



EDITION 01

# CAMPUS

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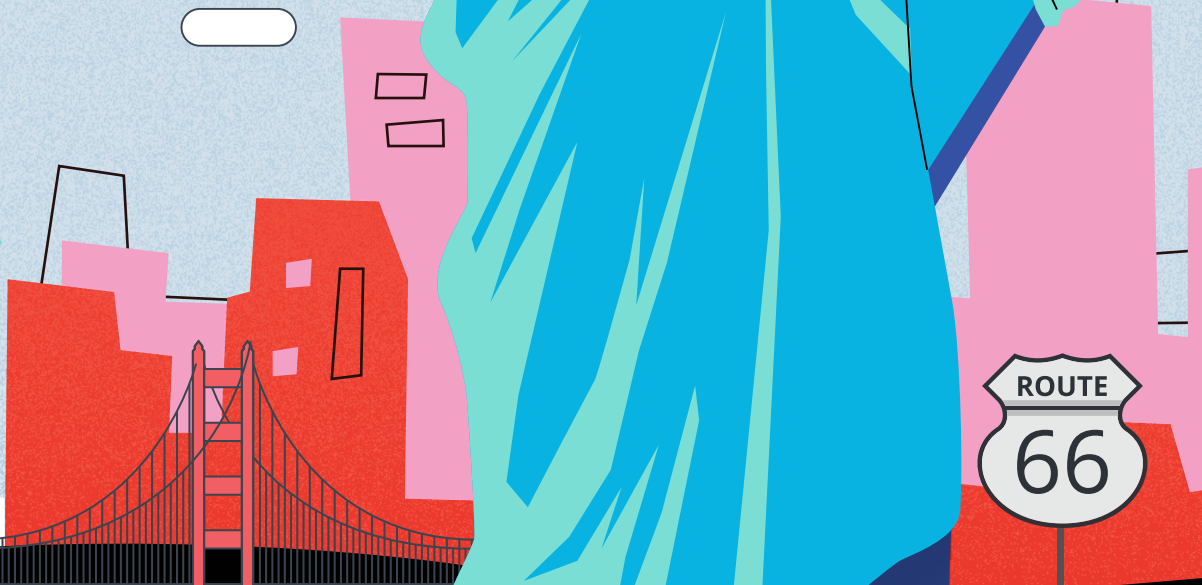
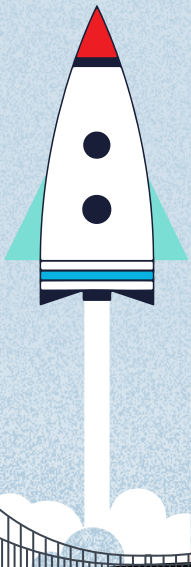
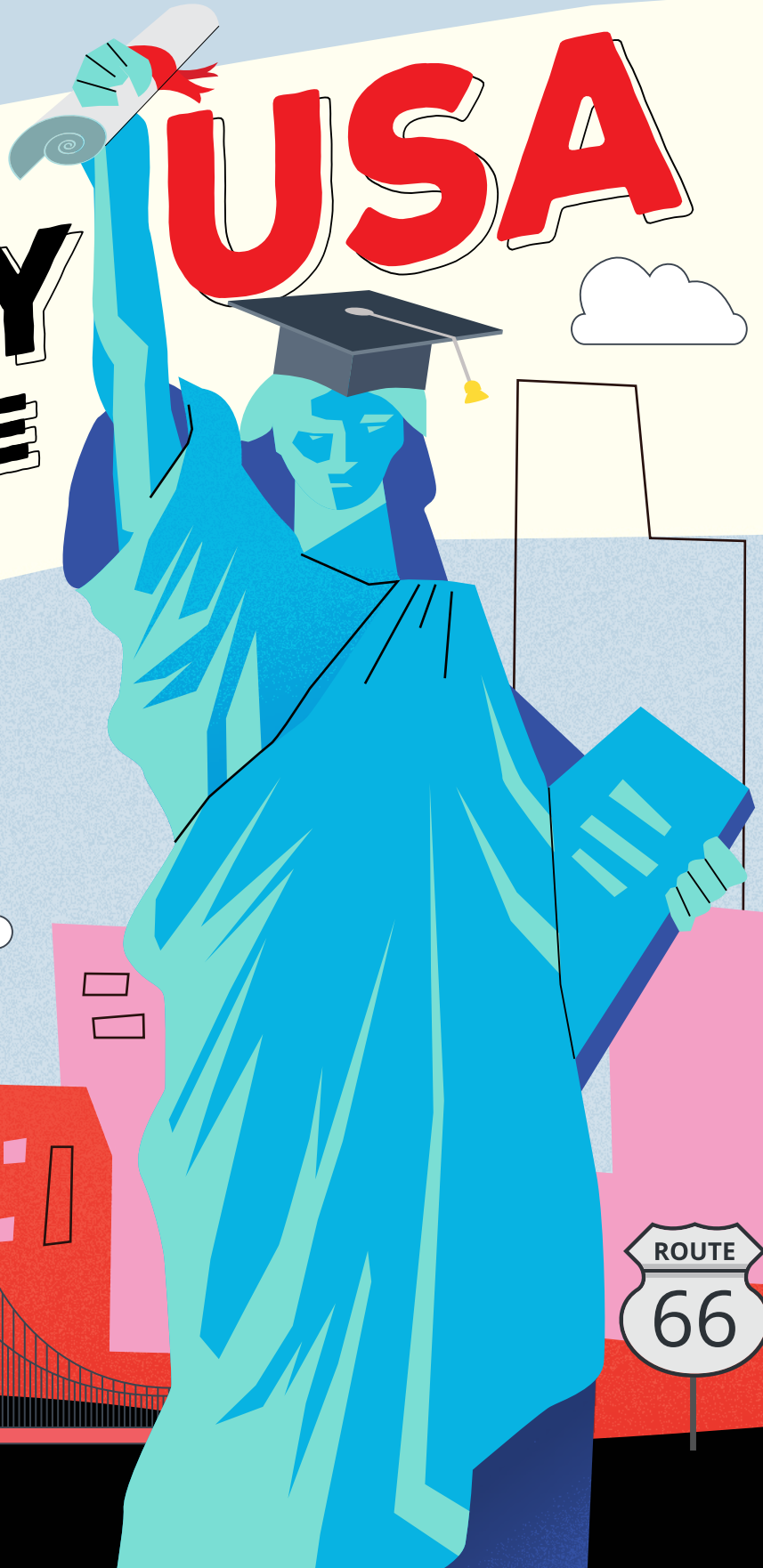
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# STUDY IN THE



# USA



# StudyUSA Special Contents

2020

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EducationUSA is a U.S. Department of State network of over 400 international student advising centres in more than 170 countries.

Welcome to this very special U.S. edition of Campus Magazine!



My colleagues and I at the U.S. Embassy in Singapore encourage you to consider studying at one of the 4,700 accredited colleges and universities in the United States.

Graduates of U.S. universities have gone on to become leaders and innovators in every field imaginable. That's because the best and brightest students and faculty from around the world go to the United States to pursue the very best educational opportunities. More than one million international students are enrolled in U.S. higher education institutions, including nearly 5,000 Singaporeans. Did you know that more than half of Singapore's current cabinet members have studied in the United States?

U.S. colleges and universities take pride in providing safe, welcoming environments for all students. They especially value international students for the unique, diverse perspectives they provide, which better prepare all of us for a successful future in an interconnected world.

As you begin exploring the many options for your future studies, I hope you will strongly consider U.S. colleges and universities in your search. I am confident that studying in the United States will open doors to a bright future full of possibilities. Your U.S. education experience will change your life.

Rafik Mansour  
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.  
**U.S. Embassy Singapore**  
University of California, Irvine and National Defense University Alumnus

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## NETWORKING & EMPLOYMENT

For many international students, another goal of studying in the U.S. is to build their networks, land internships or training opportunities, and to seek job opportunities after graduation.

There are plenty of opportunities for students to expand their networks. You can form friendships with your fellow students or professors, or be part of student clubs – including fraternities, sororities, and student interest groups. You never know where that network will lead you down the road professionally.

There are also networking events sponsored by leading companies at campus talks and conferences. In addition, many schools have corporate partnerships where students can visit and learn about the partner companies, and even participate in joint research projects on the latest technologies.

Also, it doesn't hurt to participate in on-campus job and career fairs, which often have representatives from multinational companies from across the U.S. and the globe. There are even some job fairs that are for certain fields of study such as computer science, engineering, and more.

## QUALITY OF EDUCATION

The U.S. does not compromise on learning – a typical Bachelor's degree takes four years to complete. The first two years are largely devoted to what is called General Education, where students attain a foundation of liberal arts courses related to the humanities, languages, and social sciences before advancing to more major-specific courses. This is to help develop communication and critical thinking skills and ensure that all students have the same baseline in education.

The U.S. has one of the most rigorous education systems in the world; it takes seven years to attain a law degree, six years to be able to practice pharmacology, and up to 14 years to become a doctor. This ensures that students are well qualified for the subject they trained for.

## REPUTATION OF INSTITUTIONS

One key benefit of attaining a degree from a U.S. university is that they are typically recognised and accepted globally – which makes it easier to land a job in the U.S., overseas or back home in Singapore.

Mention the U.S., and prestigious Ivy League schools like Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Columbia, and Cornell often come up – they are renowned for having incredibly high academic standards and competitive admission requirements.

Those in STEM will be very familiar with top institutions like California Institute of Technology (CalTech), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Johns Hopkins, and Stanford University. For business, Wharton Business School, Harvard, Stanford, and the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business are consistently highly ranked and recognised for their MBAs.

## TRAVEL ACROSS AMERICA

The U.S. may be vast – it's about the size of Europe! – but you can travel around the country easily – there are plenty of budget airlines that take you to various cities across the U.S., while train and bus services like Amtrak and Greyhound let you appreciate the slow road. Plus, it's only a domestic flight to far flung states like Alaska or Hawaii, or territories like Puerto Rico.

The best way to enjoy the U.S. is on a road trip where you can drive between any of the 'lower' 48 states. You'll get to enjoy country roads that take you past agricultural lands and national parks, like the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone, or past small towns lined with picket-fenced homes.

## CONCERTS AND CONVENTIONS

Many of the world's top musicians strike it big in the U.S., and as such, it'll be easier to attend a concert with your favourite performers since they usually tour the U.S. before going on world tours (if at all). Whether you're a fan of Ariana Grande, Imagine Dragons, Chainsmokers, or one of the many YouTube stars, chances are you'll get to see them live somewhere in the U.S. before your friends will back home in Singapore.

If music isn't your jam, then you'll find plenty of pop culture conventions that happen in many cities across the U.S. that no self-professed nerd should miss, whether it's the New York Comic Con, Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) in Los Angeles, or PAX WEST, a game culture festival in Seattle.

## EATING OUT IN THE US

The U.S. is home to fast food chains that we all know and love; in fact, there are over 250,000 fast food establishments across the U.S. – many of them offer drive-through service.

Depending on where you live, local specialties include Buffalo Wings (Buffalo, NY), clam chowder (New England), Philly Cheese Steak (Philadelphia, PA), mission burritos (San Francisco), Coney Dog (NYC), Burgoo (Kentucky), and more. Texas, Tennessee, and Missouri are known for their barbecues, while Louisiana has a Creole influence with spicy stews. Chicago has an old-timey donut shop in almost every neighbourhood.

There are plenty of places for students to hang out, from coffee chains like Caribou and Dunkin' Donuts to one of many 24-hour diners which serve up comfort foods like burgers, fries, pancakes, milkshakes, and bottomless coffee – perfect for a study break.

Stuck in your dorm? Let's not forget that you can also easily get your hands on some favourite American snacks like GORP, SunChips, Wheat Thins, and more.

## UNIQUE COLLEGE CULTURE

If you choose to live in a small college town, you'll get the benefit of a close-knit community whose traditions revolve around the universities or colleges they're home to. What's more, college sports is an age-old tradition at American institutions – regardless of background or sports (like basketball or American football), getting together to cheer for your school team or participating in pre-game 'tailgating' is a great way to bond with fellow students.

If you live in a college dorm, you'll get to participate in 'Greek Life' – fraternities or sororities that form a nationwide network of students who come together socially to have fun and help out the community.

## EXPERIENCE AMERICAN CULTURE

Studying in the U.S. is an exciting opportunity to experience a culture that thrives on freedom of speech – you'll also learn about the value that Americans place on hard work and individuality.

Diversity is also its strength: in big cities like Los Angeles or Atlanta, you will be exposed to a wide range of ethnicities, lifestyles, values, and religious beliefs as you'll find people with roots from all over the world, from Africa and Europe to the Middle East and South America. In addition, there are also many ethnic neighbourhoods – like Japantown or Little Italy – that have been part of the American social fabric for over a century.

Americans in general are quite friendly, and may happily invite you to some cultural activities, from holidays (Thanksgiving, Independence Day, etc.) to social gatherings (bbqs, sport events, etc.).

# WHY STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES?

As of 2019, there are over 1 million international students studying at institutions of higher learning in the U.S. – making it the #1 destination for students studying abroad. So, what makes the U.S. such an attractive destination for students across the world? There are many reasons why.

Source: Open Doors® Report 2019

## GLOBALLY RANKED AND RECOGNISED

While there are many other factors to consider – such as the size of the school, student-faculty ratio, location, and cost – global ranking is something most students will look at when it comes to evaluating different universities to attend in the U.S.

The latest Reuters Top 100 World's Most Innovative Universities list has eight U.S. schools in its top ten, led by Stanford, MIT, and Harvard, and includes University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, University of Washington, University of Pennsylvania, University of Southern California, and Cornell University.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2020 lists America's top Ivy League schools, but it also includes some affordable, high-quality public universities such as Georgia Institute of Technology (#34), the University of Texas at Austin (#39), the University of Wisconsin in Madison (#43), and more.

## SUBJECT RANGE AND FLEXIBILITY

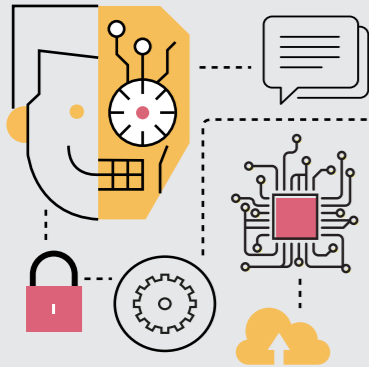
There's a huge variety of undergraduate courses in the U.S. in different areas of study, including medical and life sciences, liberal arts, STEM, and business. There are even some unusual majors, such as Astrobiology, Fermentation Science, and Theme Park Engineering.

In fact, there may be so much choice that you won't know what major to choose, and that's fine. It's normal for students to change their major a few times during the course of their studies. By the end of the course, you'll graduate with a major and sometimes with a minor. However, a minor doesn't necessarily have to relate to your major – for instance, you can major in Computer Science and minor in Pop Culture.

Another unique aspect of U.S. education is that some colleges allow you to create your own major, meaning you can tailor your classes to your specific interests rather than selecting from a set menu of degree programmes as is common with universities in other countries.

# BOOMING INDUSTRIES

## HOT SUBJECTS IN THE USA



### TECHNOLOGY

Technology is and will continue to be the hottest industry for university graduates in the US, since most of the world's most famous tech and engineering companies - from Google to Boeing - are based there. Artificial intelligence (AI), big data, cloud computing and cybersecurity are driving the latest tech boom, pioneered by the many tech startups across the US, in college towns like Austin (Texas), Bozeman (Montana), Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania), and of course, Silicon Valley.

Some of the most in-demand tech-related jobs today are in the fields of data science, AI, and cybersecurity.

#### WHAT TO STUDY?

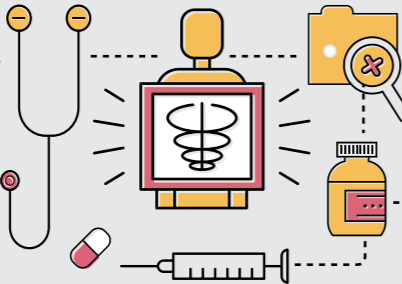
Degrees in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) get you into the industry, and the US is at the forefront.

Schools like Columbia University and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville offer world-class research facilities in AI. Georgia Institute of Technology is known for computer science, while the University of Texas at Austin is strong in robotics, and California Institute of Technology manages NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Half of the top 20 schools in the world for STEM are in the US (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020), from Stanford University (#2) to the University of Michigan (#16).

### HEALTHCARE

Healthcare is one of those evergreen industries, as there is always a demand for healthcare professionals, whether they're surgeons, nurses, dentists, or pharmacists. The healthcare industry doesn't just include medical professionals - there's allied healthcare professionals like occupational therapists or paramedics, as well as those working behind the scenes in radiology and healthcare IT.

American schools have some of the best-funded labs in the world, and regularly conduct world-class research, from 3D-printed body parts (Cornell University) to liquid cancer biopsies (Johns Hopkins University), and regenerating body parts (Ohio State University).



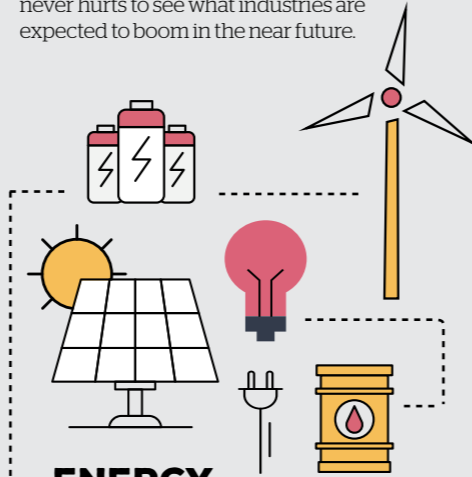
#### WHAT TO STUDY?

Depending on what path you take, you could end up going to school for 4 years for non-clinical roles, to up to 14 years to become a doctor in the US.

The US is home to 6 of the top 10 medical schools in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020). Johns Hopkins University (#5) receives more research grants than any other medical school, while Yale University (#8) is globally renowned for biomedical research.

More than 20 US institutions are recognised by Singapore's Ministry of Health for pharmacy and medicine, including the University of California, San Francisco, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and the University of Minnesota.

Choosing a major is one of the most important decisions you can make as a student. Thankfully, it's not a decision that's set in stone - in fact, most students change their major at least once before they graduate. While it's good to pick a major that genuinely interests you, it never hurts to see what industries are expected to boom in the near future.



### ENERGY

Without energy, there would be no industry of any kind, period. Fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas, and coal continue to comprise over 80% of the world's energy consumption. Professionals like petroleum engineers (who discover and extract fossil fuels), geoscientists (who assess physical aspects of earth), and gas plant operators are still highly sought-after.

The renewable energy industry is rapidly growing due to the rise in wind power, hydropower, solar power, and bioenergy use - and is expected to make up 30% of all energy consumption by 2040. This evolving energy sector currently has demand for geologists, environmental managers, and environmental scientists, whose duties include studying the earth's natural processes to developing strategies to control environmental issues (like air pollution) and create cleaner fuel.

#### WHAT TO STUDY?

Some of the most popular renewable energy degrees include environmental design, sustainability studies, and renewable energy engineering. Universities with such programmes include the University of Texas at Austin, the Pennsylvania State University, Oregon Institute of Technology, and the University of California, Berkeley.

The most lucrative jobs today are still in fossil fuels, particularly petroleum engineering. Schools with strong petroleum engineering programmes include the University of Texas at Austin, Stanford University, Colorado School of Mines, University of Southern California, and the Pennsylvania State University.

### BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Students flock to American business schools because careers with a business degree are diverse and often highly paid - plus, many of the world's most successful businesses are American. Singapore's rapidly growing economy provides strong employment opportunities for students trained in the US.

Economics is about more than just money; studying economics in the US enables you to understand complex and important issues, such as poverty, tax rates, and inflation, while teaching you practical tools, like being able to

read statistics, make better financial decisions, and avoid logical fallacies.

#### WHAT TO STUDY?

Whether you're interested in business, economics, or both, the US has 7 of the 10 best schools of economics in the world, and also the majority of the top 20 universities for business. Some of the top schools to pursue both business and economics include Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of California, Berkeley.



# STANDARDISED TESTS

It's no secret that most colleges require you to submit your SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) or ACT (American College Testing) score in addition to your transcripts and essay. If you're applying for graduate schools, you'll need to take either a GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) or GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) for business schools. Medical schools require students to take the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test), while for law schools, it's the LSAT (Law School Admission Test). In addition, international students will need to take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) test to prove their English-language competency.



### For undergraduates SAT and ACT

Both the ACT and SAT are accepted by all U.S. colleges and both tests include core sections on reading, writing, and math. Both tests take 3 hours (40 to 50 minutes more if including an optional essay), and neither penalises for wrong answers. You'll typically need about 3-6 months to study for the tests. Both SAT and ACT scores are valid for 5 years.

#### Here are some differences between the ACT and SAT:

- You have an average of 50 seconds per question on the ACT and 70 seconds per question on the SAT.
- The SAT has a stronger vocabulary focus, with many questions designed to take several reads to understand, while the ACT tests Math and Science.
- ACT has a section on Science and allows calculators in the Math portion; SAT only allows calculators for half of its questions
- SAT is paper-based; ACT is computer based

#### The ACT might be for you if:

- You're a fast reader, and don't have trouble running out of time on school tests. ACT questions are more straightforward.
- You like science and are good at interpreting data and trends.
- You need a calculator in math class.

#### The SAT might be for you if:

- You're not a fast reader, but are good at reading between the lines and finding traps. SAT questions are known to be trickier.
- You're good at mental math, and don't need a calculator.

### For graduates GMAT and GRE

Both the GMAT and GRE are standardised tests for entry into graduate schools for those taking Master's level programmes, including the MBA. Both exams have questions in three main subject areas: verbal, quantitative, and writing.

Both tests are taken online, and are adaptive tests - this means the subsequent question is harder or easier based on the answer to the previous question. GMAT takes 3 hours 30 minutes, while the GRE takes 3 hours 45 minutes. Both scores are valid for 5 years.

#### Here are some differences between the GMAT and GRE:

- GMAT is for those who plan to attend business school and/or an MBA programme.
- GRE is used as part of admissions for a wide variety of graduate school programmes.
- GMAT has 1 essay; GRE has 2 essays.
- GRE is generally considered to have a slightly more challenging Verbal section, and tests grammar more than the GMAT.
- The Quantitative sections (data interpretation and equation solving) of the GMAT are generally more difficult than the GRE.

Singaporean students may get an exemption from English proficiency exams. Check with your university to verify their requirements.

### TOEFL and IELTS

As an international student, you'll need to demonstrate your English-language proficiency by submitting your score for TOEFL or IELTS. Both have four basic sections: reading, listening, speaking, and writing.

Some colleges may exempt Singaporean students from taking this. TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for 2 years.

#### Here are some differences between the TOEFL and IELTS:

- TOEFL takes 3 hours; IELTS takes 2 hours 45 minutes.
- TOEFL only tests academic subjects, the IELTS has academic reading and writing sections combined with general listening and speaking sections.
- TOEFL uses American English; IELTS uses British English.

Check the Online Resources section for more links to information on these standardised tests, including sites where you can take free practice tests.

# Studying Liberal Arts

In the U.S., the most popular bachelor's degrees right now are in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) or business, but one area of study that often gets lost in the mix is liberal arts. While a degree in liberal arts may not be the first choice for students in the digital age, it may be more useful than you think.

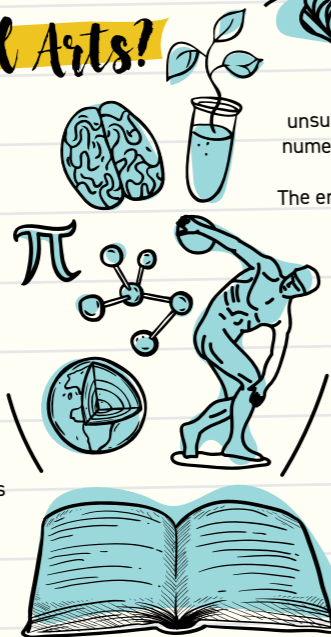


## What Are the Liberal Arts?

Considered one of the oldest programmes of higher education in Western history, the liberal arts are comprised of a broad range of subjects, categorised under the disciplines of humanities (literature, history, philosophy, etc), social sciences (economics, geography, political science, etc), creative arts (fine art, theatre, creative writing, etc), and sciences (astronomy, biology, physics, etc).

When you enter a liberal arts programme, the subjects – eg. literature, geography, physics, etc – are often set by the education institution and may include all four disciplines.

The diverse range of subjects covered in liberal arts degrees are meant to provide students with a more well-rounded, holistic education rather than just focusing on a single subject area. This makes an education in liberal arts ideal for students who are



unsure about what they want to specialise in, or have numerous interests that go beyond a single discipline.

The emphasis on covering a broad range of subjects is rooted in the *trivium* of grammar, rhetoric, and logic, so students are provided with the knowledge foundation to succeed in any number of jobs. This includes learning key skills, like being able to think creatively and critically, communicating effectively, and solving problems in a logical and ethical manner.

In addition to a solid education foundation, a liberal arts degree helps you build essential literacy skills which are highly sought-after in today's rapidly-changing, information-based economy. This means that a liberal arts degree is not meant to prepare you for a specific job, but instead set you up for many employment options.

## Liberal Arts Degrees

At the end of your liberal arts education, there is no 'BA in Liberal Arts'; this is because by the end of your programme, you will need to major in one of the subjects of your choice.

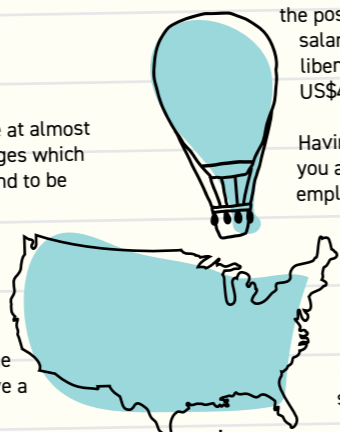
A liberal arts degree can be either a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BS). A BA programme focuses on courses related to the humanities, languages and social sciences, while a BS specialises in courses primarily related to sciences (ie. mathematics, computer science, etc).

Unlike an education in the UK, a liberal arts degree – like a BA in History or BS in Biology – gives you a more well-rounded education.

## Studying Liberal Arts

Across the U.S., there's no shortage of liberal arts degrees available at almost any college or university, but you can also study at liberal arts colleges which have deep roots in the U.S.. Liberal arts colleges are private, and tend to be some of the oldest in the U.S., with much smaller student populations than universities.

The most famous liberal arts colleges are clustered in Massachusetts, California, and Pennsylvania. According to the **Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education US College Rankings 2020**, the top three are Amherst College (Massachusetts), Swarthmore College (Pennsylvania), and Pomona College (California). These schools have a low student-to-teacher ratio, and are internationally diverse.



## Career Prospects

A liberal arts degree opens up a wide range of jobs options, whether it's in marketing, academia, art, politics, and even careers in tech, as many organisations need the communication and analytical skills liberal arts degree holders have.

This can include a variety of roles ranging from human resources or public relations, to research or business development. The salary range varies widely depending on the position, but the median starting salary for a recent graduate with a liberal arts degree is about US\$41,000 to US\$45,000 a year.

Having a liberal arts degree gives you a strong foundation for employment. According to studies conducted by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), 80% of business executives and hiring managers surveyed believe that students need a strong foundation in the liberal arts and sciences.

# Scholarships and Funding

Studying in the U.S. is an awesome value and the cost of an education in the U.S. is well worth the investment. Here are some ways to help you make the most of your dollars.



### STEP One

#### Apply for a Singapore Scholarship

Scholarships are provided to exceptional students under various Singaporean ministries and departments. These include the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Communications and Information, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Education, A\*STAR, Changi Airport Group, and many more.

Eligible students will receive full scholarships plus airfare and living allowance for most disciplines (except Medicine, Dentistry, and Architecture) at accredited U.S. schools for the duration of their degrees.

Students must serve a bond duration of 5-6 years.



For available scholarships, visit [scholarshipguide.com.sg](http://scholarshipguide.com.sg)

### STEP Two

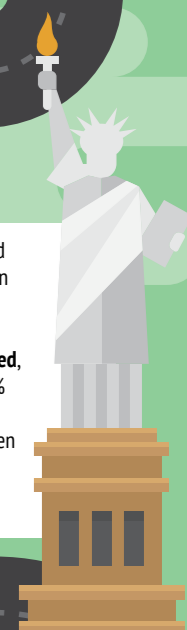
#### Apply for U.S. Schools

When universities go through admissions applications, they also consider an applicant's ability to pay tuition without financial aid.

Most colleges choose one of two approaches: **need blind** or **need aware**. Need blind schools (like Boston College, Brown University, Duke University) don't consider an

applicant's financial need, while need aware schools do consider finances in their admissions decisions.

A school can also be **100% meet need**, meaning it guarantees to meet 100% of their students' demonstrated financial need (the difference between total college costs and the family's ability to pay).



### Currently Studying in the U.S.?

You're eligible for the Singapore-Industry Scholarship Mid-Term Overseas. Scholarships range from S\$40,000 (plus 2-year bond) for 1-2 academic years remaining in university, to S\$60,000 (plus 3-year bond) for more than 2 years remaining.

### STEP Three

#### After acceptance

##### Apply for U.S. scholarships through the university

Depending on the school, you may be able to get a full scholarship, or a partial one (a few thousand dollars) from schools like New York University and the University of Oregon.

Berea College is the only U.S. school that provides 100% funding to all international students for the first year, covering the costs of tuition, room, board, and fees. Wesleyan University's Wesleyan Freeman Asian Scholarship Program provides full tuition scholarships for a bachelor's degree for Asian students dedicated to positive civic and social change in their home countries.

##### Education Loans

Education Loan rates usually range from 3%-6% per annum and tenures vary from 1 to 10 years. Some banks allow you to defer your repayment until after you've completed your studies.

You need to be at least 21 years old to apply for your own study loan. If you're under 21, you will need a guarantor, co-applicant or sponsor who is of age. Some banks impose a maximum age on your guarantor/co-applicant/sponsor (60 or 65 years).

Your guarantor/co-applicant/sponsor will also have to meet the bank's minimum income requirement (from S\$12,000 to S\$30,000). If your co-applicant doesn't have a high enough income, you can have an application with more than 2 sponsors; they don't need to be a parent or immediate family member.

For an extensive database of scholarships, fellowships and grants available to international students:

**International Financial Aid Center** ([www.iefac.org](http://www.iefac.org))  
**Funding for US Study Online** ([fundingusstudy.org/](http://fundingusstudy.org/))



# Types of Schools

## 2 Years

### COMMUNITY COLLEGE

These two-year colleges are funded by state or local governments, and offer the Associate degree (AA) for a wide variety of programmes. Many community colleges offer classes to train for a trade (if you've decided your major), as well as university transfer courses, which means you can take general courses (English, math, social sciences, etc.) and transfer to a 4-year college or university if you have good grades.



- \* 2-year Associate's Degree
- \* Generally inexpensive (some can be as low as US\$5,000)
- \* They accept most applicants meeting minimum grade requirements (some don't need SAT/ACT and/or TOEFL/IELTS)
- \* Some have on-campus housing
- \* **Example:** Valencia College, Seattle Central College

### TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Technical colleges (vocational schools) focus on offering students a hands-on experience related to a specific career rather than general education to prepare them for immediate employment. Students usually jump right into courses related to their major during their first term, with specialised training in a specific field, like computer technology, culinary arts, or medical assisting. Not to be confused with polytechnic universities.

- \* 2-year Associate's Degree
- \* Can be expensive (average tuition is US\$33,000)
- \* Similar admissions policy to community college
- \* Most don't have campus housing
- \* **Example:** Northwest Kansas Technical College, Atlanta Technical College



Students in the U.S. prefer to use the word "college" rather than "university" when talking about four-year undergraduate programmes. Schools in the U.S. vary in terms of goals: some emphasise a vocational, business, or technical curriculum while others emphasise liberal arts. When choosing a school, decide what you want from your college experience – do you prefer a school with a wider choice of classes and programmes, or small-sized classes and more interaction with professors? Remember, the name of the school is less important than whether the school is a good fit for you personally.

## 4 Years or more

### LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

Usually privately-owned, liberal arts colleges (LACs) are four-year institutions that typically emphasise teaching, with smaller class sizes, lower student-teacher ratios, and typically higher student-teacher interactivity than at universities. Some are co-ed, women's or men's colleges. These colleges only offer undergraduate degrees and aim to impart a broad general knowledge and develop intellectual capacities.



- \* 4-year undergraduate degrees (BA/BS)
- \* Usually expensive (average tuition is US\$54,000)
- \* Most students live in campus dorms
- \* Generous financial aid opportunities for international students.
- \* **Example:** Dickinson College, Williams College

### POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

Polytechnic universities are generally research-intensive universities with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The academic rigour varies between undergraduate-level state universities to world-renowned elite schools that offer doctoral degrees. Not to be confused with technical college.

- \* Undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate degrees
- \* Fees vary (ranges from US\$30,000 to US\$50,000)
- \* Students live either in dorms or off-campus
- \* **Example:** Cal Poly Pomona, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



### UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE

Universities – either public or private – are generally research-oriented institutions that offer both undergraduate and graduate degree programmes, including Master's degrees (MBAs, MFAs, etc.) and doctorates (PhDs, JDs, MDs, etc.). They are accredited by different regional accreditation agencies, and some universities have more than one campus under their state's university system – usually a college for bachelor's degrees, and a school for graduate degrees. Most public universities tend to be large, sometimes with student bodies numbering in the tens of thousands, and offer a wide variety of programmes.

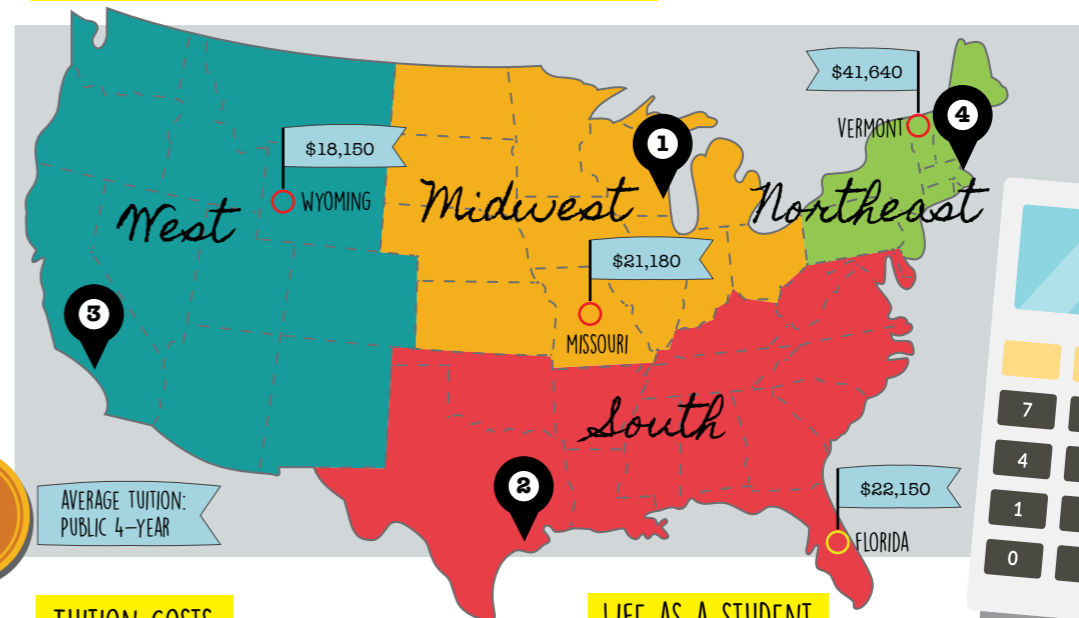


- \* Undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate degrees
- \* Public universities are generally cheaper (average US\$26,000)
- \* Students live either in dorms or off-campus
- \* **Example:** Purdue University, University of Pennsylvania

# THE COSTS

## OF LIVING & STUDYING IN THE U.S.

The U.S. is a huge country with over 4,800 colleges and universities spread out across millions of square kilometres. As you can imagine, the cost of living and tuition can vary from university to university, but here's a snapshot of what it can cost to live and study in some parts of the United States.



### TUITION COSTS

Tuition and fees vary from college to college. Among nationally-ranked universities, the average cost of tuition and fees for the 2019-2020 school year was **US\$36,880** at private non-profit colleges and **US\$26,820** for international students at state schools, according to data reported by Collegeboard in 2019. The average tuition and fees for public college is usually lower than at a private institution, although it's not always the case.

### LIFE AS A STUDENT

The average room and board for 2019-2020 was estimated at **US\$11,510** for public schools, and **US\$12,990** for private schools. However, you will still have to account for other expenses, such as travel, textbooks, weather-appropriate clothing, and entertainment expenses as well. The cost of living in the U.S. can vary greatly depending on where you live – impacting the prices of everyday items from rent to a fast food meal.

Don't forget to check if you're eligible for scholarships – you may qualify for one either from a Singapore entity or the college of your choice. Check page 17 for more information.

## ESTIMATED COSTS

University	Tuition Costs	Private Housing	Campus Dorm	Transport Fees*	Fast Food	Health Insurance
1 University of Chicago	\$49,734	\$13,572	\$17,100	\$110	\$8	\$4,566
University of Illinois Chicago	\$25,858	\$13,572	\$11,930	\$110	\$8	\$1,140
2 Rice University, Texas	\$47,350	\$13,850	\$13,850	\$110	\$7	\$2,482
University of Texas at Austin	\$20,250	\$15,372	\$11,791	\$42	\$7	\$4,955
3 Pepperdine University, California	\$55,944	\$21,636	\$14,870	\$30	\$7	\$1,372
University of California, Santa Barbara	\$42,324	\$21,636	\$15,111	\$30	\$7.5	\$1,179
4 Yale University	\$55,500	\$14,234	\$16,600	\$108	\$8	\$2,450
University of Connecticut	\$36,466	\$12,514	\$13,288	\$108	\$8	\$3,198

Source: The College Board (research.collegeboard.org)

□ Private university \* monthly | all in US Dollars

## Colleges vs Universities

You can earn a bachelor's degree at either a college or a university. Most colleges are separate schools, while some are part of a university and located on campus. Both colleges and universities may have a very strong college sports culture.

**College:** Offers bachelor's degrees and focuses on teaching rather than research, with a dedicated faculty comprising professors.

**University:** Offers bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, and doctorates; some classes may be taught by teaching assistants (grad students).

# Graduate Education

Having a graduate degree puts you in the top tier of employment because it helps you stand out in a crowded job market. If you intend to find employment in the U.S., having a graduate degree gives you an advantage. There are over 1,000 universities in the U.S. that offer graduate degrees, so you should begin your search at least 12 to 18 months prior to the academic year. Here are some popular subjects:

## Business

American universities, like American firms, are so influential on the international business stage. This is why business degrees draw a great number of students to the U.S., with elite business schools like Columbia, Wharton, Chicago Booth, and Stanford leading the way.

If you're studying business – any of the 'FAME' subjects (finance, accounting, management, and economics), it's a safe bet that studying for a Master's degree is a reliable step towards career success. One of the reasons why the degree is so powerful is its versatility, as many

jobs out there are 'business' related. Skills like time management, critical thinking, strategic planning, and project management are essential for business success. Masters programmes teach you these skills.

One of the most popular degrees is the Master of Business Administration (MBA). While they're typically much more expensive (average cost is \$40,000) than other master's degrees, they lead to the most dramatic salary increases (post-MBA average salaries are comfortably over US\$100,000).



## Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

The idea of pursuing graduate study is nothing new, especially for students studying science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM).

In fact, in many STEM fields, the Master's has already become the new Bachelor's degree, with entry (and licensure) in certain fields often dependent upon advanced degrees.

The biggest tech companies, like Apple and Google, are from the U.S., as well as the highest-ranked STEM programmes – think MIT or CalTech.

Having a graduate degree doesn't necessarily mean a life in academia. Many STEM doctoral graduates move directly into research laboratories at Fortune 500 companies. Others move into policy-making or non-profit sectors of the economy.

STEM graduates are in demand everywhere, and a graduate degree helps you land high-paying jobs, and enter positions of greater leadership within organisations, resulting in faster career advancement. As graduate study has become more common, employers are used to the idea of hiring Ph.D. graduates for a variety of roles.



## Professional Degrees

A professional degree in the U.S. is a doctoral degree that prepares you for a particular career that often needs licensure or accreditation. These include law degrees (JDs) and medical degrees (MDs), in addition to pharmacy (PharmD), veterinary medicine (VMD), dentistry (DDS), and more.

A professional degree programme requires at least 6 academic years of college education in order to obtain the licenses, often requiring students to complete internships or projects before graduation.

One of the reasons people study in the U.S. for professional degrees like medicine or veterinary science is that it is very in-depth.

An average veterinary school programme lasts from 7 to 9 years, while medical schools can stretch to 10 or more years depending on specialisation. This is perhaps why graduates from about 30 American medical schools are approved for practice in Singapore – the most of any country.

Home to some of the world's top-rated medical schools – like Harvard and Johns Hopkins – the U.S. is also the most prolific publisher of high-quality scientific research papers worldwide. In the 2019 Nature Index Biomedical Sciences supplement, the U.S. dominated the Top 200 Institutions table, counting seven of the top 10 institutions, and 15 of the top 20.



### ENTRANCE EXAMS

You'll need to take specific tests to get into a graduate programme. They differ based on the programmes:

**GRE:** For a variety of majors and disciplines  
**GMAT:** For business schools

**MCAT:** For medical schools  
**LSAT:** For law schools

While some universities accept students with their O-Level results, many will not. However, all universities will accept students who have completed their post-secondary studies – for example, IB, IP, Poly Diploma, A-Level, etc.

# OPTIONS AFTER O-LEVELS

1

**Apply directly to the colleges.** Some may accept O-Level results as long as you have a predicted A-Level result that meets their requirements.

2

**Complete your post-secondary programme (Poly or A-Level) and then apply.** However, depending on the school, you may have to skip 1-2 semesters. There are 2 intakes per year: spring semester begins in January while the fall semester starts in late August.

3

**Complete the first 2 years of an undergraduate degree programme in Singapore, and then apply as a transfer student to a U.S. university to complete the rest.**

4

**Attend a community college in the U.S. for Year 1 and 2, and then transfer to a U.S. university for Year 3 and 4.** Community colleges offer open-access admission, requiring only O-Levels (or similar) and school transcripts for admission, without SAT/ACT or TOEFL/IELTS.

1

## COST OF EDUCATION

**Tuition & fees:** \$5,000 to \$50,000 a year for international students.

**Housing & meals:** \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year

**Cost of living:** Varies by location – East Coast, West Coast, and major cities are the most expensive. It's cheaper in the South, Midwest, and small towns. Estimate your expenses with a cost-of-living calculator like [NerdWallet.com](http://NerdWallet.com).

2

## LOCATION OF SCHOOL

Your 4 years studying provide a great chance to explore new environs. Think about:

- Location of school
- Climate
- Cultural, sporting, or recreational activities
- Cities, towns, or rural areas
- Distance from friends/relatives
- School culture

3

## CHOICE OF MAJORS

If you don't yet know what you want to study, don't panic – U.S. universities usually let you register as an "undecided" freshman; choose your major by your second (sophomore) or third year (junior).

**Programme-specific accreditation:** Many universities have their schools and/or programmes accredited by private bodies. The accreditations for specific programmes, like healthcare or education, ensures that their qualifications will be respected by future employers.

**Double major availability:** You can complete two sets of degree specialisation requirements – like Foreign Language and Political Science – while receiving only one degree with a double major.

**Create your own major:** A growing number of schools – like UC Berkeley, University of Michigan, and Swarthmore College – allow students to combine disciplines from traditional departments or design a totally new degree.

5

# POINTS TO CONSIDER

4

## TYPE OF SCHOOL

**2-year community college vs 4-year college or university:** Generally, it's easier to get into a community college (more on page 9). You can then transfer to the 3rd year of a 4-year university degree. This will affect your budget and your application process.

**Research university, liberal arts college, specialty schools, etc.:** See page 9 for details.

**Large, medium, small school:** The size affects your campus social life.

5

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**Check if scholarships are available for international students:** These range from US\$1,000 to US\$40,000, so do your research.

**Need-blind universities are generally more generous with financial aid:** Schools, especially private ones, which are need-blind for international applicants, tend to be much more selective. There are currently only 7 schools that are need-blind for international students, including Amherst College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Princeton University.

## DEFER FOR NS

Check if it's possible to defer the start date to a university by 2 (or 3) years. You can also apply during NS, especially during your second year, since it may help your chances of success, as admissions officers recognise that those who've served NS will be more mature college students.

# YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATION TIMELINE

Once you've decided on studying in the U.S., it's advisable to begin your research and application process at least a year in advance to give yourself enough time for all your applications to be processed. It's a good idea to speak to your school counselors for advice on the entire process.

1

## Prepare for SAT or ACT exam

Most colleges require a standardised test, which is either the **SAT** ([sat.collegeboard.org](http://sat.collegeboard.org)) or **ACT** ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org)). Typically students will need anywhere between 3-6 months to prepare and study for it, with main subjects including Math and English. Tests are carried out at centres across Singapore, and last about 4 hours.

3

## Narrow down your list of schools

Narrow it down to 4-5 schools of your choice. Check if they're certified by the Student Exchange and Visitor Program (SEVP), which is important for your student visa. Visit: [studyinthestates.dhs.gov/school-search](http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/school-search) [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

5

## Get predicted A-level scores

Some colleges may not accept O-level results, so you will need to get your school to send you your predicted A-level scores based on your past results.

7

## Decision letters from colleges start coming in

### Confirm your one university

Once you receive an acceptance letter from your preferred college, you must confirm your intent to attend the university before the end of April – every school is different, so just follow the confirmation process outlined in your acceptance letter.

You may be excited to take off, but you cannot enter the U.S. more than 30 days before the start of your I-20!



### Attend college fairs and info sessions

You can also compare colleges across the country via [collegescorecard.ed.gov](http://collegescorecard.ed.gov).

### Meet with a college counselor

Check with a college counselor or your school's advisor for details on your eligibility as well as what to expect from an admissions essay.

### Take a TOEFL or IELTS language test

Check if your school accepts admissions from Singapore without the need for either the TOEFL or IELTS English proficiency tests.

### Assess your finances and budget

See page 10 on how to assess your financial requirements for the duration of your education.

### Retake the SAT/ACT. Take SAT Subject Tests if required

You can retake your SAT/ACT to raise your scores, or take SAT Subject Tests, which are available 5 times a year (May, June, October, November, and December). The hour-long **SAT Subject Tests** may be required or recommended by some colleges. There are five general subject areas: English, history, languages, mathematics, and science.

### Finalise your admissions essays

JAN – APR

MAY – JUL

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOV – DEC

MAR – APR

JUN – JUL

AUGUST

2

## Sit for SAT or ACT

You can opt to take the SAT in May or June so you'll have time to either retake it before the application deadline, or take the SAT Subject tests at a later date if necessary.

SATs are conducted 4 times a year (March, May, October, and December) typically on the 1st/2nd Saturday of the month, with registration deadline a month before test dates. The ACT is conducted 5-6 times a year (February, April, June, September, October, and December) with 2 tests a month, and application deadlines are typically 1 week to 10 days before the tests.

4

## Speak with teachers and counselors to get letters of recommendation

Schools may recommend or require letters of recommendation from teachers and counselors.

## Early applications become available

Some schools have two admissions deadlines – early admission and regular admission. Early admission (October or November), may only be used for your first-choice university; you're not permitted to apply to other universities until you've received an early action or early decision response (December or January).

Early action means that you can wait until the school mandated "decision day" to commit to that school or not. Early decision (ED) means that if you're accepted, you're entering a binding agreement to attend that school, which may need your non-refundable deposit as well. It's a good idea to check with your School Counselors for advice on navigating the application process.

6

## Deadline to apply for regular admission

Regular admission deadlines are usually by 1 January, with acceptance letters sent to students by March or April. There is no limit on the number of applications that can be sent, and if you're accepted to multiple universities, you can just choose the one you want to attend with no obligation.

To apply, you'll need your **transcripts** (secondary school, junior college or polytechnic), **national exam results** ('O' Level, 'A' Level, IB, or Diploma), **standardised test results** (SAT or ACT), **admissions essay and/or personal statement**, **English proficiency test results** (IELTS or TOEFL) if required, and **recommendation letters**.

Ask your School Counselors for advice on navigating the application process; it costs between US\$50-90 per application.

Applications can be made directly via the universities' websites, although many universities accept applications via Coalition for College ([coalitionforcollegeaccess.org](http://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org)) or CommonApp ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)).

8

## Obtain your student visa

Apply for it no earlier than 120 days before, and no later than the start date on your I-20 or DS-2019 form.

- ▶ **Receive your I-20 or DS-2019 from your university**
- ▶ **Pay your SEVIS fee** ([fmjfee.com](http://fmjfee.com)); print receipt
- ▶ **Complete the DS-160 Online Visa Application form** ([usatraveldocs.com/sg](http://usatraveldocs.com/sg)), and you'll get a barcode.
- ▶ **Pay the US\$160 visa application fee** via SingPost, SAM Kiosk, or SAM Web; print receipt
- ▶ **Make your U.S. Embassy appointment** online with your barcode and payment receipts ([usatraveldocs.com/sg](http://usatraveldocs.com/sg))
- ▶ **Bring all your documents:** SEVIS and visa fee receipts, academic transcripts, I-20 or DS2019, proof of finances, a recent 2"x2" photo, and passport to the U.S. Embassy at your assigned interview time.

**Most applications will be approved and processed within 3 working days.**

## Attend a pre-departure orientation session with EducationUSA





# Admissions ESSAYS



It's nearly impossible to apply to college in the U.S. without writing at least one or more essays or writing responses. Colleges weigh your writing samples very highly when making their decisions, so you want to spend some time writing thoughtful, well-constructed essays.

There are 3 main types of questions you might be asked:

## TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF

*"Some students have a background or story that is so central to their identity that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story."*

This most common type of question asks for a personal story that demonstrates some aspect of your past, your character, and the experiences that've made you who you are.

Avoid rambling on and talking widely about your entire life story. Focus on one or two specific moments or memories in your life that demonstrate your unique qualities or personality.

Don't just say you're a hard-worker; **share** a personal story that shows you are. This personal statement is your chance to set yourself apart from the pack. Be an individual. Be honest.

## SOCIAL ISSUE

*"What do you consider to be the single most important societal problem? Why?"*

This type of question is asking you to give your opinion about a social or political issue in the world today.

Unless the question asks otherwise, focus on one specific topic in depth rather than hitting on numerous issues. Try to find a personal connection to the topic whenever possible.

While it's important to give your own thoughts and opinions, also find real facts, statistics, or news events that can be used as evidence to support what you are saying.

Stay rational, not emotional and show the admissions counselor that you are an intelligent, well-informed individual who is ready for college-level thinking and problem solving.

## FUTURE PLANS AND GOALS

*"Why do you want to get a college education at our school?"*

In this type of question, the college wants to see that you have a vision for your future.

While college is a time for self-discovery and exploration, it's still important to at least have an idea of what you're doing and where you're going. Show that you're a serious student and not just looking for a 4-year party.

If asked about why you want to attend that school, be specific about the programme features, opportunities, or services at the university that you find attractive.

If you know what you want to study or be after college, talk about the specific experiences in your life that helped you realise those interests.

# Important Stuff to Know (once you're there)

## Your F-1 or J-1 Visa

### WORKING

Students studying in the U.S. for an undergraduate degree will have an F-1 or J-1 visa which allows you to work part-time on-campus (ie. library assistant, IT support, production assistant, campus guide, etc.), but only for a maximum of 20 hours a week. After your first year as a student, you may apply for off-campus employment. Ask your school counselor for advice on the process.

You can participate in Curricular Practical Training (CPT) which includes internships that you're earning academic credit for. You can also work in the U.S. for 12 months (24 months if you're studying STEM subjects) for Optional Practical Training (OPT) after your degree programme ends, as long as it's directly related to your field of study.

### ACADEMIC TRANSFERS

If you choose to transfer schools or programmes, you will need to resume studies within five months of the date of transfer under immigration law. If you lose your student status, your visa is invalid for future entry to the U.S.

### TRAVEL OUT OF THE U.S.

If you travel out of the U.S. for a break of five months or more, you may lose your F-1 or J-1 status unless your overseas trip was related to your course of study. This means that you may be denied entry by immigration officials for not possessing a valid non-immigrant visa, so check with your school before travelling.

Congratulations on getting accepted! Once you've processed your F-1 or J-1 visa, you'll need to keep in mind a few things to do before you actually start school. As a student, you'll need to manage your own cashflow (welcome to adulthood!), check that you're adequately covered by medical insurance, and ensure you stick to your F-1 or J-1 visa requirements.

## Campus Resources

Once you've settled in, it's a good idea to get acquainted with your campus resources:

- **Health/Wellbeing Center**
- **Counseling Center** (personal, academic)
- **International Student Office** as well as organisations and clubs
- **Career Center** (internship, careers)
- **Academic Support Centers** (IT, writing)
- **Departmental/Faculty Professor** websites
- **Residents/Academic Advisors**
- **Campus police, late night escort, or walksafes service**

## Banking

Choose between a savings and a checking account. A savings account earns a better interest rate (you're usually allowed 3-6 withdrawals a month), while a checking account allows you to deposit, withdraw, and send money more often. Most international students have a checking account, which comes with a cheque book, a debit card, online banking, and overdraft facilities.

It's best to open an account with a national bank rather than a state-specific bank, so that you can use ATMs across the USA free of charge. Popular banks for students include **Bank of America** (Advantage SafeBalance Banking), **Capital One 360** (360 Checking), **U.S. Bank** (Student Checking Account) and **Chase** (Chase College Checking).

## Medical Insurance

While health insurance is not required to obtain a F-1 or J-1 visa, there's a good chance it will be required by the school. It may be a smart choice anyway, since healthcare isn't provided or subsidised by the U.S. government.

International students should be prepared for possible medical expenses while studying abroad – even a routine doctor's visit can set you back US\$100, and costs arise with unexpected health scares and emergency room visits which can skyrocket to US\$3,000 depending on the severity of your injuries or illness.

This is why most schools mandate healthcare coverage for students.

Luckily, most universities offer student insurance plans – some schools, like the University of California, Berkeley automatically enroll international students into their health insurance plan (US\$1,643 per semester as of 2019). International students are allowed to decline the plan in most cases, but have to prove that they have sufficient medical coverage.

Some schools, such as the University of South

Carolina, give you the choice of taking either the campus health plan or having your own health insurance.

International student health insurance plans tend to be budget friendly. If you're under the age of 25, you can expect to spend between US\$30-\$140 a month, depending on the insurance company and the level of coverage purchased. There are numerous insurance companies with student plans to choose from, including **ISO**, **AETNA**, and **Compass Student Insurance**.

## GENERAL TIPS

**Stop and think.** Have you done enough research into choosing this university to fully convince them you're a good fit? Do you have a list of all your extracurricular activities and most important experiences?

**Brainstorm your research.** Think about your essay as a marketing tool – how do your experiences match up to the personal and academic fit of the university? Remember that some of these can be highlighted in your reference letters, so try to avoid writing about areas you want your referees to talk about.

**Think creatively.** You don't need to constantly use metaphors and other figurative devices if that's not your personal writing style, but you should have an essay structured with a coherent and interesting theme or narrative.

**Write an introduction.** This should be your hook, and should pique the reader's interest. It can be as simple as an anecdote or a quote that illustrates your main point.

**Answer the question.** Use your brainstormed links and arrange them into two to three well-connected paragraphs that adhere to your central theme.

**Conclude the essay.** What is the reader meant to take away? How will they remember this essay in particular? Try to connect this back to the theme you introduced at the beginning and end on a powerful, impactful note that highlights what unique personal traits you are bringing to their campus.

## IMPORTANT

### THINGS TO NOTE

- \* Address the essay question fully
- \* Use clear, concise language – say what you mean
- \* Avoid vague or empty statements (ie. "I love America"), cliches, and cultural references unfamiliar to American audiences
- \* Make sure all references to university names are correct, especially if you re-use essays across your applications
- \* Proofread extensively, read it out loud and ask several people to read it for you
- \* Avoid repeating too much information mentioned elsewhere in your application
- \* Address any obvious gaps or weaknesses in your application, perhaps turning them into a positive

### Additional resources for writing admissions essays:

Common mistakes and how to fix them:  
[www.quintcareers.com/college\\_essay\\_mistakes.html](http://www.quintcareers.com/college_essay_mistakes.html)

College Board:  
[bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in-essays](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in-essays)

Sample essays and why they worked:  
[apply.jhu.edu/apply/essays/](http://apply.jhu.edu/apply/essays/)

Tips from the UNC Writing Center:  
[writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/application-essays/](http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/application-essays/)



# INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Studying in the U.S. has many benefits. Not only can you develop your academic knowledge in your chosen area of study — you'll also be able to expand your cultural awareness and understanding by engaging with classmates from different countries and backgrounds. In addition, you'll also come across valuable opportunities to gain real-world knowledge and experience that can set you apart from other fresh graduates — through internships.

## DOING AN INTERNSHIP

Internships are programmes offered by companies, government agencies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that provide on-the-job training and work experience that's related to your chosen field of study.

Internships usually range from

**9 TO 12 WEEKS**

(some up to a year)

They generally take place during **SUMMER BREAK OR POST GRADUATION**

Some are part-time internships where you work at the office for just a few days or hours per week. Others will be full-time internships, so you work the same hours as the company's full-time employees.

Internships can be either **PAID OR UNPAID**

For instance, editorial interns are rarely paid, while STEM students almost always are.

Generally, the internship wage gets higher closer to the end of the degree.

The average wage\* for a bachelor's degree intern is

**US \$16 PER HOUR**

\* According to a recent internship survey from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE)

## WHY DO ONE?

**1** An internship can be an excellent way to "try out" a certain career, which you may even use to tailor your curriculum at school.

**2** Co-op internships count towards course credit in some colleges. Typically, a three-month internship counts as a full course credit.

**3** The chance of gaining full-time employment is fairly high after an internship in some industries, like IT (33%), accounting (55%), and semiconductors (43%).

## INTERNSHIP VISAS

To do an internship in the U.S., you must have either one of these visas:

**F-1 VISA** Most students studying in the U.S. for their degrees will have an F-1 visa, which allows them to do internships to receive practical training.

**J-1 VISA** Singaporean students and exchange programme participants with J-1 visas also qualify for internship programmes or training in the U.S. Visit [j1visa.state.gov](http://j1visa.state.gov) for more.

## WHERE TO FIND THEM

Once you've prepared your resumé, you'll need to look for an internship that fits you. Here are some resources:

### FOR OPT AND CPT PROGRAMMES

The first place you should look is at your college or university, via these channels:

- \* faculty advisors
- \* career centres
- \* International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

### GENERAL INTERNSHIPS

You can look online through professional platforms like:

- \* LinkedIn
- \* Indeed
- \* Glassdoor

Visit corporate websites of companies, which often list internships.

### SUMMER WORK

For a summer work experience, you can be a camp counselor with **Camp America** or **CCUSA**.

### INTERNSHIP SERVICES

There are companies that not only list internships, they'll also handle your logistics like housing and visa assistance:

- \* [Internships.com](http://Internships.com)
- \* [USA-Internships.com](http://USA-Internships.com)
- \* [WayUp.com](http://WayUp.com)
- \* [TheInternGroup.com](http://TheInternGroup.com)
- \* [Idealist.org](http://Idealist.org) (non-profit)

Because of the services offered, there will be fees involved for students, so do your research.

# WORKING IN THE U.S.

For many international students, studying in the U.S. is about more than just earning a degree from a globally recognised learning institution — it's also about getting the opportunity to gain real-world training and work experience — and possibly even a job with an American multinational. This is a dream that many students have in the "land of opportunity". Here are some work options available to you during and after graduation.

## SCHOOL-RELATED WORK

As an international student, your F-1 or J-1 visa allows you to work while studying, but only for on-campus and for a maximum of 20 hours per week while school is in session and 40 hours on breaks.

After your first academic year, you can work off-campus via two programmes — CPT and OPT, both of which may be paid or unpaid employment or internship opportunities. **To be eligible, you must have declared a major and the job must be related to your area of study.**

### CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT)

CPT allows you to get up to **12 months of training** related to your area of study.

**CPT can only be done while you're still studying** as it's considered part of your major's curriculum that you'll receive course credit for. You can apply for CPT through your university's international student services adviser.

**If you use your 12 months of full-time CPT, you won't be able to take OPT; however, a part-time CPT will not impact your OPT eligibility.**

### OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

OPT gives you the opportunity to get up to a **total of 12 months of real-world work experience** while you're still studying or a fresh graduate.

You can apply for OPT through your university's international student services office; it's highly advisable to apply at least 3 months before you start work.

There are two types of OPT: pre-completion OPT, completed while you're still studying, and post-completion OPT, which takes place after graduation. **Those in STEM degree programmes can apply for a 24-month STEM OPT extension.**

## TYPES OF WORK VISAS

Short of investing in a business or having family members sponsor your stay, there are several different types of work visas available for those wishing to work and live in the U.S. After graduation, you'll need to have one of these visas in order to work in the U.S.:

**GREEN CARD:** this is a permanent resident status through a job offer after graduation. It's allocated via a lottery system and the number of green cards are limited.

**EB-1:** for those with "extraordinary ability" in the sciences, arts, education, business or athletics. This also includes professors, researchers and certain managers, and execs.

**EB-2:** for those who hold advanced degrees, such as researchers. You typically need a national interest waiver (NIW) for this kind of green card.

**H-2B:** for those with a temporary or seasonal job where there's a shortage of American workers.

**H-3 (trainee):** for those receiving training in any field, other than graduate education or training, for up to two years.

## VISAS FOR SINGAPOREANS

### H-1B1

The **U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement Professional** visa is multiple-entry and valid for a maximum of 18 months (extensions allowed). Employment must be temporary, and you must demonstrate non-immigrant intent.

- \* Only Singaporeans and Chilean citizens are eligible for this visa
- \* You must work in a specialty occupation such as STEM, education, management, etc.
- \* You have a bachelor's degree or higher

### H-1B

Singaporeans can also apply for the **H-1B Temporary Work Visa**:

- \* You must be employed in an in-demand industry (eg. IT, engineering, etc.)
- \* You must have a bachelor's degree or higher

There are only **65,000** available each year and an additional **20,000** are granted to those with master's degrees from U.S. universities. If the number of applications exceeds the total annual allotment, there will be a lottery system to issue H-1B visas.



For more information on working visas in the U.S. visit the site below or snap the QR code.

[ustraveldocs.com/sg/sg-niv-typework.asp](http://ustraveldocs.com/sg/sg-niv-typework.asp)



# USA 101

Moving to a whole new country for your education can be life-changing – you won't have your usual support group of friends and family, and you'll need to familiarise yourself with a whole new environment. If you're headed to the U.S., here are some things you'll probably need to know (if you don't already).

## BASIC RULES

### DRINKING ALCOHOL



While U.S. universities are famous for their parties, it should be noted that the legal drinking age is 21 (it's 18 in Singapore). If you intend to go to a bar or buy alcohol from a convenience store, always have your passport/ID with you since they'll need verification no matter how old you look.

**21**

### DRIVING



**21**

Singaporeans can get a driver's license in the U.S. and convert it in Singapore. Most states recognise a Singapore driving license (check with your local DMV) for drivers over 21. To rent a car, the minimum age is usually 25 (otherwise you have to pay a surcharge) and an International Driving Permit is often required.

### TIPPING

In Singapore, tipping is super rare, and is usually given when the service staff have been exemplary. In the U.S., tipping is pretty much mandatory – many service staff (bartenders, waiters, hairdressers, drivers, food delivery, etc) rely on tips to survive. The general rule is 10-20% of the total bill.

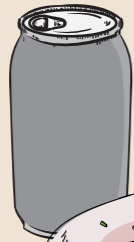


**10-20%**

### RECYCLING

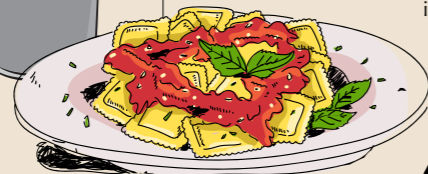
In Vermont, Oregon, New York, Connecticut, Michigan, Massachusetts, Maine, Iowa, and California you can actually get money back for returning drink bottles (glass and sometimes plastic) or cans at Bottle Return machines, usually located conveniently at many grocery stores. They run like vending machines – you put your bottle/can in, and it'll give you cash (5-10 cents each as indicated on the can or bottle).

**5-10¢**



### DINING

Coming from Singapore, food portions in the U.S. may surprise you. In addition to sizable portions of food, many places tend to offer bottomless drinks like soda or coffee. However, no matter what dining establishment you go to, you can always customise your food – if you have food allergies or particular things you don't like – and chances of getting exactly what you want are higher than in Singapore.



## DISCRIMINATION?

The U.S. is a huge, diverse country that's home to over 325 million people. Much like Singapore, the UK, and Australia, the U.S. is a land of immigrants.

While it may seem like there's a lot of coverage these days in the media about racism, the truth is that major cities like New York, Chicago, or LA are some of the most diverse places on the planet, and your chances as a student of encountering racism are low. Let's not forget that discrimination of any kind is actually against the law. Even in smaller towns, people are more likely to be more curious about your origin than anything, since people from around the world come to the U.S.

The average American is friendly, and comes in contact with people of different nationalities and cultures on a regular basis. If you're polite to them, they'll almost certainly treat you with the same respect.



We love meeting new people



## STAYING SAFE

No matter where you are around the world – from Europe to Africa and the U.S. – there will be crime, especially in neighbourhoods with high poverty rates.

The trick is to reduce your odds of becoming a victim – it's simple stuff like avoiding walking alone at night, staying away from bad neighbourhoods, and paying attention to your surroundings.

Colleges across the U.S. conduct freshman orientation where you learn about how to keep safe and be street smart. In addition, safety measures in place include Blue Light emergency poles across campuses which are connected to the university police, and Campus Alert, an emergency messaging platform for college students.

Many colleges also have on-campus police presence as well as safety escort services for students who are on campus after hours.

You'll have to learn to be street smart

## THE VALUE OF AN AMERICAN DEGREE

Higher education is perhaps the greatest investment you can make in your future, but what is the return on investment that you can expect by studying in the U.S.?

Coming up with the total value of higher education isn't something that can be simply calculated – but it's definitely possible to get an accurate idea of how much studying at a 4-year institution will cost, and what the possible lifetime earnings can be.

## THE COST OF STUDYING IN THE U.S.

The total value of higher education requires factoring in the academic and living expenses you incur for every year in the U.S. These expenses can vary greatly depending on the type of university (public vs private), and the cost of living based on where the university is located.

However, to get a rough estimate for the total value of higher education, here are comparative costs of 2 universities (one public and one private), both ranked in the top 100 globally by the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020*.

### PUBLIC University of Wisconsin–Madison (#51)

Education Expenses (in USD)		
	Cost Per Year	Cost for 4 Years*
Tuition & Fees	\$37,785	\$158,079
Textbooks & Supplies	\$1,150	\$4,811
Cost of Living (USD)		
Cost Per Semester	Cost Per Year	Cost for 4 Years*
Housing & Utilities	\$11,558	\$48,354
Transportation (Public)	\$1,440	\$6,024
Food & Leisure	\$2,296	\$9,606
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$226,874</b>

\* Adjusting for 3% inflation and annual tuition increase

### PRIVATE Carnegie Mellon University (#24)

Education Expenses (in USD)		
	Cost Per Year	Cost for 4 Years*
Tuition & Fees	\$57,119	\$238,960
Textbooks & Supplies	\$2,400	\$10,040
Cost of Living (USD)		
Cost Per Semester	Cost Per Year	Cost for 4 Years*
Housing & Utilities	\$12,252	\$51,255
Transportation (Public)	\$680	\$2,844
Food & Leisure	\$6,000	\$25,101
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$328,200</b>

\* Adjusting for 3% inflation and annual tuition increase

## THE TOTAL VALUE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Now that you have a better idea of what the total cost of living and studying in the U.S. can be, it's important to compare this to the total potential return that your degree can give you. The initial investment can be high, but the rewards come in the lifetime earnings you get with an internationally-recognised U.S. degree.

Do note the following dollar values are for graduates working in the U.S. The amount a Singapore-based graduate may earn with that respective U.S. degree may vary, but this gives us a starting point for appreciating the dollar value of a given degree in absolute terms.

### University of Wisconsin-Madison (Degree in Computer Science)

Average Starting Salary (USD)	Total Earnings over 20 Years (3% Annual Salary Growth)
\$85,334	\$2,292,956
<b>\$2,292,956 (Total Earnings) - \$226,874 (Total Education Cost) = \$2,066,082 (Total Value of Education)</b>	

### Carnegie Mellon University (Degree in Chemical Engineering)

Average Starting Salary (USD)	Total Earnings over 20 Years (3% Annual Salary Growth)
\$72,613	\$1,951,138
<b>\$1,951,138 (Total Earnings) - \$328,200 (Total Education Cost) = \$1,622,938 (Total Value of Education)</b>	

The total value of education can be much higher depending on your hard work, talent, connections, opportunities, and luck. Ultimately, it's not just what you learn at school that pays off, it's also about building your future professional network.

Sources: [www.cmu.edu](http://www.cmu.edu) | [www.cs.wisc.edu](http://www.cs.wisc.edu)



There are thousands of colleges and universities across the U.S. – some located in quaint towns while others are situated right in the centre of bustling cities that are home to millions of inhabitants. Here are some key differences to consider when it comes to town and city living in the U.S.

## A QUICK COMPARISON OF STUDENT LIFE IN

# TOWN VS CITY

Town living in the U.S. is generally quieter and more laid back than city living. If you like peace and quiet, college towns are the place to be – many of them have small population numbers (usually under 100,000 residents), and more than half of that are students, so you'll find plenty of fellow students around.

Some of the more famous college towns include Ithaca, New York (home of Cornell University), Lafayette, Indiana (home of Purdue University) and Chapel Hill, North Carolina (home of the University of North Carolina). Most of these are historic towns with plentiful greenery and a friendly Americana vibe with mom-and-pop stores rather than huge franchises. Aside from on-campus activities like sporting events or school festivals, these towns have a number of student hangouts like cafes, bars and shopping areas.

While some towns may have buses between town and campus, cars can be the best way to get around. If you live close to campus, cycling may be a better option, since many towns are bike-friendly, including Flagstaff (Arizona), Hanover (New Hampshire), and Missoula (Montana). Some college towns are even small enough to walk from school to the town centre.

College towns are known not only for their relaxed pace, they're usually surrounded by nature – for instance, Boulder (Colorado), Blacksburg (Virginia), and Bozeman (Montana) students have access to world-class outdoor facilities, from hiking and camping to fly fishing and skiing.

City living in the U.S. is something Singaporeans are familiar with – life is dynamic and fast-paced, there's a hugely diverse population (age, ethnicity, career, etc.), and there's always something to do. The dynamic nature of cities means that it can get crowded and busy, but you won't face many lifestyle limitations, whether it's shopping, dining, entertainment, or getting around.

Some cities are famous for their concentration of colleges and universities, like Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania) which has more than 66 institutions, including Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh. New York City is home to more than 600,000 students enrolled in over 120 higher education institutions, including Columbia University, New York University, and Barnard College, as well as top art schools like The Juilliard School, Parsons School of Design, and New York Film Academy.

Public transportation in American cities usually feature a mix of streetcars (trams), buses, trains, and subways. In most cities – like Chicago or New York City – taking public transit is better than driving due to heavy traffic. More than 130 academic institutions across the U.S. currently have a mandatory U-Pass programme – students pay a small fee for unlimited access to public transit.

City living is always dynamic no matter the time of day – you could visit a museum or indulge at your nearest Shake Shack or Starbucks. There's always something going on (like pop culture conventions or concerts), and cities are better connected by road, rail, or air.

### TRANSPORTATION

### LIFESTYLE

### COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in towns is generally much lower than that of cities. Everything from the cost of off-campus housing to the price of groceries, utilities, and dining out will be 25% to 50% lower than what you could expect to pay in a big city.

Depending on the size of the town, off-campus housing options include apartment complexes, rental homes, and homestay options where local host families can help overseas students settle into life in a new country. Expect to pay anywhere from US\$500 to over US\$2,000 a month for room rental – excluding the security deposit (1-3 months' rent).



**ATHENS, GA**  
Rent: from US\$400  
Fast food meal: US\$6



**NEW YORK CITY**  
Rent: from US\$800  
Fast food meal: US\$9

Off-campus housing in cities include anything from high-end condominiums with amenities to modest apartments. An apartment room can range from US\$600 in Los Angeles or New York City to over US\$3,000 for full-service condos. The further from the city centre or school, the cheaper rent should be.

# Campus Life

University life in the U.S. is about more than just acing your studies and maintaining a good GPA. It's also about experiencing the more recreational and social aspects of being a student that can help you build deeper bonds with your fellow students.

## Living on Campus

Students in the U.S. have the option of living in campus dorms or in private off-site housing. Apart from being just places to sleep, eat, and study, on-campus living in the U.S. is the centre of student social life. Students who live on campus say it's definitely the best choice for getting involved, making friends, and staying on top of studies.

University dorms are pretty diverse – some have co-ed living arrangements and can be mixed-class, having both first-year undergraduates and senior students.

You can meet and build lifelong relationships with people who come from different countries, cultures, and social backgrounds. You can make friends with people that you would have never had the chance to meet back home – and you'll also grow your social consciousness and develop a more global perspective on life.

## Why Live in Dorms?

Here are a few benefits of dorm living for students:

**Better Results:** Research shows that students who live on campus have a higher GPA and graduation rate.

**Convenience:** Be steps away from everything – classes, dining, library, rec centre, and athletic events.

**Social Activities:** Meet dozens of fellow students through numerous activities and programmes, usually organised by dorms or campus.

**Sports:** On game days (the biggest event on a college's calendar), you'll be closer to the stadium (there usually is one at larger universities).

**Everything's Included:** Furniture, utilities, laundry, mail, designated parking, Internet, and even cable TV.

**Save Time:** Dining plans reduce time spent shopping, cooking, and cleaning up.

**Security:** There's often campus security on call and patrolling 24/7, every day of the year.

Leaving your home to study in another country is a huge change – having other students around who are experiencing the same thing creates a support system where everyone genuinely looks out for one another.



## Joining Clubs

Joining a club is about more than just an extracurricular activity, it's about becoming a part of something that you are passionate about, whether it's academics, social causes, sports, culture, or volunteer work. Some U.S. campuses can have hundreds to choose from. The most popular clubs include:

- \* **Academics:** usually based on an area of study (ie. media, law, etc)
- \* **Community Service:** several nationwide service groups have campus chapters
- \* **Sports Groups:** for those passionate about sports

Aside from the social benefit of developing connections and friendships, it can also help build your professional references through networking with people who can help you land your first job after graduation.

## College Sports

Visitors to an American campus cannot help but be struck by the physical presence of the intercollegiate athletics enterprise. It's not unusual for a major university campus to contain both a football stadium that seats 70,000 spectators and a basketball arena that accommodates audiences of 20,000.

Needless to say, campus sports are a big deal, and being on campus allows you a close-up look at this unique American culture.



## Greek Life

One aspect of campus life that's unique to U.S. universities are fraternities (for male students) and sororities (for female students) which are part of the "Greek System" (each named after 2-3 letters of the Greek alphabet).

These groups are close-knit, supportive student organisations that have traditions that are hundreds of years old, many founded around the ideals of developing the social and leadership skills to prepare members for future success.

# HIT THE ROAD

## UNIQUELY AMERICAN EXPERIENCES

Studying in the U.S. isn't just about spending all of your time in the classroom attending lectures and taking exams – it's also about experiencing the fun and unusual aspects of American culture. If you're set on pursuing higher education in the U.S., there are several uniquely American experiences that you should try during your time there.

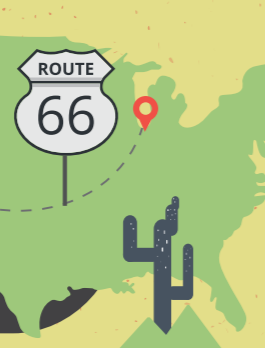
### ROAD TRIP



Arguably, there's no experience more American than the road trip, which has been romanticised in countless films and books – from "Little Miss Sunshine" to Jack Kerouac's "On the Road". There are plenty of famous road trip routes to consider, but perhaps the most iconic is Route 66, which runs from Santa Monica (California) to Chicago (Illinois).

The roughly two-week long road trip along Route 66 will take you on a rural adventure through small town America, where you'll get to meet unforgettable people and see beautifully diverse landscapes. You'll also get to visit quirky and interesting cafes, motels and shops along the way – sometimes in the most desolate and unexpected of places!

Don't drive? No problem. You can also experience many of these road trip routes by bus through companies like Greyhound, or even by train with Amtrak.



Among students studying in America, no other school holiday brings out more excitement than spring break, a week-long holiday that typically takes place in March or April. You're probably familiar with spring break's reputation as a time when students from all over the U.S. flock to the sunny beaches of California, Texas or Florida for a week of clubbing, partying, and performances. If that's how you want to unwind, then Daytona Beach (Florida), Panama City Beach (Florida), South Padre Island (Texas) or Santa Monica (California) are the places to visit.

If partying is not your thing, there are plenty of alternative destinations that are more peaceful, such as the Red Rocks in Sedona (Arizona), Olympic National Park in Seattle (Washington) or the Blue Ridge Mountains (North Carolina). If you're looking for urban destinations with lots of history, shopping, and musical entertainment, you won't regret visiting Nashville (Tennessee), New Orleans (Louisiana), Austin (Texas), Charleston (South Carolina) or Santa Barbara (California).



### WEIRD AND QUIRKY EVENTS

In the U.S., there's no shortage of interesting events to attend. You can find film and music festivals, state and county fairs, and sporting events just about anywhere. There's also no shortage of weird events either!

**Bugfest** (North Carolina) in September brings together bug lovers from all over the country and includes exhibits, talks from bug experts, and yes – even bug cuisine.

The **UFO Festival** in Roswell (New Mexico) in July is an event dedicated to all things E.T., where you can dress up as your favourite alien (or predator), watch a parade, and take part in a 5K run.

The **Wisconsin State Cow Chip Throw and Festival** in September is an interesting event centred around throwing cow dung "chips". The event includes a parade, music, and an arts and crafts fair.



### Good ol' American Food



American cuisine has been exported throughout the world in the form of fast food chains, from McDonald's to Shake Shack and In-N-Out Burger. But America has a lot more to offer – a trip to some foodie destinations should be on your pre-graduation bucket list.

**New York City** is where you can find just about every cuisine – from famous New York-style pizza and Jewish delis, to food trucks selling kebabs or hot dogs. **New Orleans** (Louisiana) is a foodie destination that's renowned for its spicy Creole cuisine, including jambalaya, mirliton, gumbo, and crawfish etouffee. **San Francisco** is at the forefront of innovative cuisine, especially for seafood like Dungeness crab and Cioppino (seafood stew), as well as mission burritos. **Boston** is synonymous with seafood, from fresh lobsters and oysters to their famous clam chowder; plus, you can't go wrong with pizza and cannolis in Little Italy.



No matter where you go, however, there's nothing more American than a visit to an old-school diner, where you can feast on breakfast, burgers, and bottomless coffee in a retro booth.

# NEVER TOO YOUNG TO LEAD

YSEALI

## YSEALI

Launched in 2013, the **Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative** is the U.S. government's signature leadership development and networking program for youth in Southeast Asia.

**YSEALI aims to:**

- 1. Support** the leadership development of youth in the region
- 2. Nurture** the ASEAN community
- 3. Strengthen** ties between the U.S. and S.E. Asia

### Academic Fellows Program

For undergraduates or fresh graduates ages **18-25**

- Five-week institute held on the campus of a U.S. college or university. Focuses on Civic Engagement, Environment and Natural Resources Management, or Entrepreneurship and Economic Development
- Includes an academic residency, leadership development, a study tour, community service, and connecting with American peers
- Concludes in Washington, D.C., to allow for engagement with policymakers, governmental representatives, businesses, and think tanks

For more information on **YSEALI** programs or how to apply, check out our websites: [sg.usembassy.gov/education-culture/yseali/](http://sg.usembassy.gov/education-culture/yseali/) [asean.usmission.gov/yseali/](http://asean.usmission.gov/yseali/) or e-mail us at: [SingaporeYSEALI@state.gov](mailto:SingaporeYSEALI@state.gov)



### Regional Workshops

For young leaders who want to make an even bigger impact in their communities

- Provides networking, mentoring, hands-on training, and the tools necessary to lead communities in addressing economic, environmental, educational, and civic engagement issues.
- Visit one of the 10 ASEAN countries or Timor Leste and develop an appreciation for the similarities and differences of each other's culture

### Professional Fellows Program

For emerging leaders ages **25-35**

- Five weeks in the United States, including four weeks working directly with American counterparts in their field
- Fellows build their practical expertise, leadership skills, and professional networks under one of the following themes: Civic Engagement, Economic Empowerment, Governance and Society, or Sustainable Development and the Environment

# A SNAPSHOT OF THE U.S.

If you've ever wondered what each state or city in the USA is famous for, we've got you covered. Plus, we've even listed some great colleges and universities in these locations so you can look for your ideal school.

## INDIANA

Known as 'the crossroads of America', Indiana is famous for its tradition of college basketball and the Indy500 car race.

**SCHOOLS:** Purdue University, University of Notre Dame, Indiana University, etc.

## MICHIGAN

The city of Detroit is known as Motor City, as it's home to The Big Three automotive makers (GM, Ford, Fiat Chrysler). Ann Arbor is a famous college town, and home to the largest (American) football stadium in the USA.

**SCHOOLS:** University of Michigan, Oakland University, Michigan State University, etc.

## MASSACHUSETTS

Widely considered the 'brain' of the USA, it's home to the most top ranked schools in the country and a centre for research and liberal politics. Also famous for lobsters and oysters.

**SCHOOLS:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Amherst College, Berklee College of Music, etc.

## ILLINOIS

### CHICAGO

The 'windy city' is famous for its sports teams and is the birthplace of the deep-dish pizza. It's a world centre of higher education and research, and has a high number of graduate schools.

**SCHOOLS:** University of Chicago, Loyola University, DePaul University, University of Illinois, etc.

## PENNSYLVANIA

It's home to two big college cities with elite schools: Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia, which is considered the 'birthplace' of the USA since the Declaration of Independence was signed here.

**SCHOOLS:** Carnegie Mellon University, Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, etc.



## NEW YORK

### NEW YORK CITY

Artistic and diverse, it's home to icons like the Statue of Liberty and Broadway, and the country's financial powerhouse: Wall Street.

**SCHOOLS:** New York University, Columbia University, Parsons School of Design, New York Film Academy, etc.

## TEXAS

It has a tradition of cowboys and cattle ranches, but it's also a budding tech hub - much of the development and top schools are based in the southeast of the state.

**SCHOOLS:** Texas A&M University, University of Texas at Austin, Southwestern University, etc.

## FLORIDA

Known as the land of amusement parks (Disney World!), it's also home to the Kennedy Space Center. Plus, it's famous for its oranges, beaches, and Miami's glamorous party scene.

**SCHOOLS:** University of Miami, University of Central Florida, etc.

## CALIFORNIA

Home to Hollywood, West Coast beach culture, and a world-leading tech hub in Silicon Valley. There's also a number of prestigious schools noted for their STEM education.

**SCHOOLS:** Stanford University, California Institute of Technology, University of California, Berkeley, etc.

## WASHINGTON DC

The capital of the country, and home to Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court, and the White House. The District is known for its medical research institutions as well as schools of foreign affairs and law.

**SCHOOLS:** American University, Georgetown University, Catholic University of America, etc.

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2020



bit.ly/2rOzj8V



# Online Resources

## Education USA

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

### Five steps to US study

[educationusa.state.gov/your-5-steps-us-study](http://educationusa.state.gov/your-5-steps-us-study)

### Videos about studying in the US

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

## Find your Best Fit School

### UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE

#### CollegeBoard

[bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search)

#### Petersons

[petersons.com/college-search](http://petersons.com/college-search)

#### Noodle

[noodle.com/colleges](http://noodle.com/colleges)

### COMMUNITY COLLEGES

[2plus2.org](http://2plus2.org)

[aacc.nche.edu](http://aacc.nche.edu)

### ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

[geteducated.com](http://geteducated.com)

[accreditedschoolsonline.org](http://accreditedschoolsonline.org)

[affordablecollegesonline.org](http://affordablecollegesonline.org)

## Entrance Exams

TOEFL - [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)

SAT - [www.sat.collegeboard.org](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org)

ACT - [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

GMAT - [www.mba.com](http://www.mba.com)

GRE - [www.etc.org/gre](http://www.etc.org/gre)

### FREE TEST PREP

**Magoosh:** SAT, ACT, GRE, MCAT  
with mobile app

**Testive:** SAT, ACT, weekly classes

**Khan Academy:** SAT and MCAT

## Financial Aid & Scholarships

### US-BASED FUNDING

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

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

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

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

### SINGAPORE-BASED FUNDING

[brightsparks.com.sg](http://brightsparks.com.sg)

[scholarshipguide.com.sg](http://scholarshipguide.com.sg)

[www.singaporeindustryscholarship.sg](http://www.singaporeindustryscholarship.sg)

[www.pscscholarships.gov.sg](http://www.pscscholarships.gov.sg)

## Student visas

### Apply for Student Visa / Schedule Interview

[www.ustraveldocs.com/sg](http://www.ustraveldocs.com/sg)

### US Embassy in Singapore

[singapore.usembassy.gov](http://singapore.usembassy.gov)

### Pay SEVIS Fee

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

## Additional Resources

### List of universities that do not require SAT

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

### Verify university accreditation

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

### J-1 Visa Exchanges

[www.j1visa.state.gov/programs](http://www.j1visa.state.gov/programs)

### COLLEGE WEEK LIVE

*Virtual chats with US University representatives*

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

### COMMON APPLICATION

*Over 800 universities use the Common App*

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

### MY MAJORS

*Personality profile to choose major*

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

### NEXT TIER EDUCATION

*Personalised application checklist*

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



## EducationUSA Singapore Advising Center

Office hours: Mon-Fri; 9am-5pm (by appointment only)

EducationUSA is committed to promoting the diversity of U.S. higher education to help international students find their "best fit."

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