

Studying in the US

The United States of America is the world's leading destination for higher education, with more international students choosing to study in USA than any other country– comprising nearly 4% of the undergraduate and 10% of the graduate population. Students the world over prefer to study in the USA because of the excellent quality of education that allows them to build a bright future ahead!

American schools and colleges constantly lead in world rankings, with renowned institutions such as Harvard University, Stanford University, MIT, and many others seen among the leaders in their specialties! International students thus prefer to study abroad and take advantage of the comprehensive choice of study options offered by US Colleges.

Quality

US colleges are endowed with the best quality of facilities, excellent resources and experienced faculty. There are demanding accreditation systems to ensure that institutions continue to maintain the highest standards.

Choice

When you study in the USA, you will find an option that suits your specific needs: a variety of institutions, academic and social environments, entry requirements, degree programs and subjects.

Flexibility

A distinctive feature of US universities and colleges is the sheer range of courses offered at any institution. Transfer of academic credits earned between one college and another avoids the need to repeat courses to graduate. It is common to complete the first two years of a degree at one institution, usually a community college, and then transfer to another, perhaps larger college to obtain a degree. During their academic studies, students are permitted to work on campus, part-time (up to 20 hours per week), and full-time during the summer semester.

Requirements

To study in the USA, colleges and universities require that all their applicants take one or more standardized tests. These tests include:

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)

ACT (American College Testing)

GRE (Graduate Record Examination)

GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test)

International students are required to also take the TOEFL (Test of English as Foreign Language) to demonstrate proficiency in English.

Additionally, students will have to provide their certificates of completion of 12th Grade or equivalent, from their respective schools or junior colleges.

During the student visa interview, applicants will be required to demonstrate financial ability to support themselves during their period of study in the US, usually in the form of a certified bank letter or Letter Of Sponsorship from a relative, friend or other US Citizen.

Cost

Average tuition cost per year to study in USA varies from \$25,000 to \$50,000 annually, depending on whether it is a private college or State University, the course chosen and the cost of living in that city.

Financial aid and Scholarships are often available depending on the individual needs and educational achievement, allowing for work and study in USA.

Expenses for accommodation, food, clothing, entertainment, and telephone bills will vary depending on the region, and it is advisable to arrange comfortable funding in order to handle unforeseen expenses.

Duration

US higher education starts with undergraduate courses. You can earn either a two-year Associate degree or a four-year Bachelor's degree. Students often earn an Associate degree first, and then study two more years to gain a Bachelor's (or Baccalaureate) degree. Bachelor's degrees are usually awarded by a University, whereas an Associate degree may be earned either at a Community college or University.

Undergraduate (and some Master's) degrees) are awarded upon completion of a certain number of credits. A student is usually awarded 3 to 4 credits for each course, and the degree is awarded upon completion of the required number of credits, usually 120 – 128. This means that although most students complete Bachelor's degrees in four years, some spend longer if they take part-time classes or take time off from school.

Graduate or Master's degrees require at least two years at a University. These are considered 'advanced professional degrees' as they cater to specialty professions. Graduate degrees can advance your career in Medicine, Law, Management and Science, among others. E.g., a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) is the standard business graduate degree, while Science students would want to study MS in the USA. Doctorates (Ph.d.) usually take four years to complete, and are research-based.

Intake months

Most US universities offer courses over 4 semesters a year. Most students join during the Fall semester, which usually starts in September, though students can also join during Spring, Summer & Winter semesters too. A wider range of courses is offered in the Fall, compared to the Winter and Summer semesters.

It is strongly advisable to start your preparations for college admission at least a year before, and no later than 6 months before your course starts!