Education USA

Supported by the U.S. Department of State

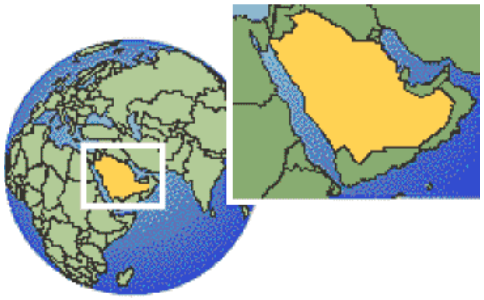
Study in the United States

A Guide for Students
Living in Saudi Arabia

www.EducationUSA.state.gov

Education Advising Offices in Saudi Arabia

The Education Advising Offices at the U.S. Embassy and Consulates are certified EducationUSA advising centers affiliated with the United States Department of State. EducationUSA centers promote U.S. higher education around the world by offering free, comprehensive, objective and timely information about educational opportunities in the United States and guidance to qualified individuals on how to best access those opportunities.



Education Advising Offices do not endorse or rank any college or university, nor do they endorse services provided by companies or organizations in the areas of test preparation, admissions, placement, language training or visa procurement.

Basic services available from the Education Advising Offices include:

- College counseling and guidance
- Standardized test information (i.e. TOEFL iBT, SAT, etc.)
- Bulletins, handouts and education-related publications
- Study in the USA presentations
- Pre-departure orientations

This booklet provides preliminary information on study in the United States. For more information about Education Advising Offices affiliated with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, please see http://educationUSA.state.gov and http://exchanges.state.gov

RIYADH

Tel: +966-11-488-3800 Ext. 4505 or 4207
E-mail: EduRiyadh@state.gov
Website: http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/education-and-culture.html
Hours: Sunday – Thursday, 8:00am-5:00pm
No walk-in services provided, by appointment only

JEDDAH

Tel: +966-12-1667-0080 Ext. 4151
E-mail: EduJeddah@state.gov
Website: http://jeddah.usconsulate.gov/jeddah/advising.html
Hours: Sunday – Thursday, 8:00am-5:00pm
No walk-in services provided, by appointment only

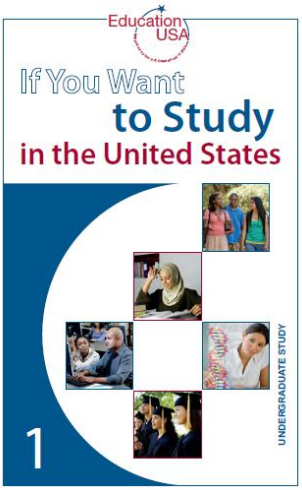
DHAHRAN

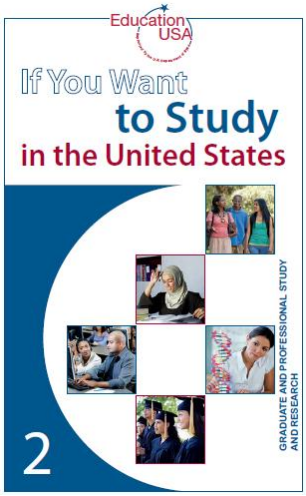
Tel: +966-13-330-3200 Ext. 3044
E-mail: EduDhahran@state.gov
Website: http://dhahran.usconsulate.gov/dhahran/resources.html
Hours: Sunday – Thursday, 8:00am-5:00pm
No walk-in services provided, by appointment only

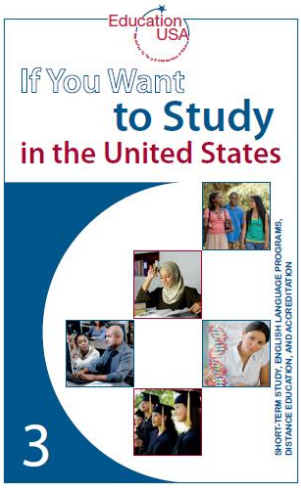
Resources for Study in the USA

The following resources are available in Arabic and English.
To download, go to the education page of the U.S. Embassy-Riyadh website.
http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/saudi-arabia/resources.html

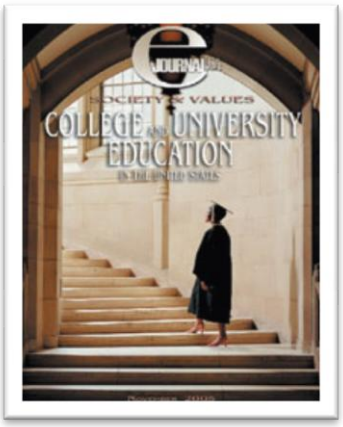
IF YOU WANT TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES SERIES







E-JOURNALS



PRE-DEPARTURE MATERIALS

- ✓ Pre-departure Orientation PowerPoint
- ✓ Pre-departure Orientation Narrative
- ✓ SEVIS: Maintaining Your Status
- ✓ 3-1-1 Transportation Security Administration Advice on Liquids
- ✓ Helpful Information to Have as you Depart to the USA
- ✓ U.S. Visit and Information and Procedures

Study in the United States

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the structure of U.S. higher education?

Higher education in the U.S. is comprised of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Undergraduate programs generally grant associate's degrees (two years) and bachelor's degrees (four years). Master's degrees and doctoral degrees are conferred at the graduate level.

Level	Year in School	U.S. Degree	Saudi Equivalent
High School	Grade 9 - Freshman Grade 10 - Sophomore Grade 11- Junior Grade 12 - Senior	High School Diploma	General Secondary Examinations Certificate
Under-Graduate	1st Year - Freshman 2nd Year - Sophomore 3rd Year - Junior 4th Year - Senior	Associate's Degree Bachelor's Degree	 Bachelor's Degree
Graduate	1st Year 2nd Year 3-8 Years	Master's Degree Ph.D	Master's Degree Ph.D

2. Are "colleges" and "institutes" in the U.S. as good as "universities"?

Degree-granting institutions, accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-approved accrediting organization, can be referred to by any of these terms. Colleges and institutes are not inferior to universities. As a general rule, colleges tend to be smaller than universities and may only offer undergraduate degrees, while universities offer graduate degrees. Institutes often specialize in certain fields such as business, engineering and art.

3. What is a community college?

Community colleges provide two-year associate's degree programs as well as technical and vocational programs. They can be public or private institutions and are sometimes called junior colleges or two-year colleges. Tuition costs are often lower at two-year institutions, and many have articulation/twinning agreements to allow students in transfer programs to move easily into the third year of a bachelor's degree program at a university. A growing number of international students choose to study at community colleges.

A student at Owens Community College in Ohio works on a drawing of house plans for an art class. Michael Lehmkuhle, AP/WWP

4. I am a Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) scholarship recipient. Where do I go for information and assistance?

Please refer to the MOHE website (www.mohe.gov.sa) for up-to-date information as there are rules and regulations attached to scholarship programs. The MOHE provides an Admission Center to help scholarship recipients and it is important to follow the center's advice about MOHE-approved ESL schools and MOHE-approved universities. **Note:** Procedures and requirements for MOHE scholarship recipients may be different from information presented in this FAQ section.

5. When do I begin my search for universities in the States?

It is recommended that you begin your search 12-18 months before your intended departure date. For example if you plan to start study in the U.S. in September 2014, you should begin your search in June/July of 2013 or earlier.

6. How do I begin my search?

Ask yourself a few questions:

- What do I want to study?
- Does my secondary school coursework prepare me for the demands of this major?
- Can I meet admission requirements?
- What kind of environment do I want to live in? (large city, small town, cold climate, close to family, etc.)
- Do I want to go to a small (Under 5,000), medium (10,000+) or large (20,000+) school?
- What is my budget and how much can my family afford?
- Do I want to go to a private or public institution?
- Do I want to attend a university that has services for international students?

There are some excellent websites that can help narrow your search. Information on college/university search engines is available under search options, colleges and universities at: http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/saudi-arabia/resources.html

7. Can you give me a list of the top schools in business?

Many ranking lists are created by magazines and other publications. No list has official status or is endorsed by the U.S. government. Rankings are likely to be subjective and are generally based on a wide range of criteria that do not necessarily include academic standards. The more established rankings may give you a starting point for your decision; however, the "best" college or university for you will be based on many other factors, including how you feel about a program's potential to meet your needs.

8. How many universities should I apply to?

If you have conducted thorough research with the Ministry of Higher Education Admission Center and/or an Education Advisor, you will probably only need to apply to 6-12 institutions.

9. What documents must I submit for admission to U.S. colleges and universities?

Individual institutions set their own admission requirements and application procedures. Check college/university

websites and/or printed application materials for details. You may be required to submit the following items before universities evaluate your application:

- Completed application form
- Application fee (No cash! Most schools prefer a certified check or international money order, or through a credit card)
- Official copy of your academic transcripts stamped by the Ministry of Education/Higher Education. If the transcript is not in English, then it needs to be translated by a Ministry of Education/ Higher Education-approved translator and then stamped by the Ministry of Education/Higher Education
- Personal statement
- Two or three letters of recommendation
- Financial documents proving you have adequate funds, or a scholarship, to study in the U.S.
- Official standardized test scores sent directly to the university from the testing company (TOEFL iBT/SAT/GMAT/GRE, etc.)

All items must be submitted according to application deadlines set by the college. Deadlines can range anywhere from 3 to 9 months before classes start.

10. Which standardized tests will I be required to take?

Generally speaking, the TOEFL iBT is required of all international applicants, regardless of the intended field or level of study. Undergraduate students are often required to take the SAT Reasoning Test. Some competitive institutions require scores from the SAT Subject Tests. With the exception of GMAT for MBA programs, graduate students are almost always required to take the GRE General Test. A few graduate programs will require scores from the GRE Subject Tests in addition to the GRE General Test. You need a strong command of both spoken and written English. If an applicant cannot speak English, then that individual would need to enroll in an Intensive English or English as a Second Language (ESL) program and achieve a designated level of proficiency prior to matriculation. Always check university websites for specific details on standardized test requirements.

11. I would like to take a preparation course for a standardized test (TOEFL iBT, SAT, GRE, etc). Do you offer these classes at the Embassy/Consulates?

The U.S. Embassy/Consulates do not provide classes for the public. There may be some language schools or institutes in your area that offer preparation courses. Most students preparing for a standardized test purchase study guides at local bookstores, such as Jarir Bookstore. There are also online preparation courses and practice tests. For more information contact the Education Advising Offices at the Embassy/Consulates.

12. The university to which I am applying asked that my transcripts be reviewed by a credential evaluator. What does this mean?

Universities might evaluate your grades and documents themselves, or they might require international applicants to pay an outside company, called a credential evaluator, to evaluate them. Follow application directions provided on the institution's website. Some universities will indicate what credential evaluation company they want you to use. For a list of evaluators, go to the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services website at http://www.naces.org/members.htm

13. My application requires a notarized signature. How can I get my signature notarized?
Some applications, mostly for medical schools, require an applicant's signature to be notarized. This service is offered through American Citizen Services at the U.S. Embassy/Consulates General. Details can be found at http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service/notarials2.html

14. When are the university application deadlines?
For students interested in starting programs in August/September, deadlines may be as early as November of the previous year. Since every university has its own deadlines, it is best to locate these dates on each university's website. There are also universities that have rolling admissions where applications can be submitted throughout the year and decisions made on a monthly basis.

15. How much does it cost to study in the U.S.?
The cost of study in the United States varies widely among universities and the cost of living from one location to the next. Comprehensive costs can range from US$16,000 per year to over US$60,000 per year. Scholarships for Saudi students are available from the Ministry of Higher Education and also from a limited number of U.S. universities. The figures listed below are designed to provide some indication of how much students can expect to pay for 12 months of study in the U.S.

Finances Per Year			
Tuition	$8,000-$40,000	Personal Expenses	$1,200-$3,000
Room –board	$4,000-$15,000	Travel to USA	$1,500-$2,000
Book-Supplies	$500-$1,500	*Total*	*$16,000-$63,000*
Health Insurance	$500-$1,000		

16. How do I find out if a college/university is accredited by a U.S. Department of Education (USDOE)-approved accrediting organization?
The U.S. Department of Education has an online database which provides the names of postsecondary institutions and programs accredited by a USDOE-approved accrediting organization. The database has multiple search functions, allowing search options by name, location, type of institution, accrediting association, etc. If you have difficulty navigating these websites, contact an Education Advising Office at the U.S. Embassy/Consulates and an advisor will assist you.

- U.S. Department of Education Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions & Programs: http://www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation/

- The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is another website that lists postsecondary institutions and programs that are accredited by USDOE-approved accrediting organizations. Council for Higher Education Accreditation http://www.chea.org

17. Will my degree be recognized/equalized in Saudi Arabia?
If you are a Saudi citizen, you will want to make sure that the colleges/universities you apply to are recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) in Saudi Arabia. The MOHE has a list of approved schools by major and degree type on its website, www.mohe.gov.sa This is important

because when you return to Saudi Arabia you will want to have your degree equalized by the MOHE.

18. I went to university in the United States and I need to have my documents authenticated/attested. How do I do this?

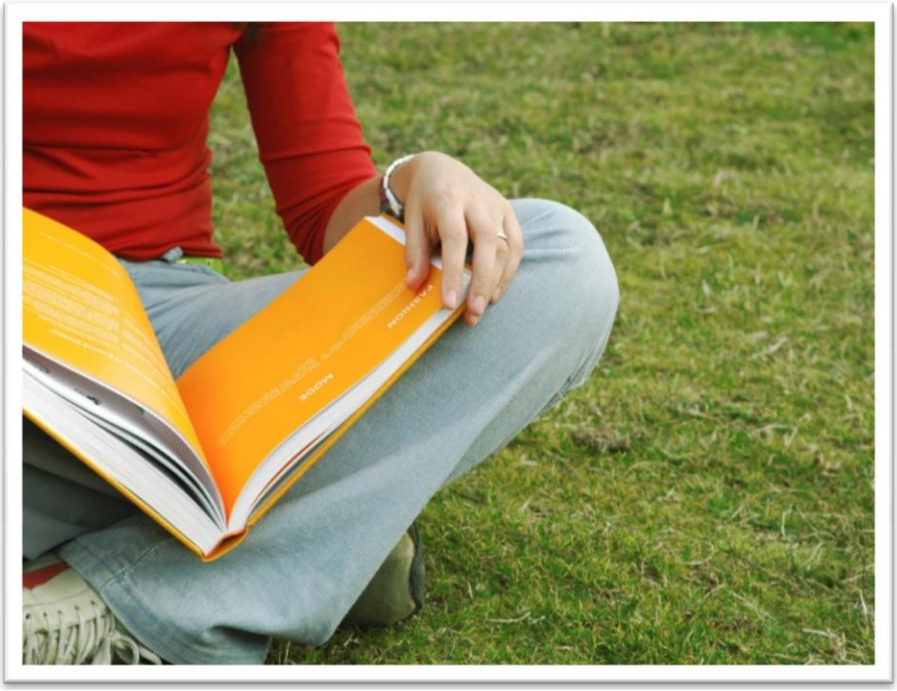
The Education Advising Offices at the U.S. Embassy/Consulates DOES NOT authenticate/attest educational documents. The Saud Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) in the United States does provide degree verification services. To apply for verification of a university document, follow the directions listed on the SACM website at http://www.sacm.org/studentservices/degree.aspx

19. I need to get my U.S. degree certified/authenticated by the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission to the USA in Washington, DC. How do I do this?

It is possible that a Ministry will refuse to accept an authentication of the U.S. Embassy/Consulate. You should then contact the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia/Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission in Fairfax, Virginia to get your degree certified. Their website provides document certification regulations/requirements. http://www.sacm.org/StudentServices/Degree.aspx

20. I want to earn my degree online because I am unable to leave Saudi Arabia to study. How do I begin to search for a U.S. Department of Education-approved college/university?

Distance education is a popular way to study and you will want to make sure that the college/university you enroll in is accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-approved accrediting organization. There are MANY online colleges and universities that are not recognized. If in doubt, contact an Education Advising Office for assistance when selecting programs. If you hope to have your online degree recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education, check with them prior to enrollment.



What Students Should Know Before Enrolling in Distance Education

Where Are You Thinking of Enrolling?

- By whom is this institution accredited?
- Is the accrediting association recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or CHEA?

What Program Are You Thinking of Enrolling in?

- Are there any residency requirements?
- What other institutions offer similar programs and do they grant the same credentials for similar work?
- How does the variety of courses offered compare with similar on-site programs?
- How are course materials made available to students?
- What arrangements have been made for me to complete any required laboratory requirements?

Who Designs, Delivers and Monitors the Program?

- Who designs and delivers the program (and if they are different, how is the delivery controlled)?
- Where can the qualifications and current professional activities of the faculty be found in writing?
- What arrangements are made to ensure faculty-student and student-student interaction?

Other Expectations of the Institution and Available Student Services

- What academic, linguistic, and technical skills does the institution require for students enrolling in this program?
- What equipment must I have access to and how will the institution help me in any problems that arise concerning the interface between my equipment and their offerings?
- What counseling, career, financial aid, or other non-classroom services are provided for distance education students?
- Is there a student handbook for distance education students? If not, where are these issues addressed?
- What is the process for filing complaints?
- What is the institution's refund policy if I should have to withdraw from this program?

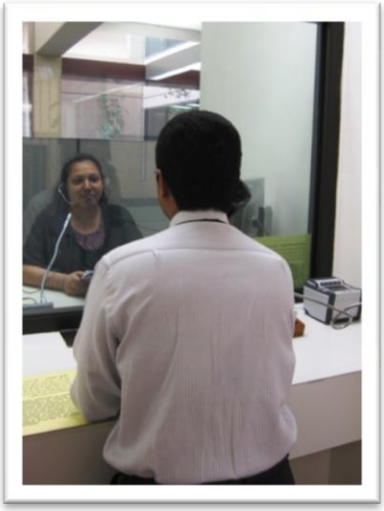
Final Check on the Integrity of the Degree

- How can I assure outsiders that the degree represents an assessment of my work rather than that of someone else?
- Where is there official representation of faculty qualifications, the program's course sequence and requirements, the nature of student/faculty interaction and assumptions about technical skills?

© Dr. Amy Kirle Lezberg,
Consultant in Higher Education and Accreditation

U.S. Mission Saudi Arabia
Consular Section

Applying for a Student Visa to Travel to the United States



The United States welcomes thousands of bright and enthusiastic students from around the world each year. They are drawn to the cultural and academic diversity that exists in our colleges and universities, and they benefit from the challenging and innovative programs available at a range of schools.

The United States continues to be the first choice for many Saudi students looking to study abroad and we want to make the visa process as smooth as possible. We know that the visa application process can sometimes seem overwhelming, especially when you are also applying to schools, for scholarships, and preparing to travel and live far from home.

It is very important to carefully plan and manage your visa application process to ensure you are prepared for your interview and have enough time before the start date of your studies. For your convenience, the DS-160 visa application is available online in English and Arabic. Please ensure you answer every single question yourself, as incorrect and incomplete forms will be turned away at the time of appointment. If you choose to hire a service to complete this form, we strongly recommend you review each line for accuracy before arriving at your visa interview to avoid unnecessary delay.

The following guidelines are intended to help you better understand and prepare for the visa application process so it goes as smoothly as possible. All of this information is also available on the Embassy's website: http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/visas.html. Be sure to review the website information thoroughly and often.

There are 6 steps to getting a student visa.

1. Get a visa photo (taken within the last 6 months; 5cm x 5cm; white background; with the hairline visible , without modification)
2. Visit www.ustraveldocs.com/sa to complete the DS-160 online application form, print a deposit slip for your fee payment OR pay online with a credit card, and to schedule your interview
3. Obtain form I-20 with your admission to your program of study
4. If you did not pay the fee online, take the deposit slip you printed out at www.ustraveldocs.com/sa. and pay the visa application fees at Samba Bank. Keep the receipt. Once you have paid the fee, you may then schedule your interview online.
5. Go for the interview at the U.S. Embassy/ Consulate
6. Additional processing as needed by the U.S. Embassy/Consulate prior to final issuance of the student visa

For more information and up-to-date changes,
please be sure to visit our website at http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/visas.html

Student Visa Application Tips

1. Schedule an interview at least three months or more before you plan to depart.
In some cases, it can take several months to receive a visa. That's why we recommend you apply early. The consular section recommends that you apply between 3 and 4 months before you plan on studying in the United States. If your available appointment time is less than three weeks before your school start date, you may apply for an emergency appointment after scheduling a regular appointment. The U.S. Mission gives priority to prospective students in scheduling visa interviews.

2. Come prepared for the interview. Many visas are delayed when students do not bring the proper required documentation. To avoid this, make sure you bring the necessary documents:

Application Package:

- Passport valid for at least 6 months
- Confirmation page from the DS-160
- Form I-20, issued by the institute/college/university in the United States
- 5x5 cm photo (recent photo, white background, showing hairline, NOT altered in any way)

Supporting Documents:

- Scholarship letter or bank documents for the last 3 months
- School transcripts of all schools attended, including high school
- SEVIS Receipt – payable at http://www.fmjfee.com

3. Don't stress about the interview
During the interview, the consul is interested to know things about your background, such as why you want to travel to the United States, what school you will attend, how you will pay for your education, and your general goals. Virtually all of the Embassy's consuls speak Arabic, and there is always an Arabic-speaking translator available if you need one in the interview. Over 95% of Saudi student visa applications are approved.

4. Expect delays
It is not uncommon for visas to take up to three months or longer to process. While the embassy will work to process your visa as quickly as possible, some delays cannot be avoided. At the end of the interview the consul will tell you the estimated time required for processing, but this is only an estimate, and processing times may vary. If you need your passport for travel, the consul will gladly return your passport after the interview. This will not affect your visa processing. If more processing is required, the U.S. Embassy will contact you to return your passport so that the visa may be printed. NOTE: *Student visas cannot be expedited, so the only way to make sure the visa comes on time is to apply well in advance.*

Application Timeline for Undergraduate Study in the USA

Junior Year – Grade 11

September

- Begin research on accredited colleges/universities by using the Internet, software, and reference books. Visit or call your School Counselor or Education Advisor.
- Take online career assessments, interest inventories and/or study skills courses.
- Talk with your School Counselor about your career assessment results.
- Take challenging coursework and focus on producing good results.
- Go to the TOEFL iBT website and take a practice test: http://www.ets.org/toefl

October

- Read online student newspapers from colleges/universities to acquire a different perspective on the institutions.
- Ask your School Counselor if individual representatives from colleges/universities will be visiting the Kingdom.
- Get the dates for possible College Fairs. Attend with your mother or father and ask questions.

November

- To enhance your perspective, pursue discussion with your School Counselor and with people you know who have studied in the U.S.
- Continue your online research, considering factors such as: field of study, quality of institution, ease of admission, location, size, cost, availability of financial aid, housing and international student services.
- Many schools of architecture, film, and the arts will require a portfolio of your work. If this is your area of interest, discover what needs to be in the portfolio you will send one. Begin your preparation.
- E-mail colleges/universities to request information/applications. Most applications are available online. Use the passport spelling of your name and use this spelling throughout the search/application process.
- Create a special e-mail account so that you can keep university correspondence organized. When creating your e-mail address, try to use your name as it appears in your passport.

December

- Get SAT Reasoning Test information from the website http://sat.collegeboard.com and review format and questions.
- Take an online SAT Reasoning Test to build your test-taking skills.
- Continue your virtual visits, becoming more and more knowledgeable about application requirements, procedures, and costs. Learn what colleges/universities are looking for in a candidate. List the institutions that interest you most and why.

January

- Review all the college/university materials you have been collecting and begin to narrow your list from the top 25 to the top 10.
- Discuss this list with your family and your School Counselor. Consider the cost of application fees as you decide on your top 5-10 choices.
- Consider at least one "safe" choice which is a school you are sure you will be admitted to, particularly if you are applying to highly selective colleges/universities.
- Consider applying to summer programs and begin discussion with your family about possible summer visits to university campuses.

February

- Decide which one of the SAT Reasoning Test dates best fits your schedule. (If you are planning to apply to colleges/universities that also require the SAT Subject Tests, then you'll need to take the May SAT Reasoning Test and, at the latest, the December SAT Subject Tests.)
- Discuss with your family, how you will pay for the transportation, living expenses, and tuition/fees.
- Attend College Fairs and ask questions.
- If applicable, go online to research college/university sources of financial aid for international students and, with the help of your School Counselor or Education Advisor, discover if there are sources for financial aid available. Then, download the appropriate financial aid form/applications/materials.
- If you have been enrolled in more than one Secondary School, request that your previous school records be sent to your current School Counselor.

March

- Register online for the May SAT Reasoning Test. Inform your School Counselor of your plan.
- Register online for TOEFL iBT.
- Continue virtual visits to your top choice colleges/universities and, if you intend to apply for financial aid, be sure to download their financial aid applications for international students.

April

- Plan to attend the International Exhibition and Conference on Higher Education (IECHE) in Riyadh from April 15-18 at Riyadh Expo Hall. University representatives from the United States will be attending. Go to their website for an up-to-date list of attendees. www.ieche.com.sa Continue practice sessions for the SAT Reasoning Test.
- Continue discussion with your School Counselor/Education Advisor about your college/university choices.

May

- Take the SAT Reasoning Test.
- Begin to think about whom you wish to ask for the confidential letters of recommendation that will be sent to colleges/universities.

June

- Look for opportunities to improve your English language skills and/or visit U.S. campuses over the summer.

Senior Year – Grade 12

September

- Carefully review your college application instructions and establish a timetable for the deadlines you will have to meet for each application.
- Make certain you are aware of policy/procedures for sending applications.
- Review your SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests, and TOEFL iBT results with your School Counselor to determine if you'll need to retake any of these examinations.
- If you need to retake a test, register online for the October SAT Reasoning Test, the TOEFL iBT, or register online for the SAT Subject Tests. If an essay is required for your application, begin your first draft.
- If you need to have confidential recommendations, give the appropriate forms to your School Counselor (Secondary School Report) and Teachers (Teacher Evaluation).

October

- If a portfolio is required for the major you have chosen, select/organize samples of your work.
- Complete the essay for your applications. Make copies.
- Complete the applications using copies of the original forms and ask your School Counselor to look at them. Then, transfer the data to the original and be sure to make copies of the finished product. This includes online applications. Be sure to give your School Counselor your online application number. Make sure any writing is legible.
- If you intend to apply for aid, complete financial aid applications with your family. If you don't intend to apply for aid, ask your parents for their bank official to complete the International Student Certification of Finances Form, which guarantees that adequate funds are available for your educational needs, and include it with your application. Make copies of all documents.
- Make sure that your School Counselor has several copies of your official transcript from previously attended high schools. If English translations are necessary, get them done.
- Get dates for College Fairs/representatives traveling the region.

November

- Submit your applications with fees (and portfolios if required) to the School Counseling Office by the end of November. Do not wait for the published university deadlines. Do NOT send cash.
- Be sure to request that your scores (TOEFL iBT, SAT Reasoning Test and, if applicable, SAT Subject Tests) are sent to all colleges and universities on your list.
- Check that confidential teacher recommendations have been sent to the School Counselor and college.
- Check to be certain that your High School has sent your official supporting documents to all the colleges/universities on your list.

December

- If applicable, give your School Counselor the Mid-Year Report Form and request that it be sent at the end of the first semester/term.
- Be prepared to reply immediately to any requests for additional information from your colleges/universities.

January

- Keep up a good standard of work in class since the final transcript will be sent at the end of the academic year.
- If there are any additional financial aid forms that have been left incomplete, be certain to finish and send them now. Make copies.
- Some institutions require interviews, so a representative might contact you in January or February.

February

- Continue discussion with your family about the financial plan for your study.
- Initiate the visa application process at: http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/visas.html

March

- If you applied to colleges/universities with rolling and/or open admission, you might be asked to send a deposit soon.

April

- Plan to attend the International Exhibition and Conference on Higher Education (IECHE) in Riyadh from April 15-18 at Riyadh Expo Hall. University representatives from the United States will be attending. Go to their website for an up-to-date list of attendees. www.ieche.com.sa
- Many colleges/universities inform students this month as to whether or not they have been accepted.
- If more than one college accepts you, select your first choice with the help of your family and School Counselor and then notify the other universities that you do not plan to attend.
- Send your reply and deposit by the stated deadline.
- Keep your School Counselor aware of decisions and developments.
- If you have not done so already, you must begin the visa process now.

May

- If you haven't heard from a university, ask your School Counselor to make contact with the office of admissions.
- If you have incomplete materials regarding acceptance and/or financial aid status, make contact with the office of admissions.
- Review Pre-departure procedures as provided by the Education Advisor at the Embassy/ Consulates.
- Confirm housing at your first choice college/university.

June

- Continue visa application process at the Embassy/Consulate.
- Remind your Secondary School that you wish to have your final transcript sent to your college/university and be certain to give the correct address.
- Once you have your visa, make travel arrangements so that you arrive on time for new student orientation. Do not arrive late.

College Worksheet

Use the following worksheet to help organize your college search.

Characteristics	College One	College Two	College Three	College Four
Major				
Type of Institution				
Size				
Location				
Housing				
TOEFL iBT/IELTS				
SAT/ACT				
Cost				
MOHE-approved				
ESL Program				
Deadline				

Where Will You Study in the United States?

LOCATION IS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION

- Climate
- Cost of Living
- Urban vs. Rural
- Facilities and Services in the Area

Every region of the United States offers both urban and rural settings. City-based campuses offer a variety of eating, entertainment, cultural and shopping facilities. A rural university may mean a quieter, more college-centered environment. Climate is another consideration. From the four seasons in the Northeast to the desert in Arizona and a sub-tropical climate in Florida, the variety is almost endless. Also keep in mind accessibility to local facilities and services that could be useful to you in your studies. For example, if you wish to major in art history, does the school offer programs that involve students with nearby museums and art galleries?

Exchange Programs
U.S. Mission-Public Affairs, Cultural Section

The Government of the United States sponsors a number of programs to assist Saudi scholars who wish to study and conduct research in the United States as well as scholars from the United States who wish to study or conduct research in Saudi Arabia. These exchange programs are open to Saudi citizens (must not have dual U.S. citizenship) living in Saudi Arabia.

For more information about Educational Exchange Programs eligibility, application, deadlines and programs, please contact the Cultural Affairs Office in the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy-Riyadh at:

Tel:	011-488-3800 Ext. 4995	Fax:	011-488-3989
E-mail:	ExchangeProgramsSaudiArabia@state.gov		
Website:	http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/education-and-culture/exchange-programs.html		

Listed below is a brief description of exchange programs offered through the U.S. Mission in Saudi Arabia.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. The program has provided almost 318,000 participants - chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential - with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

The **Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program** was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by former Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The Fulbright Program provides grants to approximately 850 foreign scholars from over 100 countries to lecture and/or conduct postdoctoral research at U.S. institutions for an academic semester to a full academic year.

The **Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program**, a component of the Fulbright Student Program, provides young teachers of English as a Foreign Language the opportunity to refine their teaching skills and broaden their knowledge of American culture and customs while strengthening the instruction of foreign language at colleges and universities in the United States. Fellows and U.S. students have a unique opportunity to learn about each other's cultures and customs, and to build mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries. FLTA fellows from Saudi Arabia will provide teaching assistance for up to two Arabic language classes and typically live in language dorms and facilitate language clubs.

The **Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program** sends approximately 800 American scholars and professionals per year to approximately 130 countries, where they lecture and/or conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields.

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program brings accomplished professionals from designated countries to the United States at a midpoint in their careers for a year of study and related professional experience. The program provides a basis for establishing long-lasting, productive partnerships and relationships between citizens of the United States and their professional counterparts in other countries, fostering an exchange of knowledge and mutual understanding throughout the world.

The **Fulbright Specialists Program,** a short-term complement to the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, sends U.S. faculty and professionals to serve as expert consultants on curriculum, faculty development, institutional planning and related subjects at overseas academic institutions for a period of 2 to 6 weeks.

Study of the U.S. Institutes are six-week post-graduate level seminars in the U.S. designed for multinational groups of foreign university faculty, scholars, secondary school teachers, educators and ministry officials. The ultimate objective of these programs is to promote the development and improvement of courses and teaching about the United States of America at colleges, universities and secondary school systems abroad. Each institute focuses on a particular discipline or theme, and is planned and conducted by a U.S.-based host institution.

The **Near East and South Asia Undergraduate (NESA UGRAD) Program i**s a part of GLOBAL UGRAD, a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State. NESA UGRAD will award scholarships to outstanding students from countries of the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia for a one-year, undergraduate, non-degree studies program in the United States at a diverse network of accredited two- and four-year institutions.

Useful Websites

Search a variety of online databases to find colleges and universities that match your interests and visit their home pages to get more detailed information. Please note that not all colleges and universities found in online databases are accredited by one of the regional or national accrediting organizations recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. To verify if a school is accredited by a recognized accrediting body, go to either the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) database. Also, please refer to the FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS section, question 16, or the ACCREDITATION section.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SEARCH

The CollegeBoard	http://www.collegeboard.com
Peterson's	http://www.petersons.com
Princeton Review	http://www.princetonreview.com
Hot Courses USA	http://www.hotcoursesusa.com
Colleges That Change Lives	http://www.ctcl.com
Gradschools.Com	http://www.gradschools.com
National Center for Education Statistics	http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator
Get Educated (Distance Learning)	http://www.geteducated.com

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Intensive English USA -Institute of International Education	http://www.intensiveenglishusa.org
University & College Intensive English Programs	http://www.uciep.org
Voice of America – Learning English	http://learningenglish.voanews.com
American English – U.S. Department of State	http://americanenglish.state.gov

SUMMER CAMPS

Education Guide for international students	http://www.boardingschoolsusa.com
Kids and Teen Summer Camps	http://www.mysummercamps.com
Summer Camp Directory and Guide	http://www.summercamps.com
Summer Session	http://summersession.com

Peterson's Summer Camps and Programs

http://www.petersons.com/college-search/summer-programs-camps-search.aspx

BOARDING SCHOOLS

The Association of Boarding Schools
http://www.schools.com

Education guide for international students of secondary school
http://www.boardingschoolsusa.com

Boarding School Review
http://www.boardingschoolreview.com

STANDARDIZED TESTS

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT)	http://www.ets.org/toefl
International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	http://www.ielts.org
ACT	http://www.act.org
SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests (SAT)	http://www.collegeboard.com
Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)	http://www.gre.org
General Management Admission Council (GMAT)	http://www.mba.com
Certified Public Accountant (CPA)	http://www.aicpa.org
Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)	http://www.ecfmg.org
United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE)	http://www.usmle.org
Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)	http://www.aamc.org
Dental Admission Testing Program (DAT)	http://www.ada.org
United States Licensure for International Dentists	http://www.ada.org
Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee (FPGEC)	http://www.nabp.net
Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS)	http://www.cgfns.org
Law School Admission Test (LSAT)	http://www.lsac.org
General Educational Development (GED)	http://www.prometric.com/ged

NOTES

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FINANCES, FINDANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

You will need a minimum of $16,000 per-year to cover the cost of tuition, room and board, books, and personal expenses. Some universities cost over $60,000. Saudi students who wish to study in the U.S. on Ministry of Higher Education Scholarships should work directly with the Ministry of Higher Education Admission Center. The following are websites that assist with financial aid process and preparing finances for education.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid	http://www.fafsa.ed.gov
Mapping Your Future	http://www.mapping-your-future.org
Salliemae	http://www.salliemae.com
OACAC	http://www.oacac.com/docs/intfinaid.pdf

ACCREDITATION

Explanation of Accreditation in the USA	http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html
U.S. Department of Education – Database	http://www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation
Council for Higher Education Accreditation	http://www.chea.org/search/default.asp

MINISTRIES / EMBASSY

If you are a Saudi Citizen, you will want to verify in advance that colleges/universities to which you apply are recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education in Saudi Arabia (MOHE). Contact the MOHE for a list of approved schools by major. Upon completion of your degree, you will then request equalization by the MOHE or the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission in Fairfax, Virginia.

Saudi Arabia Ministry of Education	http://www.moe.gov.sa
Saudi Arabia Ministry of Higher Education	http://www.mohe.gov.sa
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia	http://www.saudiembassy.net
Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission to the U.S.A.	http://www.sacm.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook – EducationUSA Saudi Arabia	www.facebook.com/EducationUSASaudiArabia
Facebook – U.S. Embassy Riyadh	Facebook.com/USEmbassyRiyadh
Facebook – U.S. Consulate Jeddah	https://www.facebook.com/USConsulateGeneralJeddah
Facebook – U.S. Consulate Dhahran	https://www.facebook.com/dhahran.usconsulate
Instragram – U.S. Embassy Riyadh	http://instagram.com/usembassyriyadh
YouTube Channel – U.S. Embassy Riyadh	http://www.youtube.com/USEmbassyRiyadh
Twitter – U.S. Embassy Riyadh	Twitter.com/USEmbassyRiyadh

EducationUSA Livestream Webinars

If you are interested in studying in the United States, now is the time to join one of our livestream webinars. From September to June there are a series of webinars that coincide with The Five Steps to U.S. Study. Each webinar is one hour long and is lead by a professional in the United States. To find the complete schedule and register for a webinar, go to the following link: http://www.educationusa.info/edusa_connects

1. Research Your Options (September, October)
2. Complete Your Application (November, December)
3. Finance Your Studies (January, February)
4. Apply for Your Visa (March, April)
5. Prepare for Your Departure (May, June)

In addition, our EducationUSA Saudi Arabia Advising Offices provide 40 livestream webinars in Arabic on a host of topics. This includes applying to English and a second language programs, undergraduate study, graduate study and pre-departure orientations. The schedule can be found at: http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/education-and-culture/educationusa-live-webinars.html

Did You Study in the USA?

The Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy and Consulate General's maintains an alumni database of graduates of U.S. institutions and participants of U.S. government sponsored exchange programs. Respondents will be advised of opportunities to connect with other U.S. alumni, and invited to future alumni events and activity.

If you studied in the United States and would like to be added, please email the following information to EduRiyadh@state.gov (Riyadh), EduJeddah@state.gov, (Jeddah) or EduDhahran@state.gov (Dhahran).

1. Name
2. Nationality
3. U.S. college/university where you earned your degree
4. Year of Graduation
5. Degree earned (BA/BS/MA/MS/PhD)
6. Major
7. Are you willing to be contacted in the future? (Yes/No)
8. E-mail
9. Mobile Phone Number
10. City of Residence

Glossary of Terms

Academic Advisor: A member of the faculty who helps and advises students on academic matters.

Academic Year: The period of formal instruction, usually September to May; may be divided into terms of varying lengths – semesters, trimesters, or quarters.

Accreditation: This is a voluntary process by which educational institutions meet standards established by an accrediting body. The U.S. Department of Education maintains a database of approval colleges and universities who earned accreditation from national, regional, or professional and specialized accrediting organizations.

Associate's Degree: The degree awarded after a two-year period of study towards a specific program; it can either be terminal or, in certain cases transferable (the first two years of a bachelor's degree).

Bachelor's Degree: Degree awarded upon completion of approximately four years of full-time study in liberal arts and sciences or professional subjects.

College: A postsecondary institution that provides an undergraduate education and, in some cases, master's level degrees. College, in a separate sense, is also a division of a university; for example, College of Business.

Conditional Acceptance: Tentative acceptance into a degree-seeking program, pending successful completion of stated requirements/conditions.

Core Requirements: Required courses for completion of degree program.

Course: Regularly scheduled class session of one to five hours (or more) per week during the term. A degree program is made up of a specified number of required and elective courses and varies from institution to institution.

Electives: Courses that students may choose to take for credit towards their intended degree, as opposed to courses that are core requirements of the degree program.

Grade Point Average (GPA): A system of recording achievement based on a numerical average of the grades attained in each course.

International Student Advisor: The person associated with a university who is in charge of providing information and guidance to international students in the areas of government regulations, visas, academic regulations, language, housing, travel plans, insurance and legal matters. This person usually works in the International Student Office and might also be referred to as the Designated School Official (DSO).

Major: The principal subject area for a higher degree program.

Minor: A lesser subject area that is secondary to the major but significant because of the credit hours earned by the student.

Non-resident Student: A student who does not meet residency requirements of the state while attending a public (state) university. Tuition fees and admissions policies may differ for residents and non-residents. International students are usually classified as non-residents.

Notarization: The certification of a document (or a statement or a signature) as authentic and true by a public official, known in the U.S. as a notary public, or by a lawyer who is also a commissioner of oaths. Sometimes schools of medicine will require an applicant's signature to be notarized.

Prerequisite: Program or course that a student is required to complete before being permitted to enroll in a more advanced program or course.

Quarter: Period of study, approximately 10-12 weeks duration or one-quarter of the academic year.

Registration: Process in which students select courses to be taken during a quarter, semester or trimester.

Semester: Period of study approximately 15-16 weeks or one-half the academic year.

SEVIS: Student and Exchange Visitor Information System is a networked computer system set up in the United States to track information on non-immigrant international students and scholars attending school in the U.S.

Trimester: Period of study consisting of approximately three equal terms of 16 weeks each during the academic year.

Transfer: The process of moving from one college or university to another to complete a degree.

Tuition: The money an institution charges for instruction and training (does not include the cost of books, housing, etc).

University: A large postsecondary institution that offers both undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Portions of Glossary and the location section is taken from
If You Want to Study in the United States, Book 1: Undergraduate Study,
a publication of the U.S. Department of State

iOS Android

Don't Wait! Download the EducationUSA mobile App today.
https://www.educationusa.info/mobileapp/

U.S. Embassy and Consulates, Saudi Arabia
Public Affairs Office – Education Advising Section
http://riyadh.usembassy.gov http://jeddah.usconsulate.gov http://dhahran.usconsulate.gov