



Applying to University in the USA

Step 1:

- Research Degree and University options before you make your application as there are 5,300 universities and several costs involved.

Type of Degree

- **Associate Degrees**- 2 years duration (vocational)
- **Bachelors Degrees**- 4 years duration
- **Specialist Degrees**- (Engineering/ Performing Arts for example have different entry requirements and application processes)
- Law and Medicine are Postgraduate Degrees (you need to have your Bachelor Degree to apply for these)

Type of University

- **Public** (State universities) some are part of the State University system e.g. James Madison among many others
- **Community College** Grouped into State Systems. Offer students the chance to complete an Associate Degree and upon completion study for two more years to achieve a Bachelors Degree
- **Private Non-profit** there are elite and globally-famed for example; Massachusetts Institute of Tech (MIT), Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, Caltech, Columbia, Cornell, John Hopkins and more
- **Liberal Arts Colleges** specializing in Liberal Arts and Sciences some offer vocational subjects such as Medicine, Business, Administration or Law such as Amherst College
- **For Profit US Universities and Colleges** run as ventures aiming to make money for shareholders and provide a good education for students such as Grand Canyon University

Finances/Funding

- To get a visa (could cost approximately £120), you need to prove you have access to funding for the first year of study
- You need an up-to-date passport and proof of how you'll fund your studies
- Hundreds of US universities offer scholarships worth £20,000 or more to international students (links at end of document)

- Over 50% of UK students report a scholarship or financial aid as the primary source of funding in the USA
- Funding can be need, merit or talent-based from the University or external funding body

Application Expenses

- Admissions exam fees (if required) could cost £70-80 per sitting
- Application fees £40-£70-80 per University choice
- Visa application and Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fees approximately £280-£370

Tuition Fees-International students at public universities

- Community College fees £2800 per year
- Public out-of-state fees £20,000 per year (most courses 4 years long)
- Private fees £27,000 per year

Other expenses

- Accommodation charges
- Food
- Book and supplies
- Local and international transportation
- Personal Expenses
- Health insurance

Personal fit

- Campus life
- Size
- Setting
- Clubs

Step 2:

Research between 10-20 universities that meet your criteria (please see useful links at the end of the article)

- USA College Day University Search
- Big Future College Search
- Forbes America's Top Colleges
- Peterson's
- Princeton Review
- US News and World Report Best Colleges
- VisitTheUSA (Culture and travel information by State)

Step 3:

Apply to 6-10 universities-ensure you have a good spread of competitive and less competitive universities

- Academics and Application process (entry requirements, majors on offer)
- Two to three highly competitive universities to reach for
- Three to four that match your academic profile (entry requirements)
- Two to three where academic profile is safely higher than your average
- Choose and apply for a specific Major (chosen subject) directly to the University
- Must apply to the institution on Comprehensive List of Accredited Colleges Across the United States www.collegesanddegrees.com/college-profiles
- Reach out to universities you are interested in- application packs will be sent out
- The application fee could be £55-80 per program per university

Proof required

- Acceptance letter from the University you applied to which is a member of the Comprehensive List of Accredited Colleges Across the United States
- Current passport
- Proof you can financially support yourself

Scholarships

www.topuniversities.com/student-info/scholarship-advice/international-scholarships-study-us

www.scholars4dev.com/6499/scholarships-in-usa-for-international-students/

Useful links

www.studyinternational.com/news/how-to-find-student-accommodation-in-the-usa/

www.fulbright.org.uk/going-to-the-usa/undergraduate

www.collegesanddegrees.com/college-profiles

www.fulbright.org.uk/going-to-the-usa/undergraduate/educationusa-advice/choosing/usa-college-day-university-search

www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search

www.forbes.com/sites/michaeltietzel/2020/09/14/us-news-releases-its-best-college-rankings-for-2021/?sh=241815856d54

www.petersons.com/

www.princetonreview.com/

www.usnews.com/best-colleges

www.visittheusa.co.uk/