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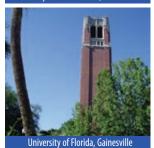






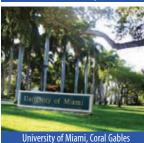
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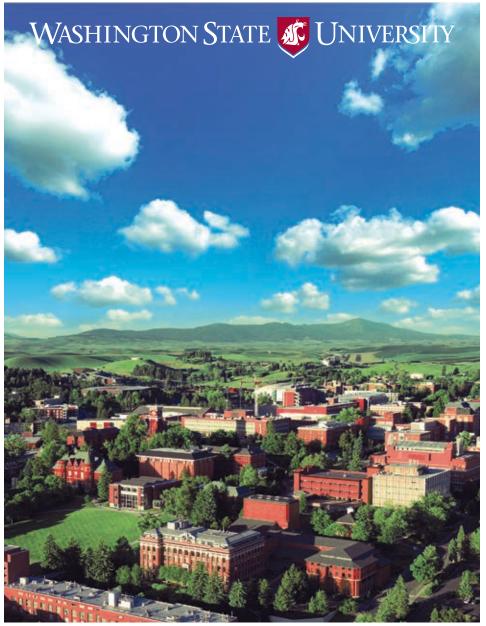
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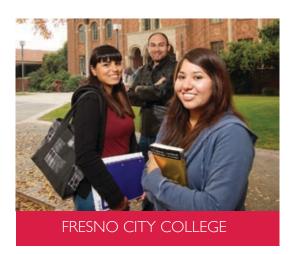
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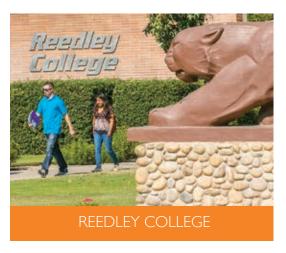
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Path for

Patricia Juza **UCIEP President** Director, International **English Center** University of Colorado Boulder www.uciep.org

Jack Sullivar

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EnglishUSA www.englishusa.org

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.

f 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.

Malakw 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.

f 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! :)

1 Senko FROM JAPAN

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# WHY STUDY

"The education system in the USA is very flexible, offering courses and topics that broaden our worldviews, helping us realize our true selves and dreams.

-Elene Beridze from Georgia, studying Political Science/Criminal Law at Manhattanville College





WHAT would it mean to have an American university listed on your resume? Why would potential employers pause and take notice of your education credentials from the United States?

It would mean that you have advanced English language skills and valuable intercultural experience. It would show that you studied within one of the best higher education systems in the world, with access to advanced technology and research. They would know that you received in-depth instruction, learned to problem-solve and have knowledge of modern practices within your field.

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.

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.

Living and learning in the USA will exhilarate you. It will change the landscape of your life permanently. We guarantee that you will return home changed—more confident, more open and knowledgeable, making you a citizen of the world with a much broader perspective!

Use this Study in the USA® magazine and StudyUSA.com to help you embark on this exciting academic voyage and make your next decision—where to study as an international student. 🗘

LIVING AND STUDYING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY—ESPECIALLY WHERE YOUR LANGUAGE ISN'T SPOKEN—IS CHALLENGING AND REQUIRES COURAGE AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.

#### "I love the diversity of the people here, as well as the quality of the teachers.

—Cruzkaya Barbosa from Venezuela, studying English and Nutrition and Dietetics at Howard Community College





"I was surprised that students in the U.S. are free to present their points of view, and the teachers do not deny them; rather, they welcome the spirit by giving extra points and with class discussions."

-Nhi Tran from Vietnam, studying English at the Intensive English Center (IEC) at St. Cloud State University

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"Students need to be active and get used to thinking outside of the box to have a great experience in American classes."

-Thao Tran from Vietnam. studying Biochemistry at North Seattle College

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.

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.

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.).

Most colleges at a university are separate schools, such as the College of Business. Some colleges are part of a university and are located on the university campus. 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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year, tens of thousands of students come to the USA to learn Engyear, tens of thousands lish to prepare themselves to enter colleges and universities in the United States. Others come to learn English while experiencing American life and still others come to

improve their English to qualify for a better job at home. Maybe you haven't considered an English language program and you think your English skills are just fine. But, if English is not your first language you should seriously contemplate completing an English

language program, especially an intensive

program.

Improving your English language skills will give you a higher TOEFL or IELTS score, which means that you will have even more universities to choose from. (Remember, each institution has different English proficiency requirements.)

Mastering your English will give you a good foundation for your university education. In an U.S. university classroom, 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 will be one of the factors that determine your overall grade for the course. You will also have a much easier time in your classes and a more enriched education with strong English language skills.

#### Types of English Language **Programs**

#### College and University Programs

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).

#### **FEATURES**

- + You can usually live on campus
- + You can have full use of the college or university library, the recreation and sports areas, as well as other facilities
- + You can practice English with the university students they meet in their dorms and cafeterias
- + If you are in advanced levels of an English program may be permitted to take a few university courses
- + 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.)

"I have handled the languages differences through five main steps: studying hard, communicating and asking questions, Googling, taking notes, and memorizing them."

—Hoa Thuy Quynh Nhu Nguyen from Vietnam, Media Studies and Production Temple University in Philadelphia

## HOW SHOULD I CHOOSE A PROGRAM?

Think about what kind of

How much money can you spend on tuition, room, meals,

Where do you want to go to school? Do you want to study

Find out if the teachers are professionally trained and

What is the average class size? Ideally, classes range between

odoes the program provide?

What services will the

What extracurricular activities are there? Are there clubs or

What is the school setting? Is it

Does the school permit advanced level students to

1 Is the school accredited? Many college and university

'I think it is a great thing to study English in a country that speaks the language. I believe that immersion is one of the best ways to acquire any language. —Anwer Al-kaimakchi from Iraq, English and Civil

#### **FEATURES**

- + 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 you learn English while traveling to interesting places or participating in activities
- + More flexible compared to colleges and universities
- + New sessions may begin every few weeks. This can be an advantage to those interested in short-term study
- + Close-knit and familial environment

#### Finding the Right Program for You

It is important to do your research before choosing a school. 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 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.

Jennifer Privette is the editor and assistant publisher of Study in the USA and StudyUSA.com.



# HOW IS YOUR ENGLISH?

Simple Questions to Ask Yourself...

- + Can you understand English when watching TV, movies or listening to songs but have problems trying to understand native speakers, even in basic interactions?
- + 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.

"One simple thing to always remember—nobody really cares about your accent or how many mistakes you make. People are generally very understanding, especially in the academic setting." —Anastasia Borovich from Russia, Mathematics and Economics at Foothill Community College and UCLA



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LAVC International Student Program Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) reflects the cultural diversity of the United States. International students enrich this diversity and contribute their unique experiences, perspectives and voices. Come to LAVC and become a part of our college community. More information @ www.lavc.edu/international



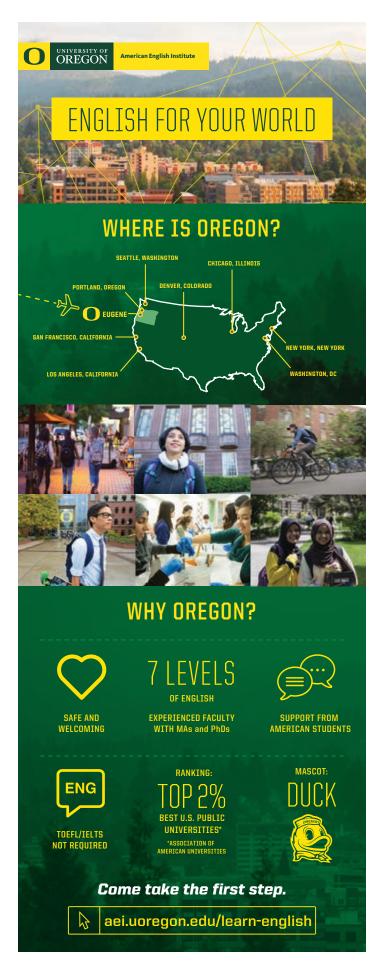
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American education system offers a rich field of choices for international students. There is such an array of schools, programs and locations that the choices may overwhelm students, even those from the U.S. As you begin your school search, it's important 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 submit 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."

#### Grade Point Value 4.00 90-92% 87-89% 3.33 83-86% 80-82% 2.67 C+ 70-72% D+ 67-69% D 60-66% 0-59%

"I like that schedules are flexible, classes are fun, and the variety of activities I can

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

participate in."

(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.

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 Ph.D. (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 Ph.D. 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 the Ph.D. 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

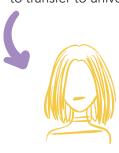
[In the U.S.] I can decide on my major when I'm ready; and if I change my mind, there are still some general units that are accepted for every major and I just need to take additional classes to fulfill the requirements to transfer to a four-year university.



Jane begins her undergraduate studies at Highline College



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



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.



Jane graduates!



SETTING

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN

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DISCOVER WHY STUDENTS WORLDWIDE TRUST THE QUALITY THAT COMES WITH THE BERKELEY NAME.

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 fulltime 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. 🗘

Jennifer Privette is the editor and assistant publisher of Study in the USA and StudyUSA.com.

# TYPES OF U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION

STATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY A state school is 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"

PRIVATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY These schools are government. Tuition is usually higher at private schools than at smaller in size than state schools.

Nearly all these schools welcome students of all religions and beliefs. Yet, there are a percentage of schools that prefer to admit school was founded.

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE** Community colleges are two-year colleges that award associate's degrees (transferable), as well but the most important distinguishing factor is whether or not

and technology. Some have graduate programs, while others offer short-term courses.

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Honors Society, Student Assistant – Global **Engagement Center** Accepted to: Bentley University, George Washington University, Loyola Chicago, Pace University, UC Berkeley, UCLA

Transferred to: University of California Berkeley – Haas School of Business, Fall 2016

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Why did you decide to study in the

As a student majoring in English education, I felt the necessity of learning English more deeply, so I decided to study abroad. The USA was more familiar to me than other countries since we can learn about America by watching American movies or dramas, eat American food, and buy their products in Korea. Whenever I thought about studying abroad for learning English, the U.S. first came to my mind.

#### Why did you choose University of Texas at Austin ESL Services?

I heard a lot about this university from my friends who studied here. I was very attracted to the weather and courses. It is really nice to do lots of outdoor activities. The courses are very specific. They divide students into different levels and classes depending on their abilities and their purpose for learning English.

#### What do you like best?

I think the best part of my program is that students are able to choose most of their projects in class. Teachers always try to reflect students' opinion when they start a new project. Therefore, the class is very studentcentered, which makes students very motivated and active.

#### What do you miss most?

The only thing I missed about home was my family.

#### What was your biggest surprise?

What I was surprised about U.S. education was students' participation. In most of the classes it was very important for students to be a part of the class. They suggested ideas, asked questions, and discussed what they wanted to know about.

When it comes to U.S. life, it was more peaceful and active than my life in Korea. It surprised me that many people often spend time doing sports or social activities because people in Korea usually spend their time at work or school.

#### ... your biggest disappointment?

My disappointment was the transportation. Since everyone uses a car, the transportation is not as convenient as Korea.

#### How have you handled: ... language differences?

As a student learning English, I had some troubles while staying in the U.S. But, people always understand, help me and are very friendly, so I was able to handle language differences.

#### ... finances?

I got a scholarship from my university in Korea, so the scholarship covered my tuition fee. However, I had to deal with my living expenses on my own.

#### ... adjusting to a different educational system?

It was quite different from the educational system in Korea, but teachers always helped me get used to a new system. So, it was not very hard for me to deal with the differences.

#### What are your activities?

I usually traveled to other cities in the U.S. with my friends. And, there were many trips sponsored by my program like outlet tours, game tours and city tours.

#### How easy or difficult was making friends?

It was not too difficult for me to make friends since I like doing many activities, learning about new cultures, and meeting new people. So, whenever I participated in many different activities, I was able to make friends and had a really good time with them.

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

My career goal is to get into a graduate school in the U.S. and the education that I had here will be very helpful for me to be prepared for it. For example, I was able to find some courses for students who want to go to graduate school. The education was designed for what I really need, so it helped me **Juhee Kim from South** Korea is a senior majoring in English education at the University of Texas at Austin ESL Services in Austin, Texas.

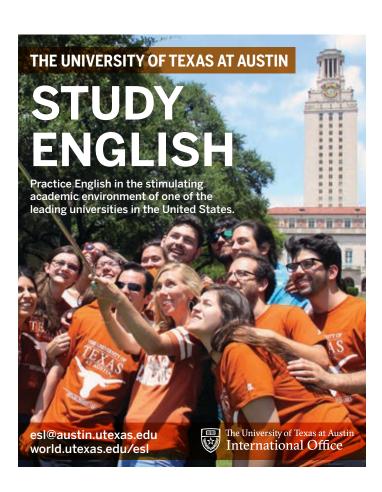




a lot to achieve my goal.

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

I would recommend studying in the U.S. for a few reasons. First, your English will definitely improve because you use and hear it everyday. So, try to get along with people from other countries in order to practice English. Second, you will have a broad view by meeting and talking with many different people. You will learn not only American cultures but also other cultures because there are lots of international students. If you have a chance to meet people, you should go and enjoy every chance. In short, try to do everything you can do your best on that! 😂



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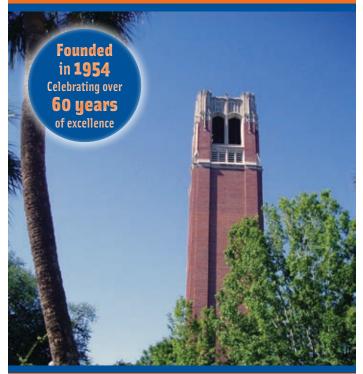
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#### Why did you decide to study in the USA?

I was majoring in English Literature in Korea. I've always wanted to study English. Then I had a military service in the Republic of Korea Air Force. I dreamt about studying abroad since after the military experience. Then, I decided to come to the USA— America has the best education system in the world.

#### Why did you choose Delaware County Community College?

Before I came to the United States, I wanted to study in the East Coast of America. This is because I think the East Coast of America has a better educational prestige. I was looking for the best school, which offered good programs for international students and Delaware County Community College (DCCC) was suitable for my consideration.

#### What do you like best?

DCCC has a number of advisors for its international students. For example, there are housing transfer advisors and they help students in many ways. Also, the school has great ESL programs. I liked the way they cared about international students.

#### What do you miss most?

I miss my family and friends.

#### What was your biggest surprise?

American college students are not afraid to express their opinions in a class. They don't only listen, but also, they have a conversation with their professor. It's a totally different atmosphere from Korea.

#### How have you handled: ... language differences?

I was trying to read, listen, and talk in English as much as possible. That's all I can do.

#### ... adjusting to a different educational system?

I was trying to act like American students. I tried to talk in a class.

#### What are your activities?

I was in charge of the Multicultural Club in our school. It was a great experience. Thanks to the experience, I improved my leadership and English skills. Moreover, it provided me good chances to make friends.

#### How easy or difficult was making friends?

It was difficult at first, but as time goes by, it's getting better.

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

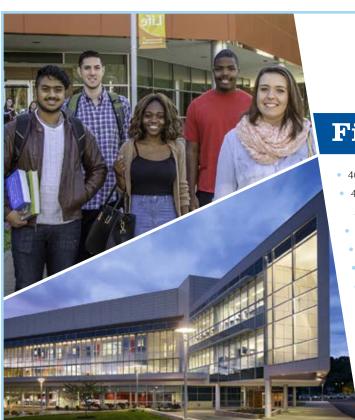
My dream is to create a global business. Through the experience in America, I hope to approach my dreams. Moreover, it will be a foothold for my future career with the English skills that I learned in the United States.

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

Set up your goal and do your own thing. It's not easy but at the same time, it's not hard. Just take a step toward the goal. I know you will be unsteady sometimes, but if you have a big dream and take a step, your dream will come true someday. 🕸

Jungbin Park from South Korea is studying **Business Administration** at Delaware County Community College in Media, Pennsylvania.







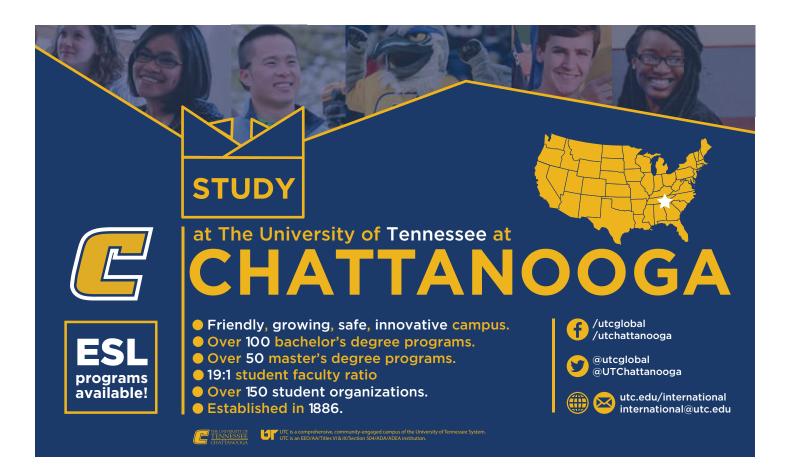
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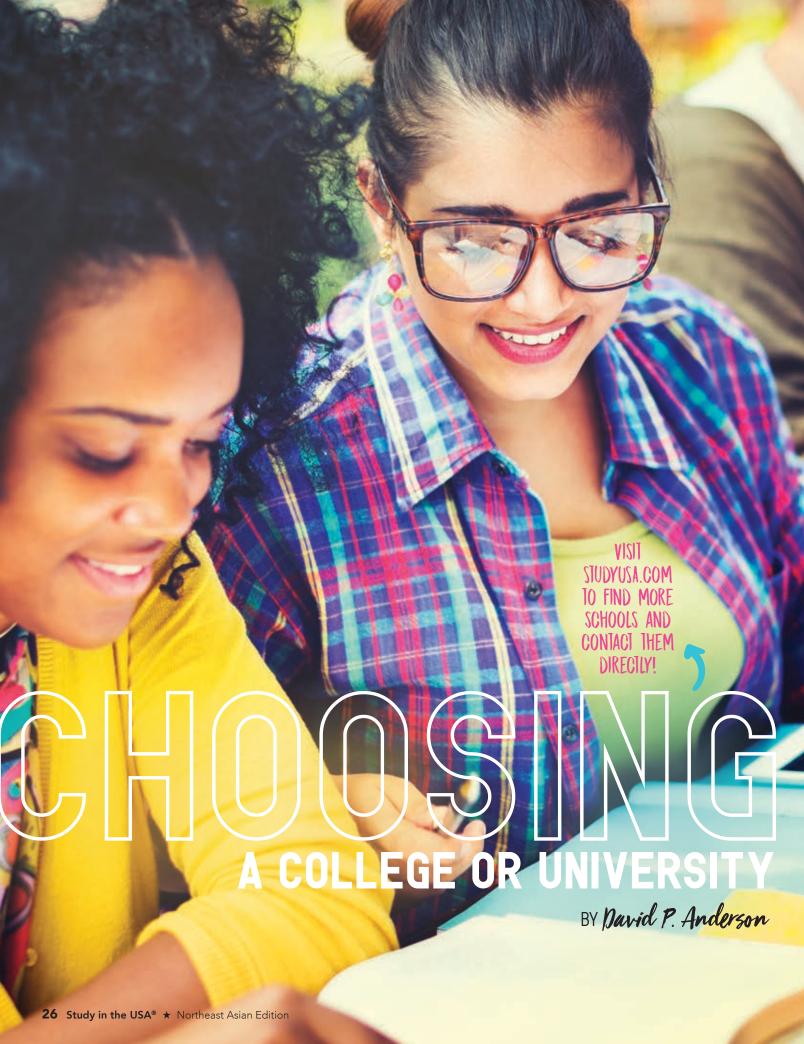
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United States attracts millions of international students to its universities and colleges because the USA offers so many choices and some of the best facilities in the world. With more than 3,000 colleges and universities in the United States, there are many great school options for just about everyone, from community colleges to career schools to private, liberal arts colleges to large, public universities. 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.

It's important that you take extra care to find out about each school's degree programs, the geographic location, its size 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, take plenty of time to research your potential choices. 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.)

You may 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.

#### **Educational Advisors**

It helps to know where to find relevant information so you can narrow your search. Many students turn to educational advisors for guidance.

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.

Many countries also have private educational advising agencies, but they do charge a fee for services and represent only a certain number of universities. 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.

#### Internet

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. But just like this copy of *Study in the USA*, 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.

#### **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.

#### 1 ACADEMIC FIELD (MAJOR)

Unlike universities in most countries, at

"I chose the United States not only because it was a dream of mine, but also because of the quality of its universities and the desire to improve my English."

—Ricardo Primon Pereira de Souza, Brazil, University of Miami

# WHAT KIND OF

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

Are the American universities or career schools' degree programs recognized by the government of my country?

Where can I find information about American universities?

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.

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.

#### 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.

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.

# 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

# FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- 1 Academic Field/Major
- 2 Degrees & Graduate Schools
- 3 Academic Standards
- & Prestige (Rankings)
- 4 Location & Region
- 5 Total Cost for Your Education
- **6** Large University or Small College
- **7** TOEFL requirements (or TOEFL waivers)
- 8 Accreditation

where they will be academically challenged, rather than insisting on attending one of the top 50 universities in the United States.

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. 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.

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

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, especially research 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.

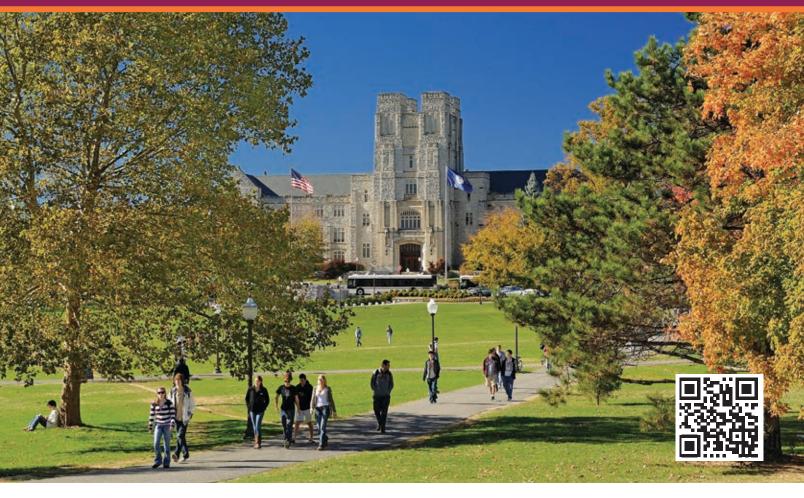
If living in a metropolitan or large city is really important to you, there are hundreds of schools in the heart of major cities.

#### 5 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 institu-



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tions 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. Please be aware that costs increase every year.

# 6 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. 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. Well-known universities' admissions can also be highly competitive.

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.

#### 7 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 or program, 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 pri-

# Community Colleges

Many countries do not have a direct equivalent of the (also called "junior college"). A institution where students can pursue an associate's degree or

popular among international students because they do not have high entrance students choose to earn an associate's degree in a technical area and then return to their countries with this credential. first two years of your bachelor's credits. Both are most likely transferable to a four-year

vate 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.

#### 8 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 accredited. 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.

#### **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 **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 campusbased intensive English program provider, offering pathways to 650+ universities worldwide, www.ELS.edu or www. University Guide Online.org.

# STUDY IN Why do International students from over 80 countries study at City College of San Francisco (CCSF)?

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  - **TOEFL Test Preparation**
  - Grammar Circle
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U.S. university and college sets its own admission standards and delege sets its own admiscides 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 (postgraduate) 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 local 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 applica-

# MOST APPLICATIONS WILL REQUEST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Personal information—Include

citizenship, and so on. Activities—Make a list of club memberships, awards earned, Education plan—Write a short attend this school, what course choosing. See sidebar.

The application form will include several blank pages for your directly to the admissions office of tion 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.

hen preparing for any of the tests discussed in this article students should keep in mind of 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. 1 Instructions on taking computerand 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.

# ADMISSIONS TESTS

#### **IELTS** for the USA

What is IELTS?

IELTS is the International English Language Testing System, a test designed to assess the language ability of non-native speakers of English for admissions into higher education and other purposes.

Who Should Take It?

There are two versions of IELTS. The Acacommunication. The General Training study in secondary education, non-degree Register and Book Your IELTS http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/book

#### TOEFL

What is TOEFL?

spected English-language test in the world, derstand English at the university level and academic tasks.

#### Who Should Take It?

Students planning to study at a higher scholarship and certification candidates, track their progress and students and work-

Register and Book Your TOEFL https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/register/

#### SAT

What is the SAT?

The SAT consists of multiple-choice ques-

be sure to ask before you take the SAT. Who Should Take It?

Students applying to a four-year under-

Register and Book Your SAT https://collegereadiness.collegeboard. org/sat/register

#### GRE® General Test

What is the GRE® General Test The GRE® General Test measures your critical thinking and analytical writing

Who Should Take It?

degree take the GRE General Test. Register and Book Your GRE® General Test

https://www.ets.org/gre/ revised\_general/register/

#### **GMAT**

What it is the GMAT?

The GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) exam is a standardized test potential for graduate study in business of the GMAT exam: Analytical Writing Assessment, Integrated Reasoning, Quantitative, and Verbal.

Who Should Take It?

or business programs can take the GMAT Register and Book Your GMAT Exam http://www.mba.com/us/the-gmat-ex-



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#### **Rice University**

Glasscock School of Continuing Studies Language Programs – MS 560, P.O. Box 1892 Houston, Texas 77251-1892 USA

WEB: esl.rice.edu EMAIL: esl@rice.edu PHONE: 713-348-4019 FAX: 713-348-6131

Rice University is an EO/AA institution

#### Why did you decide to study in the USA?

I have been fascinated by the American culture since I was a little kid. After a year of college life in China, I felt like it was the perfect time for me to start a new journey in the United States, to see the world, to make a change.

#### Why did you choose Foothill College?

My mom's friend attended Foothill College and recommended it to me. After doing some research about Foothill College, I found out that it is right in the middle of Silicon Valley, which is the place where I was dreaming about working and living in.

I was told that the school provides a program where I can transfer to some wellknown universities throughout the nation after taking corresponding transferable courses. I also chose Foothill College because of its good reputation and that it is ranked number one for community colleges in California.

#### What do you like best?

Foothill College Campus is just so beautiful that I want to study there every single day. It literally has the best facilities and resources for students. I have learned so much here and helped me thrive in UCLA after transferring.

The most amazing thing about Foothill College is that you never know who is teaching you! I had a computer science class from a full-time employee at Google and also had a computer science class from an Emmy award recipient, and so many mathematics professors in Foothill College graduated from top universities like MIT.

#### What do you miss most?

My mother and spicy food in my hometown ChongQing.

#### What was your biggest surprise?

I felt surprised by why it takes so much time to catch a bus. In terms of education, I did not know that you get to decide what courses you are going to take this quarter or next quarter.

#### How have you handled: ... language differences?

I have watched thousands of Hollywood movies and TV shows so I know quite a lot of slang words. Since I am now on American soil, I take every chance to talk to the locals or foreigners to practice my English. I intentionally live with people who do not speak the same language as me. My oral English was not fluent in the beginning, but it got much better after speaking a lot of English every single day.

#### ... finances?

My parents helped me with the tuition and most living expenses. I had a part-time job on campus which helped me a lot.

#### ... adjusting to a different educational system?

The orientation that the Foothill International students program held gave me a lot of useful and compressive information about adjusting to the U.S. educational system. Besides that, I attended a summer ESL class in Foothill before my first quarter started. That class absolutely helped me a lot.

#### What are your activities?

I travelled on field trips that were organized by the Foothill International Students program such as a trip to Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay. I also took part in several clubs at Foothill, such as the Mathematics club and Computer Science club and I also worked on campus.

#### How easy or difficult was making friends?

It is really easy to make new friends in the USA since generally people here are friendly and outgoing. Most importantly, they want to make friends with you in the first place!

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

My current career goal is to work in a technology field in Silicon Valley.

Most crucially, U.S. education taught me how to learn things by myself, to think criti-

Zhiwei (Roger) Ye from China studied at Foothill College Los Altos Hills, California and transferred to UCLA where he is a junior, majoring in applied mathematics.





cally, study more efficiently, and to make use of free online and public resources, which gave me the freedom of switching subjects. In terms of the needs of my country, I will go back to my hometown and show people what I have learned about the Silicon Valley culture. Moreover, I want to create my own startup companies in my country when I go back one day.

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

Be independent! Don't be shy! Never be afraid of asking questions! Everything is possible here in the United States!

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# 34 Jennifer Privette NANCING YOUR U.S. EDUCATION



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

#### FACTOID

75% of all full-time students studying at U.S. universities and colleges hold at least part-time jobs

"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.

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. Scholarships 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

"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.

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 shortterm 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.

#### ANNUAL COSTS

Undergraduate: \$2,200 - \$33,480 Graduate: \$8,340 - \$28,890 Doctoral: \$10,510 - \$40,980

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 \$33,480 (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

**Entrance Exams:** \$500

**Application Fees:** \$250 - \$600

**Tuition:** \$2,200-\$40,980\*

Room & Board: \$8,060-\$11,890

**Travel Costs:** \$500-\$3.000

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

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

**Personal Expenses:** \$2,500

\*Tuition costs ranging from ESL programs to doctoral programs

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

#### **Room and Board:** \$8,060-\$11,890

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

#### **Annual Average Tuition Costs**

Public Two-Year

Public Four-Year

**Private Four-Year** 

#### **Average Room** and Board Costs

Public Two-Year

**Public Four-Year** 

**Private Four-Year** 

SOURCE: THE COLLEGE BOARD, TRENDS IN COLLEGE PRICING 2016

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. Travel costs vary within the United States because of its size, so expect air travel within the United States to range from around \$160 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 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 Levi's. Balance thrift and fun, and your study abroad experience is sure to be a financial success!

Jennifer Privette is the Editor and Assistant Publisher of Study in the USA and StudyUSA.com.

\*Cost information from The College Board and eduPass

"I have always had campus jobs and paid internships. This is helpful for money you like to use to travel and do things other than school stuff."

—Hendrik van der Zandt from Germany is studying Finance and International Business at Marquette University.



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etting your visa to study in the United States takes time but can be a surprisingly easy procedure.

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 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 the procedure for Nonimmigrant Visas.

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). Read and sign this form.

Make sure that the name and spelling on your passport is consistent with your application for acceptance to the school, as well as 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 have to undergo additional screenings

that take several additional weeks of processing. Allocate plenty of time for the process.

**7** SECOND, you will need to make an appointment for a visa interview and to pay required fees. Student visas can be issued 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.

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: usembassy.gov.

Another website (https://travel.state.gov/

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

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

content/visas/en/general/wait-times.html/) can also tell you the expected wait time for a visa in your country. International student visa applicants should receive priority. So, if your academic program begins soon, be sure to explain this when applying for your visa.

You may contact the nearest U.S. Department of State-affiliated EducationUSA advising center office in your country for guidance: educationusa.info/centers.php.

There is a US\$200 fee for F and M visa applicants, \$180 for most J Visa applicants. You can pay this fee with an internationally valid credit card. Go to https://fmjfee.com/index. html to pay, and print a copy of your receipt. Bring a copy to your interview. You must pay the SEVIS fee at least three days before 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.

THIRD, the United States is using a new U non-immigrant visa application form, DS-160, that should be completed online: 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. Bring a copy to your 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 section: https://travel.state.gov/ content/visas/en/general/photos/digital-image-requirements.html

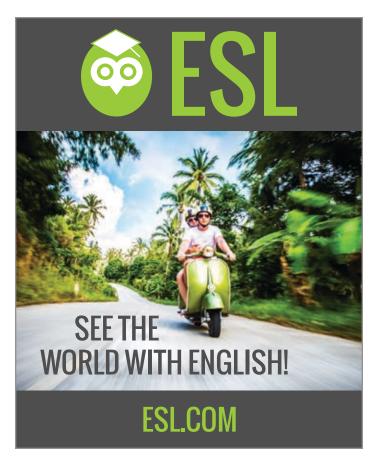
If the upload of your photo fails, you must bring the photo with you when you go for your interview.

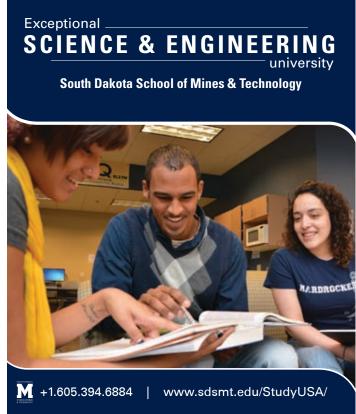
FOURTH, prepare for your visa interview. It is extremely crucial that you apply for your visa well in advance of the date your studies begin—if possible, apply three or four months in advance. This will give you extra time if there are delays or if you wish to appeal a denial.

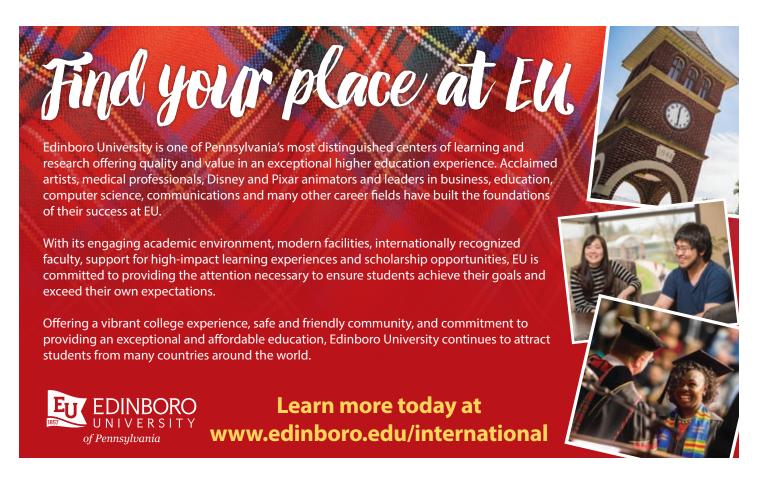
Consider the interview a formal event. Business attire is appropriate. First impressions are important, since there will be little time to speak with the officer.

Be prepared to give your information quickly and completely. If you are unable to answer the questions in English, and the visa

Last Year 471,712 F-1 Student visas were issued and there are currently 1,208,074 million students in the United States on F and M visas!







officer does not speak your language, you can ask for an interpreter. Speaking English is not a requirement for a student visa.

The visa officer needs to know your specific objectives, both academic and professional, for studying in the USA. You must explain why it is better to study your specific field in the U.S. than to study at home. Concisely and clearly state your education and career plans.

If you are going to the U.S. to learn English and then earn a degree, you must be able to explain your complete program of study. It is not enough to just say, "It is better to study in the United States." Give valid reasons. 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 wonderful the USA is.

You should 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 USA, bring proof of your student status in your country. A letter from a university professor supporting your study plan can be helpful. If you seem to be unsure about your plans, the visa officer may believe that you're 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 an 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 USA 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 to the poor grades, have the school explain those special circumstances.

The status of nonimmigrant and immigrant visa applicants can be checked here: https:// ceac.state.gov/CEACStatTracker/Status.aspx

#### **Financing**

You must have adequate, demonstrable

financial support to live and study in the USA. 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.

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.

#### "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 applicant has not proven to the visa officer that they will return to their country upon completing their U.S. studies. 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.

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, you may appeal the decision. In most cases, you will need to provide additional documentation. In some cases, a visa officer may request additional

#### WHAT HAS CHANGED?

It is easier to say what hasn't United States are still being issued. English language programs are still welcoming international students

scrutiny to all visa applicants. This for your visa interview. Be sure be able to explain in the very brief visa interview why you want to be able to explain why you applied studies and living expenses.

visa issuance may be longer so it is especially important to apply possible. Student visas can be

documents like proof of employment, or ownership of a home or business.

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.

#### 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.



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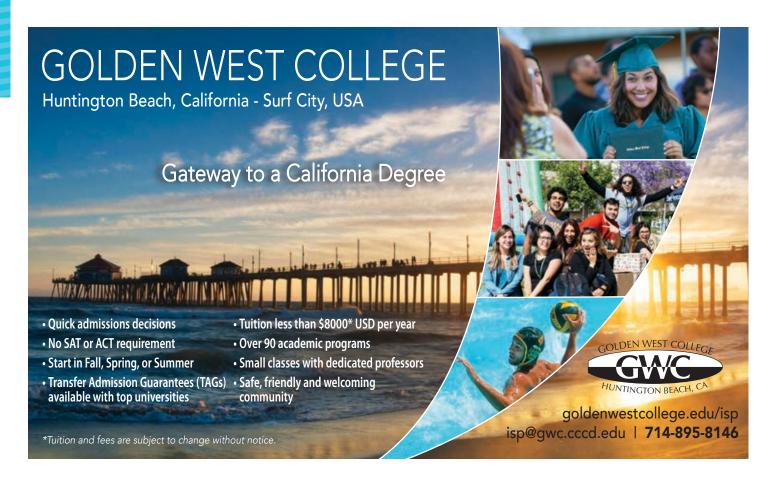
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American students—and ternational students—attend a community college for the first two years of university studies in the USA. With nearly 1,200 community colleges in the country, there are many benefits of this model in comparison to studying all 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.

#### WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

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

- + 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.
- 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

+ CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENTS

- 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!

**START WHERE YOU WANT TO FINISH**—First, find out exactly need in the future.

BE ORGANIZED AND READY TO WORK HARD—Exploring

TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF YOUR RESOURCES—Work

ATTEND NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION—Don't assume that with you when you arrive, you are a new student, and you need

HAVE A DREAM SCHOOL, AND A PLAN "B"—If your dream because you haven't heard of a school doesn't mean that in the

Elizabeth Lyon is Associate Director and Transfer Advisor at Edmonds

**DUSAN DJOKIC** from 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.

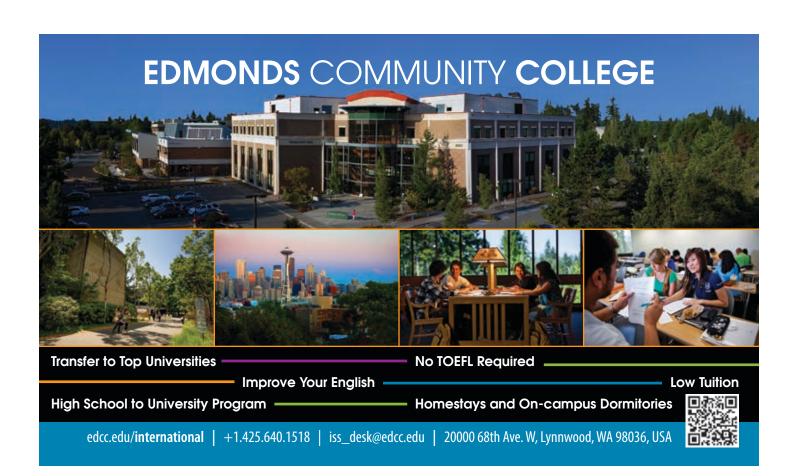
#### INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER FAIRS

M any 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.





# DMISSI

BY Jim Crawley



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

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.

#### Apply for conditional admission to a university

Not all universities and colleges offer condi-

tional 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.

#### 2 Apply for admission to an intensive English program

Once you have been granted conditional 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.

#### SIEP 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 posi-

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.

#### **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 the Director of Global Recruitment and Partnerships at Alma College in Alma, Michigan, and previously served as the NAFSA International Enrollment Management Knowledge Community Chair.

# student tips

"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

"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

"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



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BY ROBBIN BEAUCHAMP

# COPERATION EDUCATION

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE + DEGREE





# The first step

toward your career could be cooperative education (co-op). If you participate in a "coop" 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

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 résuméwriting, 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,

'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 coop 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

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

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 coop 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.

**HELP** 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

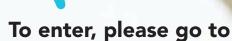
OffEKS students financial earnings and work experience, encouraging those who may not have entered university or completed a degree program to reconsider

IMPROVES students' selfconfidence and respect for work

**ENHANCES** professional development

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To be eligible for the scholarship, the applicant must fully complete the online survey and submit it. Applications for scholarships will not be accepted from Study in the USA, Inc. or affiliated subsidiary current customers, staff or members of their family (spouse, defacto, parent, grandparent, child, stepchild, grandchild, brother or sister). All expenditure of funds must be for school related expenses and the recipient is accountable for the use of these funds. The amount awarded for the scholarship is final and no additional funds will be provided. Applications open through June 2018. One entry per household.



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# ENGINEERING

THE FUTURE BY Jennifer Privette





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 2015/16 Open Doors Report 216,932 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. 😂

Jennifer Privette is the editor and assistant publisher of Study in the USA magazines and StudyUSA.com.

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 "Our modern society is firmly based on the use of technology. Engineers in all disciplines are vital to the design, development, and improvement of the technology that drives our modern global society. Basically, without engineers, everything technological comes to a standstill. Increasingly, agriculture, transportation, manufacturing, communication, medicine, and all other fundamental aspects of our complex global society are dependent on the knowledge and skills of trained engineers."

-Kenneth Schroeder, Engineering

"After finishing my associate degree at Pierce College, I transferred to University of Washington Seattle and, in two more years, graduated with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. My classes at Pierce prepared me well for my studies at University of Washington—I felt especially ready in physics and engineering. Studying at Pierce College was a great first step in my professional preparation." -Piseth Horth, an international student

from Cambodia

"Speaking English fluently is essential in the chemical engineering field in Brazil. Learning how to deal with different people from different cultures is also good."

"It was a unique opportunity to study in one of the world's best universities. I would be able to maintain close contact with competitive educational systems closely related to technology and innovation." -Raphael Lucas Vidotti, from Centro Universitario da FEI, studied Civil **Engineering at Rutgers, The State Univers** 



975,000 students from other countries enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities during the 2014-15 academic year—an increase of 10 percent over the previous year, according to the Institute of International Education (IIE). Of these students, approximately 20 percent came to the U.S. to pursue a business degree.

"The frontier of business research and training takes place at the top universities in the U.S.," says Dr. Shan Yan, assistant professor of finance in the Sigmund Weis School of Business at Susquehanna University.

The American business community has a strong influence in the global economy. It makes sense to get a business education in the United States, where you will also have opportunities that don't exist at schools in your home country.

For example, many U.S. undergraduate business programs offer a valuable combination of classroom business theory and real-world business case studies, a focus on specific areas of business, and the chance

to obtain internships at some of the most competitive companies in the world.

"Innovative business models are also being created in U.S. markets. When you combine the academic training with exposure to the real market, you can see how valuable U.S. business training is for international students," explains Yan.

There are more than 4,700 degreegranting institutions in the United States. Some offer two-year associate degree programs, while others are four-year colleges and universities that award bachelor's degrees.

The question is, how can you narrow down all of those choices to find the school that is right for you? Here are several things to consider:

#### Location—think about more than **East Coast or West Coast.**

The U.S. is a huge country, with much geographic, demographic and climate diversity. You may want to select a school that allows you to experience all four seasons of weather,

The network you build throughout your college career will continue to be there even decades after you graduate.

—Hendrik van der Zandt from Germany: Studying Finance and International Business at Marquette University

or one that provides endless summer. You may prefer a school in a vibrant metropolitan area, or one in a charming small town. But you should also think about whether you want to study at a large public university, a tiny private college, or somewhere in between. Is it important to have small class sizes where you can easily interact with other students and your professor, or are you comfortable in larger class settings?





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Remember, while you are a student in the U.S. you will have the opportunity to travel and explore many areas of the country. But in selecting an American school, consider how the location might impact your program.

As a business major, you may want to choose a college or university that is relatively close to financial centers such as Chicago or New York City, and one that has a proven track record of helping students network with professionals in their field. The opportunity to shadow a business professional for a day, or actually work in a corporate setting as an intern is priceless.

After graduation, your international student visa allows you to work in the U.S. for one year to gain practical experience. With your American business degree, you can gain experience in almost any industry, working for one of the leading companies in the world!

#### Look for specialized coursework delivered by faculty mentors.

Although many U.S. business schools offer degrees in general business management, most give you the opportunity to specialize in specific areas of business, such as finance, accounting, marketing, or even global management, entrepreneurship or luxurybrand management. These programs also allow you to gain a well-rounded education through elective courses that include world languages, math and sciences, social studies, literature and the arts. You will not only graduate with a business degree, but also a wealth of knowledge that will boost your ability to think critically across many disciplines, a skill that employers value.

You should not underestimate the importance of faculty in American business schools. Professors are trained from top universities and can deliver the most up-todate information to students explains Dr. Yan. They are not only professors, but also researchers and mentors.

Professors schedule regular office hours when students can consult with them oneon-one to review coursework or discuss career plans. They will advise you of internship opportunities, and help you complete applications for employment or graduate



school. As they get to know you, they will serve as your advocate, writing you letters of recommendation and connecting you with others who can help you succeed.

Susquehanna University accounting student, John Martone, owes his current internship to such advocacy. His advisor, Associate Professor of Accounting Jerry Habegger, connected him with an alumnus who directed him towards PricewaterhouseCooper's recruiting department. Now Martone interns with their office in Manhattan, assisting with corporate tax returns and research into potential clients.

As you search websites of colleges and universities that interest you, it's a good idea to read the curriculum vitae of faculty members who teach in your area of specialization. You'll find out more about their educational background and research interests, and gain insight into what you might learn from them.

#### Accreditation sets schools apart.

How do you know if a business school meets the highest standard of excellence? Look for accreditation from AACSB International. The longest-serving association dedicated to advancing management education worldwide, AACSB accredits 775 of the world's best business schools in 52 countries and territories.

AACSB accreditation ensures that the school follows a rigorous curriculum taught by highly qualified faculty, and that it undergoes continuous assessment and improvement.

#### Susquehanna University

Susquehanna University is one of few undergraduate colleges to have earned AACSB accreditation. Demanding coursework

built on a solid liberal arts foundation gives Susquehanna business students what they need to succeed.

In addition, a required Global Opportunities program lets students embrace other cultures through study abroad experiences, and learn how to adapt to a rapidly changing global economy. Within six months of graduation, 98 percent of Susquehanna's business school graduates are either employed or accepted into graduate school.

"My family always believed that getting an education in the U.S. would set me apart from my peers ..." says international student, Busisiwe L. Chapula.

Chapula came to Susquehanna University from her native Zambia. Preparing to graduate with her degree in accounting in spring 2017, Chapula says she chose Susquehanna because of its size and close proximity to the business centers of Philadelphia, New York City and Washington, D.C. Although location wasn't the only factor.

"What I like most about attending college here is how much I've learned outside of the classroom," says Chapula. "For example, I learned how to expand my network, create and perfect my résumé, and how to speak effectively in front of people."

Now that she is ready to graduate with her American business degree, Chapula, like many other graduates, is confident that she will have outstanding opportunities in her home country—or anywhere else in the world she may choose to live and work.

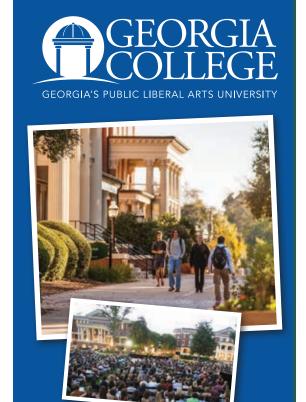
Lindy Kravec is a freelance writer based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

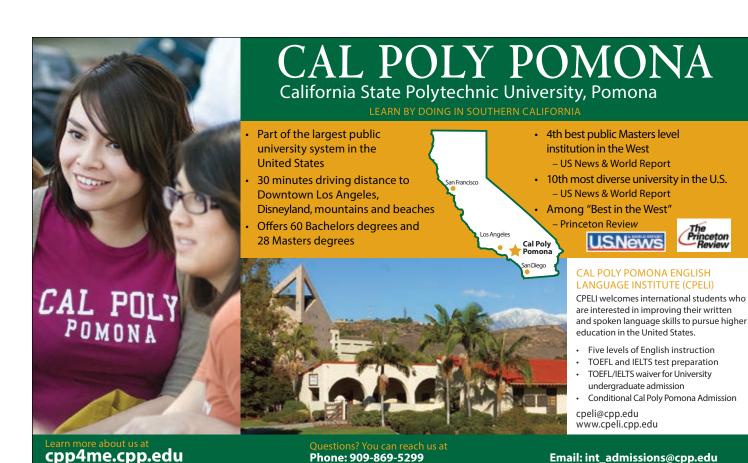
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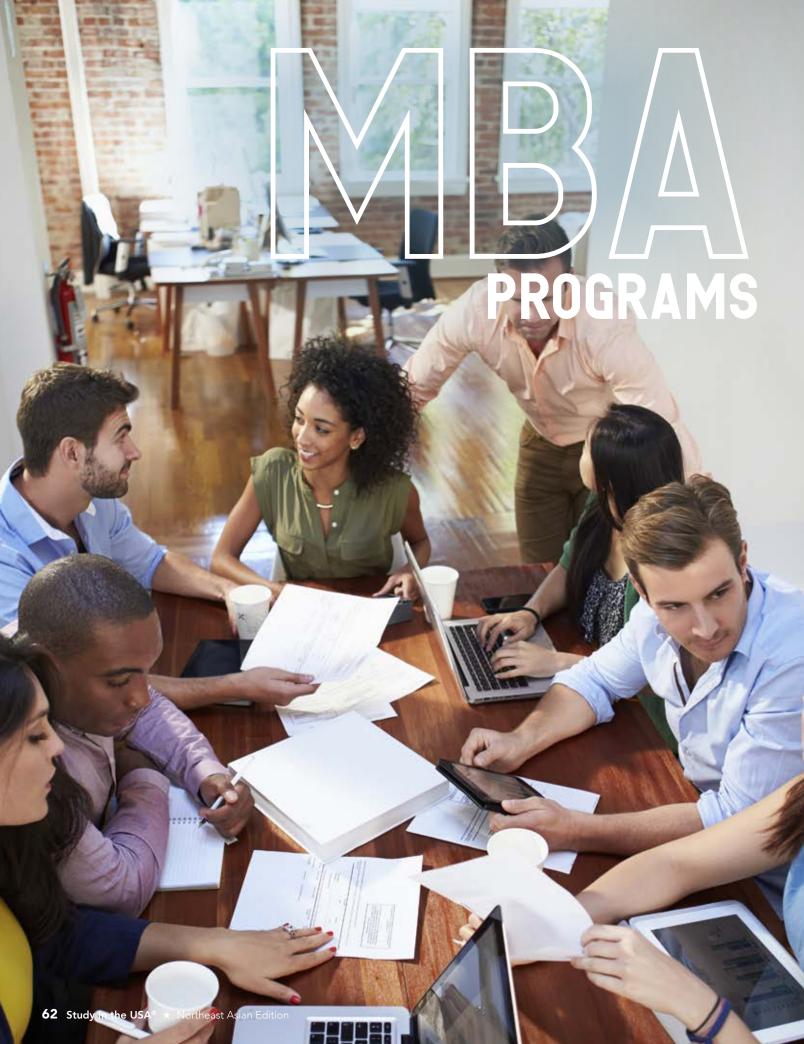
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you are an international student or professional seeking an MBA you should consider the United States. American MBA programs are world renowned for giving students a competitive edge in the business world through excellent education, diverse specialized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

#### **HOW TO CHOOSE AN MBA PROGRAM** THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

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.

#### 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.

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.

#### 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.





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nternational students travel from all over the world to come to the U.S. to participate in graduate study. Universities in the U.S. offer capacity for study that many countries are not able to offer their citizens, which is why many students pursue graduate education abroad. Graduate education allows students to garner advanced knowledge of prior studies, with specific interest in a discipline. Students seeking careers in many fields are required to obtain specialized training through earning an advanced degree. A graduate school experience offers an environment rich in academic and social experiences that foster intellectual and personal development.

"Graduate education teaches students how to research and apply knowledge," says Brandy Randall, Associate Dean of the North Dakota State University College of Graduate and Interdisciplinary Studies. "In advanced degree programs, students are learning how to tackle problems that don't yet exist."

Institutions across the U.S. offer a variety of graduate programs such as Master of Science (M.S.), Master of Arts (M.A.), Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the arts and sciences, Education Doctorate (Ed.D.) and doctorate degree programs in professional practice. Programs are available in science, technology, engineering, math, health, human development, arts, education and professional degree programs.

American graduate education is high quality, with research laboratories, facilities and libraries that are equipped to meet the needs of graduate students to ensure success in their fields. U.S. institutions focus on the global economy, building relationships and networking with international graduate students benefitting both international and domestic students, which increases opportunities for careers and international collaboration.

"The professors in my department are experts in their fields and they invest heavily in our growth and development. I have learned so much from them and also from my wonderful colleagues and the many friends I have made over the years. They have all enriched my life in many ways and inspire me to be

a better person," says Courage Mudzongo, a Ph.D. student in Developmental Science, who is from Harare, Zimbabwe.

Faculty and students build strong working relationships by collaborating in the lab and conducting research together. Students often feel fortunate to work closely with innovative faculty mentors who are recognized and respected internationally for their contributions to their fields of study.

#### **Application and Admission Standards**

Admission to a graduate program is a selective process intended to identify applicants who are outstanding among recipients of baccalaureate degrees. Most institutions require applicants to have earned a baccalaureate degree from an educational institution of recognized standing. In addition, applicants must have adequate preparation in the chosen field of study and must show potential to undertake advanced study and research as evidenced by academic performance and experience. To attain full standing in a graduate degree program, aim for a high cumula-

tive grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0, or equivalent. (Each graduate program will have different admissions standards, including GPA.) Many universities require additional evidence of academic performance.

Students must be admitted to a graduate program prior to registering for courses. Prospective students should be prepared to submit the following:

- An application (paper or online)
- Transcripts from all institutions attended (take note that many institutions require a WES evaluation)
- Test Scores (TOEFL, IELTS, GRE, GMAT)
- Statement of Purpose (Document describing intent to pursue graduate degree.)
- Letters of recommendation

#### **Opportunities Within a Program** and After Graduation

Many programs offer opportunities to collaborate on research and scholarly activity in the form of research and teaching assistantships to qualified students. These awards recognize superior teaching and research contributions of graduate students. Graduate assistantships contribute to professional development with the primary purpose of helping students successfully complete their academic program. Assistantships augment other educational experiences and provide financial support to help students focus of their educational goals.

After graduation, many international graduate students choose to live and work in communities near the university they attended. Advanced degree holders often choose careers in academia, research, manufacturing, industry and business with employers who seek welleducated and trained graduates.

#### **Graduate Education at** North Dakota State University

At North Dakota State University (NDSU), graduate students chart their own courses for traditional scholarly inquiry and push the boundaries of modern theory and research. As a student-focused, land-grant, research university located in the heart of the Upper Midwest, North Dakota State University is a leader in academic excellence and competitive research.

NDSU offers 51 doctoral degrees, 84 master's degrees, an education specialist degree and 12 certificate programs. The University offers graduate programs in eight colleges:

- Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources
- Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Business
- Engineering
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Human Development and Education
- Health Professions
- Science and Mathematics

Students in North Dakota State University's Graduate School learn from internationally renowned faculty mentors, have access to world-class research facilities and participate in numerous public-private business partnerships. A growing, vibrant university, North Dakota State University is recognized as a leader among its peers. 🔇

Sonya Goergen is the Marketing Coordinator at North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota.





#### Take IELTS to prove you have the right English language skills to study in the USA.

Over 3,300 higher education institutions and programs in the USA (visiting programmes, Fulbright scholarships, degree programmes, masters, PhD, MBA, etc.) accept IELTS scores as proof of English language proficiency.

Major institutions all over the USA recognise that IELTS gives an accurate reflection of your ability to understand, read, write and speak English. IELTS is:

- trusted by the USA's top 25 universities
- accepted by all Ivy League colleges
- used by programs at the top 50 US universities with the most international students

Good IELTS scores help you to get into the university of your choice.

#### What is IELTS?

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) measures the language proficiency of people who want to study or work where English is used as a language of communication. It uses a nine-band scale to clearly identify levels of proficiency, from non-user (band score 1) through to expert (band score 9).

#### **Ensuring quality and fairness**

IELTS is recognized and trusted by individuals and organisations worldwide for its fairness, reliability and high quality standards

#### Fair to test takers

The IELTS approach is recognised as being fair to all test takers, whatever their nationality, cultural background, gender or special needs. Test takers can feel confident that the IELTS test:

- provides a valid and accurate assessment of the four language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking
- assesses language skills, not specialist knowledge; the topics covered are general enough for all test takers will be able to answer questions on them
- is focused on assessing practical communication ability
- serves both academic and non-academic purposes through a choice of two versions
- features a one-on-one, face-to-face speaking component
- recognises all standard varieties of nativespeaker English, including North Ameri-





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can and British

• ensures test questions are extensively trialled with people from different cultures to confirm they are appropriate and fair.

#### **Test format**

The IELTS test assesses your abilities in listening, reading, writing and speaking - in less than three hours.

There are two types of the IELTS test: IELTS Academic and IELTS General Training. Listening and Speaking are the same for both tests, but the subject matter of the Reading and Writing components differs depending on which test you take.

The Listening, Reading and Writing components of all IELTS tests are completed on the same day, with no breaks in between them.

The Speaking component, however, can be completed up to a week before or after the other tests. Your test centre will advise.

The total test time is 2 hours and 45 minutes.

#### How to Prepare for IELTS Exam

Once you have decided to take IELTS exam, the first thing you need to focus on is how to prepare. There are many ways to prepare for the exam, some of the more common being:

**IELTS Courses:** The British Council has over 75 years' experience in English language teaching. We run IELTS preparatory courses, workshops, seminars and mock tests covering all four skill areas: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. Contact your nearest British Council teaching centre to find out about the courses in your area.

Online Courses: There are many IELTS MOOCS online where you learn useful test-taking strategies and skills, practice and develop skills and strategies by completing IELTS-style practice tests in reading, listening, speaking and writing and develop all the skills to achieve the score you require. Self-Study using Study Material:

A plethora of study material (books and CDs) is available in the market and on the internet. You can find previous examination papers as well. There are free e-books, test papers and materials available online.

#### Here are a few tips to ace IELTS Exam

Be acquainted with the format: The

foremost thing is to be aware of the test format. Read the information for candidate booklet and familiarize with the test format. Be aware of the duration of each test, number of questions to answer, what the examiners looking for in writing and speaking tests etc.

Practice Sample tests: Practicing sample test papers help you build up your speed. By taking sample tests, you will become more confident and can able to identify your weak areas.

Try to use English every day. Speak English with your friends and family. Read English newspaper, magazines. Listen to English shows, films. Reading subtitles help you to improve your language.

#### Key success factors to studying in the USA

Decide where you want to

- What kind of qualification do you want to achieve?
- What subject would you like to study?

#### Decide how you will 🎝 finance your studies

- Accommodation costs
- Living costs including food and travel
- The cost of admission and other school fees

Prepare your application Prepare far in advance of each college's published deadlines to make sure all test scores, transcripts and other application materials are received in time.

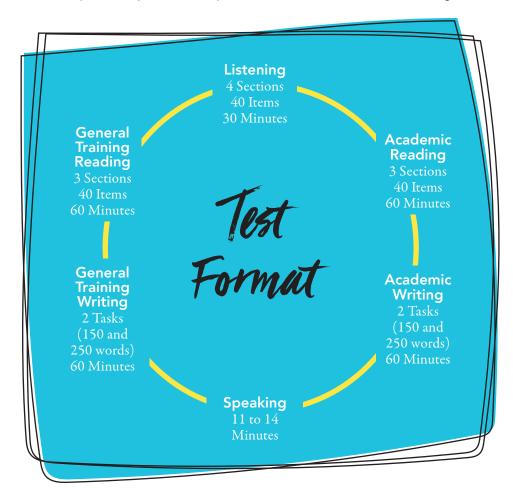
#### D. Make sure you have a valid visa to study in the U.S.

Make sure you're familiar with the type of visa you will need, and the information you need to make your visa application.

#### Get your IELTS score to . help you apply to a college or university

An IELTS test score can improve your chances of being accepted to study in the U.S.

You can read our full guide to studying in the USA here: www.takeielts.org.



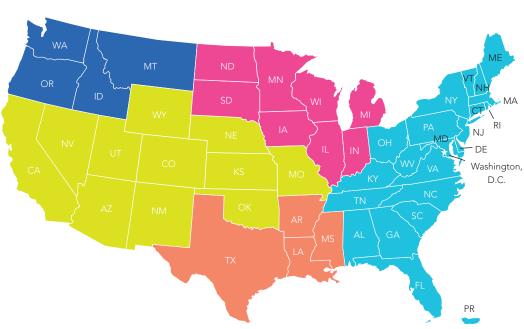
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"If you have the opportunity to study in the United States, do it! It is a decision that you will never regret and that will fill your life with unforgettable experiences, people, and at the same time your world perspective will open and definitely, the opportunities will come to you!"
—Priscilla Araya from Costa Rica





















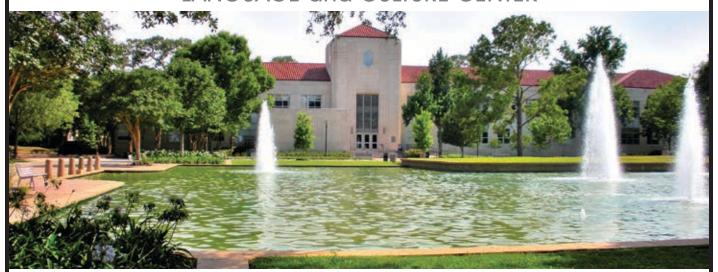






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College of Technology





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