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Jonghan Alvin Kim

Hometown: Seoul, South Korea

High School: Shanghai Community International School – IB Diploma

OCC Highlights: Founder of the OCC soccer club, Member of Phi Theta Kappa 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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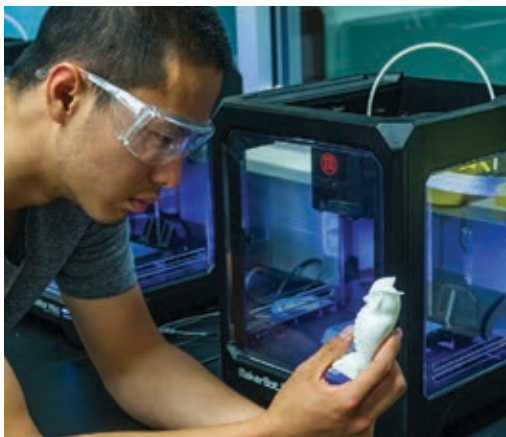
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WHAT YOU SAID!

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

 **Citra** FROM INDONESIA

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

 **Malaku** FROM HOLLAND

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

 **Junjun** FROM THAILAND

I'm studying in Wroclaw, Poland, but I want to start some studies in the USA in 2 years time. First of all, I want to know the language very well and then go abroad. There are some colleges I'm interested about. They sent me some folders and I'm amazed about some offers. In my opinion, your website is very helpful. I have a wide range of variety of all offers I received and I can choose exactly what I want to study. Thank you :)

 **Paulina** FROM POLAND

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

 **Gianina** FROM ITALY



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

 **Leah** FROM KENYA

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

 **Senko** FROM JAPAN

Dear Reader,
There has never been a better time to study in the United States. Today's global economy needs professionals with international experience and an excellent command of the English language. Choose to study English at an EnglishUSA or UCIEP member program, and you can be assured that it meets the highest standards for instructional quality and services to students.

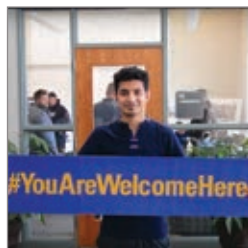
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—Cruzkaya Barbosa from Venezuela, studying English and Nutrition and Dietetics at Howard Community College

“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.

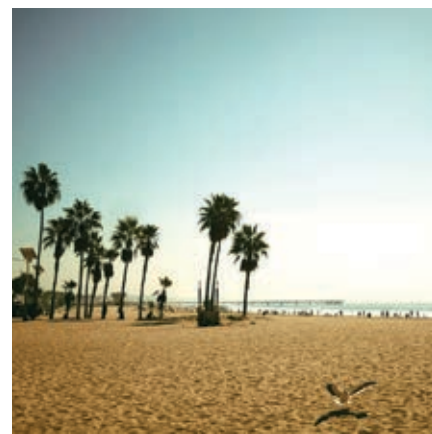
Studying in the United States and abroad doesn't just give you tangible degrees and certificates. Your experience says something about who you are. Living and studying in another country—especially where your language isn't spoken—is challenging, requires courage and a positive attitude. Sometimes these 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 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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Washington State University is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Most recently reaffirmed in 2013, WSU has been continuously accredited by its regional higher education authority since 1918. The WSU Intensive American Language Center has CEA accreditation and membership in AAIEP.

“I received a summer internship in the Seattle area. Without WSU, I would never have had this opportunity. The university provides resources to find internships and career previews, and the faculty are here to make sure you can get a job and be successful.”

—ANH Q. TANG

Class of 2015
Hospitality Business Management
Hanoi, Vietnam





BY Jennifer Privette

LEARNING ENGLISH

Each year, tens of thousands of students come to the USA to learn English 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.)

HOW SHOULD I CHOOSE A PROGRAM?

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

“I have handled the language 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

“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
Engineering at Florida State
University

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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INTERVIEW

Kana Tran from Vietnam is studying International Relations at Santa Rosa Junior College in Santa Rosa, California.

Why did you decide to study in the USA?

I have always been interested in international relations and how countries interact. I believed this was a great opportunity for me to expand my connections and meet new people from different cultures. Importantly, the quality of higher education could provide me the countless opportunities to improve my professional skills for my career.

Why did you choose Santa Rosa Junior College?

There are many factors that lead me to choose to study at Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC): Perfect location with gorgeous Sonoma County and only one hour to San Francisco. I chose SRJC because it has not only affordable tuition but also has one of the highest acceptance rates in California to UC [University of California] and CSU [California State University]. Also, the lower tuition at a Junior College allowed me to try some different classes and helped me figure out what degree I want to pursue.

What do you like best?

The thing I like the best is they have the best education resources provided to students. The Tutorial Center is available for all courses with individual assistance. Also, the English Writing Center, Math lab, and ESL provided me inspiring staff that supported me and helped me succeed with my goal.

What do you miss most?

My family and my mom's cooking.

What was your biggest surprise?

Everybody talks about grades here.

How have you handled: ... language differences?

Don't hesitate to ask question if you don't understand. Also, if I am struggling with a class, I talk to my instructor and my advisor to see what the options are and how I can improve.

... finances?

My persistence to succeed in this new en-

vironment is strong enough to endure the struggles. In fact, I took advantage of the free food pantry in the school every week to avoid the ridiculously high currency. I realized I had to adapt my lifestyle to the hardships that I encountered. So, I found a job working on campus in the bookstore for my first semester.

... adjusting to a different educational system?

Because I know I'm a new learner in the foreign environment, I always start early, study in advance and read all the material before I go to class. Most importantly, I always take advantage of talking with my professors and look for help.

What are your activities?

International Student Club. The college has a Meet and Greet Event every semester for students to gather and also to meet local students and staff. The International Club meets every week and plans many activities off campus.

How easy or difficult was making friends?

In my opinion, easy or difficult to make friends in the USA depends on your interest. In general, I think people here in California are friendly and outgoing. Also, people like happy people. So just be happy, smile and let people know you like them—believe me, it will come back faster than you can imagine.

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

My career goal is to work in the international affairs field, where I can be a part of world societies and interact with countries all over the world. Having the international relations degree will help me pursue my goal when I go back to my country, and to maybe be an international student advisor who helps students go to the U.S. to study.



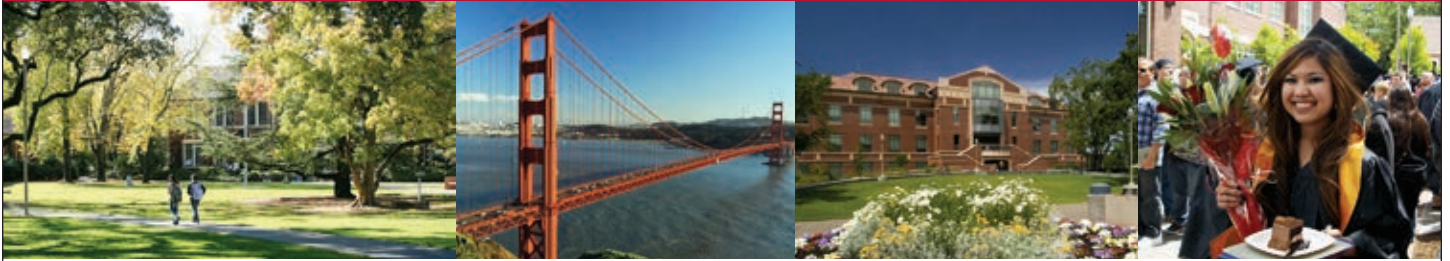
What is your advice to other students who are considering a U.S. education?

Keep learning, talk, make friends and chase your goals! You will be in the perfect environment to improve your English dramatically and further your education. Be confident, forget about the mistakes you make, people know you are learning so they will admire you for trying. To be able to do that, you really must find friends who are not from your home country, try to make new friends by getting involved in some clubs on campus. Most importantly, believe in yourself and never give up. ★



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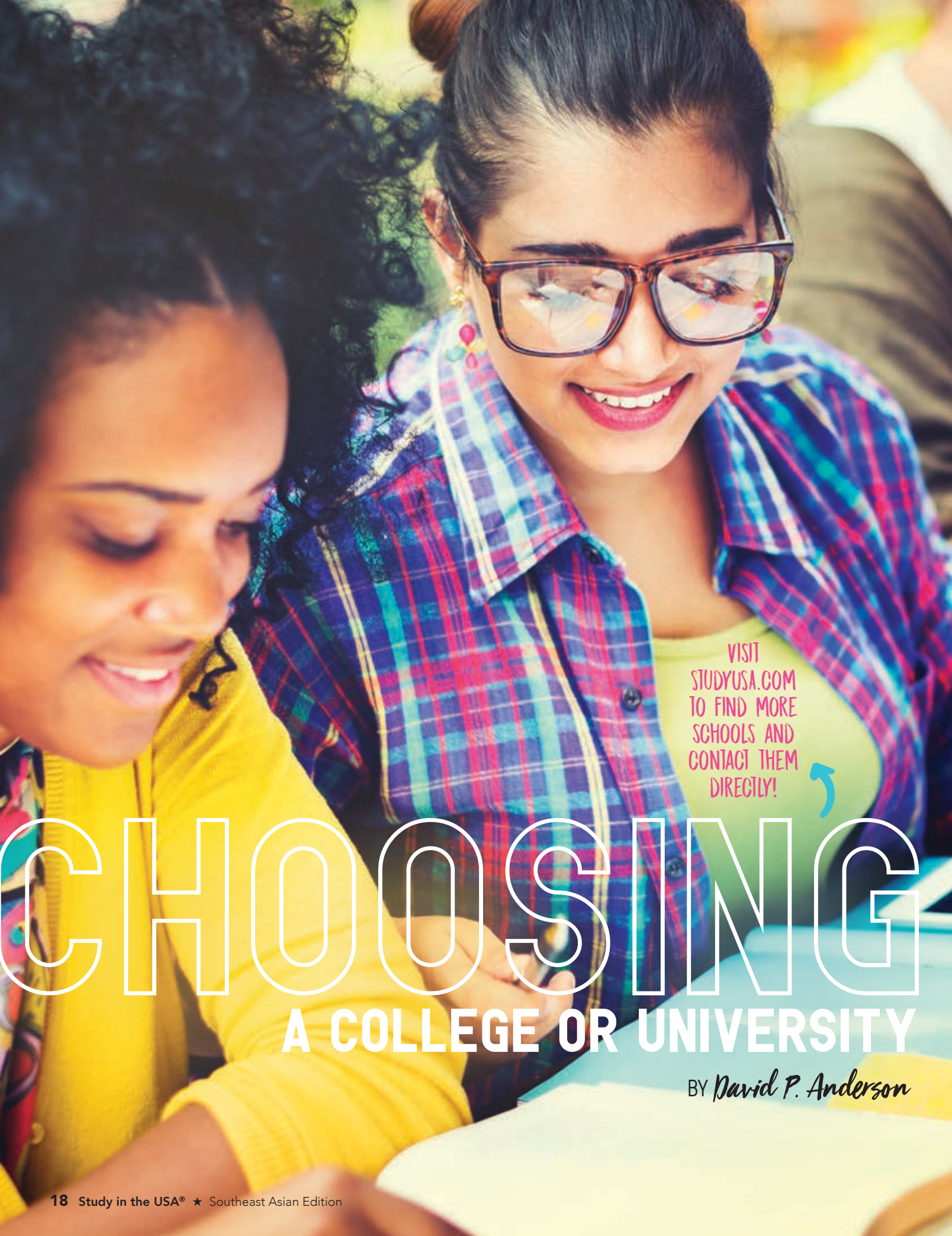
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CHOOSING

A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

BY *David P. Anderson*

The United States attracts millions of international students to its universities and colleges because the USA offers so many choices and some of the best facilities in the world. With more than 3,000 colleges and universities in the United States, 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 bina-

tional 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

WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION DO I WANT?

What are my career goals?

Am I willing to move away from home and live in a new country for four years or more?

Have I considered the total cost (including living expenses) for this education?

Have I determined what type of credentials my future career path requires?

Does my home country impose any regulations with respect to studying in the United States?

What types of student organizations interest me?

Do I have any particular religious affiliation that needs to be considered?

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

Where can I find information about American universities?

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

"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

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 immersion.

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-

Liberal Arts

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

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

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

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



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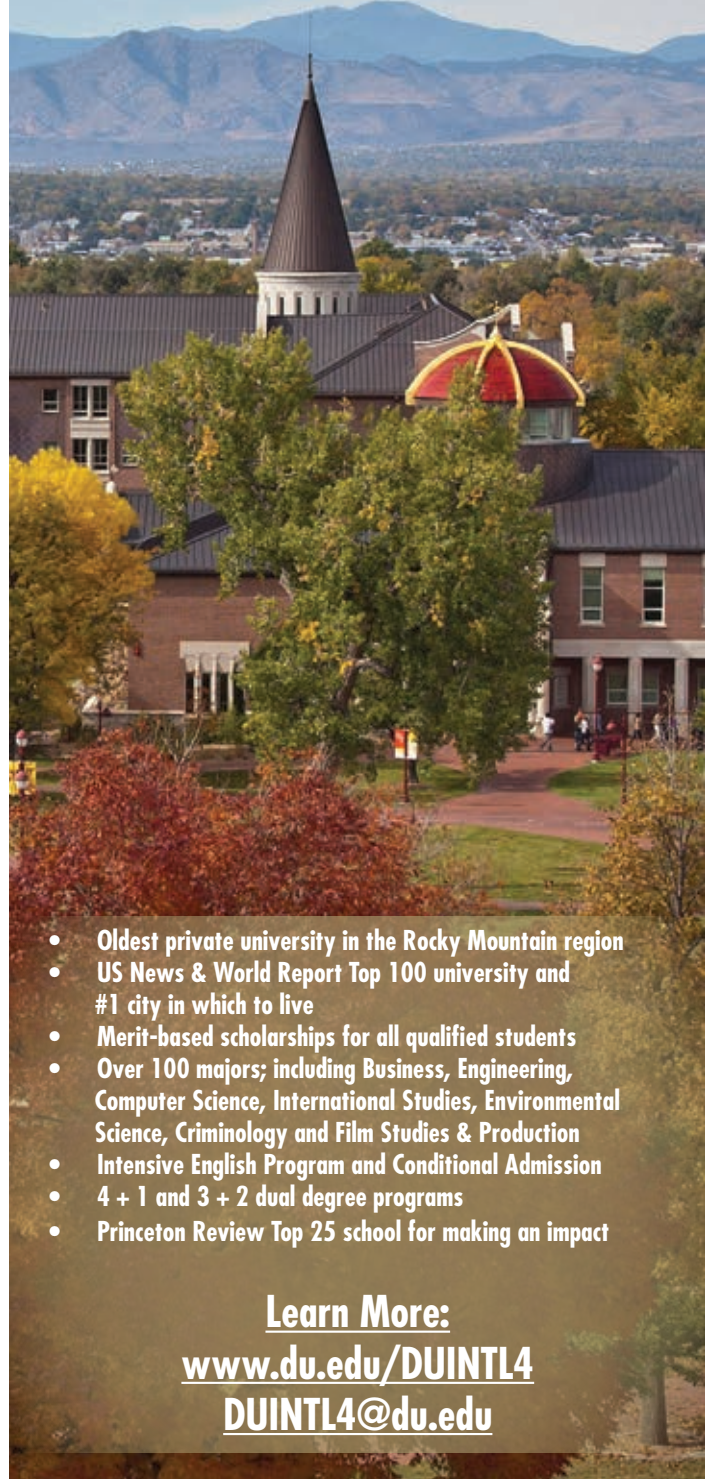
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tions with very competitive costs compared to public universities.

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 American community college (also called "junior college"). A community college is a public institution where students can pursue an associate's degree or the first two years of university study.

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

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 campus-based intensive English program provider, offering pathways to 650+ universities worldwide, www.ELS.edu or www.UniversityGuideOnline.org.



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UNDERSTANDING

THE AMERICAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

BY *Jennifer Privette*

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

The Educational Structure

Primary and Secondary School

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

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

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

Grading System

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

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

GRADING POLICY

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

tip

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

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

(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



freshman

Jane begins her undergraduate studies at Highline College



sophomore

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



junior

She transfers to Washington State University, majoring in Marketing.

She takes two quarters (one semester) of classes and realizes she would rather major in Computer Science. She meets with an advisor and officially switches majors.



senior

Jane graduates!

tip

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

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



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find this one of the most surprising aspects of the American education system.

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

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

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

Credits

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

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

Transfers

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

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

TYPES OF U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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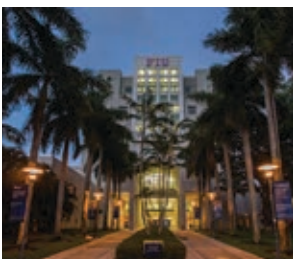
University of Central Florida, Orlando



Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton



University of Miami, Coral Gables

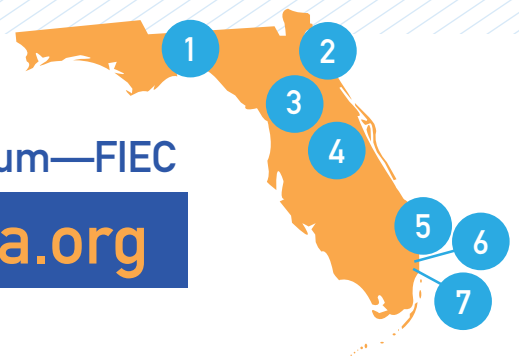


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INTERVIEW

My Hai Chung from Vietnam is a senior majoring in nursing and minoring in music at State University of New York at Plattsburgh in Plattsburgh, New York.

Why did you decide to study in the USA?

I wanted to learn more about better education systems as well as expose myself to a more diverse place in order to improve myself academically, culturally and socially. So, I thought to myself, where else would be better than the USA?

Why did you choose State University of New York at Plattsburgh?

I chose State University of New York (SUNY) at Plattsburgh because they have the best support system for international students, as well as good scholarship offerings. Also, it has a strong reputation for business and science majors (especially nursing). The school location is not only ideal for outdoor activities like hiking, kayaking, boating, fishing, but it is also optimal for exploring other big cities like Montreal (Canada), Boston, and New York City.

What do you like best?

The staff here are very sincere and student centered. Our community cares a lot about everyone and they make sure that we are well physically and psychologically. We have events and activities almost every day that offer pretty much everything to us. I personally think that our campus is definitely one of the most open-minded and supportive universities in the USA.

What do you miss most?

I would have to say that food and family are the things that I miss the most.

What was your biggest surprise?

I was very amazed at how independent, active, and willing to take initiative the students who study here are, which is a good thing because it helps to improve your independence and leadership skills. Also, the majority of students do some other activities besides their school work. It is clear that they are actually enjoying their time in school.

... your biggest disappointment?

I honestly don't have any disappointment

because things are unique in different cultures.

How have you handled: ... language differences?

I always try to spend extra time reading and studying outside of class time. Also, I try to practice my English skills as much as possible in everyday conversation with everyone to improve my fluency.

... finances?

I was offered a scholarship that helps with a third of my tuition and fees.

... adjusting to a different educational system?

When I first came here, I was nervous that I wouldn't be able to catch up with everyone. Fortunately, I was able to understand the classes easily. What really worked for me was that I wasn't afraid to ask questions and to seek help whenever I didn't understand.

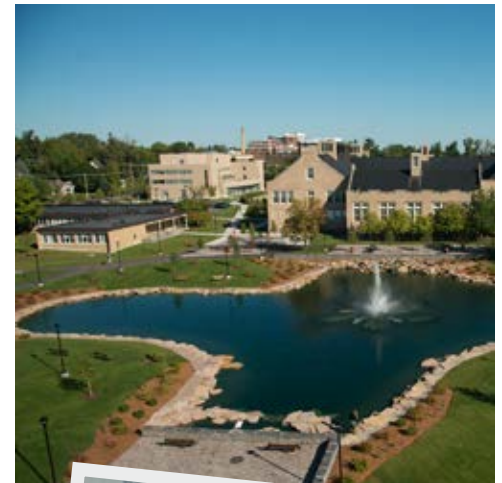
What are your activities?

I am a member of the Vietnamese Student Association, the Korean Association and the Nursing Student Association. I perform in Night of Nations, which is an annual multicultural show that is run by students. I also love taking advantage of the Partners In Cross-Cultural Learning (PICL) program, which is similar to a homestay program but you don't live with them. You are paired with local families and hang out with them during holidays and weekends. It really helps with culture transitioning and to lessen culture shock.

How easy or difficult was making friends?

It really depends on your perspective. I am personally a social butterfly and I like making new friends. People are very friendly here and they love to make friends with international students because they can learn more about other cultures.

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



I would love to pursue a doctorate degree and become a Doctor of Nursing Practitioner (DNP) in obstetric gynecology. The U.S. has great resources in science development, especially nursing, that I can utilize to better prepare myself to reach my goal.

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

Don't ever think that you can't do it because it's hard or out of your reach. Nothing is really impossible when you want it. Try your best and you will be surprised at what you can do. Don't be afraid to ask when you don't understand something because someone will probably have the same question as you. ★

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GLOSSARY

THIS GLOSSARY WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE TERMS AND LANGUAGE USED TO DESCRIBE EDUCATION IN THE USA.

ACADEMIC COUNSELING AND

ADVISING: Students at U.S. universities and colleges are typically required to speak one-on-one with an academic counselor or advisor on a regular basis. Because students elect their own courses the advisor helps them to plan their academic calendars, ensuring that they are taking the classes they need to graduate.

ACCREDITATION: This is the certification that a school or program has been granted after meeting a prescribed academic standard.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM® (AP®): Some universities and colleges give credit for class work done in high school, or to students who prove via examination that they have achieved university-level proficiency in a certain subject.

CAMPUS: The location of a university, college, or school's main buildings. U.S. campuses are known for their ample size, architecture, landscaping, and numerous student locales.

COEDUCATIONAL: An educational environment that includes students of both sexes.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION: A program in which students spend a portion of their time in a professional environment outside of the university.

CREDITS: Universities and colleges typically assign all courses a certain number of credits. Often the number of credits is equivalent to the number of hours spent in the given class each week.

DEGREES: Awarded by universities and colleges upon completion of a program of study.

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE: Earned upon completion of a degree program at a two-year college.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE: Earned upon completion of an undergraduate program, typically four years, at a college or university.

MASTER'S DEGREE: Earned upon completion of a graduate degree program.

DOCTORATE DEGREE: Earned upon completion of a doctorate degree program.

DISTANCE LEARNING: Some universities and colleges offer courses off-campus via a variety of means: Internet, CDs, DVDs, or cable television.

DORMITORY: Also called "dorms," dormitories are living facilities designed to house students. A cafeteria is often located in the same building.

ESL: English as a Second Language; these courses give English language instruction to people who speak languages other than English.

FACULTY: The professors, teachers and lecturers of a university or college.

FRESHMAN: First-year students at high schools, universities and colleges.

GPA (GRADE POINT AVERAGE): A numerical measure of academic achievement based upon a computation figured from the number of credits and grade points earned per course.

HOMESTAY: A living arrangement that involves staying with an American family.

HONORS COLLEGE/CLASSES: Some universities have an entire college or program dedicated to academically accom-

plished students who wish to take more challenging or accelerated courses.

IEP: Intensive English [Language] Program; these courses give English language instruction to people who speak languages other than English.

INTERNSHIP/INTERN: An arrangement by which a student works for a company for a limited period of time. These students are called interns. Internships are typically unpaid.

LIBERAL ARTS: The study of humanities, arts and literature, language, and natural and physical sciences. Most U.S. universities and colleges offer an ample liberal arts program. Some schools are dedicated solely to the liberal arts.

MAJOR: A college or university student's field of study. U.S. students typically declare their major at the end of their second (sophomore) year.

ROOM AND BOARD: Living facilities and food.

TUITION: The cost of attending a university or college. (Room and board costs are separate.) Tuition payments are typically required each quarter or semester. The amount may depend on the number of credits for which the student is enrolled, as well as their status as a state resident or U.S. citizen.

VOCATIONAL COLLEGE: An institution dedicated to teaching the skills necessary for a particular line of work or trade, such as technology.

WORK-STUDY: Many students work part-time on campus and earn money toward their living costs. Do not be surprised to see many of your classmates working in campus facilities! ★



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GETTING YOUR STUDENT VISA

BY William Fish

Getting 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.

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

2 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/>

6 TIPS FOR YOUR VISA INTERVIEW

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

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.

3 THIRD, the United States is using a new 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.

4 FOURTH, prepare for your visa interview. It is extremely crucial that you apply for your visa well in advance of the date your studies begin—if possible, apply three 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 changed. Visas to study in the United States are still being issued. Universities, boarding schools and English language programs are still welcoming international students from any country.

Visa officers are giving increased scrutiny to all visa applicants. This simply means that you need to make sure you are well prepared for your visa interview. Be sure to follow the suggestions in the accompanying article. You should be able to explain in the very brief visa interview why you want to study in the United States, what you will study and how this will prepare you for work in your country when you finish your studies. You need to be able to explain why you applied to the school that has accepted you and how you will pay for your studies and living expenses.

Wait times for interviews and visa issuance may be longer so it is especially important to apply for your visa as far in advance as possible. Student visas can be issued as early as 120 days before you start your program.

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.

INTERVIEW

Why did you decide to study in the USA?

First, for me, if thinking about psychology, somehow, I always relate it to the U.S. I was always fascinated by the diversity of people here. Some even cannot speak English but still have their own community. Difference means there is something new to learn and I see the possibility to expand my knowledge and my mind.

Why did you choose Berkeley City College?

I chose to study here because they have the Associate Transfer Degrees to UC Berkeley and I am still not 100 percent sure if I want to pursue to be a psychologist or applying the knowledge with business. Therefore, it is a good place to start from the general idea of what I am interested in and when I know for sure that I want to pursue higher education on this field, I still have a chance to continue in a good university.

What do you like best?

I'm an international student so life here is not very easy for me. Berkeley City College and other college under Peralta Community College District provides me the necessary information for life here and education plan. All staffs here are very friendly, nice, and willing to help.

What do you miss most?

Definitely if it does not count my family, it's Thai food, especially street food.

What was your biggest surprise?

Strangers say 'hello' to me. It's kind of nice. Sometimes a stranger just talks to you about places, weather, news, culture, etc. Now I am the one who says 'hi' to a stranger. For the education, students here are willing to share their experiences or what they know related to the discussing topic. I like the class atmosphere.

How have you handled: ... language differences?

I try to ask every time when I do not understand. Sometimes it is not only the language

but also the accent. I know I have my accent, so I am not going to judge anyone. I'm going to just keep focusing, listening and ask more until getting used to it. It's pretty fun. It's a plus that you can learn many English accents from people here.

... finances?

Life here is costly.

... adjusting to a different educational system?

Most people here understand how Asians are. They understand that many Asians are passive learners so I just tried to speak up and encourage myself to be more active.

What are your activities?

I'm not in any clubs but I work for an international student office as a student worker. Here, they give you an opportunity equal to that of the local students.

How easy or difficult was making friends?

It's not too difficult from my experience. If you are not afraid to talk to them, they will be friendly to you. Just talk.

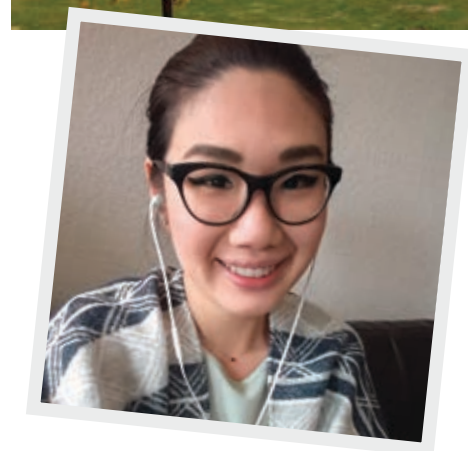
How relevant is your U.S. education to your personal goals and to the needs of your country?

I want to understand people and I also want to own my own business. And if have a chance, I want to be a teacher, too. Certainly, the U.S. education system encourages me to not be afraid to go and get it. I used to be afraid of negotiating, but being here prepares me to speak up. And I think not only in Thailand, but everywhere, people need more people to understand them.

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

U.S. education encourages you to be a better version of yourself. The version that is not afraid to speak what you believe in, the version that is not afraid to request what you want and deserve. Here you can learn about other cultures and their perspectives.

Parrichat Chinchotikasem from Thailand is studying psychology in the Associate Degree Transfer Program at Berkeley City College in Berkeley, California.



Because people here come from everywhere, you certainly have something to learn from them and, on the other hand, teach them too. But don't expect life here to be easy. It's challenging.

Consider this as an opportunity in life to understand yourself and others, to appreciate the similarities and to understand the differences. When you are not afraid and open up yourself, you will see a bigger world. You will be more appreciated. ★



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INTERVIEW

Tri Minh Nguyen from Vietnam is completing his Associate in Arts (Direct Transfer) Degree, majoring in Computer Science at Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood, Washington.

Why did you decide to study in the USA?

I believe the USA has an outstanding educational system. However, I soon realized that it wasn't only the quality of the teachers or the facilities that make it great. It was the educational environment, which is rich with opportunities for us to explore ourselves on different levels of identity.

Why did you choose Edmonds Community College?

I chose Edmonds Community College because the college provides excellent ESL instruction. In addition, its campus is located in a safe and peaceful area. At this place, each student and staff receive the same opportunities to learn, to grow, to work, and to develop in many aspects, and I think that's the reason why Edmonds is such a special place.

What do you like best?

I would say the collaboration is what I like best about studying here. Either it's the collaboration between you and your instructors or among the students.

What do you miss most?

The thing that I miss the most about home is the love and care that I receive from family and friends.

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

This is the third year that I've been studying in the USA. Compared to how I used to be when I got here, my English skills up to now have given me broader opportunities to be involved in numerous activities including a job on campus. Furthermore, I also have acquired higher chances of getting into well-known universities.

What was your biggest surprise?

One of the things that surprises me the most is the diversity in the USA. Whether it's on campus or in the neighborhood, you get to see people from different countries and cultures. Despite being from different cultures,

everyone is nice and open-minded and they don't distance themselves from the others.

How have you handled: ... language differences?

Language is defined as a way for you to communicate, express yourself, explain, and to interpret others. Language is a tool that connects people. Once I see the benefit that language brings us, I have no hesitation in learning it.

... finances?

I know the struggle and the hard work that my parents have dedicated in order to serve my dream. I involved myself in some job and scholarship opportunities on campus to somehow reduce the stress that I've put on them.

... adjusting to a different educational system?

This might be the most stressful thing for international students, including me. It is always a good thing to be open-minded, curious, and be vulnerable. In order to get the best out of the educational system here, we all shouldn't be afraid to adapt. Another key factor is don't be afraid to reach out for help.

What are your activities?

Currently, I am the president of the Vietnamese Student Association. I am proud of my club for what we did for the college, for the community, and especially for the Vietnamese students.

How easy or difficult was making friends?

When I first came here, I expected it to be one of the biggest problems that I'm going to face in the long run. However, I feel that I belong here. In the USA, the same level of respect is given to each and every one of us and I think that this is a great factor that contributes to my success.

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

I'm currently finishing my associate degree



and hoping to transfer to a university. In the USA, I get to receive the best education in computer science from well-known universities. Hopefully, in the near future, I am able to demonstrate my ability and to accommodate the need of computer scientists in my country.

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

My biggest advice for students with the intention to study in the USA is to prepare for changes. Different things might happen and sometimes you are required to take different turns to approach them. Whichever way you go, you should always find yourself in the most satisfied position, so that you will never regret the decisions that you made. ★

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SCHOOL, COLLEGE *and* UNIVERSITY?

“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

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

College or university follows after high school, or secondary school. A college in the USA is not a high school or secondary school and typically begins in the thirteenth year of school when a student is around 17- or 18-years-old.

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. 🌟





The English Language Center (ELC) is on the main campus of Old Dominion University. ODU is located in Norfolk, Virginia, in a metropolitan region of 1.6 million people. Campus is just minutes from the resort city of Virginia Beach, a three-hour drive to Washington, D.C. and six hours to New York City.

REASONS TO CHOOSE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER AT ODU

- ▶ Intensive English Language Programs – Basic to advanced courses to help students reach their goals
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- ▶ Personalized attention from high-quality, experienced faculty with small class sizes
- ▶ Conditional Admission to Undergraduate and some Graduate programs
- ▶ Monarch English Transition Program – A direct way to meet English proficiency requirements for most academic programs without the need to pass the TOEFL or IELTS
- ▶ Conversation Partner Program – Students are matched with American students to practice English

Explore the possibilities
odu.edu/esl

Degree Programs: 166 (undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral)
Enrollment: 24,322 students from 116 countries and 50 states
Alumni: More than 138,000 alumni in 68 countries and all 50 states

A photograph of three diverse students—a young woman with long blonde hair, a young woman with long dark hair, and a young man with short dark hair—gathered around a tablet computer. They are all smiling and looking intently at the screen. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a positive and collaborative atmosphere.

APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

 *student tip*

"An awesome life experience is waiting for you in the future. You will learn so much more than you think. Nothing is impossible, so go ahead and give it a try." —Paolo Kwan, from Hong Kong, Business Administration & English at Sierra College

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

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

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

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

Write to Several Schools

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

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

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

Send Application Forms

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

The admissions office or graduate school

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

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.

MOST APPLICATIONS WILL REQUEST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

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

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

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

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

Letters of recommendation—The application form will include several blank pages for your letters of recommendation. Ask several of your teachers to compose and mail these letters directly to the admissions office of each school you choose.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. IELTS tests all four language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Who Should Take It?

There are two versions of IELTS. The Academic Module is intended for students who want to study in higher education where English is the language used for communication. The General Training Module is designed for those planning to study in secondary education, non-degree bearing programs, or vocational training. Register and Book Your IELTS <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/book>

TOEFL

What is TOEFL?

The TOEFL test is the most widely respected English-language test in the world, recognized by more than 9,000 colleges, universities and agencies. The TOEFL iBT test measures your ability to use and understand English at the university level and how well you combine your listening, reading, speaking and writing skills to perform academic tasks.

Who Should Take It?

Students planning to study at a higher education institution, English-language learning program admissions and exit, scholarship and certification candidates, English-language learners who want to track their progress and students and workers applying for visas.

Register and Book Your TOEFL

<https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/register/>

SAT

What is the SAT?

The SAT consists of multiple-choice questions and an essay that measure the skills you've developed in school and your ability to apply those skills. SAT scores help universities make informed admission decisions by providing one indicator of your academic readiness to perform university-level work. The test includes two sections comprised of three tests: Reading, Math,

Writing & Language, plus an optional Essay. Some schools may require the Essay, so be sure to ask before you take the SAT.

Who Should Take It?

Students applying to a four-year undergraduate program at a college or university in the United States are required to take an admission test such as the SAT.

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 verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills—skills that have been developed over a long period of time and are not related to a specific field of study, but are important overall.

Who Should Take It?

Prospective graduate and business school applicants from all around the world who are interested in pursuing a master's, MBA, specialized master's in business or doctoral degree take the GRE General Test.

Register and Book Your GRE® General Test

https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/register/

GMAT

What is the GMAT?

The GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) exam is a standardized test used around the world to gauge academic potential for graduate study in business and management. There are four sections of the GMAT exam: Analytical Writing Assessment, Integrated Reasoning, Quantitative, and Verbal.

Who Should Take It?

Students applying to graduate management or business programs can take the GMAT exam. The GMAT exam is used in admissions decisions by more than 5,300 graduate management programs worldwide.

Register and Book Your GMAT Exam <http://www.mba.com/us/the-gmat-exam/register.aspx>

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

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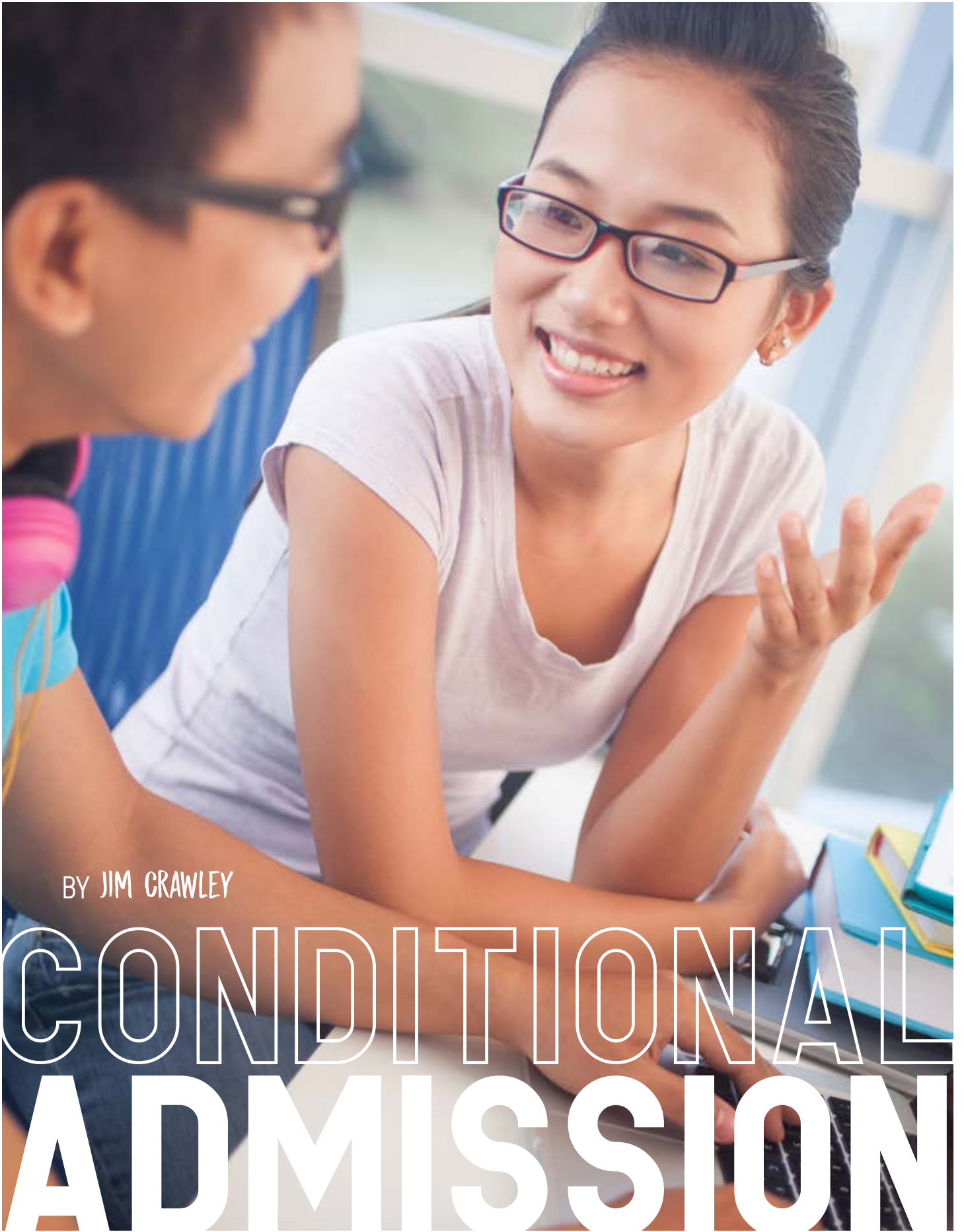
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BY JIM CRAWLEY

CONDITIONAL ADMISSION

Many 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.

STEP 1 Apply for conditional admission to a university

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

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

(TOEFL or IELTS), you will be offered full admission to the university.

STEP 2 Apply for admission to an intensive English program

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

STEP 3 Apply for your student visa

To apply for a student visa, you will need to take the admission documents from the intensive English program, original financial support documentation, and the conditional admission letter from the university to the U.S. consulate or embassy.

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

STEP 4 Confirm, confirm, confirm!

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

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

Once you've completed the intensive English language program, you will be transferring to the university. Remember that your student visa will be transferring as well.

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 intensive English at an ELS Language Center in Portland, Oregon.

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

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

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

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

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.

INVEST IN YOURSELF

BY Jennifer Privette

FINANCING YOUR U.S. EDUCATION



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

Make an accurate estimate for the overall cost of your study in America, and then create an accurate budget. There

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.”

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

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.”

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

the return. You will be investing in your future career and earning power.

Work/Study

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

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

Entrance Exams: \$500

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

Application Fees: \$250–\$600

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

ANNUAL COSTS

Tuition

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

COSTS

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

by Type of Institution, 2016–2017

Public Two-Year
Institution: \$3,520

Public Four-Year
Institution: \$24,930

Private Four-Year
Institution: \$33,480

Average Room and Board Costs

by Type of Institution, 2016–2017

Public Two-Year
Institution: \$8,060

Public Four-Year
Institution: \$10,440

Private Four-Year
Institution: \$11,890

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 first-hand 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 in-

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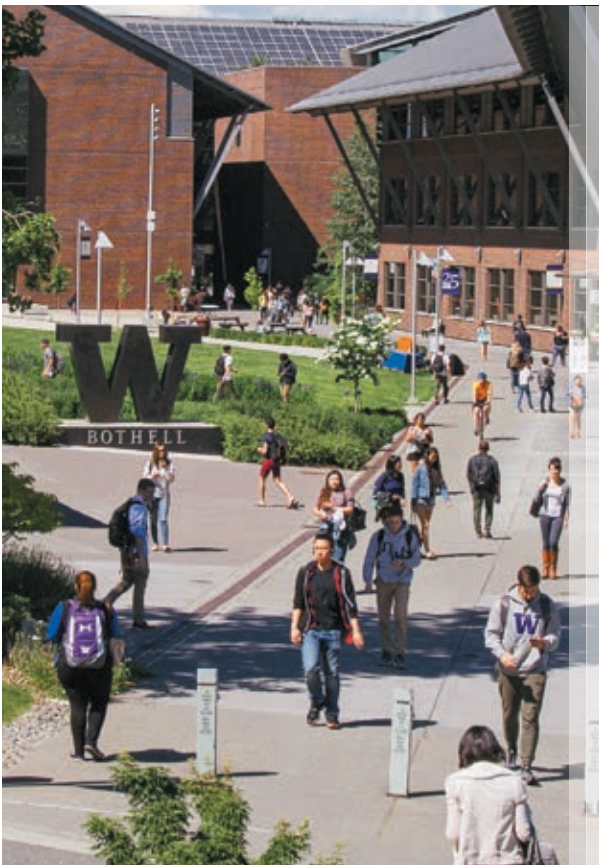
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Many American students—and over 91,000 international students—attend a community college for the first two years of university studies in the USA. With nearly 1,200 community colleges in the country, there are many benefits of this model in comparison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

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

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

Making Transfers Easy

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

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

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

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

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

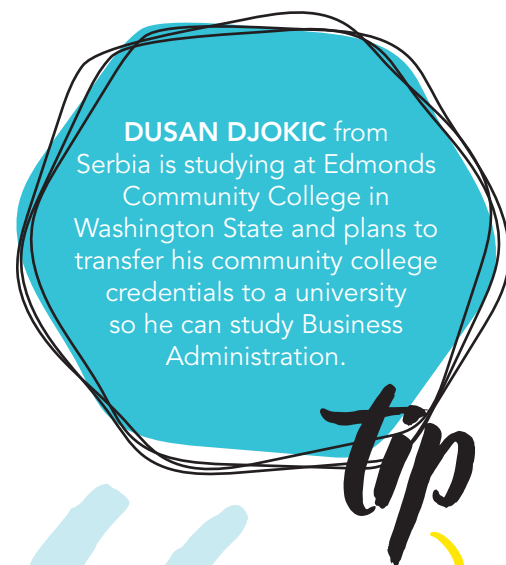
+ **CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENTS ARE MORE SUPPORTIVE.** In the U.S. educational system, students often compete for good grades. International students who do not speak English fluently are at a disadvantage. Often, they do better and feel more comfortable in smaller classes where there is less competition.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

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

Five Tips for a Successful Transfer!

- 1 START WHERE YOU WANT TO FINISH**—First, find out exactly what the requirements are for admission to the school and to the academic program you want to transfer to. Then, choose classes now at your current school based on what you know you'll need in the future.
- 2 BE ORGANIZED AND READY TO WORK HARD**—Exploring colleges and universities to transfer to in the future is exciting and fun, yet it does take effort. In addition to general admission standards, like the number of credits you have taken and your overall GPA, there might also be additional requirements for admission into your major, such as specific classes, a portfolio, a personal essay or even an interview.
- 3 TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF YOUR RESOURCES**—Work closely with advisors at both your current school and, if possible, at your future school. Clearly communicate to everyone what your transfer goals are so that you and your advisors are all working in concert with each other.
- 4 ATTEND NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION**—Don't assume that because you have already attended college you don't need to attend an orientation program for new students. Nothing could be further from the truth. Even though you are bringing college credit with you when you arrive, you are a new student, and you need to learn how to navigate the systems and resources at your new school.
- 5 HAVE A DREAM SCHOOL, AND A PLAN "B"**—If your dream has always been to attend a nationally ranked and highly selective university, then develop a transfer plan for this school and pursue it with enthusiasm. At the same time, keep yourself grounded and keep your options open. There are thousands of truly excellent colleges and universities for you to consider. Just because you haven't heard of a school doesn't mean that in the end it might actually be the very best school for you and become your dream school!

Elizabeth Lyon is Associate Director and Transfer Advisor at Edmonds Community College.



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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER FAIRS

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

For example, an international community college student studying in Seattle may transfer

out of Washington State to places like California or New York. Representatives from other U.S. universities come to international transfer fairs to recruit outstanding international students into years three and four at their universities.

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

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BY *ROBBIN BEAUCHAMP*

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE + DEGREE



The first step

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

Academic and Professional

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

“Try your best to get a high GPA. Chinese students do not have work experience when they are in high school, while American students start working when they are in school. Therefore, when you apply for co-op or jobs in the future, a high GPA really helps you to make up the disadvantage.”

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

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

Required for Graduation

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

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

port Authority, the Gillette Company, GE and Fidelity Investments.

Students are not limited to work near the university. International students who plan careers in their home countries often complete their co-op semesters overseas.

Like a Real Job

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

Although your university may assist you in finding co-op opportunities, you are the one responsible for securing a co-op posi-

tion. You will conduct a formal job search, interview for positions and earn a paycheck just as in the “real world.”

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

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

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

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

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

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

- **HELPS** students explore career interests
- Paid positions **HELP SUBSIDIZE** tuition costs
- **IMPROVES** job opportunities after graduation
- **TEACHES** students valuable job-search skills, such as resume writing and interviewing techniques
- **PROMOTES** lifelong learning by integrating work and academic study
- **ENHANCES** workplace skills like teamwork and critical analysis
- **OFFERS** students financial earnings and work experience, encouraging those who may not have entered university or completed a degree program to reconsider
- **IMPROVES** students’ self-confidence and respect for work
- **ENHANCES** professional development

FAST TRACK TO JOBS

Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU), just outside of New York City, also integrates co-op programs into their curriculum. Fairleigh Dickinson students work in positions directly related to their major, gaining exposure to career possibilities and refining their goals. This pre-professional, practical experience helps give students a competitive edge in the job market while simultaneously earning academic credit toward their degree. International students and their U.S. classmates can have paid work experiences for two semesters.

FDU electrical engineering student, Fred Clark, has participated in internships at the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory and the Ma’ayan Laboratory. Like many other students, Clark’s experience gave him valuable career insight:

“I’m not sure what I want to do professionally, so my internships have helped me explore different options. It’s good for me to diversify my experiences and my internship with Ma’ayan—a biomedical lab at Mount Sinai Medical Center, founded by an FDU graduate—has shown me innovative ways to apply my major.”

Prepare for Success

Students come to Wentworth Institute of Technology from across the globe in order to benefit from our unique educational approach: a combination of technical studies, professional training experiences, and a focus on creating practical solutions to real-world challenges. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and an unmatched cooperative education program (co-op), you'll connect what you learn in the classroom with what you'll face in your career—preparing you for success in today's fast-paced economy.

COOPERATIVE LEARNING: THE WENTWORTH DIFFERENCE

Wentworth's **cooperative education program (co-op)** is one of the best in the United States. These paid, hands-on opportunities are integrated directly into our curriculum, making them much more effective than internships at helping you to put your knowledge to work in real-world situations. Every Wentworth student is required to complete two semesters of co-op.



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MBA

PROGRAMS IN THE USA

BY *Jeff Millard*



Receiving an MBA from a school in the U.S. can be a huge boost to your career, giving you the skills and leadership experiences that will last a lifetime. As you know, picking a U.S. based MBA program that is well matched to your qualifications and interests can be overwhelming. This article will assist you in your planning to study for your MBA in the United States.

Why U.S. MBA Programs Are Exceptional

MBA programs in the USA most often require work experience. This allows students to learn as much from fellow students as from professors. If you have no work experience, there are several early career MBA programs in the U.S. These MBA degrees are designed for students with no work experience and typically work internships and other experiential opportunities into their curriculum. **Seattle University** just launched one of these degrees, called the *Bridge MBA*, in the fall of 2013.

MBA programs in the U.S. are usually experiential based not theoretically based degrees. For example, MBA classes are designed to teach skills that can be used immediately in the work place. U.S. MBA programs will often use case studies to discuss a business situation and encourage in class discussion on how the business problem should be resolved. Many MBA programs have a mentor program—where local business professionals meet several times per year with MBA students—and they often integrate internships into their program. Where you choose to study can affect where you do an internship. For example, many international MBA students at Seattle University secure internships at Microsoft, Starbucks, Amazon, Boeing or Expedia.

Admission to MBA programs in the U.S. may be fairly easy, but the programs are challenging. Therefore, getting accepted to a U.S. MBA program does not guarantee graduation. Hard work starts after you are accepted: once enrolled, you are expected to contribute to in-class discussions and help bring an international perspective to every class. Most MBA programs in the USA list the percent population of international students within their MBA program. For example, currently, international students make up around 15 percent of the Seattle University MBA student population.

U.S. MBA Curriculum: What Can International Students Expect?

American MBA programs generally have

three main types of classes: prerequisite, core and electives. Prerequisite classes help those with no business background gain the tools needed for business school. Students can expect to do prerequisite classes before their MBA program begins. These classes are often waived if they have been taken when the student was an undergraduate.

Core classes guarantee all students have a solid foundation for their MBA. These classes span all the major business disciplines including: economics, finance, accounting, marketing, and management. Core classes are usually taken before a student takes their elective classes, or sometimes a student takes a mixture of core and elective classes.

Elective classes help you personalize your MBA degree and are typically taken at the end of a MBA program. These are classes you choose to take based on personal or professional interest. At Seattle University, you can take elective classes in: accounting, business law, IS/information systems, economic, finance, entrepreneurship, international business, management, marketing, operations and sustainability.

All MBA programs are set up in a similar fashion. The difference usually lies in the ratio of core to elective classes.

U.S. MBA Program Outcomes

An MBA program in the United States delivers on two main fronts: it teaches quantitative analytical skills and also teaches leadership skills. Quantitative classes include: financial statement analysis, capital budgeting and marketing research. For example, at Seattle University one of the first classes you take is a team building and leadership class. This class begins with a personality inventory test (the MBTI), which helps you understand who you are as a person. The highlight of this class is a weekend long off-site retreat that is devoted to team building through a series of team building activities. Seattle University also offers a certificate in leadership,

which allows you to take five elective classes to help develop your leadership potential. These classes include: Leadership Formation I and II, Adventure-Based Leadership, Leading with Emotional Intelligence and CEO Leadership and Board of Directors.

What to Look for in a Program and How to Apply

First, figure out why you want to get your MBA. Does a U.S. MBA make sense for you? Is this the right time for you to go back to school? What degree makes the most sense for your interests?

Second, once you decide the MBA is the correct degree for you, which school's MBA is best for your needs? Look at entrance requirements, scholarship opportunities, cost of tuition and rankings. Many students create a matrix to help keep track of all this information when researching U.S. MBA options. As mentioned above, work experience is very important to U.S. MBA programs. Only apply for MBA programs that match your years of work experience. If you have less than two years of work experience, look for early career MBA programs such as the Seattle University *Bridge MBA* program. In general, MBA programs in the USA are looking for four to six years of work experience, but usually require a minimum of two years of work experience.

Most important, look at what is unique about each school's MBA program. This differentiation can make all the difference in terms of fit. For example, Seattle University is devoted to social justice, business ethics and educating the whole person. These values are very important to Seattle University.

Jeff Millard is the Director of the Master's Program Operations at the Albers School of Business and Economics at Seattle University. He can be reached at millardj@seattleu.edu or by phone at 206-296-5708. ★

How to Apply to an American MBA Program

STEP ONE: Start researching different MBA programs. Try to limit search area by geographic location. Start looking for how MBA programs differentiate themselves. You can begin by looking at the schools listed in this edition of *Study in the USA* and on StudyUSA.com. Plug this information and application information (GMAT and TOEFL averages, work experience averages, etc.) into your matrix.

STEP TWO: Take the GMAT / GRE and TOEFL / IELTS. This is the most time consuming part of the application process. If you have specific programs that interest you, research to find which tests they require. You should also research test averages for the schools you are interested in so you know if your test scores are competitive for those schools.

STEP THREE: Once you have a matrix with 10 to 15 schools in it, try and determine which school best suits your qualifications. I recommend not using a school's ranking to determine whether you should apply or not. Figure out which school is a good fit with what you want to study.

STEP FOUR: Once you have narrowed down where you wish to apply, follow the application directions exactly. If the school asks for an essay, learn something about what is important to that school and incorporate it into your essay. Customize each essay to the school to which you are applying. Finally, answer the questions being asked in the essay. If you don't have work experience, don't apply to schools requiring four to six years of work experience. Match your qualifications carefully to a school's requirements.

The Value of an AACSB International Accredited MBA

When researching MBA programs, it is important to especially look at AACSB accredited MBA programs. AACSB, The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, is the top MBA accreditation in the U.S. and there are only 698 member institutions that hold AACSB accreditation worldwide.

AACSB accreditation guarantees quality management education through a rigorous system of program audits that force business schools to ensure their curriculum is current, that they are tracking all assurance of learning objectives, and that their instructors are qualified to teach in their programs.

Choosing an AACSB accredited MBA program guarantees that you are enrolling in the highest quality MBA program.

MBA PROGRAMS



Seattle University

Seattle University's Albers School of Business and Economics

The *Professional MBA* program at Seattle University's *Albers School of Business and Economics* is AACSB accredited and is ranked 68th in the United States among Part-Time MBA programs in the most recent *U.S. News and World Report's* 2015 rankings of graduate schools. This 54-credit MBA program can be completed in one and half years or in two years if you do a full-time summer internship. The Professional MBA program has 24 credits of core classes and 30 credits of elective classes. These 10 elective classes allow a student to earn up to two certificates in addition to their MBA degree in any of the following disciplines: *Accounting, Business Valuation, Business Analytics, Finance, Marketing, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Sustainability, Internal Audit, Global Business or Quantitative Economic Analysis.*

Seattle University, a private Jesuit Catholic university with over 7,400 students in attendance, is located near downtown Seattle, Washington in the prestigious Capitol Hill district. Seattle's weather is mild and sunny during the summer and, while it rains a fair amount during the winter and spring, it rarely snows. Seattle University's location is perfect for the international student who wants a safe, urban MBA university experience and access to a multitude of outdoor sports, from skiing, to hiking, to boating, and beyond.

Over 500 students are enrolled in Seattle University's Professional MBA program but the class sizes are small, averaging 25 or fewer students per class. The School of Business has an internal Career Service Center that helps place international students in internships with world famous local companies such as Microsoft, Boeing, Amazon, Starbucks and Expedia.



University of Arkansas

University of Arkansas

Supply chain management is one of the fastest growing business specialties across the globe. The *Sam M. Walton College of Business* at the University of Arkansas has created a *Supply Chain Management Department* where MBA students specialize in this popular career.

In fact, the majority of international students in the MBA program choose to specialize in *Supply Chain* due to the quickly expanding global job market in the field and the international reputation of the faculty. MBA Supply Chain majors study subjects, such as modeling, forecasting, transportation strategies and global logistics. The MBA program also allows students to customize the program with special workshops, such as Negotiation Skills, Networking, RFID Technologies and Advanced Access. Students receive one-on-one personal coaching in resume writing, job interview skills, salary negotiations and how to create the best first impression.

Fairleigh Dickinson University

A one-year accelerated MBA with a concentration in *Global Business* attracts students from around the world to Fairleigh Dickinson University, near New York City, because of its focus on managing a multinational workforce and expanding into global markets. Having met the highest standards, the program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The MBA program features a curriculum that covers the models, theories, concepts and practices that



Fairleigh Dickinson University

successful organizations utilize to gain a competitive advantage within the framework of the global economy. Concepts are brought to reality for students, with structured corporate visits and a 10-day overseas business trip.

PRE-MBA PROGRAMS

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.

Marquette University

At Marquette University in Wisconsin qualifying undergraduate finance majors can gain

hands-on investing experience while working with actual endowment funds. Because the *Applied Investment Management (AIM)* program emphasizes ethical values in addition to real-world success, it is one of the few U.S. programs chosen by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to recruit fund managers.

Students in the AIM program take finance courses focused on the core body of knowledge covered in the *Chartered Financial Analyst Level I* exam during their junior year (third year of study) at Marquette—preparing them to take the test upon graduation. Then they spend a summer working for multinational financial institutions developing their skills in real-world situations.

When they return for their senior (final) year—in addition to taking more finance classes—they manage a portfolio of real assets. They invest the money in global fixed-income and equity securities. Part of the class work involves evaluating the performance of their investments and preparing a final report.



Susquehanna University



Marquette University

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MORE

IN U.S. ART PROGRAMS



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

Wide Variety of Programs

You can find a wide variety of arts programs to suit your interests in many regions of the United States. For example, the USA is a leader of the digital arts revolution. Digital media and the expanding entertainment industry are creating a strong market for new technology, creative concepts and fresh talent. This has given way to many more career



opportunities for graphic designers, 3D animators, digital editors and the like, all of whom need a foundation in the fine arts.

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

Selecting a Program

The school you choose should employ many practicing, successful artists and designers.

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

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

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

Internships, work experience and job placement are also important factors to

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

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

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

Pursuing your Goals

Admission to arts programs varies widely.



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

Consider conducting informational interviews to learn more about the field. Interview someone who has a career in your chosen field. What steps do they recommend to obtain this goal? What do they wish they would have known when they were your age? No matter what the admission requirements are, take the time to select the program that is right for you.

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



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TRUCKEE MEADOWS COMMUNITY COLLEGE Graphic Communications Program

Visual communications have been known by various names over the years, including commercial art, graphic design, advertising design, publication design, graphic arts, and multimedia. For more than 25 years, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) has offered graphics courses in a comprehensive program that culminates in a professional and commercial computer graphics certificate/degree program that has supplied the regional graphics industry with a trained and skilled workforce.

The program consistently produces the second highest number of graduates of Career and Technical Education programs at Truckee Meadows Community College, precisely because the graphics faculty and leadership recognize the program's importance to employers. Additionally, the award-winning academic teaching faculty have earned a reputation as passionate instructors whose interest is in serving students, the institution, and the regional graphics industry.

The *Graphic Communications program* offers classes that lead to an associate degree or a certificate of achievement focusing on graphic design, web design, videography and animation. Instruction includes the latest theories and technologies, including the use of industry standard graphics software, and computer labs are equipped with the latest Apple computers with support scanners, color printers, a sound booth for creating and capturing audio, and a complete pre-press/print shop facility.

Every international student who has graduated from the program has gone on to complete Optional Practical Training (OPT). All students in the program learn how to create, produce and reproduce visual graphics that communicate to an audience, preparing them in a fulfilling and exciting career field.



SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE

At Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon, Washington, farm-to-table isn't just a philosophy, it's a practice. Students in the *Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management* program plant and maintain gardens that produce fruits and vegetables for daily meals in the campus' Bistro Kitchen and Hot Express.

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

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

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

The area around Skagit Valley College is fertile and agriculturally rich, lending it to many farmers, of both land and sea, and culinary artisans. Students take fieldtrips to meet producers like the farmers at Taylor Shellfish Farms, the largest producer of Manila clams in the USA.

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



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

Information Technology (IT): Installing and configuring software and hardware, data management, networking, engineering computer hardware, database and software design, and the management and administration of entire systems.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Technology Education in the USA

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

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

What to Look for in a Program

It is important that a program's curriculum reflects the latest in technology.

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

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

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

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

Degrees and Certificates

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

DIGITAL MEDIA

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

Digital Media Workers Are in Demand

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

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

Students Learn to Excel in the Classroom

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

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

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



MOBILE DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brian Turley is a Solutions Engineer at Ookla.

NORTH SEATTLE COLLEGE

Many educational institutions partner with local business interests to develop programs that most directly address the needs of the marketplace. For example, **North Seattle College** (NSC) has a Technology Advisory Council that helps the College continually monitor its technology programs to ensure that the education reflects current trends in Seattle technology.

The College recently added coursework in *Network Forensics* and *Network Security* due to concerns within the business community relating to viruses, worms, and hacker activity. Students at North Seattle College benefit from this quick response by learning about security related issues and by developing the skills they need to implement security in networks—skills that employers all over the globe are seeking.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

The *Department Computer Science* at **Southern Illinois University** is focused on the design, analysis, and use of computer hardware and software. As an academic discipline, it does not focus on just one technology, programming language, or computer architecture. Rather, it seeks to ground the student in fundamental concepts that are applicable to many environments.

The Computer Science program offers an undergraduate major leading to the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees, an undergraduate minor, and a graduate program leading to Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. In support of these degree programs, the department offers courses covering all the major areas of computer science.

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

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

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



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ENGINEERING

THE FUTURE

BY *Jennifer Privette*



Tip

At **Edmonds Community College**, the courses I took were very interesting and not just theoretical. The classes are small enough that you can get to know your teachers and they are always available for their students. One of them helped me realize that graphic engineering is what I want to study, so now I'm not going back to France."

—**Mathilde Idoine from France is completing her Associate in Science Degree with an Aeronautical Engineering track at Edmonds Community College in Edmonds, Washington**

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

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

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

Your motivation may be unique, but your ambition to study engineering in the USA is not. Every year, more and more international students come to the United States to pursue undergraduate, graduate and doctorate engineering degrees. According to the 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.

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“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 Department Coordinator and Professor at Pierce College

“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.”

—Roberta Alves Medina, from the Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia da Bahia, studied Chemical Engineering at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

“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 University of New Jersey

University of Arkansas Microelectronics-Photonics Program

Imagine if a soccer team’s jerseys were made of fabric capable of continuously monitoring and communicating athletes’ breathing rates, heart rates and temperatures to the coaching and training staff on the sidelines. Imagine that this same material could also be used for a baby’s mattress to help parents monitor their child.

Joseph Batta-Mpouma, a doctoral student, is working to turn this idea of smart textiles and exotic surfaces from mere fantasy to reality. Batta-Mpouma studies in the University of Arkansas’ Interdisciplinary Microelectronics-Photonics program and is a member of the Bionanotechnology research group at the Institute for Nanoscience and Engineering.

Microelectronics-Photonics is the study of micro to nano scale materials, processes, and devices for applications including: electronic circuits and components; sensors (electromechanical, physical, chemical and biological sensors); and light generation, detection, emission, and manipulation. This research space between traditional departmental-based programs is where science and engineering converge.

Another doctoral student in the microelectronics-photonics program, Morgan Roddy, recently won an award for his Solid-State Inflation Balloon deorbit, which is a deorbit system for CubeSats, a class of small satellites. Deorbit systems are important because international agreements dictate that any spacecraft must deorbit within 25 years to mitigate the accumulation of space junk.

Batta-Mpouma, Roddy and other microelectronics-photonics students are innovators who work across disciplines, making discoveries that will power a better tomorrow.

Alfred State, State University of New York College of Technology Mechanical Engineering Technology Program

At Alfred State, the next generation of engineers get plenty of hands-on experiences designing, specifying,

testing, analyzing, and installing mechanical systems. They also work with engines, complete energy systems, compressors, fans, pumps, controls, and much more.

At Alfred State, a lot of applied learning happens outside of the classroom, too. For example, students regularly compete and display their skills in a number of national intercollegiate competitions, including the annual Basic Utility Vehicle (BUV) Design Competition. The contest is a combination of a race and a manufacturing design competition.

Working in teams, college and university students from all over the U.S. build a BUV, which is a simple, rugged vehicle that is affordably designed for use in developing countries. Students must then take the vehicles through a series of tests designed to challenge the vehicles engineering, design and durability.

“The project is in line with Alfred State’s emphasis on project-based learning, where a real-world challenge is presented and students have to address it,” says Dr. Edward Tezak, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor and former Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Technology Department chair.

For building a highly efficient pumping system, which was almost twice as fast as any other team’s, Alfred State was recognized with the Most Innovative Award in the event.

In the most recent competition, the Alfred State BUV Team came out on top in the event for the third time, tying with Purdue University for first place. In addition to its three first-place finishes, Alfred State’s BUV team has also come in second four times since first entering the competition in 2006.

“We all chipped in and did what we had to do to finish the competition,” said Mitchell Rogers, a mechanical engineering technology student from New York.

As a result of the skills, knowledge, and experiences that Alfred State’s Mechanical Engineering Technology students receive, graduates are prepared to be mechanical technologists and technicians for industry in engineering related areas.

“We have been very impressed

with their [students'] work ethic, knowledge base, and ability to contribute to our engineering team in a meaningful way –right away,” says Jennifer C. Gnage, PHR Human Resources Manager at Oxbo International Corporation.

South Seattle College Aviation Technical Program

South Seattle College (SCC) has a long and rich history of producing Aviation Technicians. The aviation program began in the 1930's as Edison Technical College and transformed into the South Seattle College program in 1968. After completing this program, students are equipped with the training and skills necessary to become an Aircraft Maintenance Technician (AMT).

“Over the next decade passenger traffic is expected to increase ... If the number of graduates from aircraft mechanic training programs continues to fall short of employer needs, opportunities for graduates of mechanic training programs should be excellent,” according to the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Handbook 2006-

2007 Edition.

At South Seattle College, student technicians are trained in an industry-like setting on the main campus and in a hangar facility at King County Airport (Boeing Field). Recently, Boeing donated a Pratt & Whitney 777 engine to the Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) program, the first engine that Boeing has ever donated to a college. In total, South's AMT program has 13 aircrafts and 70 engines to provide students with a hands-on learning experience in the classroom. The 777 engine is the largest in the fleet. Students learn how to keep an aircraft in peak operating condition by performing maintenance and inspections required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Classes focus on experiential learning and small class sizes ensures personalized one-on-one education from experienced instructors.

After completing the two-year program, students are certified to take the FAA Airframe and Power plant (A&P) exams and then go on to work on any aircraft in the world. The A&P certificate

is also recognized in other industries such as power companies and elevator mechanics.

As a certified Aviation Maintenance Technician, graduates use their transferrable skills in many employment settings, such as:

- Airlines - international, national, and/or regional
- Air Cargo Fleets
- Air Taxi / Charter Fleets
- Corporate Aircraft Fleets
- Helicopter Operators
- Aircraft Repair Stations
- Research and Development Organizations
- NASA
- General Aviation (Fixed Based Operators or FBO's)
- Manufacturers (aircraft, engine, parts)
- Federal Aviation Administration
- State and Local Government Agencies

The A&P certificate is also recognized in many other fields, including but not limited to elevator repair, appliance repair and power companies. ★

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CHOOSING

A BUSINESS PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES

BY *Lindy Kravec*

Nearly 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 degree-granting 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, 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?

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 luxury-brand

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-to-date 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 one-on-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, As-

sociate 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.



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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.



Marquette University

Accounting Program

At Marquette University in Wisconsin, students benefit from small class sizes and a high level of attention from faculty and staff. Students are prepared to be responsible, competent and ethical leaders in accounting, business, government and not-for-profit careers. With an emphasis on real-world success, Marquette provides access to services like resume writing assistance and job interview preparation. Marquette's accounting program holds the prestigious AACSB accreditation, held by only one to two percent of all U.S. accounting programs.

Marquette provides an internship-matching program for both undergraduate and graduate students.

"They complete job duties similar to a first-year employee and become engaged in business activities here in the U.S. Some students even receive a job offer at the end of their internship," says Professor Michael Akers, chair of the Marquette Accounting Program.

Yuli Pang, a master's degree student who interned with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) through the matching program, was offered a full-time position with the firm. "I got a feel for the teams I would be working with once I started with the firm and the firm also got to see if I was a good fit," says Pang.

Pang also took advantage of the shortened one-year master's degree offered to students.

The university's location provides plenty of opportunities. Milwaukee, Wisconsin is home to companies like Harley-Davidson Inc., Johnson Controls, and Northwestern Mutual.

Master's students can join Beta Alpha Psi which organizes service projects and meetings with the local business community.

Another unique feature is an independent course that allows students to help solve real financial crimes by partnering with the Milwaukee Police Department.

Truckee Meadows Community College

Logistics Management Program

Truckee Meadows Community College's (TMCC) Logistics Management Program is designed to educate both career professionals who are seeking to re-skill or increase their skill set for promotion and for incoming students who are seeking to obtain a degree in a growing exciting field—Logistics management is expected to grow by 35 percent in the next five to 10 years.

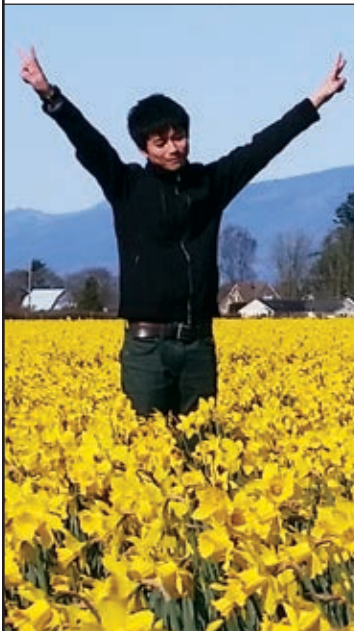
Logistics is about getting the right product to the right place at the right time at the right price. Logisticians handle products and services from cradle to cradle, sourcing raw materials, coordinating their delivery for manufacture, delivering the product to the consumer and making sure that the product is delivered in a way that supports company strategy.

With a focus on theoretical instruction with real world application, graduates have the ability to take what they've learned in the classroom and implement it upon graduation. Students are prepared for popular careers as an Analyst, International Logistics Manager, Supply Chain Manager, Logistics Manager and Transportation Manager, among many others.

Logistics degrees offer flexibility and capabilities that are widely transferable. Truckee Meadows Logistics Management Program students can graduate with a Certificate, Associate of Applied Science (AAS), Associate of Arts (AA) or Bachelors of Applied Science (BAS) degree and professional certification from APICS.



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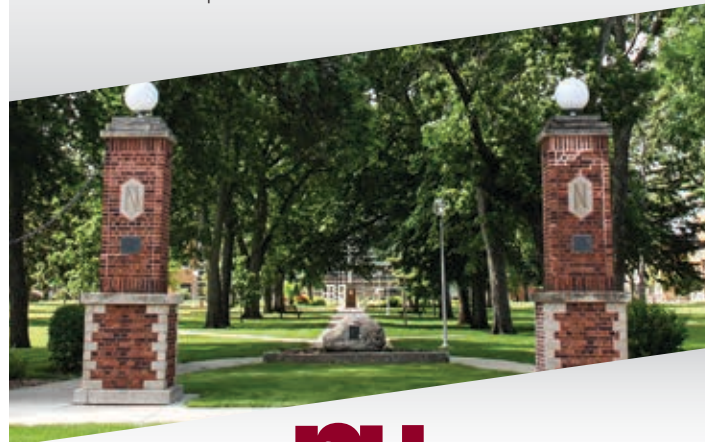
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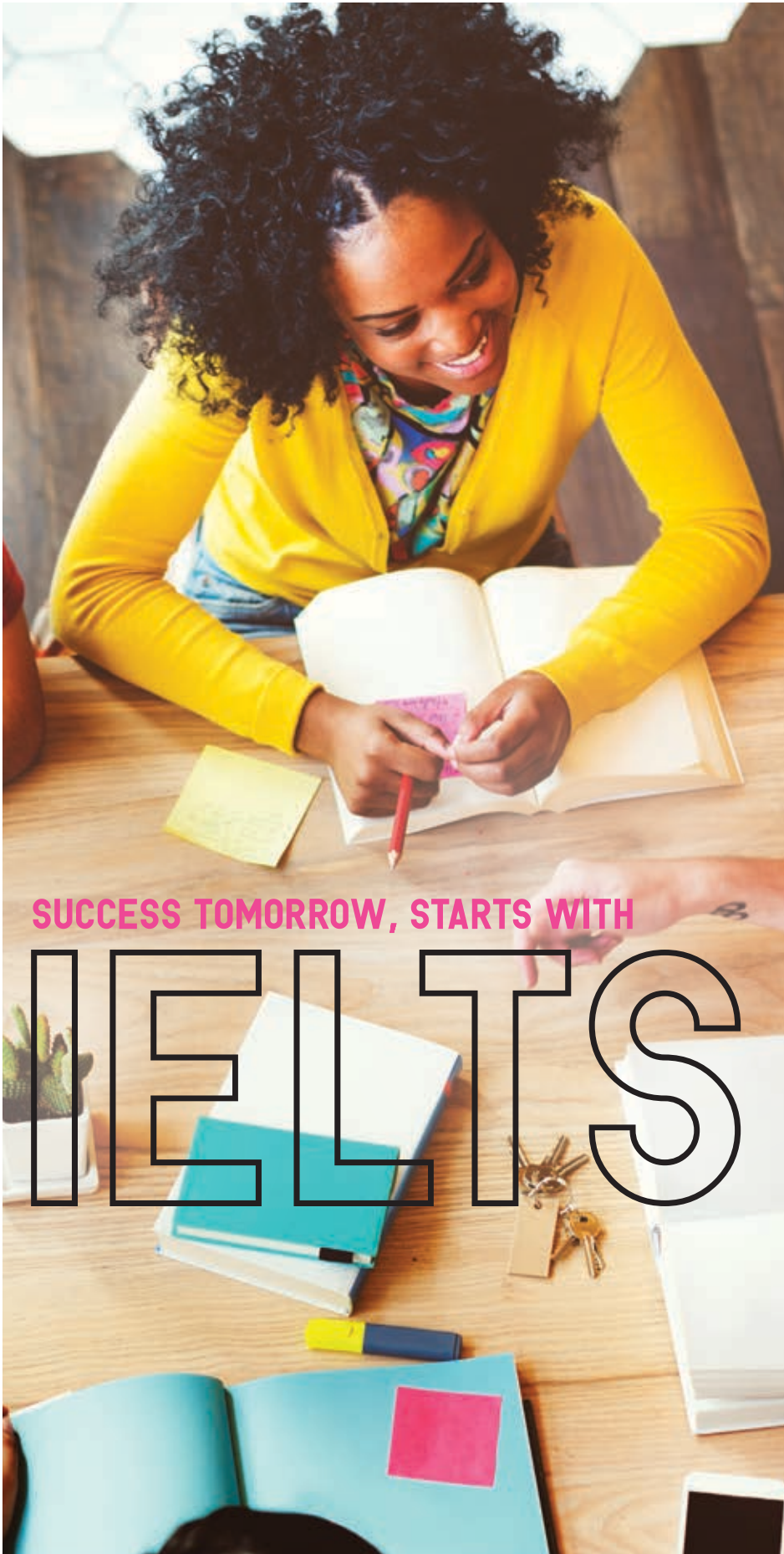
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- trusted by the USA's **top 25 universities**
- accepted by **all Ivy League colleges**
- used by programs at the top 50 US universities with the most international students

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 native-speaker English, including North American



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- 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

ONE · Decide where you want to study

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

TWO · Decide how you will finance your studies

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

THREE · 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.

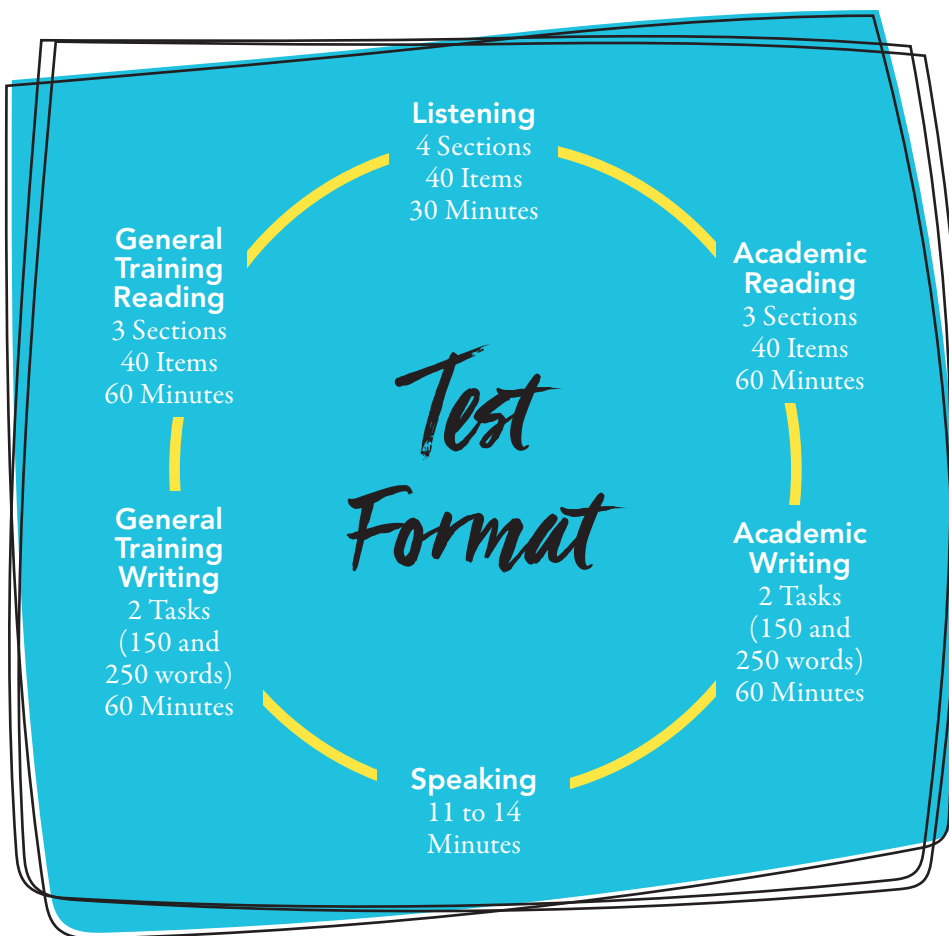
FOUR · Make sure you have a valid visa to study in the U.S.

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

FIVE · 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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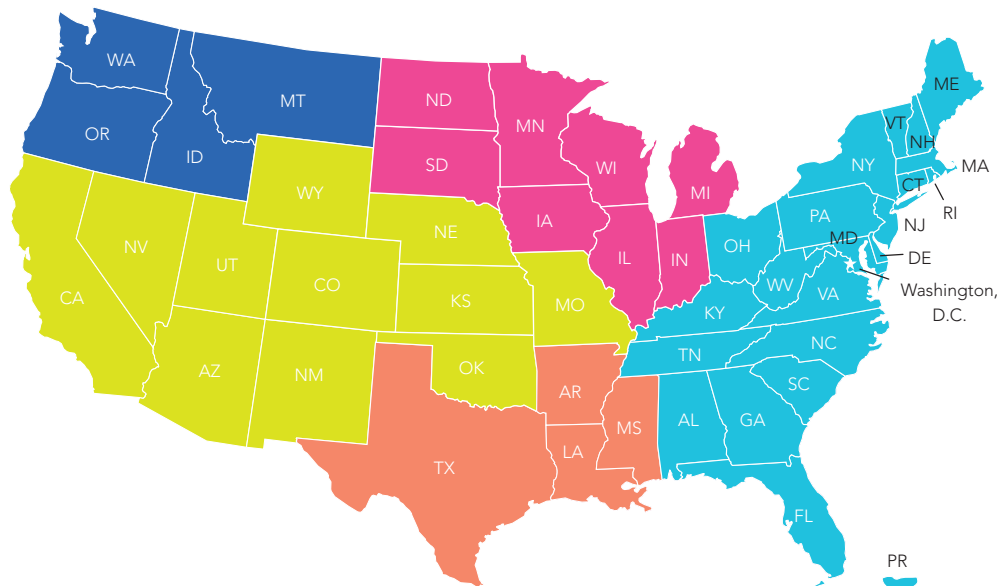
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History & Diversity: LACC was founded in 1929 and is the original campus site of UCLA. We are one of the largest community colleges in the United States with one of the most diverse student populations to be found anywhere.

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