

# USNEI



International Affairs Office, U.S. Department of Education

Feb 2008

<http://www.ed.gov/international/usnei/edlite-index.html>

## Visiting the United States: Financial Assistance for U.S. Study

The United States has an advanced post-industrial economy and the cost of living is correspondingly high. So is the cost of postsecondary education and private education at the primary and secondary levels. U.S. Consulates will require you to show that you have the means to finance at least a year's study in the United States as part of the process of qualifying for a student visa.

Despite the high costs, you should know that these same financial issues face all U.S. students and their families. There are resources available in the United States and elsewhere that may be helpful to you. The United States welcomes over half a million international students each year – more than any other country – so financial issues should not prevent you from being one of them!

### GENERAL RESOURCES

[EduPass](#) provides information on financing a U.S. education and living in the United States, tools for calculating costs, and links to sources of assistance.

[International Education Financial Aid \(IEFA\)](#) provides a database of many available scholarships from higher education institutions and other sources as well as links to various resources. Choose "United States" in the country menu of the Scholarship Database to obtain information on funding for U.S. study.

[Institute of International Education \(IIE\)](#) provides extensive information and resources on financial assistance for U.S. study, and also administers several scholarship and fellowship programs.

[NAFSA International Students Information](#) provides useful information and resources for students planning to study in the United States, especially at the undergraduate level.

[College Board Scholarship Search](#) is a database of funding sources for undergraduate study that can be accessed by international as well as U.S. students.

### FUNDING FOR U.S. STUDY FROM YOUR COUNTRY

Many countries offer foreign study funding in the form of grants or scholarships for their own nationals who are admitted to an approved program or institution abroad and who qualify for the assistance program. You should check with your national higher education authorities.

Go to [National Systems of Education](#) to locate links to national authorities for many different countries as well as links to the U.S. Embassy, which often has information on any available local funding for U.S. study as well as U.S. government programs.

### FUNDING FROM PRIVATE SOURCES

Grants for study and research are available from private foundations and non-profit organizations. They may also be available from private businesses; many employers will assist with the education of employees or employees' children. Funding may also be available from charitable and religious organizations. Check with your local mosque, church, temple, or synagogue; your or your parents' employer; charities or foundations in your country; as well as the resources below.

[Foundation Center International Students Page](#) provides guidance, training resources, and links to important directories for students seeking funding to study in the United States.

[Foundation Center Reference Guide for International Students](#) is a directory of links to organizations that fund international students or provide information resources.

[NAFA Scholarships Directory](#) is a linked list of various competitive scholarship programs, some of which are available to international students, maintained by the National Association of Fellowship Advisors.

Various specific scholarship, fellowship, and exchange programs exist in the U.S. higher education system. Among the well-known types of privately administered assistance programs are the following, with any restrictions indicated:

[AAUW International Fellowships](#) (female graduate students)

[ACLS Fellowship Competitions](#) (specific disciplines only)

[American Councils Program List](#) (specific countries and regions)

[AMIDEAST Exchange and Scholarship Programs](#) (Middle East and nearby countries)

[Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program](#)

[IREX Educational Programs](#) (Eastern Europe and CIS countries)

[Margaret McNamara Memorial Found](#) (developing countries)

[Open Society Scholarship Programs](#) (varies by program)

[Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships](#) >

## **INSTITUTIONAL AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE**

Many U.S. academic institutions have their own resources for assisting international students. It is important for you to check with the international admissions office to discover if you may be eligible for any institutional, community, or state assistance that may be available.

## **U.S. GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS**

The U.S. government does not provide general scholarship assistance for international students, nor are international students eligible for loans or grants provided to U.S. citizens and permanent residents by the U.S. Department of Education or other federal agencies.

There are several exchange programs administered by the U.S. government that do provide assistance to qualified international students.

[Exchange Programs to the United States](#) provides information on all the educational and cultural exchange programs administered by the U.S. Department of State, including the Fulbright Program and others at all education levels.

[Fulbright Program](#) is the flagship U.S. exchange program for international students at the graduate level.

[Search Designated Sponsors](#) is a searchable database of approved sponsors for student and professional exchange visitors participating in U.S. Department of State exchange programs.

[Interagency Working Group \(IAWG\)](#) provides information and resources on federal exchange programs in all agencies and links to agency websites.

## **NON-GOVERNMENTAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS**

Several exchange programs and agencies exist that are either partially sponsored by federal agencies or cooperate with the U.S. Department of State in broadening the opportunities for exchanges. Some, but not all, of these programs provide financial assistance for participants. You should consult individual programs for further information.

[Council for Standards in International Education and Travel \(CSIET\)](#) provides information about private exchanges for school-age students and school teachers as well as a directory of exchange programs approved by CSIET.

[Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange](#) is an organization of private exchange providers for students and educators at all levels that provides information resources and directories of exchange programs.

[Mobility International USA \(MIUSA\)](#) provides information for students with disabilities who may be interested in exchange programs, important resources, and links to exchange programs with accommodations. The MIUSA National Clearinghouse is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

See also:     **[Working in the United States](#)**  
                  **[Studying in the United States](#)**  
                  **[Recognition of Foreign Qualifications](#)**

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