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**Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education**

[EducationUSA.state.gov](http://EducationUSA.state.gov)

# About EducationUSA

U.S. Department of State's Advising Program for  
International Students

Accurate, Comprehensive, Objective, & Timely  
Information

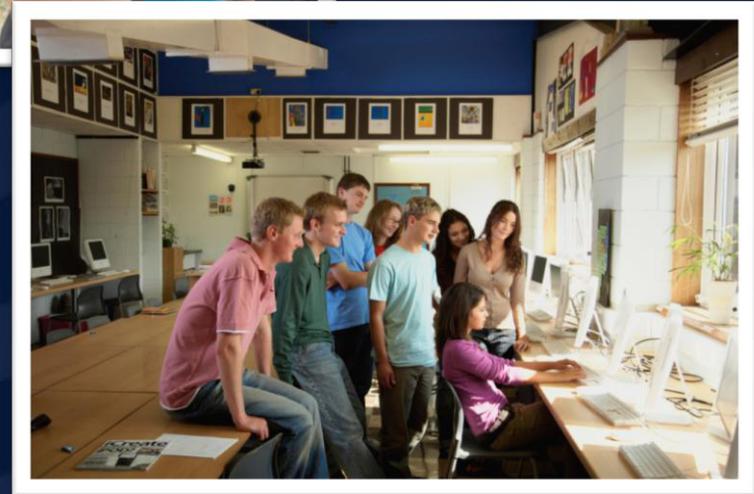
Over 400 centers in 170 Countries

[www.educationusa.state.gov](http://www.educationusa.state.gov)



# Why Choose the USA?

- Quality
- Choice
- Value
- Flexibility

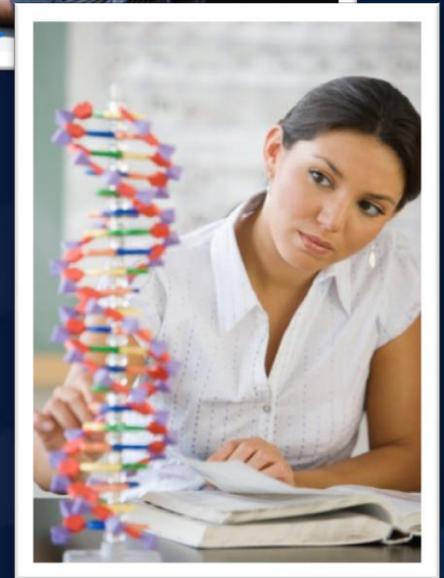


# Quality

Facilities

Faculty

Resources





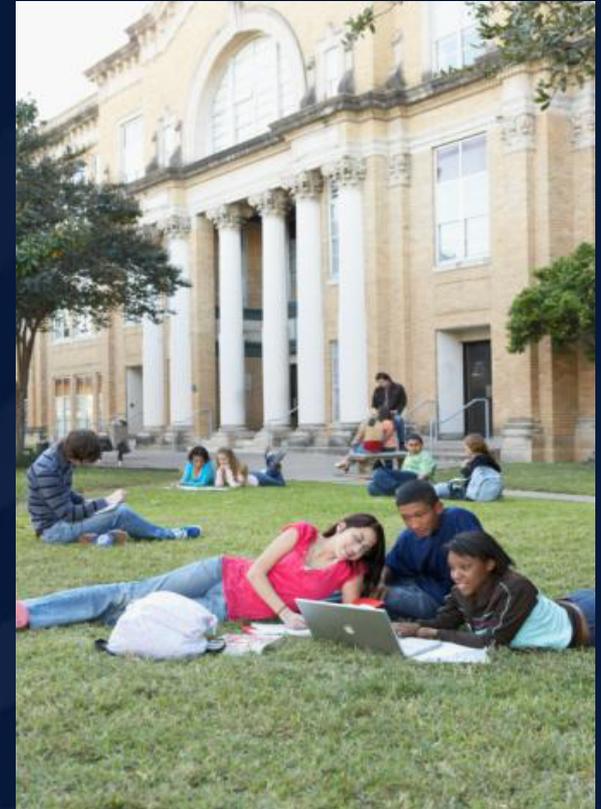
# Value

**Range of  
Tuition  
Fees**

**Living  
Cost  
Options**

**Financial  
Aid**

**Campus  
Employment  
& OPT**

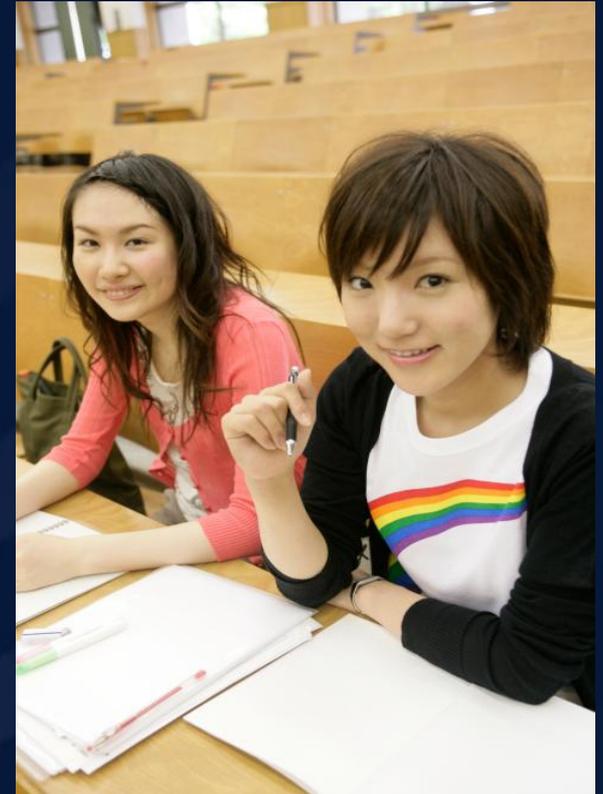


# Flexibility

**Conditional  
Enrollments**

**Transfer  
Options**

**Changing  
Majors and  
Fields**



# Benefits of a US Education

## Interactive Classrooms

**Intercultural  
Communication Skills**

**New Perspectives**

**Vastly Improve  
Command of English**



## Academic Assignments

**Writing, Critical Thinking and  
Analytical Skills**

**Problem Solving in Foreign  
Environments**



## Team Learning

**Collaborative  
Interpersonal Skills**

**Be Creative and Proactive**

**Life Long Int'l Colleagues**



# U.S. Higher Education Overview

No Central Authority or Official Rankings  
Regional and National Accreditation

[www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org)

Credit Transfer System

Academic year: September – May

No National Entrance Examination



# Degree Programs

Associates

- **2-year Community College**
- **Specialized Training**
- **General Education for Undergraduate Transfer**

Undergraduate

- **4-Year College and University**
- **Bachelors degree awarded in course or major**

Graduate,  
Postgraduate and  
Professional

- **Masters and Doctoral Degrees in course or major**
- **Professional degrees in professions requiring licensure**

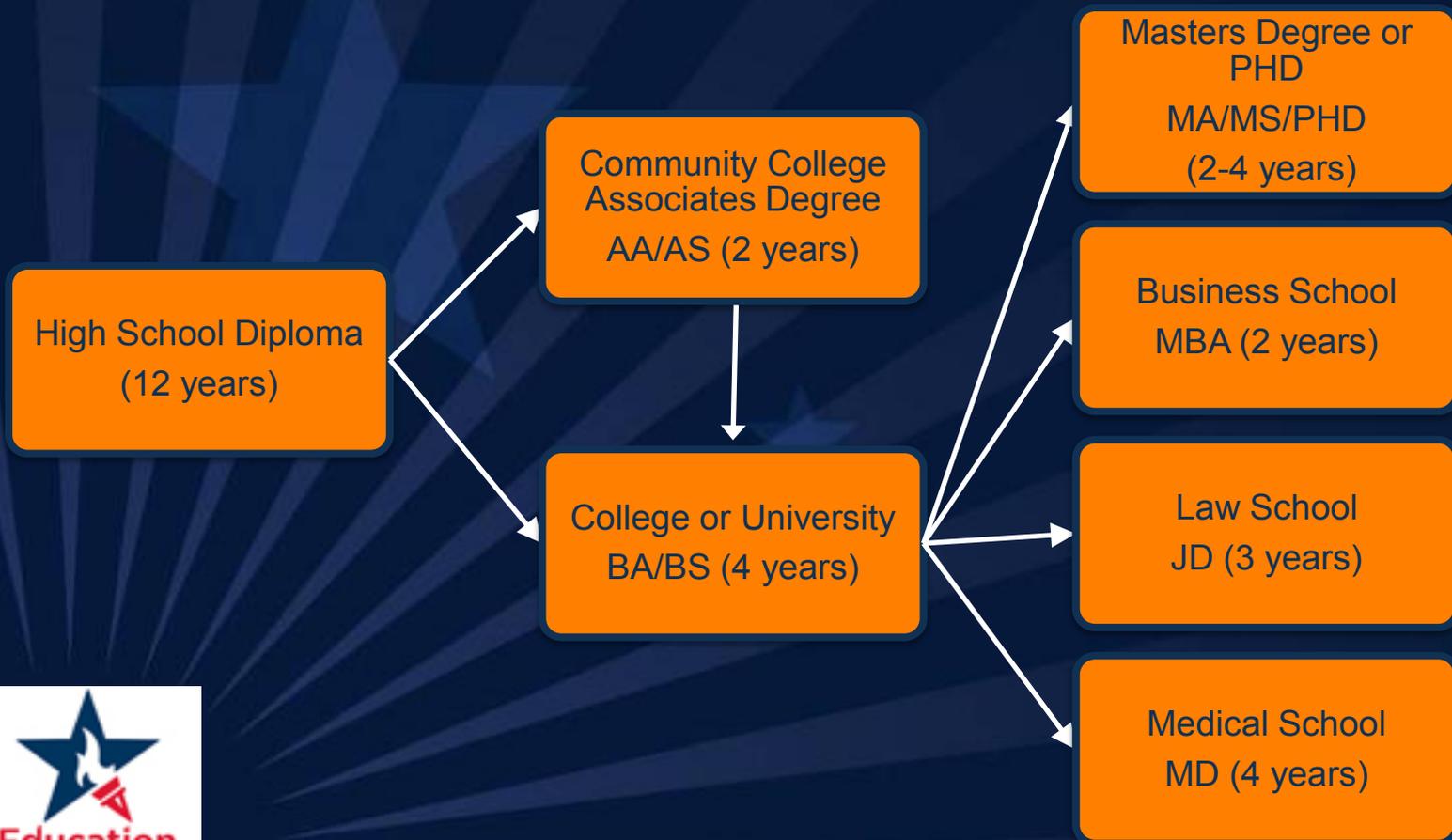


# U.S. Degree Progression

Secondary

Undergraduate

Graduate



# START EARLY!



Your dreams are worth it and  
so are you!



# Timetable

12 -18  
Months

- Decide What's Important To You and Search for Schools
- Visit an [EducationUSA Advising Center](#) , Use [College Search Engines](#)
- Explore financial aid available at the school and on the [FundingUSStudy Website](#)

8 -12  
Months

- Contact the school for an application or use the [Common Application](#)
- Schedule any [required tests](#) for admissions
- Application deadlines must be met and early application periods may be available

4-6  
Months

- Make a final decision on school you have been admitted to and notify them
- Apply for a [U.S. Student Visa](#)
- Work with the campus Int'l Student Office and consult with EducationUSA advisers

Ready  
to Go!

- Keep in touch with your campus Int'l Student Office
- Attend an EducationUSA [Pre Departure Orientation](#)



# Step 1

## Evaluate Your Academic Profile

(18 months out from graduation)

- US Schools will look for a GPA of 3.0-4.0 for Acceptance along with the test results and other requirements.
- Be realistic when it come to your academic performance.
- Are you an Excellent, Average or above average student?

**Always do your best!**



# Step 2

## Consider How You Will Pay For College

(18 months out from graduation)



# Fees

For the 2009-2010 academic year, the College Board reported\* the following average **annual tuition and fees** by type of institution:

Two-year, Public Community Colleges: \$2,544

Four-year, Public Institutions \$7,020 : \$18,548 (out-of-state)

Four-year, Private Institutions: \$26,273

These costs will also need to be considered:

Books and supplies- Range from \$940 to \$1,122

Room and board- Range from \$7,000 to \$8,900

Transportation- Range from \$1,079 to \$ 2,200

Other- Range from \$1,300 to \$2,300



# \$\$ Types of Financial Aid \$\$

**Private Sources within New Zealand** - Conduct research at home to find possible funding from local government, corporate, or foundation sources. Although these sources are not found in all countries, you could reduce your educational cost with scholarships from local organizations

**Private Sources outside of New Zealand** - International students also ask about financial assistance from foundations, organizations, and the U.S. government. Very little aid exists through such sources, and it is usually earmarked for advanced graduate students. Your educational adviser can tell you whether there are special funds available for students from your country

**College Based** - Colleges themselves finance college-based aid. Many sources of college-based financial aid are reserved for citizens or legal permanent residents of the US. Be sure to ask about any restrictions when you apply for admission. Students with outstanding academic records stand a chance of securing full or partial funding simply by applying to very competitive schools and asking for financial aid on the basis of merit. College-based aid is almost all awarded by the academic year, so it is difficult to receive aid to begin mid-year or in the Northern Hemisphere summer.



# \$\$ Types of Financial Aid \$\$

**Scholarships** - Usually awarded based on **merit**. Academic GPA, SAT scores and or Talent, Art, Music, Athletic.

**Grants** - Grant aid comes from federal and state governments and from individual colleges that don't have to be repaid.

**Loans** - Most loans that are awarded based on financial **need** are low-interest loans sponsored by the federal government. These loans are subsidized by the government so no interest accrues until your child begins repayment after graduation.



# \$\$ Types of Financial Aid \$\$

**Internships / cooperative education programmes** – integrated classroom studies with on-the-job professional experience. Internships can be arranged either through a college or by the individual directly. It's necessary to check course credit and visa requirements with the foreign student adviser. It's also possible to obtain practical training during the programme, or for up to 12 months after completion of the programme.

**Tuition and fee waivers** - Some colleges offer a small number of tuition and/or fee waivers to deserving students. Tuition and fee waivers generally cover tuition and fees for one academic year. Some universities may offer to defer payment of tuition until after the student graduates. This is essentially a low-interest loan.

**Work-Study** - Student employment and work-study aid helps students pay for education costs such as books, supplies, and personal expenses.



# Funding and Financial Aid

The primary source of financial support for over **80% of international students is personal and family funding**. Less than 10% of funding comes from the college and less than 10% comes from all other sources (government, corporate, organisations, foundations, etc).

Students will have a greater chance of obtaining financial assistance if they:

Show evidence of a high level of academic achievement

Achieve high scores on standardised exam (SAT I, SAT II, TOEFL, etc)

Demonstrate financial need but have private funding to cover some of the cost (financial need is not crucial for all awards)

<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/finaid.htm>

<http://www.finaid.org>

<http://www.internationalscholarships.com/>

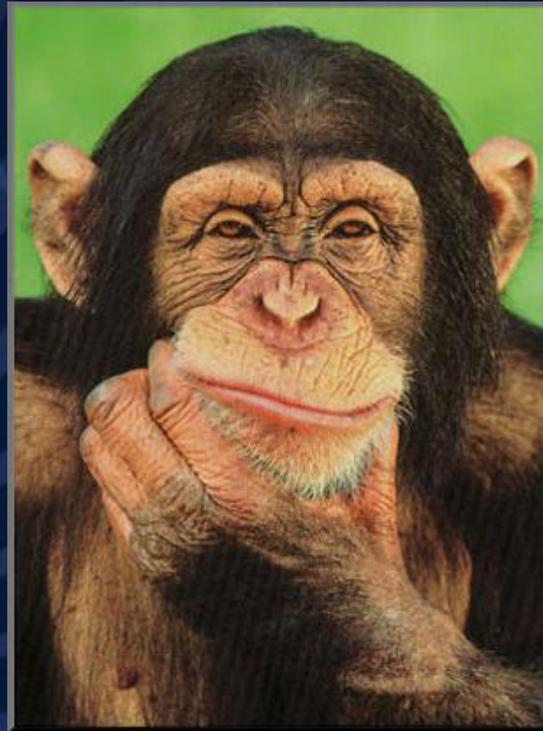


# Step 3

## Identify Your Priorities

(18 -12 months out from graduation)

Ask yourself the following question about your future school:  
**What is important to me?!**



# Step 3

## What is the most important thing for me?

Location - Weather

Setting - Urban, suburban, rural

Size – class rooms / campus

Type of School- Public or Private

Majors – wide range / specific

Athletics – Sports you enjoy

Campus Facilities – Research / Library

Special Programs – International Orientations

Campus Life – dorm / activities on campus



# Step 4

## Research Colleges and Universities

(18 -12 months out from graduation)

Use the college search engines to help you get started  
Visit schools or attend College Fairs in New Zealand  
Come up with a workable list of 10-15 schools

[www.Educationusa.state.gov](http://www.Educationusa.state.gov)

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

[www.cois.org](http://www.cois.org)



# Step 5

## Evaluate Your Choices

(12 - 8 months out from graduation)

Narrow your list of 10 – 15 schools to 4 – 6

Do you meet the college's criteria for admission?

Can you can afford it?

If you can't afford it, will the college financial aid assist?

Do the "Pluses" outweigh the "Minuses"?



# Step 6

## Decide where you want to apply (12 - 8 months out from graduation)

Narrow your choice by arranging your final list of schools into the following:

**Reach Schools** - Those which are a reach for you academically or financially

**Probable Schools** - Those which will meet all your needs and will likely accept you

**Safety Schools** - Those which will be sure to accept you

In all cases, these should be schools in which you would be happy “living” there for the duration of your studies.



# Step 7

## The Application Process

(12 - 8 months out from graduation)

Contact four to six universities for admissions packs

Specifically ask for financial assistance information

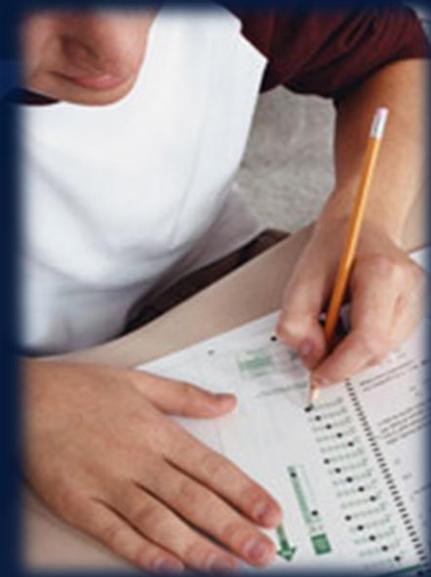
Register for standardized test (SAT, ACT, ect.)

Seek non-university sources of funding





# Standardized Test



## Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

SAT I (also known as SAT Reasoning )

Includes Reading, Writing, Maths

SAT II (also known as SAT Subjects)

Includes English, History, Maths, Science,  
Languages. [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

## American College Testing, Inc (A.C.T.)

Multiple-choice section of 215 questions and an optional writing test which measures skill in planning and writing short essay.

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

## TOEFL

Required if English is not the first language (generally not required if SAT verbal/ACT is sufficiently high, or applicants have A Level English)



# Local Test Sites

Two colleges in the Auckland area have contracted with the US College Board to sit the range of SAT and include:

Kings College

Golf Road, Otahuhu, Auckland 1133

<http://www.kingscollege.school.nz>

Point of contact: Mr. John Bean, King's College Archivist

[j.bean@kingscollege.school.nz](mailto:j.bean@kingscollege.school.nz)

Auckland International College

85 Airedale Street, Auckland 1010

<http://www.aic.ac.nz/sat.html>

POC: Mr. Peter Thyberg, US & Canadian College Counselor

Tel: 09 309 4480 Ext. 816



# Step 7 (cont)

## The Application Process

(12 - 8 months out from graduation)

Fill out university application forms.

Make sure you can meet the application deadlines.

Check the private funding sources you researched.

Submit applications for Scholarships if you qualify.



# Inputs into the Application Process



# Step 7 (cont)

## The Application Process

(12 - 8 months out from graduation)

Submit university applications a month or so before deadline (records, essay, letter of recommendation)

Respond promptly to all college inquiries regarding your application being completed.

Be Patient



# Step 7 (cont)

## The Application Process

(6 - 4 months out from graduation)

Receive notification of acceptance from universities

Write to the college you decide to attend to accept their offer of admission.



Don't forget to write to other colleges that offered you admissions because other students will be waiting for your spot.



# CONGRATULATIONS

# Preparing to Leave Obtain Your U.S. Visa



Apply for a student visa once you've received an I-20 or DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility) from the college you will be attending.

***The college can't issue an I-20 or DS-2019 until they've admitted you***, determined your English proficiency (and you've arranged additional training if necessary), and they've established that your funding is sufficient to meet the institution's expenses.

For information about applying for a US visa, you should call the US Visa Information Service on 0900 USA Visa (0900 878 472) or refer to <http://newzealand.usembassy.gov/> and click on "visas to the US".



And the adventure begins....



# On line resources

[www.educationusa.state.gov](http://www.educationusa.state.gov)

[www.newzealand.usembassy.gov](http://www.newzealand.usembassy.gov)

*“Guide to Planning US College & University Admissions”  
(Contains funding, admissions, and scholarship information for  
undergraduate and graduate level study.)*

For more information please visit the Study in the US sections of  
Fulbright New Zealand’s website – [www.fulbright.org.nz](http://www.fulbright.org.nz) or contact  
one of the EducationUSA advisers:

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