

Your Guide to

Study in the U.S.



Studying at an American university or college will expand your horizons and open up new opportunities for your career. However, it can be a complicated and expensive process.

EducationUSA is here to help. As the U.S. government's only official source for information about higher education, you can count on us for accurate and unbiased information about the entire range of American higher education institutions and programs.

To help you understand the application process more clearly, this brochure answers some of the most commonly asked questions. But the most important advice we can offer is to start early and visit EducationUSA often.

Am I eligible for admission to a U.S. university or college?

If you have a strong academic background, solid financial support and excellent English, then there is an American university or college right for you. To apply for a Bachelor's degree program, you must have completed 12 years of primary and secondary schooling (passed the H.S.C. or the A/O levels). To apply for a Master's degree, you must have 16 years of education in Bangladesh (the equivalent of the U.S. Bachelor's degree).

How can I go to the U.S. to study?

There are many steps involved in applying to an American university. Give yourself lots of time. We recommend starting the process at least one year before you plan to enroll. Most students enter U.S. universities in August or September, but some universities also admit students in January and March.

1. The first step is to decide which colleges or universities interest you. There are over 4000 accredited colleges and universities in the U.S. Your selection will be based on several factors: does the school offer a degree program in your field; is it competitive; how much does it cost; does it offer financial aid to international students; how big is the school; where is it located; is it accredited? EducationUSA has the materials and expertise to help you compare institutions and make the best choice for you.
2. After you have selected 10-15 institutions that interest you, check out each university's website. Look at the general admission requirements and the specific academic programs that interested you.



3. Register for any standardized exams that the university requires. All students should take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS. Registration forms for the TOEFL and other standardized tests are available at EducationUSA.
4. Finally, after you have received information and application forms from the universities, you should narrow your choices to four to six schools. Send completed application forms, along with all other required documents, directly to the college or university. Be sure to send the documents well in advance of each school's application deadline. Be aware that deadlines vary from school to school. Required documents typically include certified copies of your school transcripts (certificates and mark sheets), test scores, letters of recommendations, application fees and financial documents showing you have enough money to pay for your education and living expenses. The Ministry of Education, respective Board Offices, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or the institution where you studied should certify your transcripts.
5. Three to five months after you have submitted all your documents to your school, you will receive a letter from the college or university accepting or rejecting your application. If accepted, the college or university will send you a letter of acceptance and an I-20 form (Certificate of Eligibility for Students Status Visa). You must have the I-20 form before you can apply for a student visa.



What do the terms undergraduate and graduate mean?

An undergraduate student is studying for a Bachelor's degree at a U.S. college or university. A graduate student is studying for a Master's degree, a Ph.D., or a professional degree in fields such as law or medicine. The term "a graduate" refers to someone who has received a Bachelor's, Master's, or a Ph.D. from an accredited institutions, i.e. "she is a graduate of Harvard University; he is a Stanford graduate."

How much money do I need to study in the U.S. for one year?

The amount of money you need depends on which school you chose to attend. Tuition for one year can range from \$10,000 to \$30,000. Some of the most expensive universities cost as much as \$40,000 per year. You will also need \$6,000-\$12,000 to cover living expenses. Expenses will vary greatly based on where in the U.S. your school is.

Who can be my financial sponsor?

Most students are sponsored by parents or family members living in Bangladesh or abroad. When you apply for a student visa, your sponsors must submit financial documentation that demonstrates their ability to pay for the full course of your education, including both tuition and living expenses. Sponsors must have the entire amount needed for the first year of education (tuition and living expenses) readily available in liquid assets, such as in bank accounts. For subsequent years, the sponsor needs to be able to document income sources from which future tuition and living expenses will come, such as wages from a job.



Can I get a scholarship?

Competition for financial aid is intense, especially at the undergraduate level. Nonetheless, in 2009 outstanding Bangladeshi students received more than \$900,000 in scholarships and financial aid. Private universities are more likely to offer financial aid for undergraduate study. Often financial aid does not cover the entire cost of tuition and living expense.

At the graduate level, there are more opportunities for financial aid from both public and private universities. Often the financial aid comes in the form of research or teaching assistantships. These awards may cover tuition expenses and provide a monthly stipend.

When do I apply for financial aid?

Include your financial aid application in your admission application packet. The deadline for financial aid applications is usually in January or February (if you are applying for a September admission).

Can I get a job while I am studying in the U.S.?

The terms of American student visas (F-1) only allow you to work in an on-campus job or in an internship approved by the university. Typically, these jobs will not pay enough to cover tuition, but can help you meet your living expenses.

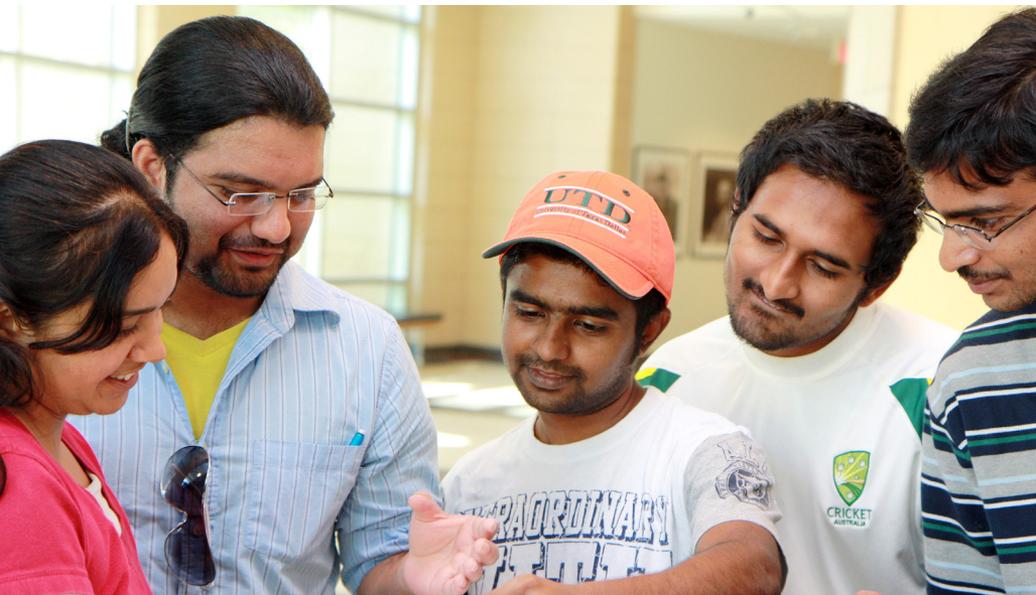


Standardized tests

Test Name	Requirement	Administered by	Website Address
TOEFL	For all Bangladeshi students	ETS	www.ets.org www.toefl.org
SAT I	To pursue a 4-year undergraduate degree	College Board	www.collegeboard.com
SAT II	OPTIONAL – for undergraduate students	College Board	www.collegeboard.com
GRE	To pursue Masters/ Ph.D. in all fields but business fields	ETS	www.ets.org www.gre.org
GMAT	To pursue Masters/ Ph.D. in business	Pearson Vue AP GMAT Candidate Service	www.mba.com

Which tests do I need to take?

Carefully read the admissions requirements at the colleges or universities you are interested in, paying special attention to the international student requirements. Once you know what tests you need to take, visit EducationUSA for test bulletins, test prep materials and advice about how to prepare.



Can I study in the U.S. without taking TOEFL?

Almost all American universities require international students to take an internationally recognized test of English language. TOEFL is the most broadly recognized test in the United States. Some schools may accept IELTS scores, but be sure to check the admission requirements of each university to which you plan to apply.

A few schools will conditionally admit students without a TOEFL or IELTS score. At these schools, students typically enroll in intensive English language training at the university for three months to a year before they enroll in regular undergraduate classes. Even if you plan to take an intensive English course, we recommend that you take the TOEFL before you go. Without a valid TOEFL score, your chance of admission and of getting a visa will be reduced.

What score do I need on the TOEFL to be admitted?

Each college or university sets its own TOEFL/IELTS score requirements, so consult each school's admissions requirements. Many schools require an iBT TOEFL score of 80 or a CBT TOEFL score of 213. In Bangladesh, the internet-based or iBT TOEFL is offered at several institutions. You must enroll for the TOEFL test in advance as space is limited.

SAT I (Reasoning Test) and SAT II (Subject Test)

These exams are for undergraduate applicants. The SAT I tests general academic ability and educational background. SAT II subject tests are often required for financial aid applicants, specific academic majors, and those applying to highly competitive schools.

GRE

Prospective graduate students seeking admission into most fields (except business administration) are required to take the GRE test. It is a computer based test. The current GRE general test is composed of verbal, quantitative and analytical writing sections. Please note that GRE subject tests are no longer offered in Bangladesh.

GMAT

Applicants for graduate business administration or management programs need to take the GMAT test. GMAT is a computer based test. Currently the GMAT test consists of nine separately timed sections: two 30-minute writing sections and seven 25 minute multiple-choice sections. The GMAT tests general, verbal, mathematical and analytical writing skills.

Exam requirements

Students who register for the TOEFL, GRE, GMAT and SAT will be required to present a valid passport as identification. No other form of identification will be accepted at test centers in Bangladesh.

When will my test scores be sent to the universities?

The scores of SAT I and SAT II test scores are sent to the universities approximately four weeks after the test date. GRE, GMAT and TOEFL scores are sent approximately three weeks after taking the test.

For how long will scores be valid?

TOEFL scores are valid for two years. GRE, GMAT, SAT I and SAT II scores are valid for five years.

Is it important for the university to be accredited?

YES, very important. The U.S. government does not accredit or control universities. Instead, there are six regional accrediting associations which accredit institutions. Accreditation means that the college or university has met basic standards in its academic programs. There are also professional associations that accredit individual degree programs at a university in fields such as engineering, business administration, and computer science. These accredited colleges and universities are listed in The Accredited Institutions of the Post-Secondary Education published annually by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (www.chea.org). Don't assume a university is accredited, even if it says it is. Verify its accreditation by checking this book at EducationUSA. If the institution you choose is not accredited, courses that you take will not be able to be transferred to accredited universities.

Why Do I Need a Visa?

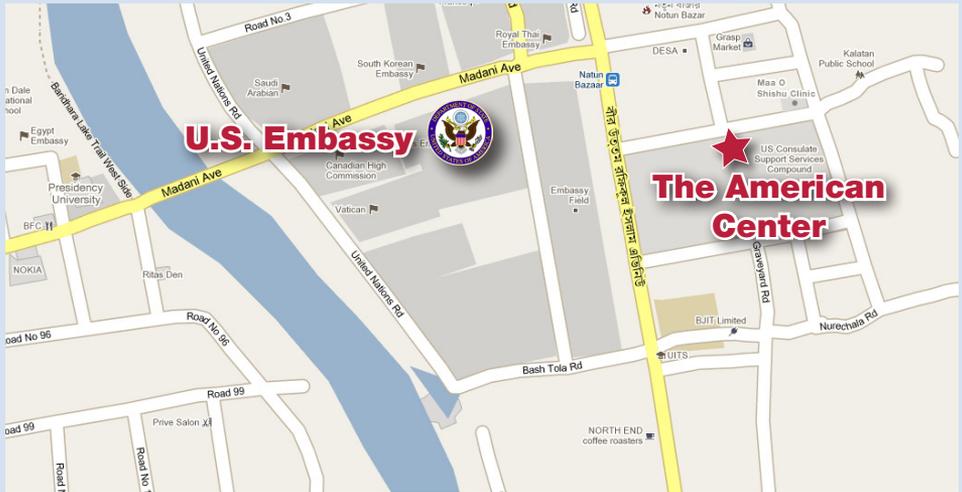
Entry into the United States is a two stage process. The first step is a determination by a visa officer at an U.S. embassy or consulate that an individual is eligible for admission to the United States. The visa officer will then place an F-1 student visa in your passport. At the airport, border crossing, or seaport where you enter the United States, your passport and visa will then be inspected by a U.S. immigration officer. Without a visa, you will not be allowed to enter the country. Student visas (F-1) are required for all foreigners who plan to study at an American university or college.

How Do I Get a Student Visa?

Apply for a U.S. student visa (F-1) through the U.S. Embassy appointment scheduling contractor - Saimon Overseas, House # 4A, Road # 22, Gulshan-1, Tel: 9882273-4, 9860393. Saimon Overseas will schedule a student visa interview at the U.S. Embassy. Additional information about student visas can be found at http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/student_visa.html.

Visit EducationUSA @ The American Center, Dhaka

You will find all the resources you need to apply to an American university. We have test prep resources, university catalogs, scholarship directories and expert, individualized advice from our Education Advisors.



The American Center

Plot No – 1, Progati Sharani, J – Block
Baridhara Residential Area, Dhaka

(Opposite from the U.S. Embassy, next to Notun Bazar by the Maa O Shishu Clinic)

EducationUSA

Archer K. Blood Library
Fulbright & Exchange Programs
Cultural Programs
Movie Nights

Sunday - Thursday

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
(880) (2) 885-5500, Ext. 2832
<http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>
www.educationusa.info

Questions about U.S. higher education?

Send an email to EducationUSA-Bangla@state.gov



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