and your friends ... as long as they refer you to a job, it’s going to be so much easier than finding it on your own.”

These people are great sources of information about existing and future job possibilities.

Many international students volunteer or intern at a non-profit organization while they are studying; sometimes these institutions can offer you a paying job once you graduate, and they are often willing to assist you in applying for the required immigrant work visa. If you speak a language other than English, consider working as a tutor or interpreter at an organization that serves immigrants in your community. Companies and organizations with an international focus often need employees

who speak other languages and may be able to sponsor a work visa.

Over the course of her career, Eileen Censotti, the International Student Advisor at UIC’s Tutorium in Intensive English, has met with many international students seeking work. She says that, although it can be challenging to find work when you are new to a country, being flexible and persistent in your job search will eventually result in success.

“If you don’t find work right away, don’t give up. Keep looking and applying to any job you think you can do,” she advises.

Be resourceful and patient, and investigate all possible options during your employment search. Most people are happy to assist you if you reach out to them, so don’t be shy about asking for help. Happy job hunting, and good luck! ★

Megan Gier is the Graduate Assistant of Marketing at the Tutorium in Intensive English at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She is currently a graduate student in UIC’s Applied Linguistics/TESOL program.

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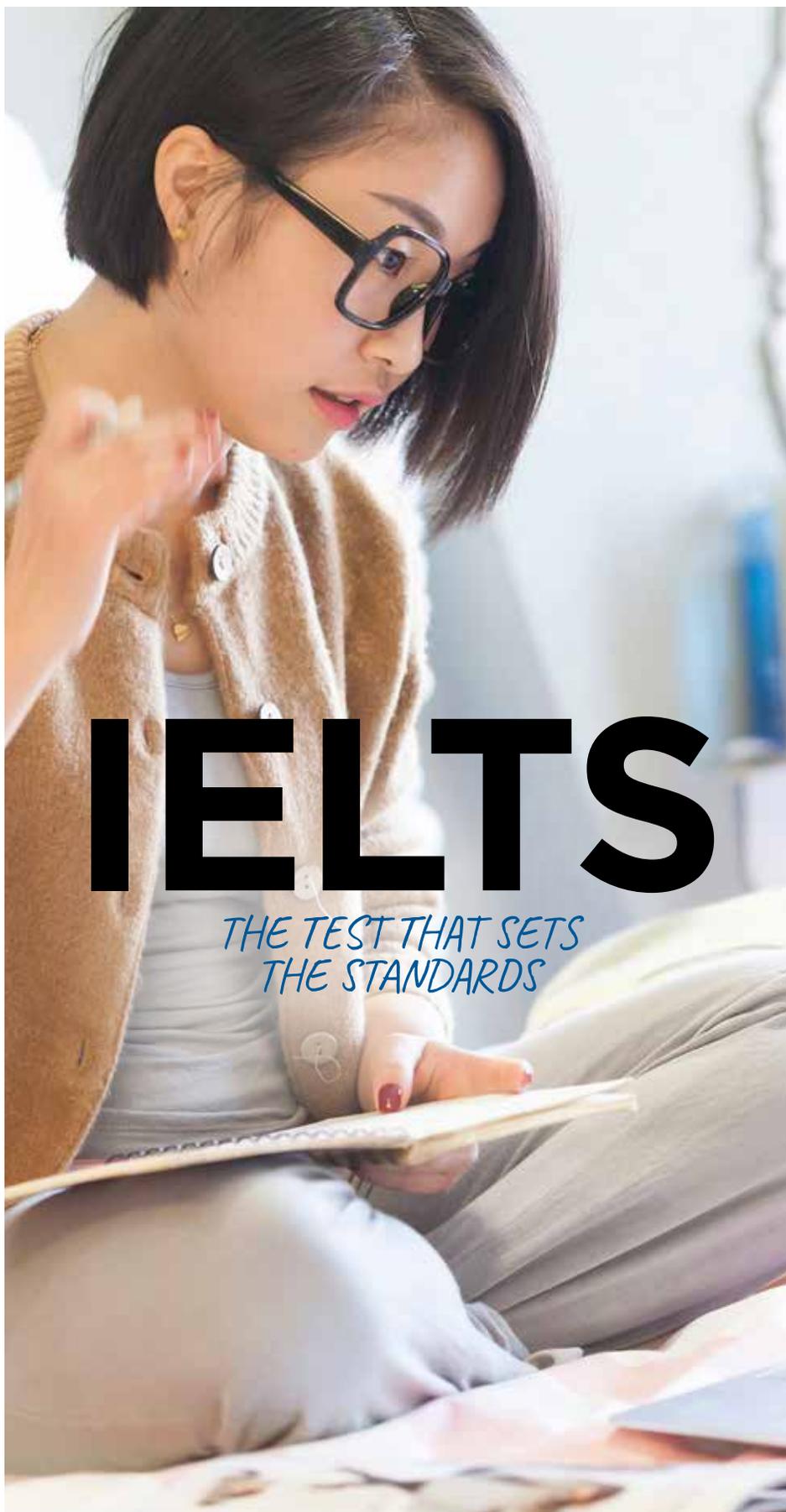
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Most importantly, you need to plan: you will need to think about when you need to take IELTS, and then decide how much preparation will be necessary. We recommend English language courses of all types to help you improve your level of English as much as possible. But every English test has a specific format and it is advisable to review the format of the test, the timings of each section, and practice as much as possible, in addition to taking an IELTS preparation course.

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The keys to planning to study in the USA

From the moment you decide to study in the USA, you will be faced with numerous choices. First, take the time to ask yourself each of the key questions below. Here is a simple, step-by-step checklist that will help you to plan your personal journey.

WHAT?

What do you wish to study? Have you considered all options, such as liberal arts, sciences, business, engineering, or a specific trade or technical area? Determining your major or field of study is a good way to start identifying potential institutions.

WHERE?

Have you also considered the location of the institution and what this area offers? What do you expect from your choice of education institution?

SIZE?

What is your preferred campus environment? Would you prefer an institution with tens of thousands of students, sometimes on a single campus? Or are you more content with a smaller institution that has fewer than 1,000 students? Choose the campus environment which feels most comfortable to you.

COST?

What is the total annual cost for attending the institution of your choice? Have you considered all expenses, including tuition, accommodation, living expenses, books, and other personal fees and costs? Do you need financial assistance to study in the USA and, if so, have you considered those institutions that can offer scholarships or financial aid specifically for international students?

Remember that although the choice may seem difficult, by considering each factor carefully you will reach a good decision that can have a positive impact on the next few years of your life. ★

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- 2/ Make sure you speak confidently and clearly. This will make your responses easier to understand and comprehend.
- 3/ Use a variety of words to express opinion e.g. *In my opinion, ... I think ... I feel ...*
- 4/ Do not memorize an answer. The questions change and you will find it difficult to answer naturally and fluently.
- 5/ You are marked on pronunciation. One thing which can help is correct intonation. Try not to be too monotonous.
- 6/ Don't be scared to ask the examiner to repeat the question. You can say, "Could you repeat the question, please?"



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The expanding role of English around the world has led to an increasing number of nonnative English communicators studying abroad in English-speaking countries or at one of the growing number of English-taught programs worldwide. As the number of English users continues to grow worldwide, it is important for students to demonstrate their proficiency in all four language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

When future employers are deciding on a candidate, studying abroad or having studied at an English-taught program can make a student stand out. Gaining an international perspective is an invaluable experience that makes students more marketable, helps them grow as a person and expands their network of peers. One study showed that 97 percent of students who studied abroad found a job within 12 months of graduation, compared to only 49 percent of total college graduates.

But before students can begin filling out applications and packing their bags, it is important to demonstrate that they have the language skills necessary to communicate in an English-speaking classroom. That's why it is critical for students to select and take the appropriate English-language assessment.

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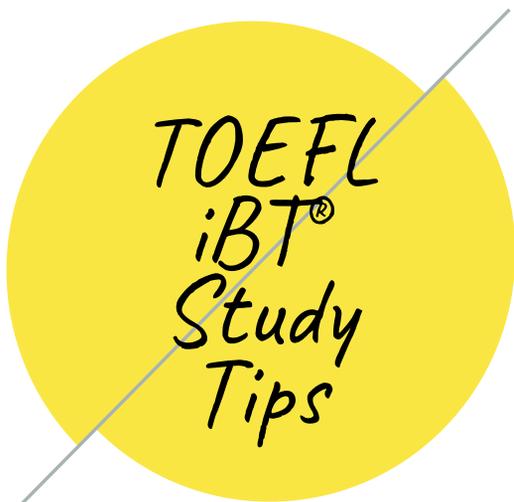
TOEFL iBT® Test Format

This chart shows the range of questions and the timing for each section. ★

**Source: Survey of 263 admissions officers at U.S. universities, of whom 212 accept both the TOEFL® test and the IELTS™ test, with 152 stating a preference.*

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TEST SECTION	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	TIMING	SCORE SCALES
Reading	3-4 passages, 12-14 questions each	60-80 minutes	0-30
Listening	4-6 lectures, 6 questions each, 2-3 conversations, 5 questions each	60-90 minutes	0-30
BREAK		10 minutes	
Speaking	6 tasks: 2 independent and 4 integrated	20 minutes	0-30
Writing	1 integrated task 1 independent task	20 minutes 30 minutes	0-30
TOTAL			0-120



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in *The Official Guide to the TOEFL® Test*, available in eBook and paper book formats at www.ets.org/toefl/guide/susa. Then take another complete practice test from TOEFL® Practice Online to confirm you are ready for test day.

STEP 4/ Use good test-taking strategies on test day

Follow directions carefully in each section to avoid wasting time. Select Help to review directions only when absolutely necessary because the clock will not stop while the Help function is being used.

Do not become overwhelmed or panic. Concentrate fully on the current test question and not on other questions you may have answered. This is a good test-taking strategy that helps you focus and can be learned through practice.

Avoid spending too much time on any one question. If you have given the question some thought and you still do not know the answer, eliminate as many choices as possible, then select the best choice.

Remember to pace yourself so you have enough time to answer every question. Be aware of the time limit for each section and budget your time to avoid having to rush at the end of the test.

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DO I NEED TO TAKE THE TOEFL OR IELTS?

There are over 5,300 colleges and universities in the USA. Each of these schools has different requirements for international students. One of the most common questions from international students is, do I need to take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) to get into a school in the USA. The answer to that question strongly depends on the program to which you are applying.

English Language Programs (ESL or IEP)

Generally, TOEFL and IELTS are not required for English language programs where you intend to learn English. For example, ELS Language Centers do not require the TOEFL or IELTS for acceptance. In addition, DePaul University's English Language Academy does not require the TOEFL or IELTS exam

for admissions, but the TOEFL exam is used as a placement test once registered for the course.

Community Colleges

Most community colleges and two year degree programs do not require the TOEFL or IELTS exam. In Washington state, Green River College, Shoreline Community College, and Edmonds Community College do not require the TOEFL or IELTS exam. Again, it's important to check with the specific community college at which you are planning to study as each program will have its own requirements.

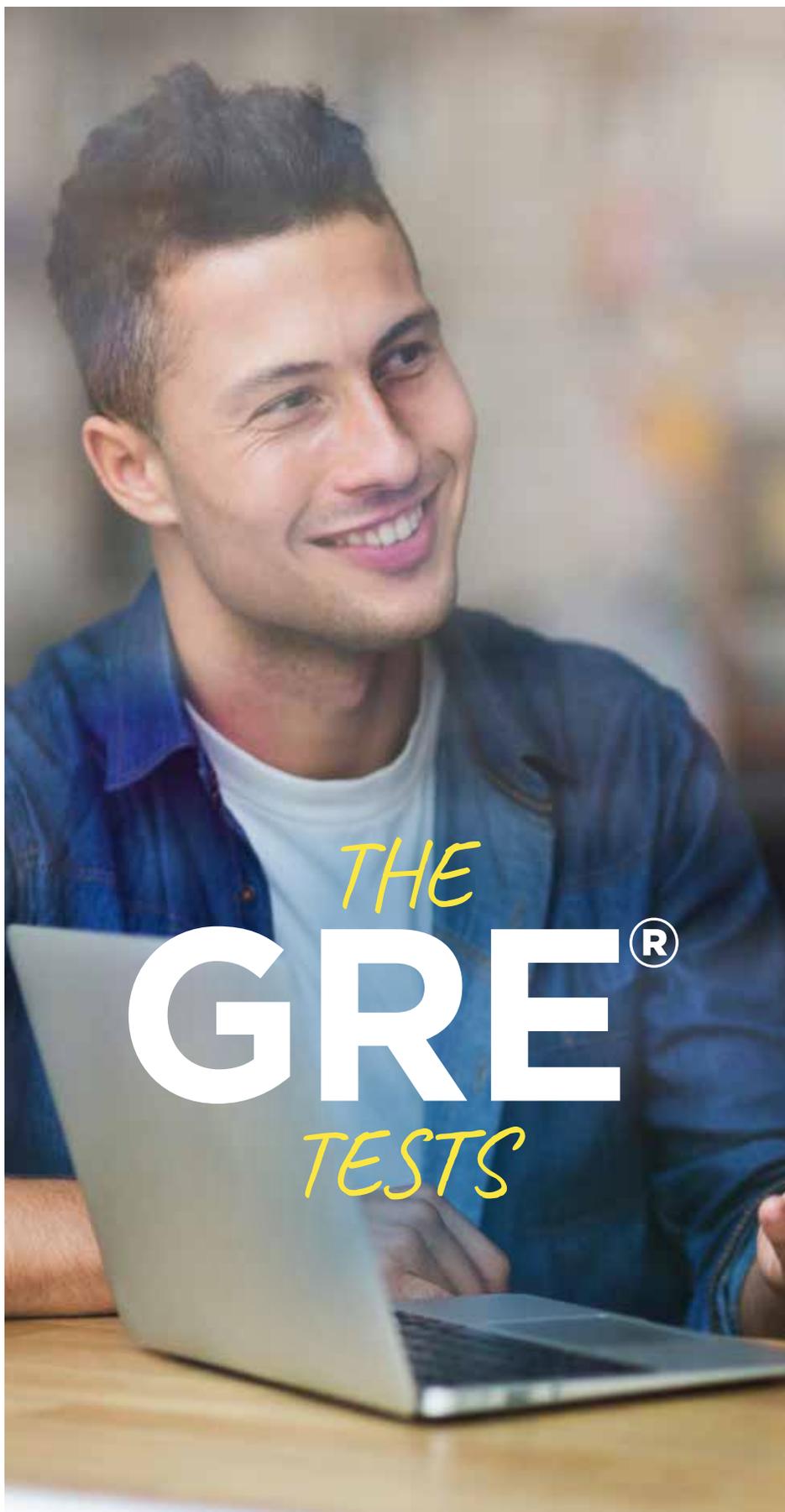
Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

Many universities require the TOEFL or IELTS exam as proof of English language proficiency. However, there are many schools that do not require these exams because of a program called CAP (Conditional Admissions Program). Certain universities will offer admission to eligible international stu-

dents with a condition that they must improve their English language skills by attending the university's intensive English language program. The University of Washington Bothell, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and University of Delaware do not require the TOEFL or IELTS exam as part of this conditional admissions program.

Verify with each program, community college and university their requirement for the TOEFL or IELTS test. But, if you don't have a TOEFL or IELTS score, don't panic, there are still other options that will allow you to study in the USA! ★

Brianna Burrows is a freelance marketing specialist and alumna of Northeastern University. She specializes in event management, social media management, and content branding. She can be reached at briannaburrows@gmail.com.

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The GRE revised General Test content reflects the kind of thinking you'll do and the skills you need to succeed in today's demanding graduate and business school programs. Specifically, the test measures your verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills — skills that have been developed over a long period of time and are not related to a specific field of study. The GRE revised General Test features a test-taker friendly design that gives you the flexibility to use your own test-taking strategies and the *ScoreSelect*® option, which lets you decide which scores to send to schools.

When and Where the Test is Offered

The test is administered at more than 1000 Educational Testing Service (ETS)-authorized test centers in more than 160 countries. In most regions of the world, the computer-delivered test is available on a continuous basis throughout the year. In Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea, the computer-delivered test is available one to three times per month. In areas of the world where computer-delivered testing is not available, the test is administered in a paper-delivered format up to three times a year in October, November and February.

Test Content

The GRE revised General Test is composed of three measures — *Analytical Writing*, *Verbal Reasoning* and *Quantitative Reasoning*.

The Analytical Writing section measures the ability to articulate and support complex ideas, examine claims and accompanying evidence, sustain a focused and coherent discussion, and control the elements of standard written English. The Analytical Writing section requires you to provide focused responses based on the tasks presented, so you can accurately demonstrate your ability to directly respond to a task.

The Verbal Reasoning section measures your ability to analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information obtained from it; understand the meanings of words, sentences and entire texts; and understand relationships among words and concepts.

The Quantitative Reasoning section measures your ability to understand, interpret and analyze quantitative information; solve problems using mathematical models; and apply basic mathematical skills and elementary mathematical concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, probability and statistics.

The Computer-delivered GRE revised General Test Test Design Features

The advanced adaptive design of the computer-delivered GRE revised General Test allows you to freely move forward and backward throughout an entire section. Specific features include:

- * Preview and review capabilities within a section
- * “Mark” and “Review” features to tag questions, so you can skip them and return later if you have time remaining in the section
- * The ability to change/edit answers within a section
- * An on-screen calculator for the Quantitative Reasoning section

The Paper-delivered GRE revised General Test Test Design Features

- * You will enter your answers into the test book, rather than a separate answer sheet.
- * You will be provided with an ETS calculator to use during the Quantitative Reasoning section; you may not use your own calculator.

THE COMPUTER-DELIVERED GRE® REVISED GENERAL TEST STRUCTURE

MEASURE	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	ALLOTTED TIME
ANALYTICAL WRITING (One section with two separately timed tasks)	One “Analyze an Issue” task and one “Analyze an Argument” task	30 minutes per task
VERBAL REASONING (Two sections)	20 questions per section	30 minutes per section
QUANTITATIVE REASONING (Two sections)	20 questions per section	35 minutes per section
UNSCORED* (Position varies)	Varies	Varies
RESEARCH** (At the end of the test)	Varies	Varies

*An unidentified unscored section that does not count toward a score may be included and may appear in any order after the Analytical Writing section. Questions in the unscored section are being tried out either for possible use in future tests or to ensure that scores on new editions of the test are comparable to scores from earlier editions.

** An identified research section may be included in place of the unscored section. The research section will always appear at the end of the test. Questions in this section are included for ETS research purposes and will not count toward your score.

The Analytical Writing section will always be first, while the other sections may appear in any order.

Test Preparation

Free official test preparation tools are available to make it easy for you to start practicing for the GRE revised General Test.

- * If you are preparing for the computer-delivered test, download the free *POWERPREP® II* software, the only comprehensive test prep that’s as close to taking the computer-delivered test as you can get.
- * If you are preparing for the paper-delivered test, download *The Practice Book for the Paper-delivered GRE® revised General Test*, which offers a simulated test-taking experience of the paper-delivered GRE revised General Test.

Check out all the FREE and low-cost official test preparation tools available at www.ets.org/gre/prepare.

Stay Informed and Connected

For additional information about the GRE revised General Test, visit www.TakeTheGRE.com and get the official news and important reminders you need, when you need them. To connect with other test takers worldwide, visit the official GRE® revised General Test page on Facebook®. This page gives you an opportunity to share advice, cheer on other prospective test takers and get clear information about the GRE revised General Test.

Test Registration

You can register for the computer-delivered GRE revised General Test online at www.ets.org/mygre (using a credit card), by phone or by mail. You can register for the paper-delivered GRE revised General Test online at www.ets.org/mygre (using a credit card) or by mail. The fee to take the GRE revised General Test is US\$205 worldwide. Note that test fees are subject to change. For the most up-to-date pricing, visit the GRE website at www.ets.org/gre.

Score Reporting

The following scores are reported for the GRE revised General Test:

- * **A Verbal Reasoning score** on a 130–170 score scale, in 1-point increments
- * **A Quantitative Reasoning score** on a 130–170 score scale, in 1-point increments
- * **An Analytical Writing score** on a 0–6 score scale, in half-point increments

If you don’t answer any questions on the Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning or Analytical Writing measure, you will receive a No Score (NS) on that measure.

If you take the computer-delivered GRE revised General Test, official scores will be available approximately 10–15 days after

✕

You can use your
GRE® test
scores to apply
to graduate and
business schools
around the world

✕

THE PAPER-DELIVERED GRE® REVISED GENERAL TEST STRUCTURE

MEASURE	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	ALLOTTED TIME
ANALYTICAL WRITING (Two sections)	One "Analyze an Issue" task and one "Analyze an Argument" task	30 minutes 30 minutes
VERBAL REASONING (Two sections)	Approximately 25 questions per section	35 minutes per section
QUANTITATIVE REASONING (Two sections)	Approximately 25 questions per section	40 minutes per section

The Analytical Writing sections will always be first, while the other four sections may appear in any order.

your test date. If you take the paper-delivered GRE revised General Test, official scores will be available within six weeks after your test date. You can view your scores online free-of-charge when they are available at www.ets.org/mygre.

Sending Your Scores

The *ScoreSelect*® option lets you decide which GRE test scores to send to the schools you designate. As part of your four free score reports, you can send scores from your most recent test administration or from all administrations of the General Test taken in the last five years. After test day, you can send scores from your *Most Recent*, *All* or *Any* specific test administration(s) for a fee when ordering Additional Score Reports online. Just remember, scores for a test administration must be reported in their entirety.

The *ScoreSelect* option helps you approach test day with more confidence, knowing you can send the scores you feel reflect your personal best. The *ScoreSelect* option is available for both the GRE revised General Test and GRE Subject Tests, and can be used by anyone with reportable scores from the last five years. For additional information on the *ScoreSelect* option, visit the GRE website at www.ets.org/gre/scoreselect.

GRE® Subject Tests

The GRE® Subject Tests can help you stand out from other applicants by emphasizing your knowledge and skill level in a specific area. Subject tests, which measure undergraduate achievement, are available in the following fields of study:

- * Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology
- * Biology

- * Chemistry
- * Literature in English
- * Mathematics
- * Physics
- * Psychology

Each Subject Test assumes an undergraduate major or extensive background in the discipline. The tests are given at ETS-authorized paper-delivered testing centers worldwide up to three times per year, in October, November and April. Additional information about the content of the tests is available at www.ets.org/gre/subject.

Test Preparation

Free official test preparation materials are available to anyone who registers for a Subject Test or who visits the GRE website at www.ets.org/gre/subject/prepare. Each Subject Test practice book contains a full-length test and answer key, test-taking strategies and information to help you understand the score(s) you earned. The appropriate practice book is sent to individuals who register for a Subject Test, or you can download this material free of charge at www.ets.org/gre/subject/prepare.

Test Registration

You can register for a GRE Subject Test online at www.ets.org/mygre (using a credit card) or by mail. The fee to take a GRE Subject Test is US\$150 worldwide. Note that test fees are subject to change. For the most up-to-date pricing, visit the GRE website at www.ets.org/gre/subject.

Score Reporting

Every Subject Test yields a total score on a

200–990 score scale, in 10-point increments. Some Subject Tests yield subscores on a 20–99 score scale, in one-point increments. Subject Test scores are available within six weeks after your test administration. You can view your scores online free-of-charge when they are available at www.ets.org/mygre.

ScoreSelect® Option

The *ScoreSelect* option previously described is also available if you take a GRE Subject Test.

Help Schools Find You GRE® Search Service

The FREE GRE® Search Service can help match you with the right participating schools and fellowship sponsors, based on background information that you provide. If a graduate or business school sees your recruitment profile and considers it a match, they can reach out and contact you directly about their program. It's an effective way to learn about schools and programs you may not have considered. You will be given the option of being included in the Search Service when you register for a GRE test. You can also sign up for the Search Service online any time. To learn more, visit www.ets.org/gre/stusearch.

For further information about the GRE tests and services, please visit www.ets.org/gre. ★

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Use the test-taker friendly design to do your best.

You can preview questions, skip and go back to more challenging questions, and even change your answers, all within a section. The test-taker friendly design helps you feel good on test day.



Send only your best scores.

GRE tests all provide the *ScoreSelect*[®] option, which means you can take a *GRE* test once now, or again in the future, and only send the *GRE* test scores from whichever test date(s) you want schools to see. Best of all, you always have five years to decide how to use any of your scores.

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GMAT[®]

(Graduate Management Admission Test[®])

What is it?

The **GMAT**[®] (Graduate Management Admission Test[®]) exam is a standardized assessment used around the world to measure academic potential for graduate study in business and management. Accepted by more global business schools than any other test, the **GMAT** exam is considered the gold standard for graduate business admissions. When it comes to your success, there is no comparison. No other exam puts you on the path to higher salaries, greater opportunities, and more career options. The **GMAT** lets you shine a light on the skills that matter most in the business school classroom and in your career.

Who should take it?

Quality graduate business programs worldwide rely on the **GMAT** exam as part of their admissions process, so if you're serious about going to business school and getting into the program of your choice, the **GMAT** should be your first step. For the past 60 years, business leaders worldwide have started their MBA journey with the **GMAT**. Nearly 10 million students have taken it and been successful. You can too.

How do I register?

The **GMAT** exam is available at more than 600 test centers in 114 countries worldwide. Visit mba.com/register to schedule your **GMAT** exam and to find a test center in your area. Although the exam is administered year round, test takers must register at least 24 hours in advance. Appointments near program deadlines and on weekends tend to fill quickly. The test fee is US\$250, and you will incur taxes when you schedule an exam in certain countries. Use the contact information listed below for any questions related to your registration.

AMERICAS REGION

Please Note: Email services are offered Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CT. Emails sent outside of these hours will receive a response the following business day. Telephone services are available Monday-Friday at the following numbers and times:

Email: GMATCandidateServicesAmericas@pearson.com

Telephone (toll-free): +1 (800) 717-GMAT (4628), 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CT

Telephone: +1 (952) 681-3680, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CT

Fax: +1 (952) 681-3681

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Please Note: Email services are available Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. AEST. Response time for email sent outside of these times may be up to 48 hours. Telephone services are available Monday-Friday at the following numbers and times:

Email: GMATCandidateServicesAPAC@pearson.com

Telephone: +852-3077-4926, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. AEST

India: +91 120-439-7830, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Indian Standard Time

Fax: 60 321 784 925

CHINA

Please Note: Email services are available Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. China Standard Time. Response time for email sent outside of these times may be up to 48 hours. Telephone services are available Monday-Friday at the following numbers and times:

Email: gmatservice@neea.edu.cn

Phone: +86-10-82345675, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. China Standard Time

Fax: +86-10-61957800

EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST (EME) REGION

Please Note: Email services are available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. GMT. Response time for email sent outside of these times may be up to three business days. Telephone services are available Monday-Friday at the following numbers and times:

Email: GMATCandidateServicesEMEA@pearson.com

Telephone: +44 (0) 161 855 7219, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. GMT

Fax: +44 (0) 161 855 7301

What does the GMAT exam cover?

The **GMAT** exam is an assessment of higher order reasoning skills that matter most to schools and businesses. The exam measures *Quantitative*, *Verbal*, *Analytical Writing* and *Integrated Reasoning* skills.

* The *Quantitative section* measures your ability to reason quantitatively and solve quantitative problems. Basic knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, and geometry is required, but the *Quantitative* section is a test of reasoning and not the underlying math skills.

* The *Verbal section* measures your ability to read and comprehend written ma-

terial, to reason and evaluate arguments, and to correct written material to convey meaning effectively in standard written English.

* The *Analytical Writing assessment* measures your ability to think critically and communicate your ideas through writing.

* The *Integrated Reasoning section* measures your ability to interpret and analyze data from different sources and presented in different formats to solve problems. The *Integrated Reasoning* section helps you stand out by showcasing the skills that you need to succeed in our technologically advanced, data-rich world.

The **GMAT** exam is a standardized computer-based exam administered in English. The *Quantitative* and *Verbal* sections are computer adaptive, which means questions are chosen for you based on how you answered previous questions. Your score is based on the difficulty of the questions answered and the number of correct responses.

What should I expect on test day?

To arrive fully prepared on the day of your exam and perform your best, you should understand the **GMAT** format and pacing, practice sample questions, and review one section at a time.

* **Question Formats:** The **GMAT** exam includes question formats that you

The GMAT Exam at-a-Glance

4 sections, 3 hours, 30 minutes total time

	VERBAL	QUANTITATIVE	AWA	INTEGRATED REASONING
NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	41 QUESTIONS	37 QUESTIONS	1 ESSAY	12 QUESTIONS
QUESTION TYPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reading comprehension critical reasoning sentence correction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> data sufficiency problem solving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> analysis of an argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> multi-source reasoning graphics interpretation two-part analysis table analysis
TIMING	75 MINUTES	75 MINUTES	30 MINUTES	30 MINUTES
WHAT IS MEASURED	Your ability to read and understand written material, evaluate arguments, and correct written material.	Your ability to analyze data and draw conclusions using basic math skills.	Your ability to think critically and communicate your ideas.	Your ability to evaluate information presented in multiple formats from multiple sources.
SCORE RANGE	0-60	0-60	0-6	1-8

TOTAL SCORE 200-800

may not have seen before. *Data Sufficiency* questions, for example, ask you how much data you need to solve a problem rather than determining the solution. You should work through some sample questions before you sit for the test to make sure you thoroughly understand how the question formats work. This will help you focus on answering the questions efficiently during your test session.

✳️ **Pacing:** The **GMAT** exam is timed, so knowing how to pace yourself so that you can finish each section is important. If you don't finish you will still receive scores, as long as you have worked on every section. But not finishing can substantially affect your score.

On average, you have about one and three-quarter minutes to respond to each *Verbal* question and about two minutes to respond to each *Quantitative* question. You'll have about two and a half minutes to answer each *Integrated Reasoning* question, most of which have more than one answer statement requiring a response.

Although the "Help" function will be accessible at any time during the test, any time spent reviewing the "Help" screens will count against the allotted time for that particular test section.

The exam requires minimal computer skills, such as using a keyboard and mouse. In addition, the *Integrated Reasoning* section will require basic computer navigation skills, such as clicking on tabs to reveal data sheets, and using drop-down menus.

When you take the **GMAT** exam, be prepared to read each question carefully and choose the best answer. If you do not know the answer, try to eliminate answers you know are incorrect and then guess from the remaining choices. You may not skip questions or change answers once they have been confirmed, but you do have to answer each question to move on.

For more information, a video available at mba.com/testday, shows the exam check-in procedure and what a typical test center looks like.

On the day of the exam, test takers can preview their unofficial scores before deciding whether to report or cancel them. This score reporting feature is available to all test takers at all 600 test centers around the world that administer the **GMAT** exam. As a test taker, you are given the option of reporting or canceling your scores immediately

after taking the test and before leaving the test center. Under the new process, you will see your unofficial scores—*Integrated Reasoning*, *Quantitative*, *Verbal*, and *Total*—and will be given two minutes to decide whether to accept them. If you do not make a choice, your scores will be canceled.

In addition, if you decide to cancel your scores at the test center, you will be able to reinstate them within 60 days of the test date for a \$100 fee. After that, scores will not be retrievable.

How should I prepare for the GMAT?

Preparing for and doing well on the **GMAT** exam is like any goal. If you start with a solid study plan and execute it, you'll succeed. Smart test takers get the most out of practice tests and preparation resources, understand how they learn, and stay positive throughout the process. Your study plan will help you stay on track week to week, which will translate into progress as you work through the material.

To help you familiarize yourself with the question formats and the pacing required, the *Graduate Management Admission Council*® (*GMAC*®) provides free **GMATPrep**® software (mba.com/gmatprep), which provides a first-hand look at what the exam is really like. **GMATPrep**® features two timed, full-length computer adaptive tests with questions that have been retired from the actual **GMAT** exam. The software also includes answers and explanations, as well as a comprehensive math review and real-time scoring of the multiple choice questions.



The **GMAT**
measures the real-
life business skills
that you'll use
in the classroom
and throughout
your career.

You can enhance your free **GMATPrep**® software download with the **GMATPrep**® **Exam Pack 1**, which features two more full-length practice exams and custom feedback on your performance.

A number of other resources are available on mba.com (mba.com/prepare). Our Preparation Timeline, for example, offers a step-by-step approach to your best **GMAT**, and includes links to study tips, prep products, and advice from admissions professionals for improving your weak areas and enhancing your strengths.

Official **GMAT** study materials are available in the [mba.com](http://mba.com/store) store (mba.com/store), including: *The Official Guide for GMAT*® *Review, 2016*; *The Official Guide for GMAT*® *Quantitative Review, 2016*; *The Official Guide for GMAT*® *Verbal Review, 2016*; the *IR Prep Tool*, the *GMATPrep*® *Software Study Collection*, and much more.

Your GMAT scores

GMAT scores are the best predictor of your success. The Total score is reported on a scale of 200-800 and is based on your performance on the *Quantitative* and *Verbal Reasoning* sections. Unofficial score reports are available immediately following the exam at the test center. Official reports include scores on all four sections and are available within 20 days of the exam. Your **GMAT** score is valid for five years.

How do schools use scores?

The **GMAT** exam is a trusted part of the admissions process of 6,000+ business and management programs worldwide because it measures the real-life business skills that you'll use in the classroom and throughout your career. Although your **GMAT** score is just one of several criteria schools use to evaluate applicants, they are reliable measures of certain developed skills that have been found to be important in the study of management at the graduate level. Unlike undergraduate grade point averages and curricula—which can vary in meaning across institutions—**GMAT** scores provide admissions professionals with a consistent, standardized evaluation tool for all applicants. ⭐

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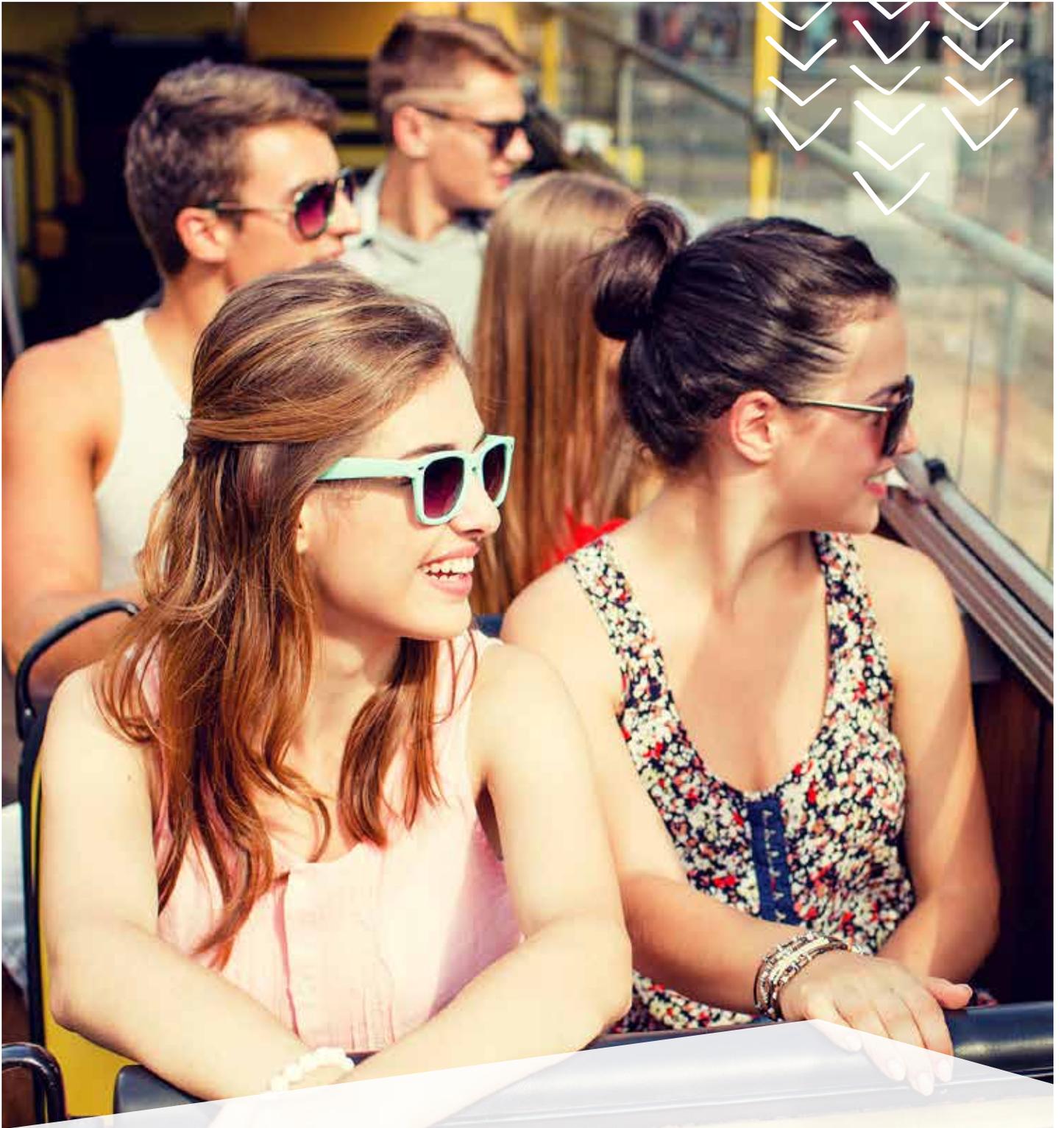
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TRAVEL

in the USA



For many Americans the warm months of summer (June, July and August) mean vacation—a time to get into the car and head for the “open road.” Summer travel is especially popular among U.S. university students, who are typically “on break” from classes. During this period of the year, they have time to travel to different parts of their own country. For international students summer is also a perfect time to travel, or it is a nice time to visit colleges, universities and English language programs.

It is a challenge for people from other regions to fathom the vastness of the United States—driving across the USA from New York to Seattle or L.A. would take days! The best part of travel in the U.S. is that each region of the country has its own flavor and culture, much like the different countries of the E.U. or South America. This diversity makes it difficult to make generalities. Take advantage of your free time—travel and form your own impression of the USA!

* Going by Air

Air travel is the most convenient and time-effective way to travel within the United States. Most airlines offer discount fares for travel between major cities and from coast to coast (New York to Los Angeles). Special student fares are also available. Be sure to shop around for the best prices. Look for web promotions and special offers.

Recommended air travel sites: expedia.com, travelocity.com, lowestfare.com, orbitz.com, or kayak.com. Kayak is especially effective because it searches across multiple airlines sites. These websites can help save money on airfare. Do take note of how many stops are in the flight plan. Sometimes the less expensive flight tickets will have stops, making your trip longer.

For students and educational visitors (or anyone under the age of 25) a good travel-booking source is STA. It is the world's leading travel organization for students and young travellers. You may also consult a travel agent to help you find the most convenient fare for you. Be aware that you will usually pay a \$5 to \$20 booking fee if you book your ticket over the phone with a travel agent; booking online is free.

* Going By Bus

Often, students have more time than money, so bus travel can be the way to go. The large commercial bus lines, such as Greyhound, have inexpensive, long-distance rates for travelers. Popular regional bus services such

HOWEVER YOU CHOOSE TO TRAVEL, LOOK FOR CUSTOMER REVIEWS ABOUT THE SERVICES YOU'RE RESEARCHING.

as Boltbus (boltbus.com) and Megabus (megabus.com) also offer inexpensive travel rates. Not only is traveling by bus inexpensive, you can also enjoy the scenic route and experience more of the local flair than if you were traveling by plane.

With any travel, ask if there are special discounts for students. Greyhound (greyhound.com) offers a Student Advantage Card that includes 20 percent discounts on Greyhound fares as well as discounts on other goods and services.

Bus travel is a low-cost way to see many diverse locations across the country. Since there aren't train connections throughout the USA, buses or cars are the main modes of transportation. Purchasing a car in the United States is an expensive and involved process—you are probably better off traveling by bus and saving yourself the hassle.

* Going by Train

Railway travel is also a great way to see this large country. It is generally more expensive (especially compared to train travel in the E.U.) than travel by bus, but it is usually more comfortable. While either bus or train travel will impart you with a sense of the country's expansiveness, the railway offers unique and rare glimpses into U.S. history and culture. You can get a feel for what it was like in the U.S. before Ford invented the first automobile in 1893, which changed life in the USA forever!

Amtrak, the largest passenger train service in the United States, offers 15 or 30 days of unlimited rail travel with either their USA Pass or North America Pass. You may buy these passes via travel agents worldwide or at any Amtrak-staffed station. To locate an international sales representative in your country, go to Amtrak's international sales representative link at amtrak.com. If you are already in the United States or Canada and need more information, call 1-800-USA-RAIL (1-800-872-7245). Travelers outside of the United States or Canada, call (001) 215-856-7953.

* Going by Car

Americans have had a long-time “love affair” with the automobile. The sense of freedom that comes with just “hitting the road” is something that most Americans would not want to live without.

If you plan to drive in the USA, make sure to come prepared; you will need an international driver's license, insurance and knowledge of road signs. For assistance with maps and directions, visit the American Automobile Association (AAA) website at aaa.com or contact the company at 1-800-562-2582.

If you do purchase a car while you live here, you may even want to join AAA (commonly referred to as “triple A”). They provide excellent benefits such as roadside service and customized trip planners with door-to-door directions for members. You may also want to consult the Department of Motor Vehicles (dmv.org) for information about United States' driver's licenses, vehicle registration, insurance, and more.

* Staying in Hostels

Hostel accommodations are inexpensive, clean, friendly and secure. The best source for locating hostels in the USA is through the American Youth Hostels (AYH) at hiusa.org. You can also procure membership and information about U.S. hostels at the International Youth Hosteling Foundation (IYHF) in your country. Visit their website at hihostels.com. You will also find links and information on IYHF/AYH services and summer trips.

* Camping

Campsites are available at private camping grounds or at state and national parks. Many public campgrounds are available on a first-come-first-serve basis, but some require reservations. You will usually pay a small fee and display a tag at your campsite. The easiest way to be certain of campground's availability is to contact the park directly, usually the park ranger.

Via the U.S. National Parks website or State Park websites, you can locate either national or state parks around the country and obtain specific information on seasonal events, regulations and camping: nps.gov. For details on other camping options, check some of the links located at camping-usa.com. Camping is a fun way to explore the beautiful parks and landscapes of the USA, and costs almost nothing! 🌟

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information

* **APPLY TO PROGRAMS**

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PLANNING and PACKING

After you decide what to study and where, you need to think about what to bring to the USA. Have a good trip, and enjoy your adventure in the USA!

ELECTRONICS

- + Adapters
- + Computer
- + Flash drive
- + Camera
- + Translation calculator

TOWELS & BEDDING bring from home or buy in the U.S.

- + Towels
- + Sheets
- + Pillow

PAPER STUFF

- + Passport
- + F-1 Visa
- + Certificate of Eligibility:
I-20 form or DS-2019
- + Credit card
- + American currency
- + Copy of your
prescription and medical
documents, including your
immunization record

MISCELLANEOUS

- + Lightweight, non-perishable food items, such as spices
- + Photos of friends and family
- + Any sentimental item that reminds you of home

TOILETRIES

- + Toothbrush
- + Toothpaste
- + Shampoo
- + Comb/brush
- + Soap
- + Deodorant
- + Any special items or medication that you can only get in your country

CLOTHES

- + Shoes—casual, athletic, plus one dress pair
- + Jeans/pants/shorts
- + Shirts—short and long-sleeved
- + Pajamas
- + Socks & underwear
- + Bathing suit
- + Jacket



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