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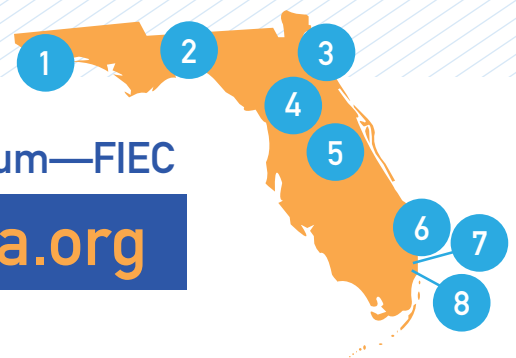
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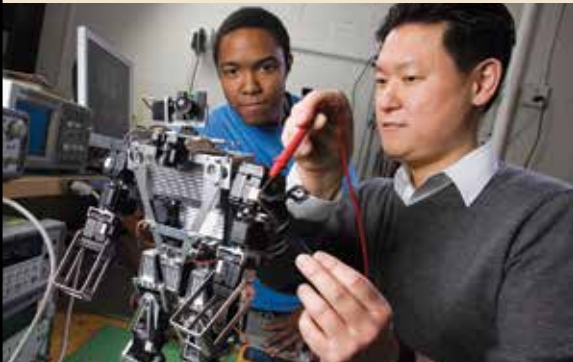
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studying in Washington

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WHAT YOU SAID!

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✉ **Landry FROM GERMANY**

Study in the USA® has brought me a lot of ideas about USA. I have learnt about the many opportunities being offered to US international students.

✉ **Malaku FROM THE NETHERLANDS**

Your site answers all questions that may arise in my mind. Therefore I am satisfied. Just keep it up.

✉ **Leah FROM KENYA**

My advisor gave me a copy of your magazine, and it helped me a lot in deciding to study in the United States. Thanks for your inspiration! :)

✉ **Senko FROM JAPAN**

You're doing a great job. I am a school counselor and I had received a copy of Study in the USA magazine during the last fair in Bangkok. I'll make it sure that our high school students are updated on the information about getting into US universities.

✉ **Junjun FROM THAILAND**

I'm studying in Wroclaw, Poland but I want to start some studies in the USA in 2 years time. First of all, I want to know the language very well and then go abroad. There are some colleges I'm interested about. They sent me some folders and I'm amazed about some offers. In my opinion, your website is very helpful. I have a wide range of variety of



all offers I received and I can choose exactly what I want to study. Thank you :)

✉ **Paulina FROM POLAND**

I really liked your magazine because it is easy to read and you have useful tips for international students. I liked the article on preparing for the visa interview and education expenses. Keep up the good work!!

✉ **Gianina FROM ITALY**

Dear Reader,

There has never been a better time to study in the United States. Today's global economy needs professionals with international experience and an excellent command of the English language. Choose to study English at an EnglishUSA or UCIEP member program, and you can be assured that it meets the highest standards for instructional quality and services to students.

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Joy S. Tesh

Joy Tesh
President
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College Intensive English Programs
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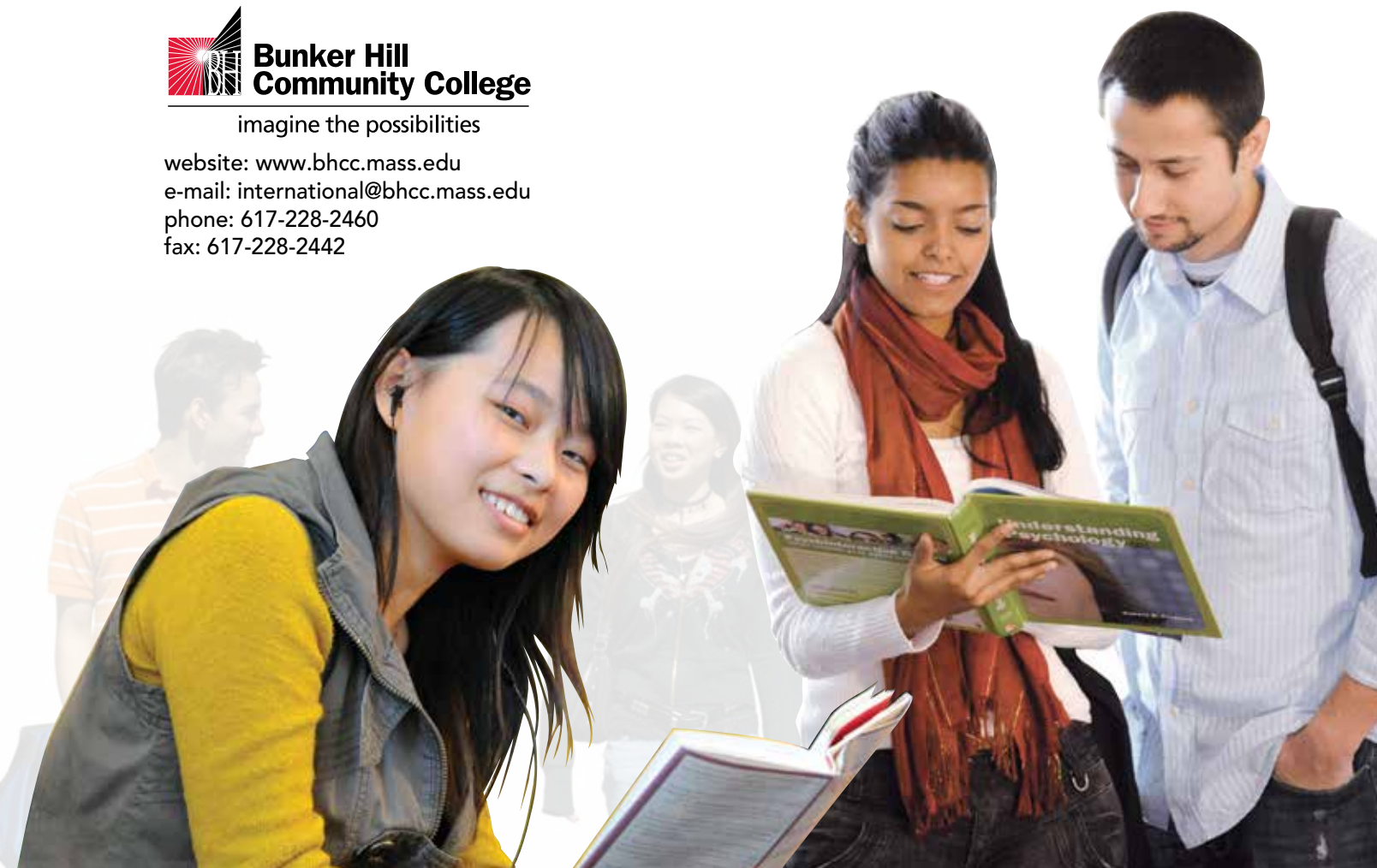
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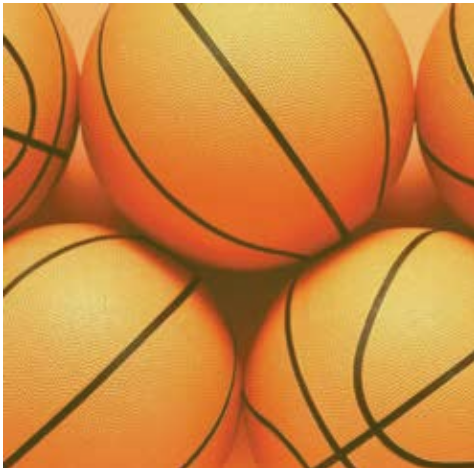
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It would mean that you have more opportunities.

Studying in the United States and abroad doesn't just give you tangible degrees and certificates. Your experience says something about who you are. Living and studying in another country—especially where your language isn't spoken—is challenging, requires courage and a positive attitude. Sometimes, these characteristics are more influential than your degree.

Life here, both as an international student and visitor, will probably be different from what you expect. You may be pleasantly surprised to find that the images from films and television programs are not always true. Americans come in a variety of sizes, colors and shapes and in general are very friendly and will be interested in learning about you and your country.

For any international student, the USA has a lot to offer: one of the most prestigious, top ranked higher education systems in the world, eclectic cities and beautiful natural parks, culture, history and a very multicultural population.

Diversity and Variety

The United States offers variety.

There is a wide range of schools, countless areas of study and specialty degrees. If you are interested in studying business, you are not relegated to just general study, but can choose from many concentrations: accounting, marketing, international business, business management, business administration, or finance. (There are many more!) This type of specialty study is available at the undergraduate, graduate and doctorate level, too.

One option you may not be aware of is studying at a community college, which is a two-year school in which you can begin your university study. You can complete the first two years of your bachelor's degree at a com-

munity college and then transfer your credits to a four-year university. This is extremely common in the USA. Community colleges offer lower tuition costs, smaller class sizes and more personal attention. Many community colleges also offer intensive English language programs.

Or, you can begin your studies at a four-year university or college. The variation and number of choices reflects the diversity and enormity of the U.S. You can study at a large public university or college. If you prefer a more intimate campus and a smaller community, you may choose a small private university.

The land and people of the USA are also incredibly varied. Wherever you choose to study, you will encounter a regional culture rich in history and local traditions. For instance, the West Coast region has many

given career field, an invaluable resource.

You may be surprised at your professors' willingness to challenge authority. Academic freedom is one of the hallmarks of a U.S. university. You will notice different perspectives on instruction. Here, students are trained to observe and analyze a problem, then solve it. You will be expected to listen to your classmates and challenge their points of view. The goal is pragmatic, so that you will gain confidence and the ability to organize and present an argument.

Most American university students live on or near the school campus. You will have many opportunities to join planned and informal activities with other students, such as hiking, skiing, museum visits, excursions to new cities, and local tourist attractions. Imagine visiting New York City and taking a ferry to the Statue of Liberty! Many schools

Living and studying in another country—especially where your language isn't spoken—is challenging and requires courage and a positive attitude.

beaches, outdoor activities, the people have a relaxed attitude and you will probably find many local international communities. The Midwest has many large research universities and the people are known for their hospitality and kindness. The USA is a multiracial society that is still absorbing new immigrants, which makes it a very dynamic and exciting place to experience. While students must exercise caution in a few locations, streets and university campuses are generally clean and safe.

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U.S. universities and colleges may differ from those in your home country in several ways. For one thing, small class sizes are very common. There may be as few as 10 to 20 students in a class, giving you the personal attention you need in order to succeed. While in class, students are encouraged and expected to contribute to the discussion. Professors meet with students in their offices or even share coffee or meals with them. The close relationship between students and faculty serves to motivate students and fosters a personal approach to the curriculum. Studying in the U.S. gives you the opportunity to gain a mentor in your

have international student organizations and clubs that also plan activities. This interaction with other students will enhance your English language skills. Your fellow students will also teach you about American culture and about the diverse cultures represented on any U.S. university or college campus.

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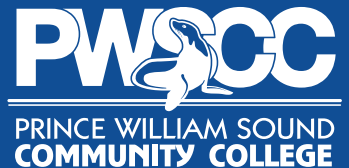
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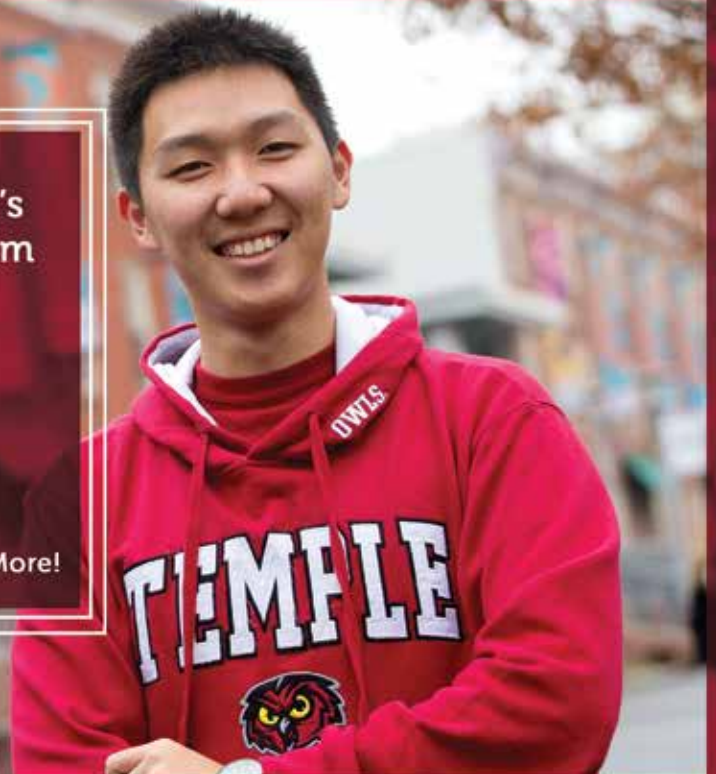
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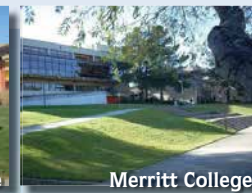


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- Do you feel your **vocabulary is too basic** to allow you to express all the ideas you want to present or discuss?
- Have you prepared your TOEFL score but need **experience expressing yourself** in a U.S.-style classroom setting?
- Can you read sophisticated articles and texts but still **write in a basic way**?

Courtesy of Martha Hall Ed.M., Director of The New England School of English (NESE), www.NESE.com

Each year, tens of thousands of students do exactly that. Many come to prepare themselves to enter colleges and universities in the United States; others come to learn English while experiencing American life; still others come to improve their English, to qualify for a better job at home.

Maybe an English language program is not at the forefront of your mind and you think your English skills are just fine. But, you should carefully consider completing an English language program, especially an intensive English language program. Improving your English language skills will give you a higher TOEFL or IELTS score, which means that you will have even more universities and colleges to choose from. (Remember, each institution has different English proficiency requirements.) You will also have a much easier time in your classes and a more enriched education with strong English language skills.

The classroom environment and higher educational system in the United States is very unique. You will be expected to participate in class discussions, share your opinion, debate and explain your reasoning, give class presentations and work in groups with your classmates. Class participation, along with tests, quizzes and projects will be one of the factors that determine your overall grade for the course.

Learning and improving your English will give you a good foundation for your university education.

Types of English Language Programs

College and University Programs

The United States is a large and diverse place with urban and rural, large and small, public and private colleges and universities, as well as private English language schools.

Many U.S. colleges and universities offer full-time intensive English programs. An intensive English program must meet a minimum of 18 hours per week for students to qualify for a student visa. Most intensive programs provide 20-25 hours per week of classroom instruction. Students usually enter these programs at the beginning of the academic semester (term or quarter).

An advantage of these programs is that students can usually live on campus and have full use of the college or university library, the recreation and sports areas, as well as other facilities. They can practice English with the university students they meet in

their dorms and cafeterias.

At some schools, students in advanced levels of an English program may be permitted to take a few university courses while they are completing their language study. Another benefit of taking university-based ESL classes is that students on F-1 visas may work on campus up to 20 hours per week.

It is important to note that intensive English programs are usually not part of the college or university's academic degree programs; therefore you may or may not receive academic credit. Students enrolled in ESL institutes are not necessarily admitted to that college or university. Find out if university or college offers conditional admission and the requirements.

Keep in mind that public colleges, universities and community colleges often cost less than private universities and colleges.

Proprietary English Language Programs

Some private English language schools also prepare students to enter U.S. colleges and universities, and many are actually located on or near a college or university campus. Others are located in a downtown office building or a mall. (Keep in mind that only some of private English schools provide housing or arrange homestays.)

At some private ESL institutes advanced-level students may take one or two academic courses at nearby colleges or universities. Many ESL schools also offer vacation ESL programs in which students learn English while traveling to interesting places or participating in activities.

At private schools, schedules may be more flexible compared to colleges and universities. New sessions may begin every few weeks. This can be an advantage to those students who are interested in short-term study.

Finding the Right Program for You

It is important to do your "homework" before choosing a school. Consider the questions on this page. Look at the schools listed in this copy of *Study in the USA*, and visit **StudyUSA.com** to read about individual schools; some of the descriptions are in several languages and you can contact the schools directly. Go to your local educational advising center for resources to help you identify schools that interest you.

You are embarking on an exciting and rewarding adventure. Choose carefully, and you will have a wonderful, rewarding experience. ✪

How Should I Choose a Program?

- 1 Think about what kind of program you want to attend. Do you want a serious academic program or a casual vacation program?
- 2 How much money can you spend on tuition, room, meals, activities, books, etc.?
- 3 Where do you want to go to school? In a large city, small town, in a suburb, or in a particular part of the country?
- 4 Find out if the teachers are professionally trained and experienced language instructors.
- 5 What is the average class size? Ideally, classes range between 10-15 students.
- 6 What living accommodations does the program provide? Does the program make all housing arrangements for you, or will they help you find housing?
- 7 What services will the school provide—international student advisors, assistance with university or college admissions, orientation, health care, counseling?
- 8 What extra-curricular activities are there? Are there clubs or sports teams to join?
- 9 What is the school setting? Is it a large or small school?
- 10 Does the school permit advanced level students to take classes at the university or a nearby college?
- 11 Is the school accredited? Many college and university ESL programs are accredited through their university or college.

/STUDENT TIP

Before attending the Peralta Colleges, I took some language courses that really helped me learn the basics: speaking, writing, reading. I just kept learning and watched American TV shows with subtitles (like *Grey's Anatomy* and *Private Practice*!)

Meiyun Han,
from China,
Nursing at Merritt
College (one of the
Peralta Colleges)



Do not worry about the English issue. English is just a language, it is all about practice. Be bold and speak English to people.

Xujie Zhao, from China,
Computer Networking
at Wentworth Institute
of Technology



My English has improved a lot in these last months since I began the IEP [Intensive English Program] program. My vocabulary has expanded. Studying English has helped me in my reading as well.

Romina Ruiz,
from Mexico,
Intensive English
Program at University
of San Francisco

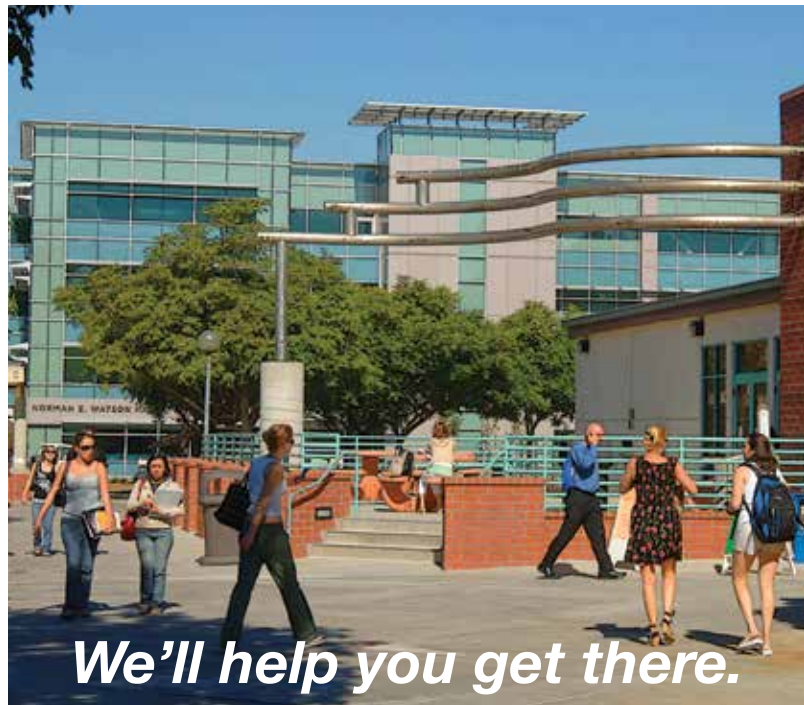


I would say do your best in school. Do your homework as well. Then, practice by listening to your favorite singer in English, reading the newspaper and speaking with natives.

Raquel Sousa Gomes,
from Brazil,
English at Pace
University's English
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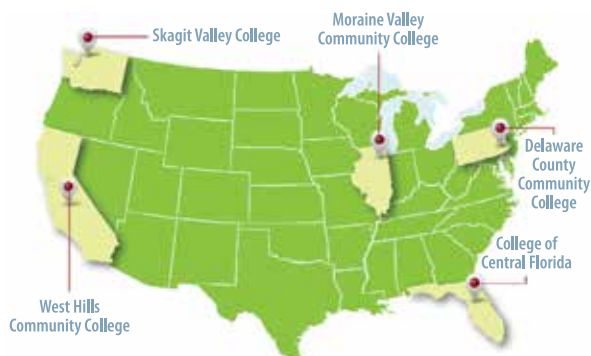
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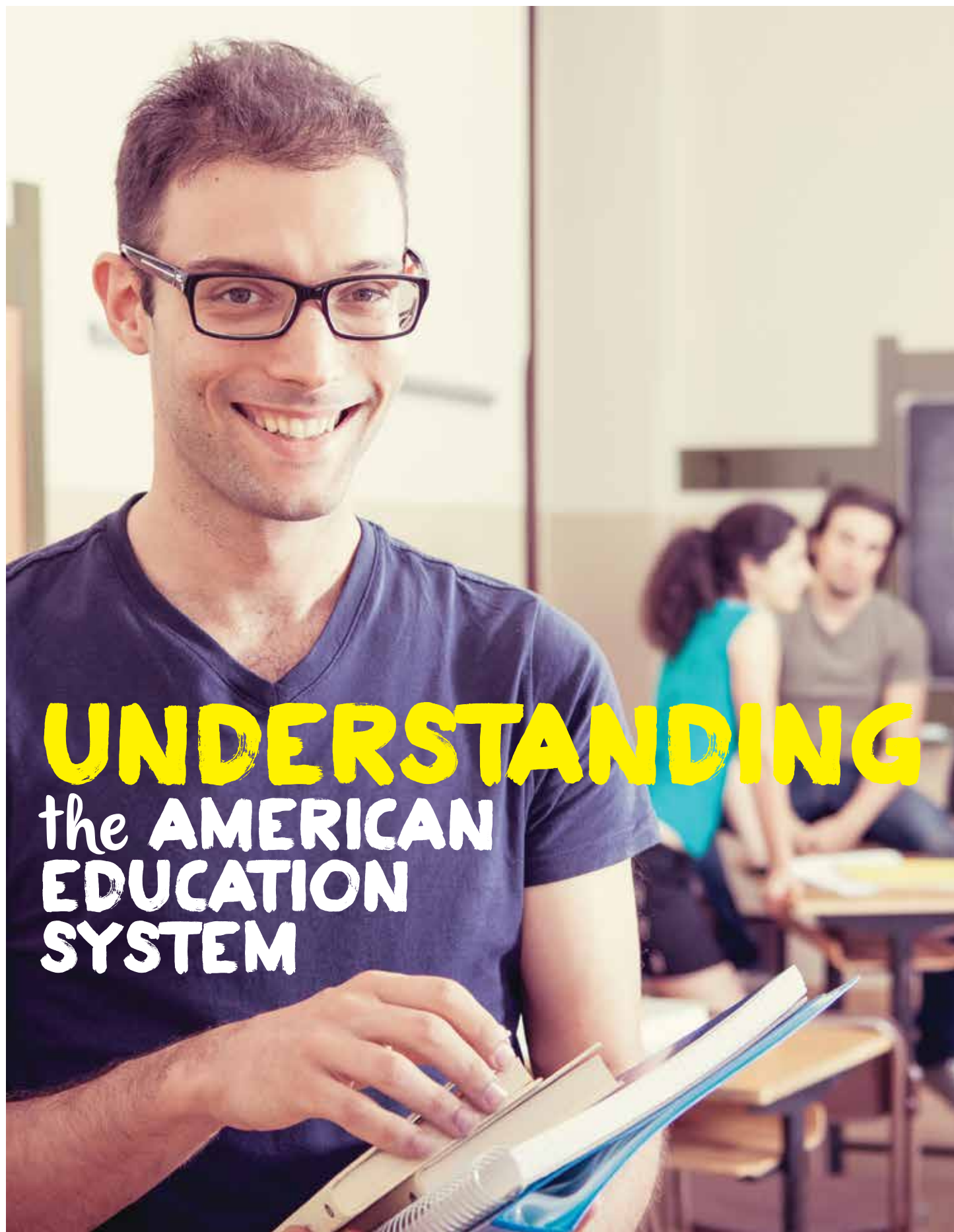
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UNDERSTANDING

the AMERICAN
EDUCATION
SYSTEM

The American education system offers a rich field of choices for international students. There is such an array of schools, programs and locations that the choices may overwhelm students, even those from the U.S. As you begin your school search, it's important to familiarize yourself with the American education system. Understanding the system will help you narrow your choices and develop your education plan.

The Educational Structure Primary and Secondary School

Prior to higher education, American students attend primary and secondary school for a combined total of 12 years. These years are referred to as the first through twelfth grades.

Around age six, U.S. children begin primary school, which is most commonly called "elementary school." They attend five or six years and then go onto secondary school.

Secondary school consists of two programs: the first is "middle school" or "junior high school" and the second program is "high school." A diploma or certificate is awarded upon graduation from high school. After graduating high school (12th grade), U.S. students may go on to college or university. College or university study is known as "higher education."

Grading System

Just like American students, you will have to submit your academic transcripts as part of your application for admission to university

or college. Academic transcripts are official copies of your academic work. In the U.S. this includes your "grades" and "grade point average" (GPA), which are measurements of your academic achievement. Courses are commonly graded using percentages, which are converted into letter grades.

The grading system and GPA in the U.S. can be confusing, especially for international students. The interpretation of grades has a lot of variation. For example, two students who attended different schools both submit their transcripts to the same university. They both have 3.5 GPAs, but one student attended an average high school, while the other attended a prestigious school that was academically challenging. The university might interpret their GPAs differently because the two schools have dramatically different standards.

Therefore, there are some crucial things to keep in mind:

- You should find out the U.S. equivalent of the last level of education you completed in your home country.
- Pay close attention to the admission requirements of each university and college, as well as individual degree programs, which may have different requirements than the university.
- Regularly meet with an educational advisor or guidance counselor to make sure you are meeting the requirements.

Your educational advisor or guidance counselor will be able to advise you on whether or not you must spend an extra year or two preparing for U.S. university admission. If an international student entered a U.S. university or college prior to being eligible to attend university in their own country, some countries' governments and employers may not recognize the students' U.S. education.

Academic Year

The school calendar usually begins in August or September and continues through May or June. The majority of new students begin in autumn, so it is a good idea for international students to also begin their U.S. university studies at this time. There is a lot of excitement at the beginning of the school year and students form many great friendships during this time, as they are all adjusting to a new phase of academic life. Additionally, many

Grading Policy

Grade	Grade Point Value
A 93-100%	4.00
A- 90-92%	3.67
B+ 87-89%	3.33
B 83-86%	3
B- 80-82%	2.67
C+ 77-79%	2.33
C 73-76%	2
C- 70-72%	1.67
D+ 67-69%	1.33
D 60-66%	1
F 0-59%	0
I Incomplete	0

courses are designed for students to take them in sequence, starting in autumn and continuing through the year.

The academic year at many schools is composed of two terms called "semesters." (Some schools use a three-term calendar known as the "trimester" system.) Still, others further divide the year into the quarter system of four terms, including an optional summer session. Basically, if you exclude the summer session, the academic year is either comprised of two semesters or three quarter terms.

The U.S. Higher Education System: Levels of Study First Level: Undergraduate

A student who is attending a college or university and has not earned a bachelor's degree, is studying at the undergraduate level. It typically takes about four years to earn a bachelor's degree. You can either begin your studies in pursuit of a bachelor's degree at a community college or a four-year university or college.

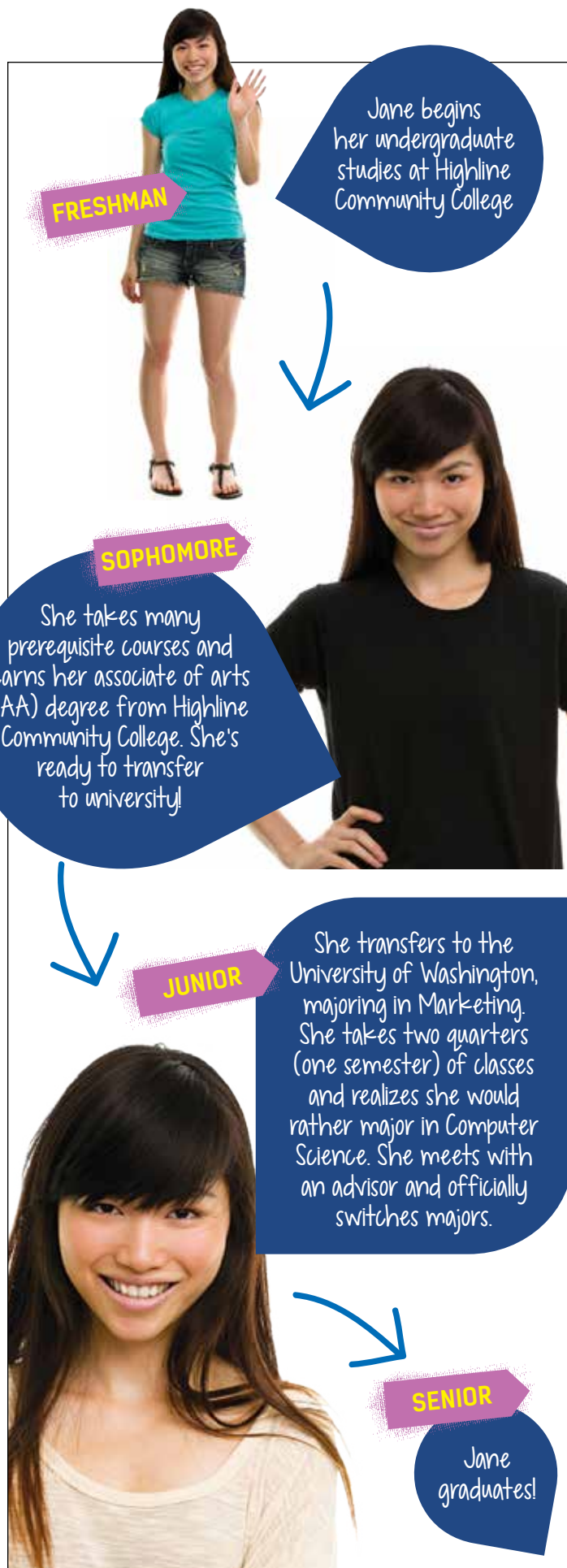
Your first two years of study you will generally be required to take a wide variety of classes in different subjects, commonly known as prerequisite courses: literature, science, the social sciences, the arts, history, and

/STUDENT TIP

One challenge was the way you register for classes and developing an academic plan. I really didn't know what to study because I could choose many programs. I met with Angela Khoo [Academic Adviser] about the classes that I could take, and then it became a lot easier for me.

Meljun Han,
from China,
Nursing at Merritt
College (one of the
Peralta Colleges)





so forth. This is so you achieve a general knowledge, a foundation, of a variety of subjects prior to focusing on a specific field of study.

Many students choose to study at a community college in order to complete the first two years of prerequisite courses. They will earn an Associate of Arts (AA) transfer degree and then transfer to a four-year university or college.

A “major” is the specific field of study in which your degree is focused. For example, if someone’s major is journalism, they will earn a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. You will be required to take a certain number of courses in this field in order to meet the degree requirements of your major. You must choose your major at the beginning of your third year of school.

A very unique characteristic of the American higher education system is that you can change your major multiple times if you choose. It is extremely common for American students to switch majors at some point in their undergraduate studies. Often, students discover a different field that they excel in or enjoy. The American education system is very flexible. Keep in mind though that switching majors may result in more courses, which means more time and money.

Second Level: Graduate in Pursuit of a Master’s Degree

Presently, a college or university graduate with a bachelor’s degree may want to seriously think about graduate study in order to enter certain professions or advance their career. This degree is usually mandatory for higher-level positions in library science, engineering, behavioral health and education.

Furthermore, international students from some countries are only permitted to study abroad at a graduate level. You should inquire about the credentials needed to get a job in your country before you apply to a postgraduate university in the USA.

A graduate program is usually a division of a university or college. To gain admission, you will need to take the GRE (graduate record examination). Certain master’s programs require specific tests, such as the LSAT for law school, the GRE or GMAT for business school, and the MCAT for medical school.

Graduate programs in pursuit of a master’s degree typically take one to two years to complete. For example, the MBA (master of business administration) is an extremely popular degree program that takes about two years. Other master’s programs, such as journalism, only take one year.

The majority of a master’s program is spent in classroom study and a graduate student must prepare a long research paper called a “master’s thesis” or complete a “master’s project.”

Third Level: Graduate in Pursuit of a Doctorate Degree

Many graduate schools consider the attainment of a master’s degree the first step towards earning a PhD (doctorate). But at other schools, students may prepare directly for a doctorate without also earning a master’s degree. It may take three years or more to earn a PhD degree. For international students, it may take as long as five or six years.

For the first two years of the program most doctoral candidates enroll in classes and seminars. At least another year is spent conducting firsthand research and writing a thesis or dissertation. This paper must contain views, designs, or research that have not been previously published.

A doctoral dissertation is a discussion and summary of the current scholarship on a given topic. Most U.S. universities awarding doctorates also require their candidates to have a reading knowledge of two foreign languages, to spend a required length of time “in residence,”

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I like that schedules are flexible, classes are fun, and the variety of activities I can participate in.

Xujie Zhao, from China,
Computer Networking at
Wentworth Institute of Technology



to pass a qualifying examination that officially admits candidates to the PhD program, and to pass an oral examination on the same topic as the dissertation.

Characteristics of the U.S. Higher Education System Classroom Environment

Classes range from large lectures with several hundred students to smaller classes and seminars (discussion classes) with only a few students. The American university classroom atmosphere is very dynamic. You will be expected to share your opinion, argue your point, participate in class discussions and give presentations. International students find this one of the most surprising aspects of the American education system.

Each week professors usually assign textbook and other readings. You will be expected to keep up-to-date with the required readings and homework so you can participate in class discussions and understand the lectures. Certain degree programs also require students to spend time in the laboratory.

Professors issue grades for each student enrolled in the course. Grades are usually based upon:

- Each professor will have a unique set of class participation requirements, but students are expected to participate in class discussions, especially in seminar classes. This is often a very important factor in determining a student's grade.
- A midterm examination is usually given during class time.
- One or more research or term papers, or laboratory reports must be submitted for evaluation.
- Possible short exams or quizzes are given. Sometimes professors will give an unannounced "pop quiz." This doesn't count heavily toward the grade, but is intended to inspire students to keep up with their assignments and attendance.
- A final examination will be held after the final class meeting.

Credits

Each course is worth a certain number of credits or credit hours. This number is roughly the same as the number of hours a student spends in class for that course each week. A course is typically worth three to five credits.

A full-time program at most schools is 12 or 15 credit hours (four or five courses per term) and a certain number of credits must be fulfilled in order to graduate. International students are expected to enroll in a full-time program during each term.

Transfers

If a student enrolls at a new university before finishing a degree, generally most credits earned at the first school can be used to complete a degree at the new university. This means a student can transfer to another university and still graduate within a reasonable time. ★

TYPES OF U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION

1. State College or University

A state school is supported and run by a state or local government. Each of the 50 U.S. states operates at least one state university and possibly several state colleges. Many of these public universities schools have the name of the state, or the actual word "State" in their names: for example, Washington State University and the University of Michigan.

2. Private College or University

These schools are privately run as opposed to being run by a branch of the government. Tuition will usually be higher than state schools. Often, private U.S. universities and colleges are smaller in size than state schools.

Religiously affiliated universities and colleges are private schools. Nearly all these schools welcome students of all religions and beliefs. Yet, there are a percentage of schools that prefer to admit students who hold similar religious beliefs as those in which the school was founded.

3. Community College

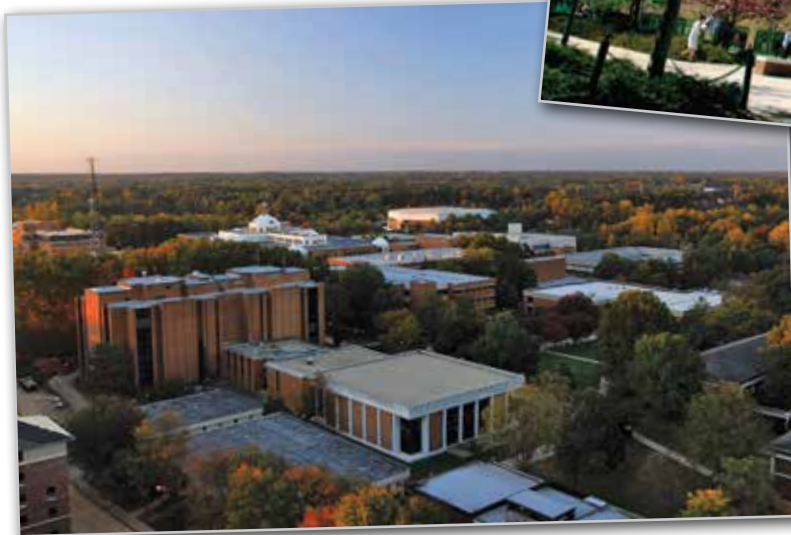
Community colleges are two-year colleges that award an associate's degrees (transferable), as well as certifications. There are many types of associate degrees, but the most important distinguishing factor is whether or not the degree is transferable. Usually, there will be two primary degree tracks: one for academic transfer and the other prepares students to enter the workforce straightaway. University transfer degrees are generally associate of arts or associate of science. Not likely to be transferrable are the associate of applied science degrees and certificates of completion.

Community college graduates most commonly transfer to four-year colleges or universities to complete their degree. Because they can transfer the credits they earned while attending community college, they can complete their bachelor's degree program in two or more additional years. Many also offer ESL or intensive English language programs, which will prepare students for university-level courses.

If you do not plan to earn a higher degree than the associate's, you should find out if an associate's degree will qualify you for a job in your home country.

4. Institute of Technology

An institute of technology is a school that provides at least four years of study in science and technology. Some have graduate programs, while others offer short-term courses. ★



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Alan Li, from China, completed the Intensive English Program at **Texas Christian University** and is now a freshman, majoring in Business at the University.

Why did you decide to study in the USA?

First of all, China has a pretty high population that causes a competitive situation. Even if I graduate from Chinese university, it is still pretty hard to find a job. Secondly, the education level of America is the best in the world. Lastly, studying here can provide me more opportunities; I can enrich my life experience and I can make friends with people from all over the world.

Why did you choose Texas Christian University and the Intensive English Program?

I came to this school because it is very famous in China. Also, before I decided to come here I had an interview with a professor here who helped me know more about this school. TCU [Texas Christian University] is very famous in Fort Worth area. The high reputation of this school can help me to find a job after I graduate.

The most important is the Intensive English Program (IEP) here. It helped me a lot to improve my English. IEP is located on campus, which helped me get to know real university life and learn English at the same time.

What do you like best?

The student services here are pretty good. Teachers are always here to help you. Also, you can find almost anything you need around campus. Last, there are a bunch of organizations to help international

students, such as ISA [International Student Association] group and writing center.

What do you miss most?

I miss my family and the food the most.

How has this program helped you to handle future study at a U.S. university?

I have stayed here almost a year and a half. I usually hang out with my American friends and watch TV shows to improve my speaking and listening.

Because the IEP helped me get to know university life and learn English, after I graduated from IEP, I already knew lots of useful skills of the college. This makes my freshman year very easy.

What was your biggest surprise?

Learning freely and living independently.

... your biggest disappointment?

Weather and food.

How have you handled: ... language differences?

I try my best to learn and talk more with native English speakers. I also try to speak in English more and speak less in my mother language.

... finances?

I can work on campus, so I can earn a little bit money and at the same time, it can improve my English.

... adjusting to a different educational system?

I think it is easy to adjust because the education now is freer, so it's easy to adjust.

What are your activities?

IEP always has some outdoor activities such as the zoo, stockyard and parks. TCU has lots of events on campus too, such as music concerts and football games.

How easy or difficult was making friends?

It is easy to have American friends, but it is hard to become best friends because the cultures are different.

How relevant is your U.S. education to your personal goals and to the needs of your country?

I want to be a financier. It [my education] has a big relevance because I need to learn the most popular economic knowledge; China needs lots of experts in finance. Also, U.S. is the finance center of the world, so it is a great choice to study here.

What is your advice to other students who are considering a U.S. education?

Come to America early and try to get in touch with the outside world instead of reading books all day. Make more friends and attend all kinds of activities.★



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Lulu Chen, from China, is a sophomore studying English language and Business Administration at **Clark College** in Vancouver, Washington.



Clark College

Why did you decide to study in the USA?

The education in USA is very advanced, and that is the most important reason for me to choose study in USA. I have also made lots of new friends in USA, not only Americans, but also people from all over the world.

How did you choose Clark College?

Clark College has small class sizes and I am able to get a lot of personal attention, which helps me a lot for my English study. The patient and helpful instructor make me have a good time studying at Clark College. And Clark College has excellent tutor center.

What do you like best?

The education environment is really good. I found I have lots of time to decide what I am interested in and the major I would like to choose. Experiencing the education system in USA, I found I really learn through some activities, which is not only lecture time, but also in the group-study/lab/social practice time.

What do you miss most?

I miss my family and friends a lot. Studying in USA makes me have less time to spend with them. I also miss the food in China. I am still learning how to cook the very traditional Chinese food.

How has this program helped you to handle future study at a U.S. university?

I think my English has been improved a lot after I took English classes at Clark College. The English classes, such as writing, reading, communication and so on, all helped me a

lot for my future study in USA university. The steady English language skills will help me to get rid of lots of English obstacles.

What was your biggest surprise?

The biggest surprise about U.S. life is that people like outdoor activities a lot, such as hiking and camping. I have had lots of fun with that. The biggest surprise about U.S. education is most classes have group-study. This is a good way for studying and even to make some new friends.

... your biggest disappointment?

The biggest disappointment about U.S. life is there're so many yummy foods. It is really hard for me—I should be on a diet. The biggest disappointment about U.S. education is still language problem. Sometimes in class I will miss something when instructor speeds up.

Beside that, it is really hard to find disappointment in U.S. life. There is a peaceful environment, friendly people, and you can always learn something new everyday.

How have you handled: ... language differences?

Just don't be shy. Don't be afraid to make mistake. As for my experience, the more practice, the more confident I feel. Talking with friendly people, and they would also like to talk to you, is the chance to practice my English.

... finances?

I work part-time on campus. It helps my financial problem and it improves my

working experience, as well.

... adjusting to a different educational system?

Just don't hesitate, ask your instructor, tell them your trouble or problem, and they will help you.

What are your activities?

International club, photography club, piano club, women's choral ensemble, lots of volunteer activities on campus and community, hiking trip, and so on.

How easy or difficult is making friends in the USA?

In USA, it is easy to make friends, mostly. Being polite and friendly, you will enjoy more and more friends around you.

How is your U.S. education relevant to your personal goals and to the needs of your country?

My career goal is working in hospitality and I will focus on hotel field. After taking the classes about hospitality in USA, I will figure out more differences between the hotel industries in USA and China.

What is your advice to other students from your country who are considering studying English in the USA?

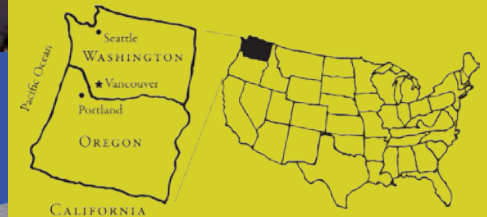
Be yourself and never give up what you dream. There might be some difficulties at the beginning studying in the USA, but if you don't give up, you will enjoy it pretty soon. 🌟



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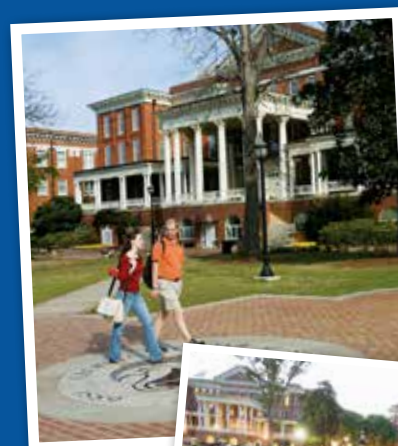
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Choosing a **COLLEGE** or **UNIVERSITY**

By David P.
Anderson

The United States attracts millions of international students to its universities and colleges because the USA offers so many choices and some of the best facilities in the world. With more than 3,000 colleges and universities in the United States, the options are almost limitless. Yet, because the choices are so varied, deciding which program to attend is not an easy choice. Therefore you will have to determine your priorities.

One of the best characteristics of the American higher education system is that there are many great school options for just about everyone, from community colleges to career schools to private, liberal arts colleges to large, public universities. Other factors you must also consider are the geographic location of a school, its size and the degree programs it offers.

As an international applicant, you have a special challenge. You may have never visited the USA, or seen the campuses that interest you. It's important that you take extra care to find out about each school's location and the kind of people who study and teach there. These considerations can be as valuable to you as the quality of the school's academic programs.

Begin your search early and consider your long-term goals

First, you should take plenty of time to research your potential choices. It takes a long time to identify what colleges might be appropriate, so it is important to begin this process 12 to 18 months before you wish to begin your studies. (Keep in mind that the school year begins in August or September in the United States.)

Many of you also need to consider that you will need three to nine months of an English as a Second Language (ESL) program to prepare for high-level academic work. See the list of questions in the sidebar at right.

Educational Advisors

With all the choices, it helps to know where to find relevant information so you can narrow your search. Many students turn to educational advisors for guidance. "Educational advisor" is a broad term and different people and organizations can fill this role for you.

The United States government has advising centers (either sponsored through the Public Affairs Section of a consulate or embassy), as well as EducationUSA and Ful-

bright Commission offices throughout the world. Your country may co-sponsor a binational center with the United States government—these centers are a good resource. There are also not-for-profit organizations such as AMIDEAST and the Institute of International Education.

Many of these organizations do not charge a fee for advising, but may charge for services such as photocopying or postage. Most of them have informational brochures and catalogs, as well as Internet access for researching universities. You will also find valuable information about important examinations like TOEFL, SAT, ACT, GRE and GMAT. These tests may be crucial to your admission.

It is common for advising centers to hold group advising sessions in which students watch videos about universities and life at American colleges. After the videos, an advisor is then available for comments and questions.

Many countries also have private educational advising agencies, but they do charge a fee for services. These companies generally have more resources than the non-profit advising offices, and have direct relationships with many intensive English programs and universities. For a fee, they can help you make a decision which schools interest you and then help you through the application and visa process.

Some students seek advice from family members or friends who have studied in the United States. The benefit is that if you know and trust them, and you can ask specific questions about the institutions they attended. Keep in mind, however, that these informal educational advisors may only have information about one or two institutions, so it is not in your best interest to only depend on their feedback. Everyone has a unique study abroad experience—you need to decide what's right for you.

Internet

Of course, because of the Internet, today's students have access to much more information than previous generations. The challenge can be that there is TOO MUCH information, which can make finding reputable sources difficult. It is usually best to use the Internet as a tool when you want to research specific institutions or academic degrees.

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- ➔ Does my home country impose any regulations with respect to studying in the United States?
- ➔ What types of student organizations interest me?
- ➔ Do I have any particular religious affiliation that needs to be considered?
- ➔ Are the American universities or career schools' degree programs recognized by the government of my country?
- ➔ Where can I find information on American universities?



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Factors to Consider

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- Degrees & Graduate Schools
- Academic Standards & Prestige (Rankings)
- Location & Region
- City, Suburb or Town?
- Total Cost for Your Education
- Large University or Small College?
- TOEFL requirements (or TOEFL waivers)
- Accreditation
- Types of Accreditation

and ESL.com are specially designed for international students like you. You will find comprehensive information about studying in the USA, such as how to choose a program, getting a visa, and the estimated costs of tuition. There are also numerous featured profiles of universities, colleges and English language programs. From these profiles you can contact programs directly for more information and apply online. Use the customizable search engine on StudyUSA.com to help you pick the schools and programs that fit you best.

A Copy of *Study in the USA*®

Look throughout this *Study in the USA* magazine to find many excellent programs that welcome international students.

Factors to Consider

We have gathered some criteria to help you throughout your search. All of these factors can be important, but depending on your preferences, some may be more significant than others. Think about these things to refine your priorities.

1 ACADEMIC FIELD (MAJOR)

Unlike universities in most countries, at universities in the USA you do not usually have to decide your main field of study (major) when you first enroll. However, if you know what you wish to study, make sure that each of the universities to which you apply has an accredited program in this area. Almost all colleges and universities offer popular majors, such as business and information technology. But if you are interested in some more specialized field, such as marine biology or archaeology, it is important for you to check ahead.

Aside from a few specialized institutions of higher learning, most colleges and universities in the USA offer a wide variety of subjects. It is nearly always possible to study your major and pursue other subjects at the same time. Traditional liberal arts colleges normally award bachelor's degrees in the sciences and in the arts. These schools have the additional advantage of offering a close association with its professors and their research.

You might decide to attend a school that mainly offers courses in your area of study. There are U.S. colleges that are exclusive to one field, such as business or engineering, for example. On the other hand, perhaps you would rather study at a school where a wider variety of subjects are taught. This gives you more options and flexibility.

2 DEGREES & GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Be sure in your research and application process that you are seeking information and applying for the correct degree program. If you have finished secondary school (high school), or have completed some university studies without having earned a degree, you are applying for undergraduate studies. This means for a two-year associate's degree or a four-year bachelor's degree. For most of these programs, you do not have to apply for a specific degree, but just for admission to the college or university.

Master's and doctoral degrees are considered graduate programs, sometimes referred to as "post-graduate." It is crucial that you make sure that the schools that interest you have the appropriate graduate degree. A degree program that is merely an evening or weekend program may not be intensive enough for you to maintain your status as a full-time student. (Many MBA programs are evening and/or weekend programs.) Furthermore, unlike undergraduate admissions, your application needs to be submitted directly to the department at the university to which you are applying.

For most graduate degrees, you will have to submit standardized test scores from exams such as the GMAT (for graduate business programs) and the GRE. To qualify for these degrees you must have the equivalent of a four-year university degree.

3 ACADEMIC STANDARDS & PRESTIGE (RANKINGS)

Admission to some U.S. colleges and universities—particularly the most famous and prestigious ones—is highly competitive, especially for international students. An educational advisor is useful in determining whether you have a realistic chance of being admitted. For the majority of students, it is more practical to find a quality institution where they will be academically challenged, rather than insisting on attending one of the top 50 universities in the United States.

Research each school's admission standards and how your own record will measure up against them. Ask your counselor and teachers about your probability of being admitted to your selected schools. Be aware that most colleges and universities base their admissions decision on academic performance. Your extracurricular activities will also be considered. Scores on stan-

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standardized admissions tests are important, but your marks or grades from school are more important.

4 LOCATION & REGION

Geographic region and location can be highly influential. You will be living in the United States for possibly years and where you choose to study could affect your overall experience and your access to professional opportunities. Think about what you would prefer, or at least which areas are acceptable to you. In total numbers, the majority of international students in the United States live on or near either the East or West Coasts. Are you from a tropical climate? If so, you should consider whether you would enjoy living in New England, with world-class universities but a cold climate.

Along with the geographic location, think about extracurricular activities. Are you interested in any specific type of cultural, sporting or recreational activity to practice outside of your class time? Some people are attracted to mountain areas, such as Colorado or Vermont, for skiing or snowboarding. Others wish to live near Florida's Atlantic coast or in Southern California so they can surf. Theater fans are drawn to cities like San Francisco or New York.

Some students prefer to live close to communities of their countrymen, making places like New York City and Los Angeles popular. Other students choose to be somewhere in "Middle America" where they can have an almost complete cultural immersion. It may surprise you that many of the United States' most important research universities are located in small cities or towns such as Lawrence, Kansas, or Madison, Wisconsin. These cities might not be famous in other countries, but are well known "college towns" with relatively low cost of living and a high quality of life.

5 CITY, SUBURB OR TOWN?

Concentrating on the issue of location, the type of area can be as important as the region. Be aware that the majority of universities are not located in the center of large cities such as New York, San Francisco or Chicago. Many of the great universities—that attract thousands of international students each year—are in small cities and towns. This can be a very big adjustment for students from huge cities, so take that into consideration. Yet, tens of thousands of students each year settle into their studies in

small cities or towns. Most people can adapt to a new reality.

One compromise can be a suburb—residential areas outside major cities—where there are many attractive colleges. Suburbs give the tranquility and space needed for world-class facilities but are close to the excitement of large cities.

If living in a metropolitan or large city is really important to you, there are hundreds of schools in the heart of major cities.

6 TOTAL COST FOR YOUR EDUCATION

Try to calculate the TOTAL cost for your studies, including living expenses. You can often get this information via colleges' websites. Elite, private colleges and universities usually have higher tuition costs than public universities. There are a few private institutions with very competitive costs compared to public universities.

Generally speaking, the areas away from the East and West Coasts have a lower cost of living, in some cases, considerably lower. California's two excellent university systems—University of California and California State University—have dozens of attractive campus locations with relatively inexpensive tuition. But, the cost of living can often be twice that in other states, so your total cost may be higher in California. Please be aware that costs increase every year.

7 LARGE UNIVERSITY OR SMALL COLLEGE?

Most international students enroll at large, research universities. Typically these are public universities that are supported by their state government. These offer good "brand names" on your resume. Abroad, schools like Yale University and the University of California, Berkeley are well known to families and future employers. But before you decide on these large schools, remember that there are hundreds of smaller universities and colleges that might also be good options for you.

Small colleges generally provide a more sheltered environment and smaller class sizes. Usually they have a better ratio of students to faculty, therefore you may receive more personal attention. This often eases the educational and cultural transition. Integration into student life can be easier at a smaller college.

Large, research-focused universities have more technical majors like architecture and

LIBERAL ARTS

U.S. undergraduate students often attend a university for a year or longer before selecting their degree major. Some students later change their major, even though they might have to spend more time studying as a result.

If you are still unsure about the academic focus you would like to pursue, you are not alone. Each year, many thousands of U.S. students enter their college or university as "undecided." To discover what appeals to them, they typically opt for the liberal arts: an academic area that offers a broad range of choices in various fields. It is designed to give graduates a well-rounded educational foundation.

Liberal arts education is an academic area that offers a broad range of choices in various fields. At a school with a strong liberal arts program, you will be required to take courses in subjects from the sciences to the humanities: philosophy, history, music, arts, and literature. By taking classes about different disciplines you are given the chance to explore other fields and learn new topics. You may discover that you have talents in areas you had never before considered. This may even lead you to pursue a field that you had no interest in prior to attending college or university.

You will most likely complete some liberal arts courses as they are weaved into the curriculum of most programs. You may enroll in a primarily liberal arts program simply because it is a valuable experience. A liberal arts education exposes you to new academic subjects and ideas and cultivates lifelong skills. Effective communication and critical thinking skills are essential to any career. In fact, many students desire a broad and balanced education from a liberal arts college before going on to graduate school or a specific profession.

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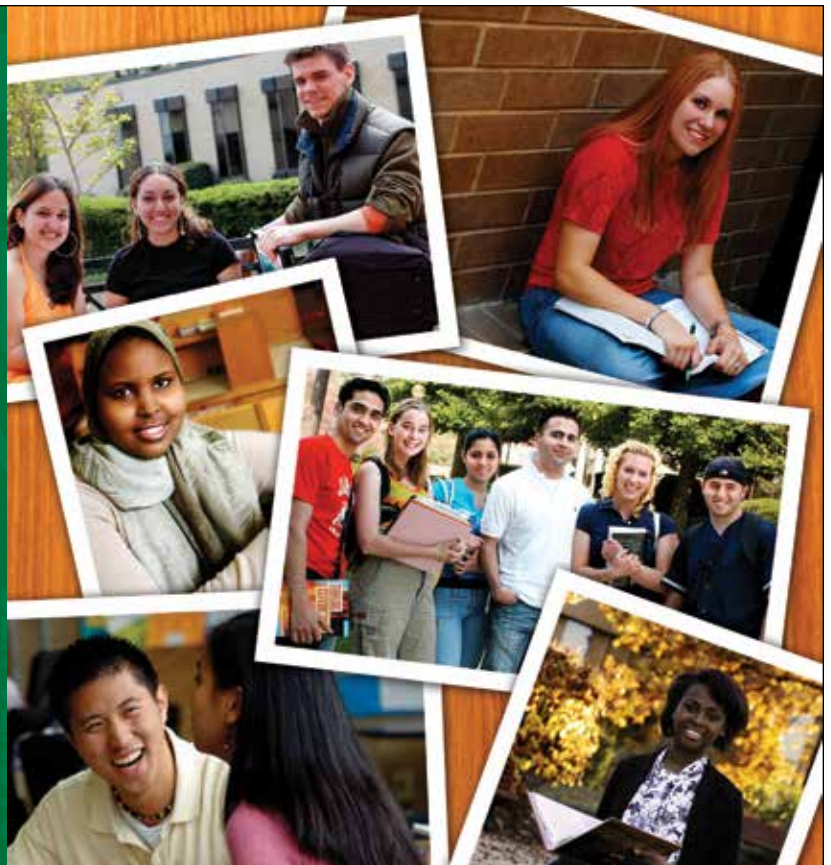


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engineering. And, if they are public, the tuition costs tend to be lower. These schools will have more international students and it is likely that other students from your country will be there.

8 TOEFL REQUIREMENTS (OR TOEFL WAIVERS)

For most international students, the TOEFL examination is a source of anxiety. But, unless you have been educated in the English language it is almost unavoidable. Each program sets its own requirements and usually the more prestigious the university, the higher the TOEFL score requirement. Always research requirements of each individual school and program before you apply.

Some universities have what is called a TOEFL waiver option and this is very attractive to international students. It generally involves studying at the university's intensive English language program (or another affiliated English program) through the completion of the final level. Some private language

schools, such as ELS Language Centers, have agreements with many universities that allow students who successfully complete the English program to apply for and/or be granted admission without the TOEFL score.

9 ACCREDITATION

Accreditation is the certification that a school or program meets a prescribed academic standard. It is very important to know that a college or university is accredited. If you attend a college or university that is not accredited, you will not be able to transfer your credits to an accredited college or university. Your home country may not recognize your degrees, and you may not be able to get the job you want.

There is no national government authority or Ministry of Education that sets higher education standards in the USA. Some states authorize or approve schools, but this refers to financial and licensing requirements, not the quality of education.

Instead, colleges and universities have formed associations that set the standards themselves. These associations, called "accrediting bodies," evaluate each U.S. college and university. If the institution meets the accrediting associations minimum standards it receives an acceptable rating; it is now designated as "accredited." This means it earns the right to be listed on the accrediting association's list of acceptable schools. A school must maintain these high standards in order to remain accredited.

10 TYPES OF ACCREDITATION

There are different types of accrediting bodies: institutional and professional. Your government may also require that you earn a degree from a school with both types of accreditation. Institutional accreditation is based upon the entire school. Professional accreditation is based on the standards kept by a particular school, such as law, medicine, engineering, or business, and is determined by judges within those professions.

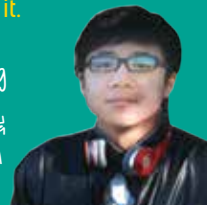
Helpful resources are the Council for Higher Education Accreditation at chea.org and the U.S. Network for Education Information at www.ed.gov/NLE/USNEI.

The degree-granting colleges and universities listed in this copy of *Study in the USA*® are fully accredited. Accreditation for schools or programs that do not grant degrees, such as English language institutes, varies depending upon its professional affiliation.

/STUDENT TIP

Sierra College provides a nice education in a beautiful country. When I was younger I used to watch American movies, and I wanted to visit the United States. They always talked about the American dream, and I wanted to come and see it.

Paolo Kwan,
from Hong Kong
Business
Administration &
English at Sierra
College



Contacting Schools

When you compile a list of colleges and universities that interest you, analyze your choices and narrow your list to six to eight schools. You can find school's contact information within this magazine and on StudyUSA.com.

Before you contact the program, please be aware of the distinction between English language, undergraduate and graduate programs. Each program has its own designated admission office. If you will be an undergraduate student, write only to the undergraduate admissions office. If you will be a graduate student, be sure to write only to universities with graduate schools. In the case of graduate programs, you would contact the admissions office of the graduate school in which you would like to study. For example, if you are interested in a graduate level engineering program at a university, you would contact the school of engineering admissions office.

You can send an online request for information directly to colleges and universities via **StudyUSA.com**. Go to **StudyUSA.com** to read more about your list of schools and contact their offices.

If you contact schools through email, please understand that it is important for them to know how you learned about their school, so please mention *Study in the USA*®. The schools will send you an email and/or brochures with descriptions of the academic programs and activities. ★

David P. Anderson, Vice President - Recruitment & Partner Support; ELS Language Centers, the world's largest campus-based intensive English program provider, offering pathways to 650+ universities worldwide, www.ELS.edu or www.UniversityGuideOnline.org.

Community Colleges

Many countries do not have a direct equivalent of the American community college (also called "junior college"). A community college is a public institution where students can pursue an associate's degree, or the first two years of university study.

They have grown increasingly popular among international students because they do not have high entrance requirements and are very economical. For example, some students choose to earn an associate's degree in a technical area and then return to their countries with this credential. Many others, however, use this as an economical path to their degree. You can complete the first two years of your bachelor's degree or simply earn academic credits. Both are most likely transferable to a four-year university and without a doubt, earning some of your university credits at a community college will save you money.

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the campus' four ponds.

APPLYING

for Admission

TIP

Most schools require similar application materials from international students—the application, fee, official transcripts, a bank statement, and a copy of the student's passport. Many schools also ask for essays from the applicant; it is important that students make these essays personal, and about themselves (not their accomplishments and or an elaborated CV). Have your essay proofread by a native English speaker.

—Mary Meulblok, Manager, International Student Services, at Pierce College in Washington

Each U.S. university and college sets its own admission standards and decides which applicants meet those standards. Therefore, you must apply separately to each university or college.

Even if you have selected one school where you are sure you want to study abroad, you should still apply to other schools—it is possible that your “first choice” school may not accept you. At least one or two of your choices should be schools where you and your advisor are fairly certain you will be admitted. Remember that you are competing with prospective international students from all over the world for a limited number of spaces.

Most schools in the USA encourage prospective international students to contact their admissions office at least one year before planning to enter that school.

Follow these helpful steps as you apply for admission to U.S. universities and colleges.

Write to Several Schools

After you have selected the schools you want to attend, contact each school for an application form and more international student admission information. You can use the school advertisements throughout this magazine and **StudyUSA.com** as information resources to help you make your choice. On StudyUSA.com, you can contact schools directly to request information.

If you wish to apply for a graduate (post-graduate) program you should verify the admission requirements with the specific graduate school within the university. Many graduate programs have higher admission

standards and some programs require applications to be sent directly to their department. You should be in good academic standing if you expect to be admitted to a graduate program. Contact either the admissions office of the graduate school or the chairperson of the department.

Please mention that you learned about the school from *Study in the USA*®.

Send Application Forms

Universities and colleges in the USA usually base their admission decisions on a student's academic record and applicable test scores, such as TOEFL, the SAT or ACT. If you are applying to graduate schools, additional exam scores such as the GRE or GMAT will be required.

The admissions office or graduate school department will send you information about their academic programs and an application form. (You might be able to obtain a specific school's application form online or at your local educational advising center.)

The fee for each application is US\$35 to US\$100. This money pays for processing your application and is non-refundable, even if you aren't admitted to the school. If you mail your application, make sure to contact the admissions office to confirm your application was received.

The admissions office will review your marks earned during the last four years of secondary school. Your results from your country's national secondary school examinations will also be reviewed. If you are applying to a graduate program your marks from university or college will be taken into consideration.

Ask the school you are now attending, or the school you have attended most recently, to mail a certified copy of your academic record or “transcript” to the schools to which you are applying. Prior to taking your admissions tests, you should arrange for official score reports to be sent to the universities or colleges that interest you.

Be sure to send your application to each university or college well before the application deadline. This gives you some extra time to resolve any possible delays.

Register for Admissions Tests

Students applying to universities and colleges in the USA must take certain examinations (SAT, ACT, GMAT, etc.) that measure

MOST APPLICATIONS WILL REQUEST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Personal information—Include your name, age, address, family background, birthplace, citizenship, and so on.

Activities—Make a list of club memberships, awards earned, team sports experience, or leadership roles you have held.

Education plan—Write a short essay explaining why you want to attend this school, what course of study you want to pursue, your career goals, and research plans.

Essay—Some schools require a personal essay on a topic of your choosing. See sidebar.

Letters of recommendation—The application form will include several blank pages for your letters of recommendation. Ask several of your teachers to compose and mail these letters directly to the admissions office of each school you choose.

aptitude and achievement. International students must also take a test that measures English language proficiency. They are “standardized” so that students take the same test at every test center. Your scores give the admissions office a uniform international standard for measuring your ability in comparison with other students. These tests are given at test centers around the world.

Take the Admissions Tests

Your test scores are sent directly to the schools to which you are applying. You will be asked to indicate the names of these schools when you register to take certain tests, such as the SAT or ACT. In the case of computer-based tests, you will designate the schools at the exam site and the testing agencies will mail your scores directly to them. There will be a fee for scores that you request at a later date.

/STUDENT TIP

An awesome life experience is waiting for you in the future. You will learn so much more than you think. Nothing is impossible, so go ahead and give it a try.

Paolo Kwan,
from Hong Kong,
Business
Administration &
English at Sierra
College



Receive Acceptance Letters

After the application deadline, you will begin receiving letters from your chosen schools. Some universities inform candidates of their acceptance soon after their documents have arrived in the admissions office; this is called “rolling admissions.” Other schools, however, wait several months and inform all candidates at one time.

Pay Your Deposit

Most universities require students to pay a deposit by a certain deadline in order to reserve a space in the entering class. For international students this deposit can be as high as a semester's or a full year's tuition.

You should send your deposit immediately if you are applying for financial aid or if you plan to live in university housing. Because many schools do not have enough campus housing for all the students, you will have a better chance of getting a room on campus if you send your housing application and room deposit fee as quickly as possible.

You may also be required to provide a statement indicating how much money you will have available during the years you will be attending the school. If you have a scholarship or a sponsorship from your government and/or company, you will need to send details of your award. ★

TEST-TAKING TIPS

When preparing for any of the tests discussed in this article students should keep in mind that good English language instruction is an essential foundation. Consider going through an intensive English language program prior to your university studies. This will make your classes easier. Just like any field of study, English language proficiency can be achieved with continued study and practice.

→ **Take plenty of time to prepare for each test.** Use available preparation materials to familiarize yourself with the test's structure and guidelines. Instructions on taking computer- and paper-based tests are generally available for each exam.

→ **Use available sample questions and exercises.** Examples of authentic questions and previously used topics are often available, as well as sample tests. Get as much practice as you can before taking the actual exam.

→ **Simulate the test situation.** Find out as much as you can about the test environment, and practice in a similar setting. Allow yourself only the time allocated for the actual test. Practice working through sections as quickly and effectively as possible, identifying and focusing on areas where you need improvement.

→ **Take advantage of all the resources available to you.** The more you know about a test and how it is scored, the more efficiently you can approach it. The Internet is an excellent resource, and most online information is free.

→ **Follow directions.** Read all the instructions thoroughly and completely before beginning any test. Make sure you understand your objectives and how to achieve them. Don't worry if you don't know an answer—concentrate on the current question, and do the best you can, but don't spend too much time on any one item. Pace yourself so you have enough time to answer every question.

→ **Be relaxed and confident.** Get plenty of sleep before any exam. Remember, the more rested and better prepared you are, the more comfortable and positive you'll be during the test.



Write an Awesome Essay

You may not be familiar with the American practice of writing a personal essay to submit with your university application. Here are some tips on how to write an awesome essay!

STEP 1 Think of a great topic. Your essay topic should have personal meaning for you. It should reveal something about who you are, your values or interests, and how you are different from any other applicant. Write something about yourself that cannot be reflected by your grades, the list of classes that you've taken, or in any other part of your application. There are

several questions you can ask yourself that will help you think of ideas: (1) What are you like? (2) What have you done? (3) What are your goals?

STEP 2 Write your essay. Good writing takes time. Don't rush or expect to finish your essay in one afternoon. Pay special attention to the introduction. Draw in the reader so that he or she is interested in finding what the rest of your essay will reveal. Use simple words to express your ideas; you don't have to use complex vocabulary words to show how much English you know. Use the language to express

yourself, not to prove how smart you are. If you make a statement, give an example to demonstrate your point.

STEP 3 Take your time and ask for help. Leave yourself enough time so that you can stop working on your essay for a few days—even a week—and then come back to it. This will allow you to read your essay with a fresh perspective. Also, have your friends and family read your essay—they will be able to see things you've missed or neglected to mention. Have fun, take your time, be yourself and tell your story well!



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in Yourself

Financing Your U.S. Education

Is studying in the USA
your goal? Does paying for
study abroad seem like an
impossible task?
It's not!



Like many students, both international and American, you are probably concerned about how you will pay for your studies in the USA. Don't let this ruin the exciting plans you have made. With a little planning, you will come out ahead. If you are feeling overwhelmed by the cost, consider what an American education and degree will mean to your future. Education is one of the best investments you can make—an investment in yourself. Plus, the money isn't all going toward lab fees and library late book charges. You are also going to be having fun, spending money on things like ski trips and nights out on the town eating sushi with your new friends!

Make an accurate estimate for the overall cost of your study in America, then create an accurate budget. There will be many components to your budget that you need to take into consideration. Be aware that many U.S. universities and colleges require that international students pay for their first year's tuition in one installment. In order to pay this sizable amount, you and your family will likely need to start saving well in advance.

Despite this, don't let the cost of a university education in the USA scare you off! A U.S. education and proficiency in English paves the way to more secure and higher paying jobs. In the end, your education here will pay for itself many times over.

To finance your U.S. education, you may have to rely on financial aid packages, which include grants, scholarships, loans and work/study options. Make time to thoroughly research the funding opportunities available to you.

Scholarships

Very few U.S. universities and colleges are able to offer robust financial aid to international students. Therefore it is critical for you and your family to be responsible for all of your education, personal housing, and food costs. Scholarships are for varying amounts and one will only cover a small portion of the total amount necessary for an academic year in the States.

You can write to the school of your choice to ask for a scholarship consideration form. But, you should first check with your family, government, home institution, and any other organizations to which you belong as a source for funding your studies. You will have greater opportunities and you won't be competing with students from all over the world. Plus, if the scholarship program originates from your country, the process may be easier for you.

Loans

Loans can make it possible for you to study as an international student in the United States. There are also international student loans that are available. While the majority

of American students have to obtain loans to study, taking out a loan should not be taken lightly. Rigorously research your other options first. It is best to gain as much funding as possible—money you don't owe back—and then if need be, supplement the remaining costs with loans. Compare interest rates and terms at various financial institutions to find the best deal for the long term.

Just like any other investment, remember the return. You will be investing in your future career and earning power.

Work/Study

An estimated 75 percent of all full-time students studying at U.S. universities and colleges hold at least part-time jobs. If you are coming to the USA for more than a short-term program or exchange, it is likely that you will have an F-1 Student Visa. With this type of visa you may qualify for work/study programs at your school. You might want to work extra hours while still in your home country, as visa restrictions in the USA reduce the number of hours you are able to work.

If able to get a work/study job, be sure not to stress yourself by overloading your schedule with too much work and a full load of classes. You have come to the USA to study and you want to be able to enjoy and excel in your classes. However, an advantage to holding a part-time job is the extra mon-

FACTOID

75% of all full-time students studying at U.S. universities and colleges hold at least part-time jobs

ey, as well as the practical work experience. Find a balance that works for you.

Entrance Exams: \$500

College or university admission exams, such as the SAT, TOEFL, and GMAT, can cost from \$50 to \$500. There may be additional fees for processing, sending your scores to schools, etc. You may have to take the exams more than once, so set aside the funds to do so. It's important to give yourself enough time to take the tests so that the school will receive your scores before the admission deadline. There are additional fees to have your score results rush-delivered.

Application Fees: \$250 – \$600

Application fees to cover administration and processing range from \$50 to \$75 per application. Most applicants apply to four to ten schools.

Tuition: \$3,500 – \$30,100

Tuition costs vary greatly from school to school and location. Depending on where you choose to study, your annual tuition can average from \$3,500 to \$30,000. Typically, English as a Second Language (ESL) schools and community colleges cost less than colleges or universities. State schools, which are financed by the local state and U.S. government, cost less than private colleges or universities. However, most state schools charge a higher "out-of-state" rate for international students and you should budget for annual inflation of tuition costs, around five percent. A helpful website for comparing tuition is collegeboard.com.

Room and Board: \$7,500 – \$11,000

Most students choose a dormitory or residence hall to live in for at least the first

academic year. Some schools require that freshman live in the dorms during their first year. Two or more people usually share dorm rooms, which is a great way to make friends and you and your roommate can explore your American university or college together. Housing is also available on many campuses for married students and families.

Rural areas are often much less expensive than larger cities. In larger cities, and at English language institutes, students can live more economically off campus. Rental agreements in the USA often include first and last month's rent, plus a security deposit.

No matter where you choose to live, take a thorough inventory of the apartment with your landlord and note any pre-existing damage. Make sure to have a signed contract with rental terms and conditions for returning your deposit. If you don't understand something in your rental contract, have a friend help you. It is important that you understand what you are signing; don't feel pressured by your landlord to hurry.

Another option many students enjoy, is living with an American family. This is commonly referred to as a "homestay." If your school is equipped, they can help you coordinate a homestay. Otherwise, the school can provide you with a list of companies that help arrange stays in family homes. Don't be afraid to ask for guidance.

The family provides you with your own room or a shared room, as well as breakfast and dinner in a family setting. Living with a host family is an especially good option for younger students who aren't used to living on their own. It is also one of the best ways to become fluent in English and gain a first-hand understanding of American family life.

/STUDENT TIP

I have been working and saving for this for a long time. My government provides some help. Living in homestay is also helpful because dinners are provided, so I don't have to spend money on food.

Maria Kanerva, from Finland, is Business Administration student at California State University San Marcos, where she also attended the American Language and Culture Institute



From the beginning, I created a spreadsheet on the computer. That way I didn't have a problem when it came to make a budget plan for the following months.

Ligia Maciel, from Brazil, is majoring in Hotel/Lodging Management at Central Pennsylvania Community College



COSTS

ENTRANCE EXAMS:
\$500

APPLICATION FEES:
\$250 – \$600

TUITION:
\$3,500 – \$30,100

ROOM & BOARD:
\$7,500 – \$11,000

TRAVEL COSTS:
\$500 – \$3,000

BOOKS & MATERIALS:
\$900 – \$1,300

HEALTH INSURANCE:
\$350 – \$500

PERSONAL EXPENSES:
\$2,500

Annual Average TUITION COSTS by Type of Institution, 2013 – 2014

- Public Two-Year Institution:
\$3,264
- Public Four-Year Institution:
\$22,203
- Private Four-Year Institution:
\$30,094

Average ROOM AND BOARD COSTS by Type of Institution, 2013 – 2014

- Public Two-Year Institution:
\$7,466
- Public Four-Year Institution:
\$9,498
- Private Four-Year Institution:
\$10,823

Source: The College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges

Travel Costs: \$500 – \$3,000

To calculate your travel costs, investigate ticket prices from your country to the USA. Air travel within the United States typically ranges from \$300 to \$700 per round-trip ticket.

Books and Materials: \$900 – \$1,300

You are responsible for paying for books, notebooks, computer accessories and other study supplies. Expect to spend around \$1,000 on books and materials each year. When possible, buy or rent used textbooks. Websites like efollet.com and amazon.com are good choices for buying used books. This will save you an enormous amount of money. You can also sell your books once the class is completed. Many school bookstores have a buy-back day. These are convenient, but depending on the textbook and time of year, you may consider selling your textbooks online.

Health Insurance: \$350 – \$500

As an international student at a U.S. institution, you will be required to have health insurance. To begin your search for insurance,

check with the college or university you would like to attend to see what policies they have available for international students. You can then compare the services and prices offered through your school to those of other organizations and companies. Make sure that your insurance company and coverage meets the requirements of the school.

Additionally, most U.S. universities and colleges have a medical center that provides examinations or treatment for minor injuries and illnesses for a small fee. Campuses usually have counseling centers as well. These services can not substitute for a health insurance requirement.

Personal Expenses: \$2,500

Of course, you will require all of the things that you usually need at home: personal care items, medicine, money for laundry, dry cleaning, transportation, recreation, entertainment, and so on. Carrying large amounts of cash is not advised anywhere in the USA. Very rarely is cash even needed; most purchases can be made by a debit or credit card.

Don't let all of this serious talk about

Working as a Resident Assistant and as a student worker, I have managed to balance my finances and thus make some extra pocket money to spend in my leisure time.

Ioannis Tsangaris,
from Cyprus,
studying Information
Technology and
Information
Management
Systems at Fairleigh
Dickinson University
in New Jersey



money stress you! Remember, you are going to the USA to study—and to have fun! Some of your money will be spent on fun things like ordering pizza or going out dancing! Maybe you'll want to splurge on an "I ♥ New York" T-shirt, or a pair of authentic, vintage Levi's. Balance thrift and fun, and your study abroad experience is sure to be a financial success! ★



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WILL RANKINGS SHOW YOU THE

"BEST" UNIVERSITIES?

Choose the right school
for you—not someone else.

Your education is an important investment, so you and your family want to do careful research to find the best school that fits your goals. Because you are far away from the United States and there are so many schools, researching education options thoroughly can be difficult. Therefore, it is tempting put a great deal of focus and value on university and college rankings.

When researching schools and reading rankings, you may ask yourself: What is the rank of this university? Which schools are in the Top Ten? Do these rankings reflect the quality of U.S. universities? Should you make your selection of a university based on a university's ranking by a magazine?

While rankings do reveal aspects and the quality of a university or college's programs, it does provide a complete overview of a school. While many fine universities appear in these rankings, far more excellent universities do not. It is important for you to understand how these rankings are done.

In your country you probably take a national entrance exam for university. The higher your mark, the "better" university you attend. But university admission is different in the USA. There are good students and good professors at all U.S. universities and colleges. Students are admitted to top universities for various reasons, including whether their parents attended those schools.

The information used to rank universities comes from the Common Data Set, which is a survey that all U.S. higher education insti-



University of Nevada, Reno

tutions complete annually. The people who compile the rankings develop a criteria based on what they think determines a high quality school. They then use the criteria to select indicators from the Common Data Set to determine rankings. If they included other factors in their criteria, a different ranking would result.

This means that if you rely solely on rankings, you are basing one of the most important decisions of your life upon someone else's view of what is important in higher education. For example, "selectivity" is often an important element in rankings. This means that the fewer students a university accepts, the "better" it is.

However, in the USA public universities and many private schools are dedicated to offering high quality education to as many qualified students as possible. These universities and colleges also strive to have a diverse student body with people from many different backgrounds and cultures. If a school is top ranked because it admits fewer students, then a quality public university, which admits more qualified students, may not have a high ranking.

Graduation rates provide another example of how rankings may mislead you. If a school only accepts students with high secondary school grades, its percentage of

students graduating will be high. However, if a university's mission is to accept students based on a diverse set of criteria, such as the students marks as well as their extracurricular activities and experience, the school's graduation rate may be lower. This might reduce the institution's overall ranking.

In short, rankings based on selectivity, exclusivity and reputation, are questionable indicators of the quality of education you will actually receive at a U.S. university. For example, did you know that a top university's reputation is derived from its world-class professors, but that these professors rarely, if ever, teach undergraduate classes? It is common at those schools for many classes to be taught by graduate students or junior professors.

Therefore, read the rankings carefully and discuss them with your friends and advisors. Before making your choice, think about what you really want from a university and your education. Research each school to find out what sort of student services are offered and if individual attention and assistance is emphasized. These are especially important for international students. Let your own criteria guide you as you learn more about the schools that interest you. No matter what, choose the best school for you—not someone else. ★

A university is not necessarily right for you because its name is familiar and its rankings are high. Don't equate educational quality with name recognition.

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Getting Your *By William Fish* **STUDENT VISA**

Here are some guidelines
to help make your student
visa application process
smooth and successful.

Getting your visa to study in the United States takes time but can be a surprisingly easy procedure. It is well worth the effort. In many countries, the number of student visas issued by the United States has grown significantly in the last year.

While the application process for an international student or exchange visitor visa can be confusing, hundreds of thousands of students are able to meet the requirements for a visa each year. **Last year, 534,298 F-1 student visas were issued!**

After a college, university, or English language school has accepted you for admission to full-time study, the school will send you a document called an **I-20** form, which is the application for an **F-1** visa.

If you will be an Exchange Visitor, the organization or U.S. Government agency that is sponsoring you will send you a **DS-2019** form, which is for a **J-1** visa.

1. First, your school or university will send you a form confirming that you have been accepted at an institution authorized by the U.S. Citizenship and Naturalization Service (USCIS) to enroll non-immigrant students (the I-20 for an F-1 visa or the DS-2019 for a J-1 visa). You will read and sign this form.

Be careful to make sure that the name and spelling on your passport is consistent with the name and spelling on your application for acceptance to the school. You must also make sure that the school has entered your name as it appears on your passport on the I-20 or DS-2019 Form.

All applicants' names have to be submitted for a security clearance. Citizens of some countries and students who will study certain subjects at a university have to undergo additional screenings that takes several additional weeks of processing. Again, it is crucial that you allocate plenty of time for the visa application process.

2. Second, you will need to make an ap-

pointment for a visa interview and to pay some required fees. Student visas can be issued up to 120 days before the starting date of your program stated on your form I-20. **Exchange Visitor Visas** can be issued any time before the date on the DS-2019. You should apply as early as possible for your visa.

Each U.S. Embassy has a website providing instructions on how to make an appointment for a visa interview and other information on the visa application process. The website for the Embassy in your country can be located at **usembassy.gov**.

The website can also tell you the expected wait time for a visa in your country. International student visa applicants should receive priority by the embassy or consulate. So, if your academic program begins soon, be sure to explain this when applying for your visa.

You may wish to visit or contact the nearest U.S. Department of State-affiliated EducationUSA advising center office in your country. They are located throughout the world and listed at **educationusa.info/centers.php**. The staff at these centers will be able to explain where to pay the visa fees and how to schedule your interview.

There is a US\$200 fee which supports the cost of the computer system used to record your stay in the United States (SEVIS). You can pay this fee with an internationally valid credit card. Go to **fmjfee.com/index.html** to pay and make sure you print a copy of your receipt. You must pay the SEVIS fee at least three days before the date of your visa interview. Bring a copy of your receipt to your visa interview.

You will also need to pay an additional US\$160 for the visa application fee. Payment can be made in your country at the U.S. Embassy, Consulate, or at a bank that the embassy designates. Specific information on where to pay the visa application fee can be found at the website of the U.S. Embassy in your country.

3. Third, the United States is using a new non-

immigrant visa application form, DS-160, that should be completed online. This form replaces all of the other forms. Instructions for completing the form and links to the form can be found at **travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_4230.html**. The website of the United States Embassy or Consulate in your country can be found at **usembassy.gov**. Go to the section on visas and read about the correct procedure currently in place for **Nonimmigrant Visas**.

Complete the DS-160 form online completely. Again, remember to use the exact same order and spelling of your names as listed in your passport. Then you will print out the completed form and bring it with you to the Embassy when you go for your visa interview.

You will upload your photo while completing the online Form DS-160. Your photo must be in the format explained in the Photograph Requirements: **http://travel.state.gov/visa/visaphotoreq/visaphotoreq_5334.html**.

If the upload of your photo fails, you must bring the photo with you when you go for your interview.

4. Fourth, prepare for your visa interview. It is extremely crucial that you apply for your visa well in advance of the date your studies begin. If possible, apply three months before you plan to travel to the USA. This will give you extra time if there are delays at the embassy, or if you wish to appeal a decision in the event of a denial.

What you wear is important. Consider the interview a formal event. Business attire is appropriate. First impressions can be crucial, since there will be little time to speak with the officer, who will often have only a few minutes to conduct the interview and make a decision.

Be prepared to give your information quickly and completely. If you are unable to answer the questions in English, and the visa officer does not speak your language, you can

6 Tips For Your Visa Interview

Wear a business suit or dress

Be specific when you answer questions

Bring bank statements or proof of employment

Provide details of your study plans

Stay calm and be professional

Tell the truth

ask for an interpreter. Speaking English is not a requirement for a student visa. In fact, thousands of students come to the United States each year to learn how to speak English.

The visa officer needs to know your specific objectives, both academic or professional, for studying in the United States. Be prepared to explain why it is better to study your specific field in the United States than to study at home. Be ready to say exactly what you will study and for what career your U.S. studies will prepare you. Calmly state your education plans concisely and clearly.

If you are going to the USA to learn English and then earn a degree, be able to explain your complete program of study. Remember, it is not enough to just say, "It is better to study in the United States." Give valid reasons why it is better for you. Visa officers like to hear honest, direct responses to questions. They generally react poorly to applicants who give vague answers, memorize a speech, or make overly solicitous comments about how great and wonderful the United States is.

You should also be able to explain in detail why you chose to study at a specific school and be able to give information about that school and where you will live (dormitory, host family or apartment).

If you will return home to complete university studies after studying English in the United States, bring proof of your student status in your country. A letter from a university professor supporting your study plan can be helpful. Young people around the world are often unsure of their plans. However, in the visa interview it is best to give definite answers. If you seem to be unsure about what you will be doing, the visa officer may believe that you are really going to the United States for reasons other than education.

Grades do make a difference. If your marks are below average, be ready to provide explanation on how you are going to succeed in the United States. A letter from a school director or teacher, or from your U.S. admitting school stating that the proposed program of study in the United States makes sense and explaining your good prospects for success can be helpful. If there were special circumstances (such as a death or illness in the immediate family) that contributed to the poor grades, have the school explain those special circumstances.

The U.S. Department of State (DOS) has implemented an online tool that nonimmigrant and immigrant visa applicants can use to check the status of their application:

Once a visa is approved, you should receive your visa within a few days.

The USA issues different types of visas to students:
A full-time student would receive an **F-1** or **M-1** visa.

Your spouse and children would receive **F-2** or **M-2** visas.

An Exchange Visitor would receive a **J-1** visa. Exchange Visitors come to the USA for consultation, training, research or teaching, or for an approved Au Pair or temporary work position.

<https://ceac.state.gov/CEACStatTracker/Status.aspx>.

Financing

You must have adequate, demonstrable financial support to live and study in the United States. Visa applications are generally stronger if the financial support comes from family, employers, or other institutional sponsors located in your home country.

If your parents will pay for your education, bring documents that show how your family gets its income. Bring a letter from your parents' employers stating what they do, how long they have worked at those organizations, and how much they earn.

When visa officers see information that is contradictory or does not make sense, they do not grant visas. If your family can only show enough income to support you in the United States, the officer will become suspicious.

Large sums of money in bank accounts may not be sufficient proof of financial support. When providing information about your bank accounts, ask someone at your bank for a letter that states how long the account has existed, and what the average balance in the account has been. That should convince the visa officer that you and your family have a long and stable history of business at the bank.

"Intent to Return"

Most student and exchange visitor visa applications are approved. The most common reason for an application to be denied is that the person applying for the visa has not proven to the visa officer that they will return to their country upon completing their studies in the USA. This rule is called Section 214.b.

To determine your "intent to return" home, the visa officer will ask you a series of questions about your connections to your home country and about your study plans. Again, you will have to demonstrate to the

officer that your family has the ability to pay for the first year of your proposed stay in the United States and that you have realistic plans to finance the remainder of your education.

You must have all of the required forms with you including your I-20 or DS-2019, the DS-160 form and the SEVIS payment receipt. You should bring any documents to demonstrate how you will pay for your education and why you will return to your country. Some examples of such documents are previous passports showing travel abroad, bank or salary statements, family documents or student records.

If all else fails...

If you are denied a visa there may be something you can do to reverse the denial. You may appeal the decision. In most cases, you will need to provide additional documentation that was not presented with the initial application. In some cases, a visa officer may request additional documents like proof of employment, or ownership of a home or business. You should respond with the information requested.

A fax or email from your U.S. school to the embassy or consulate in your city containing details about your qualifications, and requesting reconsideration, can be helpful in pursuing a successful appeal. Faxes should be addressed to the Chief of Nonimmigrant Visas at the Consular post in question. Fax and telephone numbers are available on the Department of State website at usembassy.state.gov. 🌐

William Fish meets regularly with U.S. Consular Affairs Officers in Washington, D.C. and in overseas embassies and consulates. He is President of the Washington International Education Council, which promotes international educational exchange. He can be contacted at wfish@washcouncil.org, www.washcouncil.org.

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2 + 2 AGREEMENTS

2 YEARS AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE
+ 2 YEARS AT A UNIVERSITY
= 4 YEARS (BACHELOR'S DEGREE)

By Andrea Insley, Ed. D.

Many American students—and 90,000 international students—attend a community college for the first two years of university studies in the USA. With nearly 1,200 community colleges in the country, there are many benefits of this model in comparison to studying all four years at a university. Community colleges offer significantly lower tuition, smaller classes and strong student support.

For students who plan to earn a bachelor's degree, the transition from community college to the university for the final two years can be quite easy.

This plan is popularly known as the “2 + 2” model. A bachelor's degree in the USA is a minimum of four years. Upon graduation, the diploma will only list the university, which awards the bachelor's degree.

In fact, many university advisors recommend that students attend community college “college transfer” programs first, and then

transfer to universities for the final two years.

What's the Difference?

Community Colleges and four-year universities are different. Here's how:

- **Admission is easier.** TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores and academic requirements are usually lower for admission to U.S. community colleges than to four-year institutions. Many community colleges also offer ESL (English as a Second Language) programs or developmental math for students whose scores are too low to begin academic studies immediately.

- **Costs are lower.** Tuition at community colleges can be as much as 20% to 80% less than at four-year American universities and colleges. This is a tremendous cost savings for the first two years of the bachelor's degree.

- **Student enrollment** in classes, or at the institution in general, is often smaller than

at four-year schools. Teachers and advisors are able to provide more one-on-one attention to students. Many U.S. and international students say that attending smaller schools for the first two years helped them make a good transition into larger four-year schools for the final two years.

- **Classroom environments are more supportive.** In the U.S. educational system, students often compete for good grades. International students who do not speak English fluently are at a disadvantage. Often, they do better and feel more comfortable in smaller classes where there is less competition. In addition, community colleges typically offer free tutoring to support students' success.

- **Adjusting is easier.** Two years at a community college can help an international student improve English language skills and grow accustomed to the U.S. educational system and culture. 🌟

Seattle Colleges

Approximately 90 percent of the international students attending the **Seattle Colleges**, comprised of **North Seattle College**, **Seattle Central College**, and **South Seattle College**, are planning to follow the 2 + 2 model. In general, they choose either an Associate of Arts degree or Associate of Science degree—and then transfer to a university to complete a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree.

Whether students choose to study the arts or sciences depends on what they plan for their “major” field of study. During the first two years, students are studying a wide variety of humanities, social sciences, and natural science courses along with some foundation courses to prepare for their major.

Many community colleges and four-year institutions also have “articulation agreements” to make transferring even easier.

The Seattle Colleges have articulation agreements for further study with all of the universities in Washington State. The University of Washington, for example, is a popular choice for many students with its Seattle, Bothell and Tacoma branches.



Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)

One of the most successful initiatives to help students transfer to four-year bachelor's programs is the *TAG* (Transfer Admission Guarantee) model.

These university TAGs guarantee a student admission

upon completing the Seattle Colleges' Transfer Degree with a specific grade point average (GPA) along with occasionally a TOEFL requirement or specific coursework.

One of the Colleges' partners in this initiative is the *Johns Hopkins Carey Business School (JHCBS)*. Transfer students join the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree completion program where they study International Business at the Johns Hopkins Washington, D.C. Center.

The upper level undergraduate program includes courses as diverse as Behavioral Finance; International Marketing Strategy; Ethics, Governance and Accountability; and Teamwork and Diversity in a Global Environment. Students also take Professional Development courses, offered by Career Services, and Friday Seminars, which include speakers on topics related to classes and skills such as Advanced Excel.

"The small classes allow us to interact directly with our professors and a diverse group of students. The staff and faculty are supportive and helpful and there are increasing opportunities for co-curricular involvement," says Seattle College student Anastasia Inez, from Indonesia.

TAG partnerships are created to provide students an opportunity to save money on community college tuition and still transfer and graduate from a top-ranked university.

International Transfer Fairs

Many community colleges host "transfer fairs" so their students can learn about opportunities to earn a terminal degree at a four-year university. At these fairs, usually held in a school auditorium on campus, students have a great opportunity to talk to admissions representatives from prestigious universities around the country.

Years ago, the Seattle Colleges decided to provide more partnerships and pathways for international students to transfer out of Washington State to places like California or New York. Representatives from out-of-state universities to come to International Transfer Fairs to recruit outstanding international students into Years 3 and 4 at their universities. This program has grown tremendously in popularity and now admissions personnel from more than 100 universities come to the fairs.

Several other community colleges in the region have joined so the fairs can draw even more universities to a multi-day event. ★

Andrea Insley, Ed.D. is Executive Director, Global Initiatives, Seattle Colleges.



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TRANSFERRING

to a New University By Ken Bus

One of the great strengths of American higher education is the ease with which students can transfer from one college or university to another. For example, it is not unusual for a student from California to transfer to a Michigan school, or for someone attending a small private college to transfer to a large, comprehensive public university.

Students who attend a community college to complete lower division general education requirements can transfer to a university. There, they can take upper division courses and thereby complete a bachelor's degree. Such an approach is commonly known as "2 + 2," though it may take more than four years to complete all of the courses required for a bachelor's degree.

Importance of Accreditation

Transferring to, or from, institutions that are not regionally accredited is not recommended. If a student attends a school that lacks regional accreditation, there is a risk that the courses completed will not transfer to an accredited institution.

Making Transfers Easy

Many colleges and universities have special arrangements known as "articulation agreements" with other institutions. Generally

speaking, such agreements allow "seamless" transfer with little or no loss of credit and time. For example, an engineering student may study for three years at the undergraduate level at one college, then transfer to another college for two more years. The student can receive both a bachelor's and master's degree at the end of the five-year program of study. Sometimes such arrangements are known as a "3+2" programs since they are designed to be completed in a total of five years.

Community colleges often have articulation agreements with four-year colleges and universities. The 10 **Maricopa Community Colleges** in the metropolitan area of Phoenix, Arizona, work very closely with the **University of Arizona, Arizona State University** and **Northern Arizona University** to make sure that Maricopa's courses will transfer.

All the 115 California community colleges have articulation agreements with the **California State University (CSU)** system and the **University of California (UC)** system. For example, if a student successfully completes the general education requirements for California State University or the University of California at **Santa Monica College**, he or she can transfer to one of the universities and complete the last two years for the bachelor's degree.

Don't allow some of the challenges of transferring to deter you. If you plan ahead, a transfer can be an excellent way to accomplish your educational goals and enrich your experience with American higher education. Just as shifting gears in a car is a way to get more speed and power, transferring from one college or university to another can propel you to greater accomplishments. ★

Ken Bus is the Director of the International Education Program at Glendale Community College in Glendale, Arizona. Glendale is one of the Maricopa Community Colleges.

Tips for Transfers

START PLANNING EARLY. If you know you are going to transfer at some point in your college studies you need to prepare for the transfer well in advance by getting accurate information and by informing your advisor.

There are usually a **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CREDITS** you can transfer towards a degree at a U.S. university or college. You should find out what that limit is well before transferring.

Some colleges and universities offer special freshman or college English language classes for students whose native language is not English. These **SPECIAL ESL CLASSES** may be accepted for transfer or they may not. Find out before you transfer.

Credits transfer; grades do not. There is usually a requirement to have a certain **MINIMUM GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)** in order to transfer; however, the GPA earned at one institution does not affect the GPA at another.

American universities and colleges usually have **GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**. A course that is required at one institution may not be required at another. Such courses might transfer, but the credit earned is not necessarily going to apply to degree requirements.

Finally and most important, always **CONSULT** with an academic advisor and your international student advisor before undertaking a transfer. In addition to the transfer of credits, as an international student, you also have to transfer your immigration status as a student to the new school.

/STUDENT TIP

At first, I really didn't get that you could start your first two years at a community college and finish your next two years at a university. But many students do this.

Meiyun Han, from China, Nursing at Merritt College (part of Peralta Colleges)



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ENGLISH for SPECIFIC PURPOSES

By Margaret-Mary Palladino



The world is becoming more of a global community through air travel, Skype, Facebook and other social media. This is making the need to increase understanding and improve communication among all citizens more urgent. An international exchange of ideas addressing crucial issues is essential.

Affecting all of us are environmental issues, such as global warming and the thinning ozone layer; health and medical issues, including research, genetic engineering and the distribution of modern drug therapies; and finally the political challenges of a global economy.

For this reason, more and more individuals are seeking to improve their English language skills for highly specific academic or professional reasons. Courses that fall under the heading English for Specific Purposes (ESP) hold particular appeal with these students. These types of English courses are designed to meet the specific academic or professional needs of learners. Examples of ESP are courses in English for business or law. Each curriculum is centered on the language and culture specific to the field, while teaching grammar, vocabulary, communication style, and study skills.

Who Should Enroll in English for Specific Purposes Programs?

Generally, advanced students who have a specific area of academic or professional interest should consider these programs instead of a general English language course. Many programs require that applicants' English be at a high-intermediate or advanced level.

Learning by Example

Yale University offers a *Law Seminar* for non-native English speakers who are plan-

ning to enter a U.S. law school, or who are working in the field of law in an international context. Taught by attorneys and professors of law, Law Seminar students learn to analyze cases, identify issues, and understand the precedents formed in "case law," as well as the reasoning of a court.

Seminar students have a variety of field trip opportunities that give them a direct glimpse into the world of law:

- Trips to federal and state prisons
- Visits to state and federal courts that often include meetings with judges, prosecutors and public defenders
- A visit to the United States Mission to the United Nations and a meeting with its lawyers, followed by a tour of the United Nations
- A visit to the U.S. Attorney's Office where students meet with its lawyers and with a representative from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Meanwhile, instructors of Yale's *Business Seminar* focus on readings and cases that deal with international and cross-cultural issues. This encourages the sharing of insights across nationalities and the examination of culturally based assumptions about behavior in organizations. *Business Seminar* students take field trips to small businesses and the New York Stock Exchange.

Custom Designed Programs

Often U.S. universities, usually through an intensive English language institute, will arrange short- or long-term specific English programs for groups. If a university does not offer English instruction focused on the field you seek, inquire about the possibility of developing such a program.

As we are brought closer together, closing

the gap of time and distance, communication through a common language is becoming a pressing need. English for Specific Purposes programs present one of the unique ways to address that need.

How is ESP different from general English language courses?

1 The English words and sentences learned, the subject matter discussed, all relate to a particular field or discipline, for example, a lawyer writing a brief, or a diplomat preparing a policy paper. The courses make use of vocabulary and tasks related to the field, such as negotiation skills and effective techniques for oral presentations.

2 English for Specific Purposes programs use materials that are specially designed to meet the needs of a specific group of learners, usually adults.

3 Tuition for an ESP course may be somewhat higher than that of a general English language course. (The specialized teaching, requiring professionals, the broad range of supporting activities and facilities explain this higher cost.) In general, the course will conform to the length of a school's regular English language programs, although a highly specialized course lasting only two or three weeks might be designed to meet the needs of a specific group.

Apart from differences in ESP programs' duration and cost, these courses have a common purpose: to increase students' skill and confidence in using English. ★

Margaret-Mary Palladino is the Director of the English Language Institute at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

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CONDITIONAL ADMISSION

By Jim Crawley

CONDITIONAL ADMISSION

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Choosing to continue your education in the United States is an exhilarating decision. As you begin your search for the right U.S. school you may feel hope, excitement, motivation and a little intimidation.

Some of you may know exactly what you want to study and already have a university or college in mind. Others of you just dream of being in an American university classroom.

So, when you read a school's English language requirements and realize your English is not at a high enough level to begin classes, you may feel defeated. Your marks and test scores meet all other college or university admission requirements. You have the financial means to study in the USA. Your only hindrance is your English. This may cause you to delay your plans or give up on a prospective school.

But there's another way ...

Many universities now offer "conditional admission" to international students who meet all other admission requirements, but need to improve their English language proficiency. Conditional admission provides talented and capable international students a pathway into university classrooms.

STEP 1: Apply for conditional admission to a university

Not all universities and colleges offer conditional admission, so it is important to find out whether this option is available before applying for admission. Frequently, if the university has an intensive English program, or has an agreement with a local private intensive English program, applicants who are academically qualified may be considered for conditional admission. In this case, you would submit an application packet with all required original documentation, with the exception of the proof of English proficiency.

The university will evaluate your application documents and if you're academically admissible, the university could issue you a letter of conditional admission. This means that once you successfully complete the specified intensive English program and/or have the appropriate test score report (TOEFL or IELTS), you will be offered full admission to the university.

STEP 2: Apply for admission to an intensive English program

Once you have been granted

conditional admission, you will also need to apply for admission to the university approved intensive English program. All the appropriate application, fees, and verification of financial support need to be submitted. The intensive English program will then issue you an admission letter and the appropriate immigration form, usually a Form I-20.

STEP 3: Obtain your student visa

To apply for a student visa, you will need to take the admission documents from the intensive English program—as well as the conditional admission letter from the university—to the U.S. consulate or embassy.

Even though you may have limited English abilities, it is important that you are able to answer basic questions about the intensive English program and the university. Knowing the university and English program's location, what you want to study, and having the ability to briefly state why you want to attend that school can be very helpful in the visa interview. Although there are no guarantees in the visa interview, the more natural and comfortable you are with your answers, the more likely there will be a positive outcome.

STEP 4: Confirm, confirm, confirm!

When you begin studying in the intensive English program it is important that you contact the university to which you've been conditionally admitted. You will want to confirm the conditions of the offer of admission, and the university will want to verify when you will complete the intensive English program. This will ensure that you start in the semester indicated in the letter of conditional admission.

STEP 5: Success! You've completed your intensive English program and are gaining full university admission

Once you've completed the intensive English language program, you will be transferring to the university. Remember that your student visa will be transferring as well. Therefore, you might be required to provide updated verification of financial support before the transfer can take place. Be sure and check for any other items that were outlined in the offer of conditional admission—all requirements must be met before a full offer of admission will be extended to you.

"I received a conditional acceptance to complete my Master's Degree, but I had to learn English first!"

Alaa Alsabbah from Saudi Arabia first studied intensive English at an ELS Language Center in Portland, Oregon.



"I made a lot of progress in my one session in the IEP [Intensive English Program]. I was able to pass the TOEFL and enter my graduate program. My use of English, in terms of the skills, improved. My ability to read, write, and discuss in English improved so that I could take graduate classes."

Ramiro Garcia Olano from Argentina completed the Intensive English Program at University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and is now a Ph.D. student in Spanish Literature.



"My English has improved a lot in reading and writing skills because I always do assignments about these skills. This program helped me to prepare presentations, to search, read and write essays."

Ebru Ozkurt from Turkey, studied intensive English at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.



One last tip ...

The final word of advice is to take advantage of all the classes offered by the intensive English program and to speak English in and out of the classroom. You will not only become proficient in English during this time, but you will have practiced the study skills necessary for university success. ★

Jim Crawley, M.Ed. is Director of University Enrollment and Advising Services, Inc. and previously served as the NAFSA Region V Chair.



COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

By
Greg
Denon



PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE + DEGREE



The first step toward your career could be cooperative education. If you participate in a “co-op” program, you enter the work force one step ahead of your classmates. You graduate with a university degree as well as professional work experience in your field of study.

Academic and Professional

As part of a long tradition in this country, over 900 U.S. universities and colleges offer co-op education programs. Contrary to the name, cooperative education does not refer to a collective farm or factory. It means cooperation between university's academic programs and professional employers, who provide off-campus work experience.

Your school will assist you in finding work with a corporation or agency. Your employer will monitor and evaluate your performance, pay you and supervise you.

Required for Graduation

At some universities, each student must

careers in their home countries often complete their co-op semesters overseas.

Like a Real Job

At Wentworth, each student is assigned a personal co-op coordinator and is encouraged to meet with their coordinator as often as desired. Support services include résumé-writing workshops, mock interviews and job placement assistance.

Although your university may assist you in finding co-op opportunities, you are the one responsible for securing a co-op position. You will conduct a formal job search, interview for positions and earn a paycheck just as in the “real world.”

Wentworth requires students to go through at least two full job searches in order to graduate. With this practice, students are much more astute than their counterparts, who may have never searched for a job, negotiated terms, or landed a coveted position.

The U.S. government allows students

“Try your best to get a high GPA. Chinese students do not have work experience when they are in high school, while American students start working when they are in school. Therefore, when you apply for co-op or jobs in the future, a high GPA really helps you to make up the disadvantage.”

Xujie Zhao, from China, Computer Networking at Wentworth Institute of Technology



Cooperative Education gives students the unique opportunity to practice classroom theory in a professional setting.

- Helps students explore career interests
- Paid positions help subsidize tuition costs
- Improves job opportunities after graduation
- Teaches students valuable job-search skills, such as resume writing and interviewing techniques
- Promotes lifelong learning by integrating work and academic study
- Enhances workplace skills like teamwork and critical analysis
- Offers students financial earnings and work experience, encouraging those who may not have entered university or completed a degree program to reconsider
- Improves students' self-confidence and respect for work
- Enhances professional development

DEFINITIONS

WORK STUDY An educational plan in which students alternate between paid employment and formal study

INTERNSHIP An opportunity to integrate career related experience into an undergraduate education by participating in planned, supervised work

complete a co-op education program in order to graduate. These programs are as diverse as the universities themselves.

For example, everyone who earns a bachelor's degree at **Wentworth Institute of Technology** participates in at least two semesters of co-op, which are built into the curriculum of each of Wentworth's majors. A co-op is scheduled after the first two years of the bachelor's program, when a student has acquired enough knowledge and experience to deal with meaningful professional work.

Since Wentworth is an institute of technology, typical employers are architectural and design firms, waste treatment plants, and computer software companies. Wentworth students have completed co-ops at the Smithsonian Institution, Hong Kong Airport Authority, the Gillette Company and Fidelity Investments.

Students are not limited to work near the university. International students who plan

with F-1 visas to work up to a total of 12 months in curricular practical training (co-op qualifies in this category) before earning a bachelor's degree.

In the international job market, co-op graduates are in high demand. Employers know that a co-op education integrates classroom theory, hands-on lab and studio work and real professional experience. Most graduates use their employers as professional references, and many also receive full-time job offers from them.

A co-op education supplements tuition and develops marketable skills. Those of us who administer the programs see this system as much more than that—it's a great way to start your professional life. ★

Greg Denon is the Director of Career Services at Wentworth Institute of Technology located in Boston, Massachusetts.



STUDYING TECHNOLOGY

AT A U.S. UNIVERSITY

When the electrical engineers of the late '70s and early '80s introduced the world's first mobile phones, they never would have imagined the world we live in today. Mobile phones now have features like mobile payment systems and video conferencing, all running on a multi-core processor in your pocket.

Today's economy has become an intertwined, international marketplace where ideas are the driving force rather than basic goods. Technological advancements continue to change the way people live their lives all over the world and employers are looking to capitalize on this. Because of this individuals who possess a combination of technical training and a certain level of creativity are in high-demand.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment growth will be driven by the increasing reliance on information technology and the continuing importance of maintaining system and network security. In order to fill high-tech positions, employers are seeking well-educated and qualified individuals who understand the latest developments in technology.

Today's students will decide how technology will shape our future.

Technology Education in the USA

U.S. universities and colleges offer a greater variety of programs with a specialized focus in areas such as security, user interface design and geospatial technology. Program coursework incorporates both theoretical and hands-on practical training.

A new trend in technology education is a heightened focus on "soft skills." Soft skills are the interpersonal skills required to be effective in a professional setting. These include oral and written communication skills, project management, and teamwork. These skills will make you a more dynamic employee and increase your chances of success.

What to Look for in a Program

It is important that a program's curriculum reflect the latest in technology. Therefore, the university or college must strive to update its curriculum so that it is relevant. There's nothing worse than spending a year focused on a specific platform, only to read a news article announcing that platform's pending demise.

The school should also provide the equipment needed to study your area of interest. For example, it wouldn't make sense to study network engineering at a school that did not provide the equipment needed for practical training.

Students in certain specialized degree programs may also have access to high-end industrial tools and equipment. There's nothing more exciting than getting a chance to work with a piece of equipment that you've read about and otherwise couldn't afford. In addition to modern equipment, network connection speeds are equally important. Fast connectivity is now a high priority because distributed computing has become more common. Many American colleges and universities even offer gigabit Internet connections. This gives students the ability to develop new and creative uses for networked communications, without being encumbered by a limited Internet connection.

Seek schools that employ faculty with industry experience. It is also important that the program seeks the advice of technology professionals when shaping future curriculum. A school that regularly reaches out and works with the surrounding community will be the first to know about emerging technologies.

Degrees and Certificates

You can qualify for many careers in technology with a Certificate or Associate of Applied Science degree. These degrees can be earned at technical or community colleges, private specialized training schools, and for-profit training companies. In addition, you could continue with a bachelor's or master's degree if you are interested in a management, research or security position in technology. ★

DIGITAL MEDIA

Wherever you are, digital media is playing an increasingly bigger role in the marketplace and in our daily lives. And with outsourcing on the rise, you can work for a prestigious international company from just about anywhere.

Digital Media Workers Are in Demand

Career skills in demand include digital video, animation, audio, web design, graphic design, video and interactive multimedia, to name a few. Digital workers can find jobs in consulting, education, the arts, the media—new and traditional—marketing communications and training.

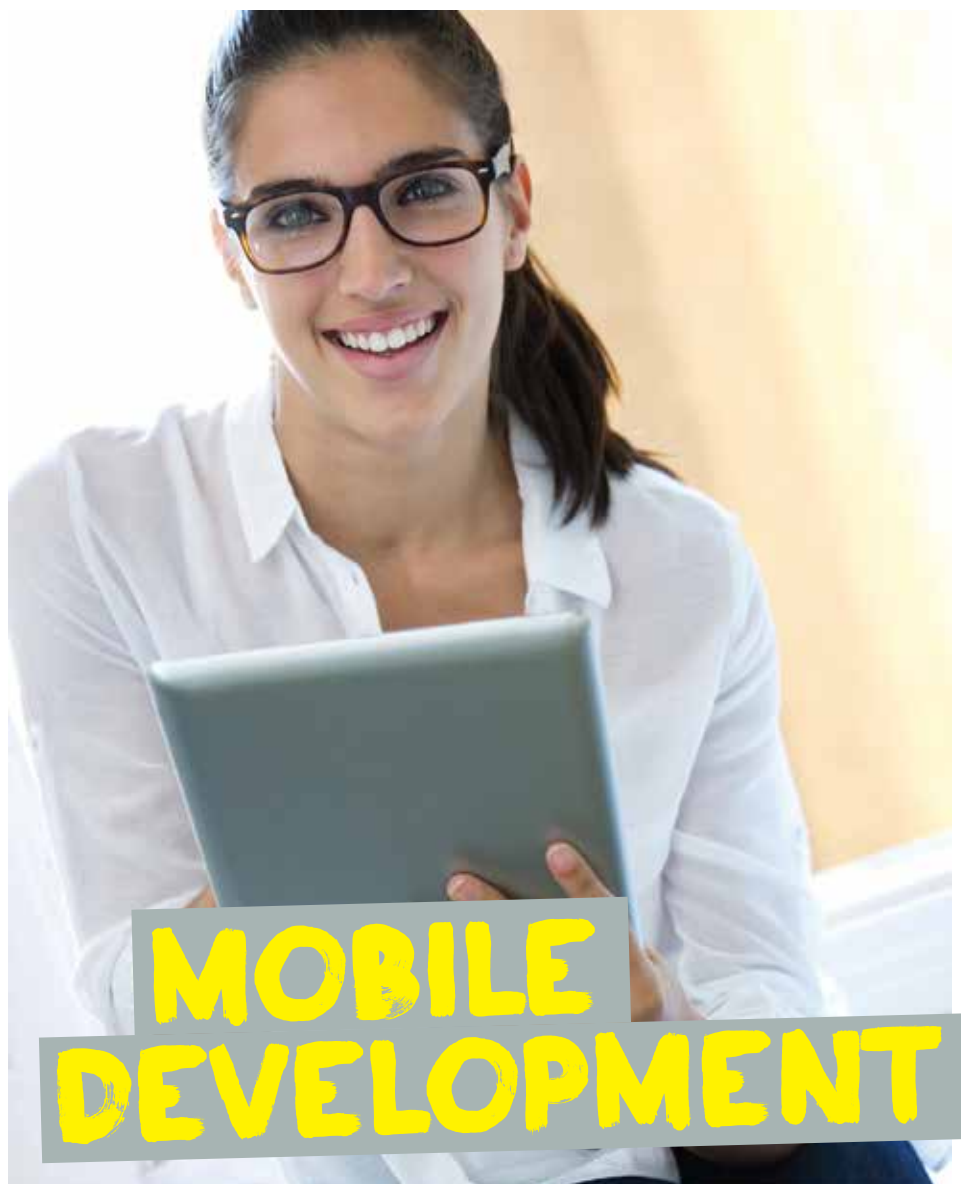
So, if digital media is a good career choice for you, where do you start? Coming to the USA to study digital media arts makes perfect sense. Here you can access the latest technology, learn from award-winning instructors and get hands-on experience in the industry.

Students Learn to Excel in the Classroom

At many U.S. community colleges, students can earn associate degrees and vocational certificates in television production, broadcast journalism, television scriptwriting, graphic design, 3D animation/modeling, digital music production and digital media arts.

A digital music production certificate program offers instruction in various means of computer assisted digital audio production including sequencing, digital recording, recording studio techniques, mixdown and synchronization to video. It also covers the business of music as well as technologies for web audio design.

Completion of the associate degree prepares students to move into a four-year institution or into a professional art school. The associate degree also provides for entry into jobs in a variety of areas: advertising agency, printing business, design studio, web production, freelance designer or related fields.



TECHNOLOGY FIELDS OF STUDY

⊕ ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING:

Combines the best of engineering and technology in areas such as robotics, simulation, and real-time systems.

⊕ COMPUTER SCIENCE:

Incorporates advanced work with software, programming languages, graphics, operating systems, and user interfaces.

⊕ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT):

Installing and configuring software and hardware, data management, networking, engineering computer hardware, database and software design, and the management and administration of entire systems.

⊕ SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT:

Writing business application programs to instruct a computer to perform a variety of tasks. It involves analysis of the expected output, information flow, and writing and testing of the code.

⊕ WEB DEVELOPMENT:

Developing server-based applications using standard web protocols. It typically involves a combination of IT and software developer skills, alongside an ability to design a functional user interface.

Innovation is the cornerstone of technology. Ten years ago, we were content to merely send a text message or maybe play a game of Snake on a two-color screen; today, we have mobile devices that can process more than the average desktop computer from that same era. Looking forward, we can only imagine what advances will come.

The definition of mobile development is evolving to not only include traditional mobile devices, but also tablets, gaming consoles, televisions, automobiles, and any other consumer device that has an operating system.

With the rate that mobile technology is advancing, it can be a difficult decision choosing the platforms and languages on which to focus. From one year to the next, existing programming languages advance and new ones are introduced, bringing new methods or features. Finding the right pro-

gram of study is the first step to building the skills you will need in order to keep the pace and innovate within this field.

Getting an education in software development in the United States can take many different forms. While earning a degree exclusively from a four-year university is always an option, there are many different paths available. Due to their smaller size and emphasis on practical job training, community colleges and technical schools have the ability adapt to development trends quickly. These alternatives may suit your needs better.

In most mobile development programs, you can expect to start with standard programming courses. In these classes, you will learn the fundamentals of object-oriented programming (generally Java or C#), Unix, and basic web development.

As you advance through the program,

classes will become more specific to mobile. Typically, courses will include mobile device user interface design, advanced development either in iOS or Android, as well as business and project management of mobile application development.

Finally, towards the end of the program, you will have to create and complete a practical overview project, often referred to as a “capstone” course. In a mobile development capstone course, you must utilize what you’ve learned throughout the program in order to build and market your own functioning mobile application. Upon completing your program, you can expect career opportunities as a mobile software developer, a mobile web developer, or a mobile solutions specialist. ★

Brian Turley is a Board Member of Seattle Central College’s Technology Advisory Committee. Professionally, he is a Solutions Engineer at Ookla.

Rutgers University, New Jersey

NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A new field of study at **Northern Virginia Community College**, near Washington, DC, is *Geospatial Technology (GST)*. This course of study prepares students for a diverse range of applications for gathering data from satellite images, for private business or government agencies, in fields ranging from information technology and marketing to environmental science and national security.

Based on the college's Loudoun campus at its Reston Center, the *Geospatial Technology* program leads to a one-year certificate or a two-year Associate's in Science degree in preparation for transfer to George Mason University, or other four-year university programs. English fluency is required.

Advanced Forensic Investigation, Communication Design and Biotechnology are other programs at the college using increasingly sophisticated technology and attracting an increasing number of international students.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando offers three undergraduate specializations in digital media: *Game Design, Web Design* or *Visual Language*.

Students specializing in *Game Design* learn about the history, culture and design of video games. The program is structured so that students are exposed to the major areas of game design and development—art, programming and producing.

The *Web Design* specialization allows students to explore the fundamentals of web design with classes in media software design and Internet interaction. Media business practices and information management is also covered.

The *Visual Language Specialization* blends art, storytelling, and technology with classes in areas of character animation and visual storytelling.

UCF also offers two master's degree programs in digital media. Graduate students in the *Master of Arts in Visual Language and Interactive Media* study new media theory. A *Master of Fine Arts in Visual Language and Interactive Media* track is a specialized program in the conceptual, theoretical design, and technical skills, which are needed for storytelling.

NORTH SEATTLE COLLEGE

Many educational institutions partner with local business interests to develop programs that most directly address the needs of the marketplace. For example, **North Seattle College (NSC)** has a Technology Advisory Council that helps the College continually monitor its technology programs to ensure that the education reflects current trends in Seattle technology.

The College recently added coursework in *Network Forensics* and *Network Security* due to concerns within the business community relating to viruses, worms, and hacker activity. Students at NSC benefit from this quick response by learning about security related issues and by developing the skills they need to implement security in networks—skills that employers all over the globe are seeking.



SANTA ANA COLLEGE

At **Santa Ana College (SAC)** near Los Angeles, students can earn associate degrees and vocational certificates in *Television Production, Broadcast Journalism, Television Scriptwriting, Graphic Design, 3D Animation/Modeling, Digital Music Production* and *Digital Media Arts*. Two new certificate programs are offered in *Digital Media Freelance* and *Digital Media Post-production*.

The College's Media Center (DMC) houses a "business incubator" for emerging digital media businesses, classrooms with remote desktop connection software, and a production facility.

Courses in SAC's associate degree program in *Digital Media Arts* include typography, digital publishing and graphic arts for the web.

Completion of the associate degree prepares students to move into a four-year institution or into a professional art school. The associate degree also provides for entry into jobs in a variety of areas: advertising agency, printing business, design studio, web production, freelance designer or related fields.

PIERCE COLLEGE

At **Pierce College** in Lakewood, Washington, the Digital Design Program offers concentrations in two main areas:

Traditional Graphic Design: computer and traditional illustration, digital photography and image manipulation, print-based page layout, and web design.

Dynamic Media Production: 3D modeling, 2D and 3D animation, video production, DVD authoring, and rich media authoring.

Core classes include *Introduction to Graphic Design and Rich Media, Production Management, Layout Design and Publishing, Fundamentals of 3-D Modeling and Animation, Web Design and CSS, Fundamentals of Digital Photography, Fundamentals of Video Production and DVD Authoring, Fundamentals of Multimedia Authoring Systems, Integrated Digital Design*. One of the core requirements is also a supervised internship with a local business and guidance in preparing a resume and job interview skills.

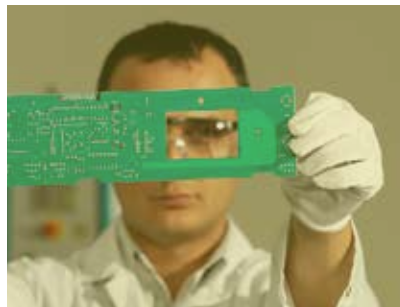


University of Central Florida

ENGINEERING THE FUTURE

"Our modern society is firmly based on the use of technology. Engineers in all disciplines are vital to the design, development, and improvement of the technology that drives our modern global society. Basically, without engineers, everything technological comes to a standstill. Increasingly, agriculture, transportation, manufacturing, communication, medicine, and all other fundamental aspects of our complex global society are dependent on the knowledge and skills of trained engineers."

—Kenneth Schroeder, Engineering Department Coordinator and Professor at Pierce College



Engineering is quickly becoming one of the largest professions in the United States. There is no better place to study engineering.

There are many unique answers when posing the question of “How?” How does this chair hold me up? How is that I can talk on my cell phone or chat on the Internet with someone across the world? How did this water in my glass become clean? Although the answer to each of these questions is unique, there is one simple explanation for all of these questions: engineering.

No matter where you are in the world, the evidence of engineering is universal. Today, engineers are developing solutions and building the latest technologies for everything from smart phones to solving the world’s most dire problems. The rapid pace of technology and the scarcity of natural resources have made the demand for engineers greater than ever.

The motivation to pursue an engineering

degree may differ from student to student. For some, it is the desire to have a successful and profitable career. Others want to bring advancement and a better future to their communities. Then there are students who are drawn to the field because they are naturally curious about how things work.

Your motivation may be unique, but your ambition to study engineering in the USA is not. Every year, more and more international students come to the United States to pursue undergraduate, graduate and doctorate engineering degrees. According to the 2012/13 *Open Doors Report*, 154,186 international students were enrolled in U.S. engineering programs. It is one of the most popular fields of study among international students.

You may choose to study engineering for humanitarian reasons or because you desire a financially successful career, but no matter your reasoning, know that your talents are in high-demand and you have the ability to change the world. ★

PIERCE COLLEGE

Pierce College in Lakewood, Washington may be smaller than four-year universities, but their engineering program is no less challenging. Engineering students at the community college spend the first two years of their bachelor’s degree gaining a solid foundation by mastering engineering concepts and methods using the principles of physics and the tools of mathematics.

Like many other U.S. engineering programs, students at Pierce can specialize their degree in multiple areas: civil, mechanical, aeronautical, materials, electrical, computer, chemical or biomedical. Small class sizes at Pierce College allow students to receive individualized attention from the very beginning when they’re completing the highest levels of mathematics and physics and in later courses in Statics, Dynamics, Mechanics of Materials, and Thermodynamics. This is an important difference.

Often in the first or second year, students struggling with difficult engineering concepts feel lost and lose confidence. In a smaller class, instructors can quickly identify and respond to the student’s needs.

“My goal was always to teach at the college level in a technical program. I just love being able to help students reach their academic potential,” explains Kenneth Schroeder, Engineering Department Coordinator and Professor at Pierce College.

When students have completed their two-year associate degree at Pierce, they then transfer to university, entering as third year students. Pierce College graduates are regularly accepted directly into engineering departments at the University of Washington, Washington State University and other institutions in Washington State. International students have also gained admission to Purdue University, Rutgers University, the University of Idaho, University of Oregon, and the University of California.

“After finishing my associate degree at Pierce College, I transferred to University of Washington Seattle and, in two more years, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering. My classes at Pierce prepared me well for my studies at University of Washington—I felt especially ready in physics and engineering. Studying at Pierce College was a great first step in my professional preparation.”

Piseth Horth, an international student from Cambodia



“Speaking English fluently is essential in the chemical engineering field in Brazil. Learning how to deal with different people from different cultures is also good.”

Roberta Alves Medina, from the Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia da Bahia, studied Chemical Engineering at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey



“It was a unique opportunity to study in one of the world’s best universities. I would be able to maintain close contact with competitive educational systems closely related to technology and innovation.”

Raphael Lucas Vidotti, from Centro Universitario da FEI, studied Civil Engineering at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey



A photograph of students in a chemistry laboratory. In the foreground, a male student in a blue lab coat and safety goggles is pouring a blue liquid from a beaker into a flask held by a metal stand. Next to him, a female student in a white lab coat and safety goggles is also pouring a blue liquid from a beaker into a flask. In the background, two more students are visible, one holding a notebook. The lab has various equipment like stands and glassware.

EXPLORING SCIENCE

PROGRAMS IN THE USA

By Mike Wolterbeek

University of Nevada, Reno

Students from around the world are coming to the United States in greater numbers than ever to study—and to study the sciences. When students come to the U.S. to study science they find the cutting edge of their discipline, with current knowledge gained through research.

They also find diverse and numerous fields of study from which to choose.

Science in the USA includes programs for chemists, astronomers, physicists, neuroscientists, geneticists, biologists, geologists, hydrologists, seismologists, climatologists, oceanographers, nurses—just to name a few of the thousands of areas to study. And students will find a growing number of multidisciplinary programs that combine subjects to customize a course of study.

“In the U.S., professors at the forefront of current science are also teaching in the classroom,” said Jeff Thompson, dean of the *College of Science* at the **University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)**. UNR is ranked in the top tier of best national universities in nearly every science discipline.

“Students would gain more at a university where that [research] occurs, rather than schools without research where they have professors who may not have been involved in their discipline since they first became professors.”

In general, students may find a much more mature research complex in place in U.S. university programs. Other countries may have an academic system that is quite rigorous, but perhaps limited in the types of research equipment, resources and infrastructure to operate the equipment.

“International students coming to study in the U.S. benefit from access to some of the finest professors and research laboratories in the world,” said Allan Goodman, President of the Institute of International Education.

International students in the USA have access to a wealth of technical skills and problem-solving abilities that will prepare them for professional science careers either at home or in the United States. Twenty percent of all jobs now require some background in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM), according to a June 2013 study by the *Brookings Institution*.

Francisco Suarez Poch came to the U.S. from Chile to study hydrological sciences at the University of Nevada, Reno’s renowned *Interdisciplinary Hydrogeology* program.

“To me, the U.S. is the core of scientific research of the world, so it is the best place to

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

At first glance, one wouldn’t think Doug Smith, the founder and lead scientist of the Yellowstone Wolf Project and Kevin McArthur, former President of the Goldcorp Mining Company and current owner of one of the newest mining companies in Nevada, Tahoe Resources, have anything in common.

But they do.

They are both **University of Nevada, Reno College of Science** graduates, and they are both successful business leaders. They made an effective transition from academia to the world of business, albeit with quite a different focus.

College of Science Dean, Jeff Thompson has continually been inspired to see the connection between the disciplines of business and science play out in the corporate world. He wants today’s science students to fully understand the possible career interplay a foundation in science can provide in the world of business.

“Most of the students we graduate from the College of Science work in the for-profit world,” says Dean, Jeff Thompson.

“We do a great job of training them in academia, and we emphasize how to succeed in the business world. What sets us apart from many institutions is our focus on training students to think on their own through research—both at the undergraduate level and the graduate level—working with professors who are at the top of their fields.”

Thompson points out many examples of College of Science alumni who have successfully navigated the business world’s waters:

- Opal Adams turned her geology degree into a successful venture as vice president of Enviroscientists, Inc.
- Bill Honjas and Satish Pullammanappallil founded the seismic data processing software company Optim in 1997 and have expanded it into a successful international geothermal exploration company
- Alan Krause a Mackay School of Mines graduate is president and CEO of the company that is building the massive

new Panama Canal

The College of Science offers more than 50 degrees in 18 different majors, everything from Atmospheric Sciences to Biology, Chemistry, Ecology, Geography, Geology, Mathematics, Neuroscience and Physics. The College is renowned around the world for its *Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering* programs; its Nevada Terawatt Facility with its research into high-density energy plasmas, and is forging a successful path in neuroscience. The program also offers a successful path to medical school. A number of state-of-the-art labs supports research and education throughout the college. Degrees are offered at the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral levels.

The College of Science has an extensive research enterprise—the faculty generate more than \$26 million in extramural research funding annually. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classifies the University of Nevada, Reno as a comprehensive, doctoral-granting university with high research activity.

A few of the research centers include

- Center for Transformative Environmental Monitoring Programs
- Great Basin Center for Geothermal Energy
- Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
- Nevada Seismological Laboratory
- Nevada Terawatt Facility

The *Colleges Department of Chemistry Shared Instrumentation Laboratory* is a free resource to the entire campus, making lab equipment available to all students as well as custom research instruments, computational facilities and workspace.

In addition to the labs, the northern Nevada region, with its high-desert environment, diverse geological attributes such as the Sierra Nevada mountains, Lake Tahoe and a number of other rivers and high elevation lakes makes field research a vital part of the programs at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Eastern Washington University



get a good education,” said Poch.

“One of the nice things about study in the U.S. is that you can be close to many research groups working in similar things so you can get very nice feedback. Sometimes this is hard if you are outside the U.S. or Europe,” explained Poch. Living and studying in the USA also gave him the opportunity to meet a lot of new people and do much more than just studying.

After earning his undergraduate degree in Chile, he came to the U.S. to earn his doctorate in hydrogeology. He has since returned to Santiago and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile where he is an assistant professor teaching in the Department of Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering.

While studying in the United States he collaborated with his research professors to develop a solar-pond membrane-distillation desalinization process to clean lake ecosystems endangered by low water and high salinity. He presented some of his solar-pond research at the annual Fall AGU (American Geophysical Union) conference in San Francisco, attended by 16,000 geophysicists from around the world.

Francisco’s story is not uncommon.

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of science students involved with high-level research around the USA. Universities that host the most international students are also top research institutions, such as the University of Southern California, which hosts the most international students, or University of California, Berkeley, the Ohio State University or SUNY University at Buffalo, all in the top 20 of universities that host international students.

“Physics programs and chemistry programs attract international students, espe-

cially graduate students, but also undergrads,” said Roberto Mancini, a professor at the University of Nevada Reno’s *Physics Department*.

“We always have undergrads working in the lab, and it provides them a path to graduate programs and advanced training.”

Mancini researches high-energy density plasma at the University of Nevada, Reno’s *Nevada Terawatt Facility*, which houses one of the two most powerful university-based pulse-power generators nationwide—the 2-terawatt Zebra accelerator. He is studying ultra-high temperature and non-equilibrium plasmas to mimic what happens to matter in accretion disks around black holes. He has guided international students through doctoral programs, some of them now working in prestigious labs such as Los Alamos Laboratory in the United States. He also teaches the latest in plasma spectroscopy, using an interactive, real-time web-based classroom that reaches students from Japan to Germany.

Just recently a Hungarian student studying and working with researchers at the Nevada Terawatt Facility graduated and returned to Hungary. He went immediately to work as a scientist in the new Extreme Light Infrastructure, a laser facility that aims to host some of the most intense research lasers worldwide.

International students will not only find outstanding research opportunities in the U.S., they also see things from a different perspective. Here, students have access to different climates to study, different animals and plants to study and a broader view of the different methods of science practiced in a variety of laboratories. Earth scientists, for example, have the opportunity to study different soil types, ecosystems or unique geographic features.

Queens College, New York



“Another distinguishing factor for students to consider when deciding where to study in the United States is whether independent thinking is encouraged,” said Thompson.

“A success meter in the U.S. is if students get to think independently, to analyze and to come to their own conclusions rather than the professor leading the student through presenting a problem as a set of facts. What the U.S. is good at is open-minded education, we teach students to think—with the emphasis that they learn to think independently.”

Perhaps noted American astronomer, astrophysicist and author Carl Sagan said it best, “Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge.”

As an academic advisor for international students, Jim Carr is impressed by the caliber of students who come from other countries:

“The students are extremely well educated; they are very bright and are acing (getting A grades in) their classes. They come here to receive up-to-date training in their area of interest, but even when students come to the U.S. for an education similar to what they can get back home they are looking to broaden their horizons, to interact with other students and learn about a new culture while getting their education. For science students, they can learn new research techniques, learn how to use the latest technologies and tools for their discipline and be exposed to a variety of viewpoints and approaches.”

Students who come to the U.S. can have the benefit of top-flight researchers and will find a culture of scientific curiosity, discovery and a bold quest for new knowledge. ★


Mike Wolterbeek is a Communications Officer at the University of Nevada, Reno.



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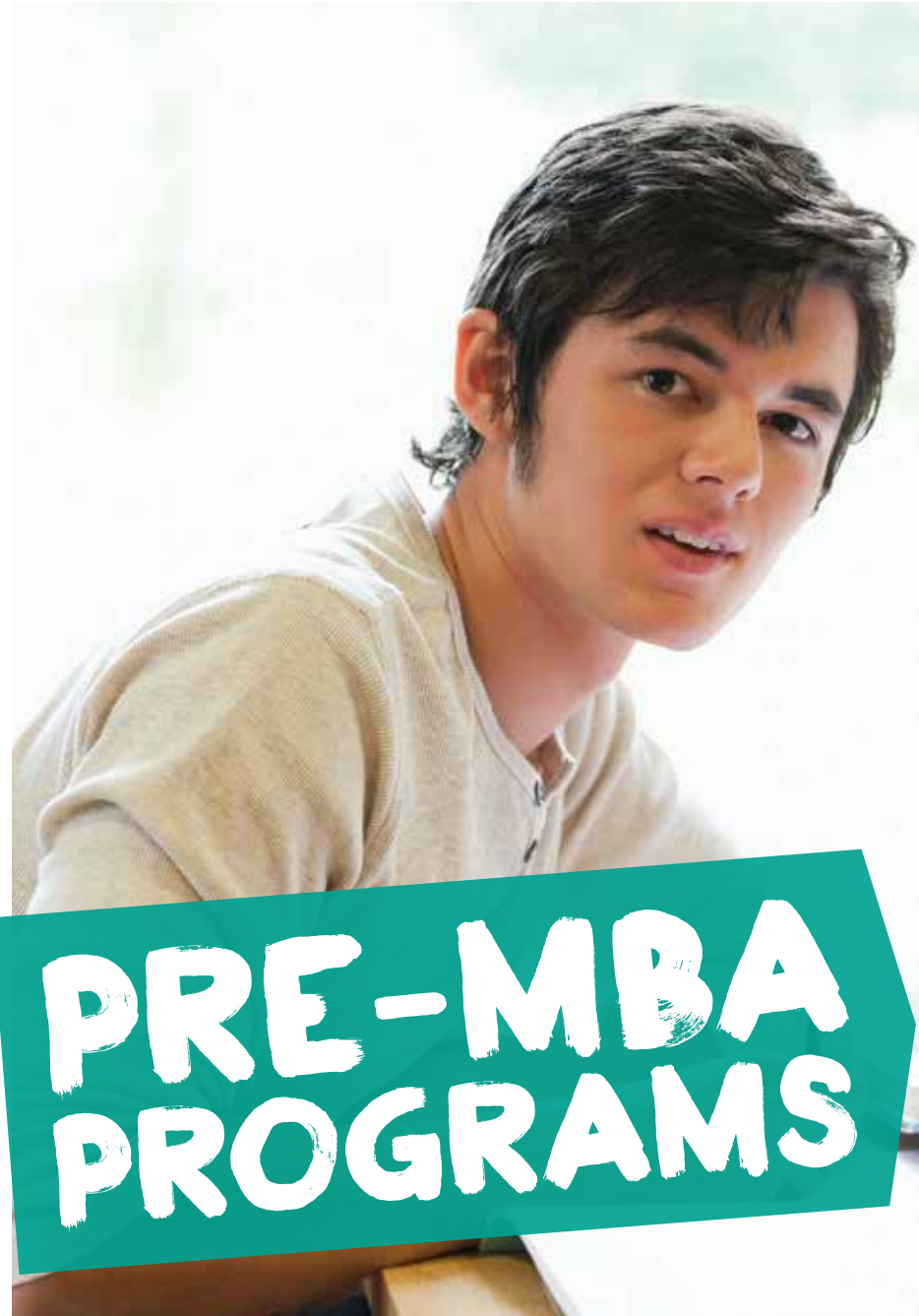



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An American MBA is well recognized and highly valued in today's international business environment. Leading American business methods and technologies continue to have a strong impact on business worldwide. Your decision to attain an MBA in the USA is a wise first step in your career growth and development. With an MBA you will have new career opportunities and access to higher positions and salaries.

However, most employers agree that merely having an MBA is not enough; employers also consider your previous experience and your potential when making hiring decisions. Therefore, if you desire a successful career in the current highly competitive business world you should take full advantage of your MBA program.

A pre-MBA program is an excellent way to promote success in an MBA program. First, you can improve your English and your performance on the TOEFL and GMAT. More importantly, you can develop business, academic and cultural skills that are valuable in an MBA program. A pre-MBA program will help you effectively build these skills by giving you the most current and accurate knowledge available. ★

PRE-MBA PROGRAMS

Four important ways in which pre-MBA programs differ

1 PROGRAM LENGTH
Depending on the school and the curriculum focus, programs will vary from a few weeks to a full year.

2 CURRICULUM
Some programs focus on GMAT and TOEFL

preparation. Other programs focus on developing skills in areas such as presentations, writing, communication, and business and cultural content. The ideal program will focus on both test preparation and academics. Programs like this will ensure students' readiness for the GMAT and TOEFL and enter today's American MBA programs with greater confidence.

3 SERVICES
Programs differ greatly in the range of services they offer. Services may include advising, university placement, and housing assistance. When researching programs, find out what services each school provides. This may be an important factor in your decision-making.

EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Language learning is best when it is in context, and context is never static. A professor may have his or her agenda for each week's class, but once in class there could be a question or idea that provokes a class discussion, covering new content.



As an English language student, this can be difficult to follow. The context is always changing, and new vocabulary and communication styles are constantly being introduced.

Context is central in **Eastern Washington University's MBA Preparation Program** for English language students. Developed in 1997, the English language program is in conjunction with the standard MBA Preparation courses. Students study in two prerequisite business courses along with an English language support course.

What makes the program unique is how the program directors make the extra effort to ensure that the English course is content-based and always current: English language support instructors attend the business classes with their students and complete the same required readings as their students! English instructors design that week's lesson plan centered on the content discussed in the student's business classes that week.

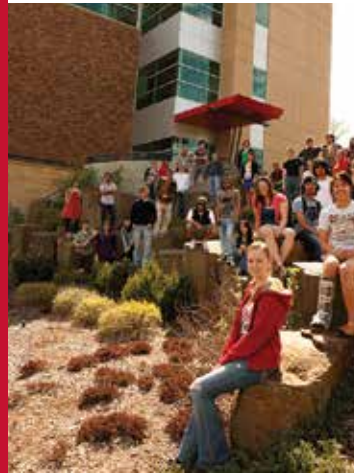
"Through the Prep program, I could prepare step by step and adjust myself to be more comfortable and had confidence for entering the MBA program," says Kiyoshi Sakai, a graduate of the program who went on to complete his MBA.

4 TECHNOLOGY

Being well versed in technology—especially the latest software programs—is crucial in the modern business environment. Many pre-MBA programs have computer labs and courses that help students develop technology skills.



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If you are an international student or professional seeking an MBA you should consider the United States.

American MBA programs are world renowned for giving students a competitive edge in the business world through excellent education, diverse specialized programs and unparalleled networking opportunities and resources.

There are over a thousand MBA programs in the U.S. You will find an array of options to fit just about any need—from specialized degrees to unique programs geared toward international students.

Diversity of MBA programs

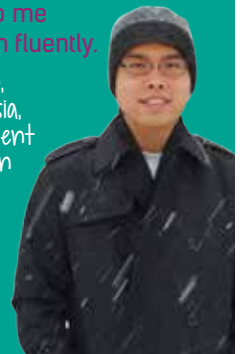
One of the reasons thousands of international students enroll in MBA programs in the United States is because of the diversity of choices and concentrations. Graduate business students can focus their master's degree in finance, accounting, entrepreneurship, marketing, business management, supply chain management, global business and so many more. We live in a global market and it is growing. Gaining fresh knowledge and expertise in one area of business will meet an economic need and make you more professionally competitive. Furthermore, an American MBA will show that you have international knowledge and experience.

Regardless of degree specialty, most American business schools will train you in the principles of general business management. These principles include a combination of accounting, economics, finance, marketing, ethics and statistics.

/STUDENT TIP

I would like to become an accountant that focuses on internal control. Due to globalization, you have to speak at least one major language fluently. I chose to study in the U.S.A. to help me learn English fluently.

Juri Adrianto,
from Indonesia,
an MBA student
in Information
Systems at
Fairleigh Dickinson
University in
Teaneck,
New Jersey





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Academics

- A research intensive university, one of only 62 schools in the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU). Accredited by the Middle States Association
- Top programs in business, engineering, and pure and applied sciences with more than 100 majors available
- Ranked #27 in the world for arts and humanities by the *Times Higher Education* (UK) World University Rankings
- Ranked #23 in the U.S. for research impact among U.S. public institutions. Sixty percent of Rutgers undergraduates engage in original research
- The Rutgers Program in American Language Studies (PALS) offers programs for students at every proficiency level who wish to improve their English skills

Student Life

- Centers for international student services with dedicated experienced staff members help students with all aspects of acclimating to study in the United States
- Students from more than 115 countries: Rutgers ranks among the most diverse schools in the United States

Location

- Three locations easily accessible by mass transit—within an hour of New York City and Philadelphia
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HOW TO CHOOSE AN MBA PROGRAM THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

1 THINK ABOUT THE KIND OF ACADEMIC FOCUS THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU

By identifying your personal and career goals, you'll help refine the list of schools. You will have a better idea of the educational features and offerings that best suit your needs. Do you want a general MBA degree, or a program tailored toward a specific career goal?

If you aspire to a career in a specific industry you may consider the school's location. Most MBA programs have relationships with local businesses and community business leaders. Therefore, attending certain schools may provide you with extensive networking opportunities and job prospects within your chosen field. New York City, for example, is one of the major banking and financial centers of the world, while the San Francisco Bay Area is home to many leading technology companies.

2 IDENTIFY SCHOOLS THAT OFFER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SPECIFICALLY GEARED TOWARD INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Before beginning your application process determine which schools offer special enrollment programs for international students. Most American MBA programs are open to students with a bachelor's degree from a four-year university in the United States, or an equivalent degree from another country. If you attended a three-year university, you may need to complete preparatory courses in order to enroll in certain MBA programs. Golden Gate University, for example, offers a preparatory program called Bridge that allows international students to enroll in graduate study without completing a second bachelor's degree.

Many U.S. schools also offer special services to help international students ease into their new academic environments. Along with academics, admissions and advising services for international students (and their dependents) can support integration into the local community. Some schools offer flexible admissions policies.

Please be aware of services and programs that help international students connect with each other, find roommates, and assist with immigration and visa issues. Be sure you know how much guidance you will receive about academic and career topics, as well as adjusting to the new academic environment.

3 LOOK FOR PROGRAMS THAT FIT INTO YOUR LIFESTYLE

Many international students want to capitalize on their time earning an MBA in the United States by experiencing American culture. When you research an MBA program look at the school's location, as well. Find out about the area, its recreational activities, arts and entertainment programs, historical and sight-seeing opportunities.

4 FOLLOW YOUR DREAM!

International students are an important resource for American students; you provide a global perspective that is becoming increasingly important in our shrinking world. With such a wide range of programs available, you are sure to find a program that will give you the training and contacts to reach your goals.

Theory in Practice

At every level, the American higher education system is different. Foundational principles and theories must be taught, but they are only mastered through practice. MBA programs in the United States strongly reflect this teaching philosophy. You will examine real-world case studies and business scenarios in order to devise strategies, business plans, budgets, etc. These types of projects will prepare you for real-life business situations and to approach them with practical knowledge.

"In logistics management class, we had case studies to discuss: Ford company, HP, Ralph Lauren, and so on. We assumed that we were managers and analyzed the problems and solutions. We applied strategies that we learned from the textbook to solve problems. This is a very good part," explains Boonpa Ing-Anuraksakul, from Thailand, studying Logistics Management at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, Nevada.

The majority of MBA programs will have an internship requirement. Internships are an excellent way to really explore your future career and apply your studies. The companies for which you intern are thriving businesses and you will be working in a fast-paced environment. They will have professional expectations of you.

While internships provide you with a practical learning environment, they are a prime setting for networking. Networking is one of the most powerful tools for your career. While you are an intern, take advantage of the opportunity to meet and network with current professionals. They may help you get a job or be your future colleagues.

"An internship is a requirement in my curriculum. I believe this is helpful because the college encourages students to apply the skills outside the classroom and develop experience in the real world before graduating," says Heejoong Kim, from Korea, studying Management and Marketing at Loyola University New Orleans.

An internship will not only give you valuable experience, you will find that having a reputable American company listed on your resume will be invaluable.

"When I graduate with my MBA, I will be competing in a very global job market. Having experience interacting with people from different cultures I believe will give me an edge in the professional world," stated Juri Adrianto, from Indonesia, an MBA student in Information Systems at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey. ★

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Supply chain management is one of the fastest growing business specialties across the globe. The Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas has created a Supply Chain Management Department where MBA students specialize in this popular career.

In fact, the majority of international students in the MBA program choose to specialize in Supply Chain due to the quickly expanding global job market in the field and the international reputation of the faculty. MBA Supply Chain majors study subjects, such as modeling, forecasting, transportation strategies and global logistics. The MBA program also allows students to customize the program with special workshops, such as Negotiation Skills, Networking, RFID Technologies, and Advanced Access. Students receive one-on-one personal coaching in resume writing, job interview skills, salary negotiations and how to create the best first impression.

EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

Specialized graduate business programs are growing, but one program has been in existence for years. The *MBA in Aviation Management (MBA-AM)* from **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**, the world-leader in aviation and aerospace education, teaches students the business, managerial and fiscal skills needed in the global aviation/aerospace industries. Offered by the College of Business on the Daytona Beach, Florida campus, MBA-AM students study the operational and commercial needs of aviation/aerospace firms.

The new *Master of Science in Aviation Finance (MSAF)* began in 2013, focusing on the unique needs of the aviation and aerospace industry: capital formation, financial planning, funding for critical infrastructure needs and airplane acquisition and fleet renewal.

Faculty working in conjunction with leaders from industry and government—many of whom are alumni—shape the curricula of the *MBA in Aviation Management* and *Master of Science in Aviation Finance* programs.

Alumni are employed throughout the aviation industry, in aerospace manufacturing firms such as Boeing, Airbus and Rolls-Royce; airlines such as Delta, United, Etihad, Jet Airways and Korean Airlines; and airports in cities such as Atlanta, New York, Singapore, Hong Kong and Abu Dhabi. Alumni returning to campus share the latest information and needs of the international air transport industry, while providing internship and employment opportunities with airlines, airports, and consulting firms across the globe.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, EXTENSION

In less time than it takes to complete an MBA program you can earn a certificate that combines intensive management education with opportunities to apply your knowledge at a U.S. business. The **University of California Berkeley Extension's International Diploma Programs (IDP)** gives you three options: a four-month program of study; an eight-month program which is comprised of four months of study and a four-month internship; or the year-long *Management and Business Track* which incorporates study in two areas of business over an eight month period, plus a four-month internship.

The International Diploma Programs coordinate student internships at a variety of San Francisco Bay Area companies, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. Most students are placed at small to medium-sized companies so interns have a better chance of building close working relationships giving them a more meaningful internship experience. Student interns have recently worked for a broad range of companies: advertising, computing, entertainment, e-commerce, finance and banking, information systems, healthcare, hospitality, international trade, marketing, public relations, and telecommunications. An internship-related project is integrated into the program. Students have helped build a company's client base by establishing contacts internationally, while another devised a software technology plan for a high-tech music database company.



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"Whenever I take part in the student activities, I feel like I am not only making friends, but I also feel like I am part of a huge international family here in the USA."

Claudia Davila, a student from Peru studying at
Whatcom Community College

BEYOND the BOOKS

International students are cheering as their rafts clear the rapids on a Rocky Mountain stream. They dig for clams along the beaches of New England. They learn to dance to Cajun music. They experience the thrill of bungee jumping for the first time. A quiet international student from Malaysia finds out she is not so timid after all, as she develops a passion for rock climbing and digs into the granite.

All of these students are benefiting from planned activity programs developed by their schools to help them have fun in the USA.

As an international student, your life in the USA will not stop at the campus gates. You will be able to enjoy many activities in the nearby town or city, and you'll travel to other parts of the United States. It is not uncommon for international students to travel to a new and exciting region of the country during every break of the academic year. Surely you will be no exception—take every chance you have to explore all that the USA has to offer.

Now with comprehensive activity programming for international students, it is easier than ever before. Most schools offer special activities for international students to get them acquainted with the USA, American culture, and to help them meet other students on campus and in their program.

Campus life offers many opportunities for expanding interests and making friends.

On other campuses throughout the USA international students are treated as special guests, with exciting events planned just for them! These events range anywhere from pumpkin carving for Halloween to live jazz music to swing dance, or even fly fishing lessons.

Each **Spring International Language Center (SILC)** offers activities that are unique to its location. The **University of Arkansas** center in Fayetteville, sponsors hiking, canoeing and ice skating outings. There

are trips to Eureka Springs, a historic Ozark mountain village famous for traditional American arts and crafts, as well as jazz, blues and bluegrass music. The village is also the home of the Cherokee Indian Heritage Museum. Students interested in history and politics can visit the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock.

Skiing and snowboarding in the Rocky Mountains provide a winter adventure for students at SILC in Colorado.

"Since there's no skiing in Libya, the school ski trip was a first for me. It takes a lot of endurance to ski downhill," says student Afaf Ramadan. He and the ski group finished their day of skiing in the cold with cups of hot chocolate.

Each January, students at SILC's *Auraria Higher Education Center* campus in Denver, crowd into the bleachers to watch cowboys and cattle rustling at the National Western Rodeo and Stock Show.

No matter where you choose to study in the United States there will be many events and activities planned by your international programs office. Take advantage of these fun, cost effective ways to meet new people, improve your English, and see the "real life" side of the U.S. Come to the USA and experience an unparalleled world of exciting adventures, where memories are just waiting to be made! ★

/STUDENT TIP

The IEP [Intensive English Program] provides many activities to acquaint the students with American life, such as a Seattle Trip, a Ski Trip, a Mariner's baseball game, and sports.

Tsung-Feng (Simon)
Kang from Taiwan,
studies English at
Western Washington
University in
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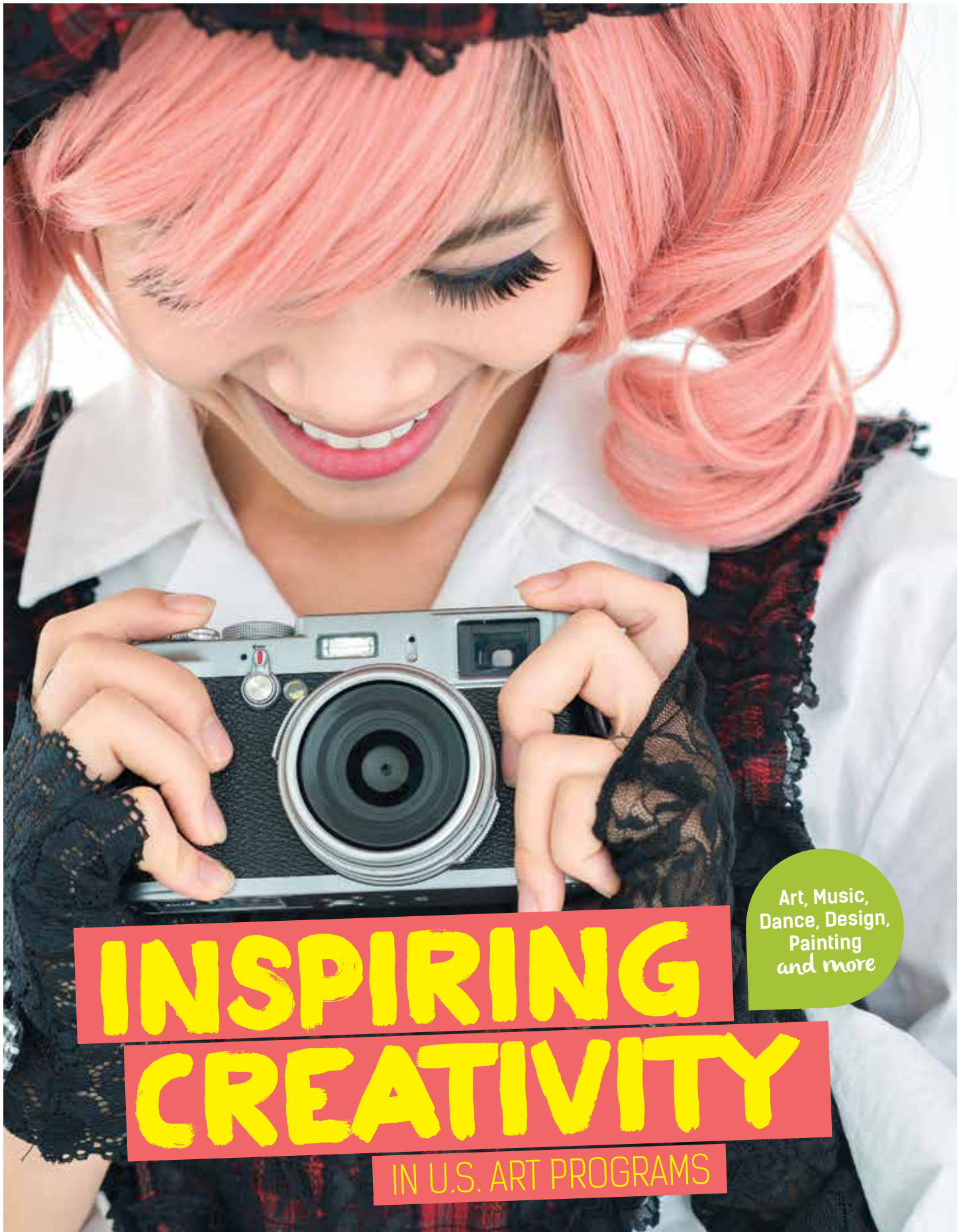


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IN U.S. ART PROGRAMS

Artistic people may not look the same, understand each other's language or culture, but they share a common instinct—the desire to create. This desire begins in their imagination, but their tools for design can differ dramatically. While a painter uses brushes and paint, a digital animator uses computers and advanced software. If you have a passion to design and create the United States has excellent fine arts and design programs, some of the best in the world.

Wide Variety of Programs

You can find a wide variety of arts programs to suit your interests in many regions of the United States. For example, the USA is at the forefront of the digital arts revolution. Digital media and the expanding entertainment industry are creating a strong market for new technology, creative concepts and fresh talent. This has given way to many

students. Gaining insight from those already in the program can be very helpful.

The school should also have a commitment to investing in new equipment, programs, and technology to keep up with the industry's lightning-fast pace. Having knowledge and experience with the most current technical programs and equipment will make you more appealing to employers.

Internships, work experience and job placement are also important factors to consider. The school should have contacts within the industry and assist its graduates with placement through recruitment drives, portfolio reviews and workshops. Find out where the graduates are working and ask about the placement rate for recent graduates. Is there an alumni network in place to help new graduates find positions?

Lastly, the reputation of the school is important. Do professionals in the field speak highly of the school? Does it have accredita-

THE SCHOOL YOU CHOOSE SHOULD EMPLOY MANY PRACTICING, SUCCESSFUL ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS. WHO BETTER TO LEARN FROM THAN PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE ALREADY ESTABLISHED AND RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS?

more career opportunities for graphic designers, 3D animators, digital editors and the like, all of whom need a foundation in the fine arts.

The global success of special effects films has bolstered the position of the USA, California in particular, as a leader in digital arts, while New York City is at the center of the theatre arts scene. Why not study right near the pulse of the film industry? You can pursue an undergraduate, graduate or doctorate program. Each of these programs offers different degree opportunities: two-year associate's, four-year bachelor's, master's or doctorate.

Selecting a Program

The school you choose should employ many practicing, successful artists and designers. You need a mentor who can not only teach you the theory of your discipline, but also help you gain the practical, real-world experience necessary for any career in the arts. Who better to learn from than professionals who are already established and recognized for their accomplishments?

Research the credentials of faculty members and read about their professional experience. You may even ask to speak with some of the professors or current international

students through organizations like the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, or the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools?

Pursuing your Goals

Admission to arts programs varies widely. Some schools require portfolios with examples of artwork or performance auditions, while others do not. You should also check whether TOEFL scores are necessary. Most schools greatly appreciate the diversity and unique dimensions that international students bring to campus.

Consider conducting informational interviews to learn more about the field. Interview someone who has a career in your chosen field. What steps do they recommend to obtain this goal? What do they wish they would have known when they were your age?

No matter what the admission requirements are, take the time to select the program that is right for you.

As schools in the USA embrace new technology and ideas it has made the United States a uniquely creative place to study. If you have a passion for art and design, couple it with show-stopping professionalism and training, and the sky is the limit. ★

SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE

At Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon, Washington, farm-to-table isn't just a philosophy, it's a practice. Students in the *Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management* program plant and maintain gardens that produce fruits and vegetables for daily meals in the campus' Bistro Kitchen and Hot Express.

"We are passionate about growing our own produce," says Lyn Hightet, the college's Food Services Manager.

Founded in 1978, the program has diversified to incorporate agriculture and sustainable food systems and practices such as composting—Skagit was the first college to start a composting program. Skagit is also developing culinary artisan programs as Washington State boasts many nationally recognized artisan cheesemakers, charcutiers and brewers.

Students in the program master the culinary fundamentals and techniques such as making stocks from scratch for daily soups and grinding meat for hamburgers.

The area around Skagit Valley College is fertile and agriculturally rich, lending it to many farmers, of both land and sea, and culinary artisans. Students take fieldtrips to meet producers like the farmers at Taylor Shellfish Farms, the largest producer of Manila clams in the USA.

Students who complete the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management program earn an Associate and Technical Arts degree. Many students either begin their careers or move on to advanced culinary programs.



UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

The conductor calmly raises his baton. There is silence in the hall as the audience quiets in expectation. In an instant, the silence is broken. The pianist's fingers speed across the keyboard, pounding the keys with great might. In one section, bows race across strings and with deep breaths, musicians in another section blow into their instruments. Together, the **University of Nevada, Reno's** Symphony Orchestra engulfs the Nightingale Concert Hall with Saint-Saens' Piano Concerto No. 2.

The University of Nevada, Reno *Department of Music* is part of a lively School of the Arts. Students studying music are taught from faculty comprised of music performers, scholars, and composers. Professors and faculty personally guide and mentor students through the rigorous and challenging program.

The program is focused on building strong musical foundations, enabling students to develop their own musical "voice" and style. In addition to foundational courses, students can study unique history courses, such as *Television Music*, *Jazz Cultures*, and *History of American Musical Theater*.

Other than their courses, students have numerous opportunities to practice their music and perform. Private music lessons are offered and students can participate in chamber music settings and large ensembles (including the renowned Nightingale String Quartet), both on campus and in the community. There are many festivals throughout the year organized by the Music Department, including the Reno Jazz Festival, the Winter Chamber Music Festival and the Argenta Festival. The University also collaborates with the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra and Reno Chamber Orchestra.

Taking advantage of the many performance opportunities is international student and pianist, Bomin Park. He has been the Nevada state winner two years in a row of the Music Teachers National Association Competition, and was honored with the Dean's Award for Artistic Achievement.

Students of the program are prepared to pursue careers in music, from teaching and performing, to musicology and composition. They can pursue *Bachelor of Art* degrees, *Bachelor of Music Education*, and *Music Performance degrees*, focusing on classical or jazz and improvisational music. The University also offers master's degrees in *Performance*, *Education*, and *Musicology*.

Many graduates are now teachers in major graduate programs across the U.S., or are playing in orchestras, chamber groups, and jazz and popular music groups worldwide. Mezzo-soprano Dolora Zajick, for example, has enjoyed a



career performing in the premiere opera houses of the world, including the Metropolitan Opera in New York, Chicago's Lyric Opera, San Francisco Opera, and London's Covent Garden.

CLOVER PARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Through hands-on training and practical experience, students learn the many facets of Interior Design at **Clover Park Technical College** in Lakewood, Washington. During the course of study, the program participates in regional competitions such as the Northwest Kitchen and Bath Design contest. Designs by Clover Park students and alumni have won them many awards.

Active faculty members bring realistic training to their classrooms for kitchen and bath design to sustainable design practices, in which students learn through a "green" design curriculum.

Their studies culminate in a campus design portfolio event where hundreds of community members and fellow students visit student displays. Upon completion, interior design students are prepared for this high-paying, competitive career field.

PIERCE COLLEGE

Language barriers dissipate with a pencil and with a stroke of a brush, students enter a world in which creativity and expression are the common languages.

"Arts are the most universal way for us to learn about all cultures both far and near a like. In the visual arts there are no language gaps," explains David Roholt, Associate Professor of Art at Pierce College.

At **Pierce College**, a community college south of Seattle in Lakewood, Washington, all students have the chance to explore fine arts, whether they plan to study fine arts, digital design, or even business. Drawing and painting classes are the most popular among international students.

Professors guide students through foundational courses in drawing, painting, basic sculpture and photography, giving one-on-one instruction.

"David Johnson: The best art teacher in the Pierce in my mind. He was my photography teacher. He is knowledgeable, super kind, super helpful, super patient," says Thomas Chen Zhen.

Zhen, an international student, won the Outstanding Art Student of the Year award. Zhen has been accepted to the DigiPen Institute of Technology, a private college focused on video game development. Zhen:

"My advisors gave me lots of encouragement and helped me to apply DigiPen."

Pierce College students have also transferred to Cornish College of the Arts, Rhode Island School of Art and Design, University of Washington and the University of Colorado at Boulder.



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TRANSFER STUDENTS

Transfers come to Marlboro from all over the world and bring with them a variety of academic and extra-curricular experiences that are celebrated.

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Over 85 percent of all fulltime Marlboro students receive some form of financial assistance.

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As one of the state's premier educational institutions, Marlboro's educational programs uphold Vermont's unique character—from a commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability to a deep respect for individual and human rights.

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Marlboro's Graduate and Professional Studies programs provide learners with the relevant knowledge and practical skills they need to advance their careers, lead thoughtfully, and meet the opportunities of an ever-changing world.

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FASHION

By Robert Woods

DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR FASHION?

DO YOU THINK THAT YOU NEED TO BE AN ARTIST
OR KNOW HOW TO SEW TO GO INTO THIS FIELD?

DO YOU WONDER WHERE YOU CAN STUDY,
AND HOW THE JOB MARKET LOOKS?

WHICH AREA OF FASHION SHOULD YOU STUDY?

Best Place to Study Fashion

At the forefront of technology, the USA is the leader in educating fashion designers and business leaders in this exciting industry. Here you can learn it all, from adapting a 16th century gown for a 21st century film, to computerized stitching techniques, to promoting a new line of apparel.

While Paris may be the capital of the couture market, the USA is the center of the ready-to-wear market and New York City is the fashion capital of the world. All the resources are here: the stores, the top designers, textile firms, fashion magazines and more! All major designers—whether they come from France, Italy, Japan or Spain—have a presence in New York.

The USA is a country that embraces change, and fashion is ever changing. What does this mean for a fashion student? It doesn't get any better.

Streets, Not Textbooks

Fashion is something that you learn. You are not born with good taste. At **Berkeley College** we do not rely solely on textbooks. With fashion evolving every season, textbooks become outdated quickly. When we discuss window design—visual merchandising—we just walk down the street and look at the windows in Saks Fifth Avenue or Macy's.

Evaluating Programs

What should you look for when choosing a fashion marketing and management program?

1 Is the program designed with significant input from industry insiders?

2 Does the program offer business courses as well as fashion courses? It is important to remember that fashion is a big business and students must be able to understand the business world too. At Berkeley, we combine cutting-edge fashion courses with a solid background in business. We emphasize fashion marketing and management, as well as design. This prepares the student to "hit the ground running" in the fashion industry.

3 Here are some of the technical courses that students should look for in a program:

- Product Lifecycle Planning
- Advanced Textiles - Fabrics
- Global Sources—Where are buttons produced?

What country produces the best silk?

- Technology courses—A great deal of fashion is on the Internet. It's not just in stores any more.
- CAD—Computer Aided Design programs. This technology helps you design clothing directly on the computer.
- JDA—Supply Chain Management software to sort and allocate store merchandise for the retail industry. This is a unit taught in Berkeley's *Computer Applications for Fashion* course.
- Photoshop—The use of Photoshop is highly appreciated in the fashion industry. It is also a unit in the Computer Applications course at Berkeley.

4 Most importantly, does the program offer an internship? Work experience is essential to your fashion career.

Where Does It Lead?

Most students ask, "What kind of job will this type of program prepare me for?" When you consider fashion as a business and are not just dealing with design, you become more flexible and open to a number of positions. There are too many relevant careers to list, but here are a few that will be available to you:

- Merchandising positions in buying offices (buying offices usually purchase for a variety of stores).
- Product Development Specialist (product development deals with the various stages of a product, from its birth all the way to the consumer).
- Executive trainee positions with retailers.

What It Takes

What qualities do students need to be successful in the fashion industry: creativity, ambition, flexibility and knowledge.

The USA, with its wonderful distinctive mix of people from all over the world, is the true destination of people who have a passion for fashion. This adds an exciting dimension to all of our programs, but none more than Fashion, where cultural diversity can give rise to unique perspectives on fashion trends and the future of the industry. ★

Robert Woods is a faculty member in the Fashion Department at Berkeley College's Campus in New York City.

Pierce College located south of Seattle in Lakewood, Washington, offers a two-year *Associate in Business* degree with an emphasis on *Retail and Fashion Merchandising*. The curriculum comprises both business and specialized fashion design courses in apparel design and construction, textiles, creative sales, as well as retailing and merchandising techniques.

One popular course is *Fashion Design and Clothing Construction Analysis*, which covers the history of design, quality control and design development.

Students in the *Consumer Textiles* class focus on fibers and fabrics. One assignment is to complete a swatch kit comprised of over 100 fabric samples, demonstrating the properties and uses for each type of cloth.

The *Introduction to Fashion* course is conducted entirely online. This is helpful for students with a busy class schedule.

International students find that combining a *Fashion Certificate* and an *Associate in Business* degree gives them many career opportunities. When they return home, they are qualified for positions as buyers, apparel store or department managers, sales representatives, or display specialists.

Earning a bachelor's degree is another option for international students who are pursuing careers in fashion. At Pierce College students can earn a two-year associate degree and then transfer to a university to complete their bachelor's degree.

Sienna (Yeon Ha) Lee from South Korea transferred from Pierce to the *Fashion Institute of Technology*, where she will complete her bachelor's degree in *International Trade and Marketing for the Fashion Industry*. While at Pierce College, Sienna started an International Fashion Club. Lee and fellow club members let their creativity flourish. Lee explains, "As president of the club, I developed some activities such as analyzing actor or actress' fashion style while watching movies [*The Devil Wears Prada*], making a poster using fashion magazines, making our own t-shirts using various ornamental elements and so on."

California: ANOTHER MAJOR FASHION STATE

California is home to a number of apparel companies and is one of the world's fashion capitals for sportswear, making it an ideal place to study fashion. It is also home of Hollywood and the movie/television film industry, which includes the field of costuming. Costume design is ideal for students who thrive on creative challenges.

Universal Studios and Western Costumers, both major costume houses, the Walt Disney Company, and fashion companies such as Jones New York and Nordstrom, provide internships and jobs to students from **Santa Ana College**, located south of Los Angeles. The associate of arts degree and certificate programs include courses in design, sketching, advanced clothing construction techniques for custom-designed theatrical costumes, as well as color and wardrobe consulting.

AUDITING CLASSES

By Donna Gruber

You may have heard of the many benefits of studying in an intensive English program in the United States. You will gain proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking. You will polish your grammar and prepare for the TOEFL exam. You will make friends with classmates from other countries. Your teachers will help you learn about U.S. culture, take you on field trips and introduce you to American food. All these advantages bring you one step closer to your goal of obtaining a degree from an American college or university.

There is another advantage of studying in an intensive English language program that you may not know: the opportunity to audit classes.

Auditing classes means you attend a class as a visitor in order to observe and learn, but not for university credits or marks. As an auditing student, you can listen and watch without the pressure of participating or completing assignments. Upper-level students at the **English Language Institute of Queens College of the City University of New York (CUNY)** are encouraged to audit courses because it gives them the chance to get comfortable with the classroom culture before becoming a full-time student.

In class, you will get a glimpse of how

the professors and the students interact with each other and how the professor enhances the textbook information with class lectures, handouts and visual aids. Along with recognizing the dynamic of a particular class, you will become familiar with the general procedures, behaviors, and customs of university academic life. If you feel comfortable, you may stay after class to speak with the professor and ask questions.

You will meet a new and diverse group of students outside of your English program, giving you the opportunity to make new friends and share cultures. These casual interactions will make you feel welcome in the academic community.

Auditing courses gives you the additional benefit of exploring subjects that interest you, even ones that are not associated with your major. Over the past several semesters, students at Queens College have audited courses in disciplines as varied as *Aspects of Literary Criticism*, *Introduction to Art*, *Cultural Factors in Communication*, and *Business Ethics*.

Of course one of the most valuable advantages to auditing a course is that once you officially begin taking classes, you will have already learned and studied the subject matter. It will be easier for you to understand the



Auditing classes helps you answer questions:

- Do I say "hello" to the instructor every day?
- Do I sit quietly, or do I ask questions?
- What are the "class participation" requirements?
- How do American college students behave in class?
- What does the instructor expect of students in class? After class?
- What information is included in a syllabus?
- Do I have to take notes, or is studying from the textbook enough?

theories discussed, and you will begin to recognize the terminology and vocabulary specific to the subject matter. This will make the class more enjoyable for you and the topic much more interesting.

Students attending the English Language Institute at **Queens College** report how glad they are to audit classes. The friendliness and support of the professors and students encourages them to continue studying in the USA and learning a new language. As they work towards their degree, international students are strengthened by feelings of optimism, excitement, and hope. ★

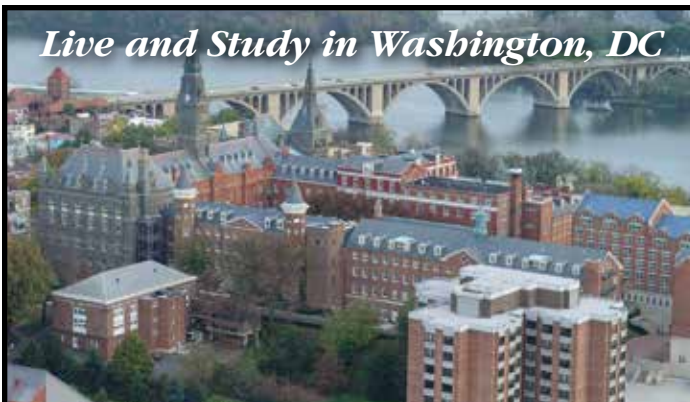
Donna Gruber is the Executive Director at the English Language Institute at Queens College, CUNY in New York.

STEPS TO AUDIT CLASSES AT QUEENS COLLEGE

If you want to audit classes at Queens College, the first step is to review the course offerings and select one or two classes that interest you and fit your schedule.

After you have selected a course, you will need to go to the English Language Institute (ELI) Office and request a letter that introduces you to the professor. Practicing your best English, you will then introduce yourself to the instructor and ask permission to "sit in" on the class. If the instructor agrees, you are welcomed into class—success! This experience will give you a burst of confidence and encouragement. You will have completed a task by practicing your English skills and asserting yourself.

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QUEENS COLLEGE IS NY

PRESENTATIONS and PUBLIC SPEAKING

By Erica Wedes



You are standing in front of a classroom full of eager peers waiting for you to speak. Maybe your hands start to shake and your voice follows. Maybe you subconsciously tap your foot, and when you open your mouth to begin, all that comes out is, “uhhh...”

Take a deep breath. Rest assured, you are not the only one.

Strong presentation and public speaking skills are the hallmark of confident English language skills, but they do not always come easy. Thankfully, these are skills that can be honed with expert guidance and a lot of practice.

You may think that public speaking skills are only necessary for those studying fields such as communications or politics. It might surprise you to learn that you will use public speaking skills consistently throughout your U.S. education—no matter what you study.

Following their English studies at the **University of Illinois at Chicago's Tutorium in Intensive English (TIE)**, many students transfer to academic programs where their skills are an essential part of daily class curriculum. A unique feature of the American university learning environment is class participation. You will be expected to share your opinions in class, answer questions, give class presentations and participate in group projects. Often times, you will be graded on participation.

Tutorium students work diligently to build confidence, learn presentation techniques and vocabulary, and improve their personal, academic and professional communication through class participation.

One student from Vietnam explains,

“When I have just come here, I was very quiet and a little shy. The methods and activities in Tutorium in Intensive English helped me improve my English skills very much. The most important thing is the feeling confident when I speak English.”

High Intermediate and Advanced level Tutorium courses include public speaking in a variety of American cultural contexts. For one project international students choose topics relating to American culture such as reading, music, or technology. They interview people in the Chicago area about the topics and prepare a presentation about their findings.

Jenna Rashel, a Tutorium instructor, explains that the program is designed to focus not only on content but also on organization—developing a strong introduction, body, and conclusion, and delivery—eye contact, body language. All of which are crucial for students' future academic success.

Students receive feedback about their presentations from their teachers and peers. Instructors also use Flip Video cameras to record students speaking in both formal and impromptu situations. This evaluation technique may seem odd, but these videos allow students to see their mannerisms, like tapping their foot or saying “um.” This and feedback from others helps students identify their strengths and weaknesses, and set goals for improvement.

“This presentation was very crucial for me as practice for future presentations. I knew how to begin my presentation and divide it as introduction, body and conclusion,” said a student upon completing the course.

As a professional in the United States,

speaking English as a second language is also essential.

New professionals must attend job fairs and interviews. During their career, they must present at meetings and conventions, and conduct negotiations. Medical professionals must present patient history to their colleagues, as well as communicate well with patients and families. No matter the situation, cultivating an accurate vocabulary, pronunciation, and a confident tone will help you be more successful and have a more pleasant experience in the USA.

In the *English for International Professionals: Presentations and Public Speaking* course at the University of Illinois at Chicago students gain experience in three types of presentations: procedural, descriptive and persuasive. Students work on monitoring and controlling rate, volume, tone and register in order to communicate their main ideas in an appropriate fashion depending on the type of formal presentation. They also practice handling spontaneous situations by giving short speeches on impromptu topics.

In addition to your academic and professional life, your confidence in speaking publicly will also help you navigate a new city and country. You may feel overwhelmed at first, but public speaking skills allow you to discover the special characteristics, cultures and people in your new U.S. home. 🌟

Erica Wedes, currently Project Manager for the Business Ventures and Innovation Unit at The University of Chicago, previously Graduate Assistant in Marketing at the Tutorium in Intensive English at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

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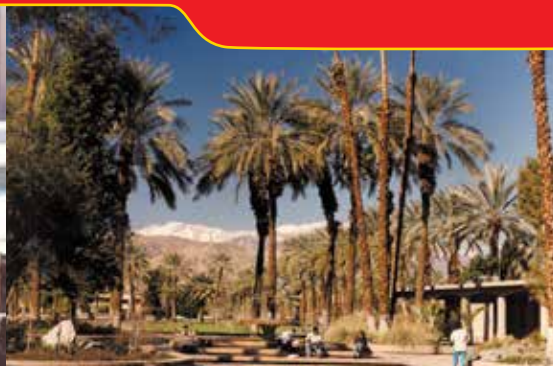
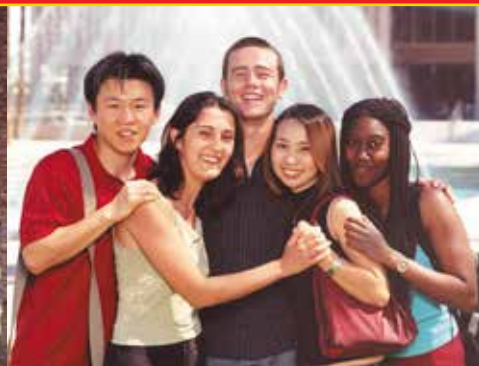
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- **IELTS Academic** is especially designed for entry to higher education: it includes a face-to-face speaking test with a trained, qualified examiner—the nearest you can get to a real-life conversation with your teachers at your chosen school

What can I do now?

Most importantly, you need to plan: you will need to think about when you need to take IELTS, and then decide how much preparation will be necessary. We recommend general English courses of all types in order to help you improve your level of English as much as possible. But every English test has a specific format: it is advisable to study the format of the test, the timings of each section, and do as much practice as possible as well as take an IELTS preparation course.

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Visit the website now and plan for your future!

The keys to planning your study in the USA

From the moment you decide to study in the USA, you will be faced with numerous choices. First, take the time to ask yourself the key questions below. Here is a simple, step-by-step checklist that will help you to plan your personal journey.

WHAT?

What do you wish to study? Have you considered all options, such as liberal arts, sciences, business, engineering, or a specific trade or technical area? Determining your major or field of study is a good way to start identifying potential institutions.

WHERE?

What do you expect from your choice of education institution? Have you also considered the location of the institution and what this area offers?

SIZE?

What is your preferred campus environment? Would you prefer an institution with tens of thousands of students, sometimes on a single campus? Or are you more content with a smaller institution that has fewer than 1,000 students? Choose the campus environment which feels most comfortable to you.

COST?

What is the total annual cost for attending the institution of your choice? Have you considered all expenses, including tuition, accommodation, living expenses, books, and other personal fees and costs? Do you need financial assistance to study in the USA and, if so, have you considered those institutions that can offer scholarships or financial aid specifically for international students?

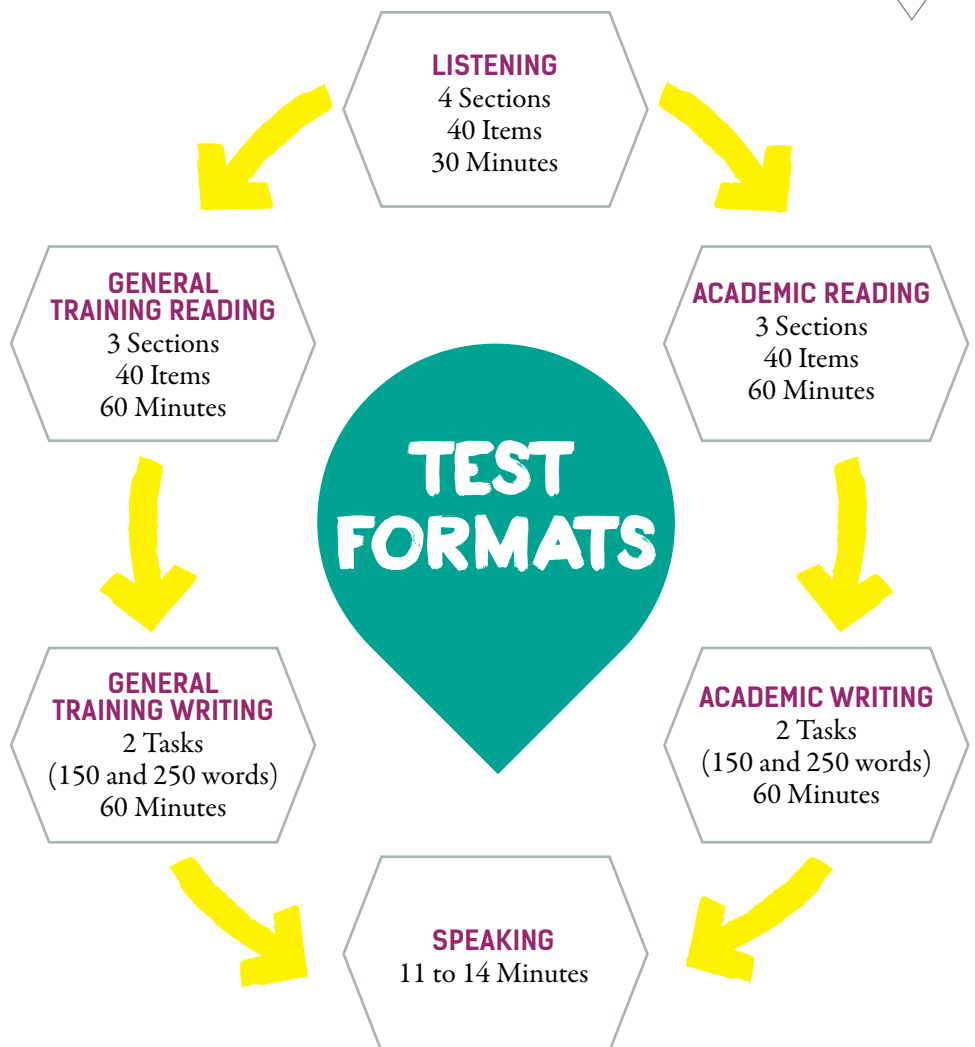
Remember that although the choice may seem difficult, by considering each factor carefully you will reach a good decision that can have a positive impact on the next few years of your life. 🌟

By IELTS

THE IELTS SPEAKING TEST: TIPS FOR SUCCESS!

Unlike most other tests for admission to higher education, IELTS candidates are interviewed in person by an examiner trained to put you at your ease. Here are some hot tips for having a great interview:

- 1 Avoid short Yes / No answers. Expand your replies.
- 2 Make sure you speak confidently and clearly. This will make you easier to hear, and you will leave a better impression.
- 3 Use a variety of words to express opinion e.g. *In my opinion, ... I think... I feel...*
- 4 Do not memorize an answer. The questions change, and you will find it difficult to answer naturally and fluently.
- 5 You are marked on pronunciation. One thing which can help is correct intonation. Try not to be too monotonous.
- 6 Don't be scared to ask the examiner to repeat the question. You can say, "Could you repeat the question please?"



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You want to get into the best possible school and the TOEFL test can help. 90% of TOEFL test takers get into their first- or second-choice university. Regardless of which university you plan to attend, the TOEFL test can help you demonstrate your readiness for study. In fact, the TOEFL test is the most widely required English-language test for university admissions, and has been taken by over **27 million** students worldwide.

The TOEFL test is also the most accepted English-language test, used by more than **9,000** institutions in **130 countries** includ-

"I decided to take the TOEFL test because it is the most widely accepted English test."

Hao-Hsuan Chang, Taiwan,
TOEFL Scholarship Winner

"The TOEFL test is a critical component of my application to graduate programs, laying a solid ground for my career prospects."

Han Zhang, Hong Kong
TOEFL Scholarship Winner

ing the top 100 universities in the United States.* That's more than any other English-language test. You can view the list of universities that accept TOEFL scores and register for the test at www.ets.org/toefl/register/susa.

TOEFL Test Fast Facts

- **Measures all four language skills:** Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing. The entire test is about four hours long. What is most unique about the test is that it asks you to combine, or integrate, more than one language skill, just like you do every day.
- **Offers more convenience:** The TOEFL test is the most convenient English-language test to take, with more testing centers than any other test. You can take the TOEFL test at any of the testing centers in 165 countries around the world, reducing travel time and costs. The entire test is given in one day, so there is no need for you to come back a second day.
- **Preferred by admissions officers:** Four out of five admissions officers surveyed and who stated a preference, prefer to use the TOEFL test.**
- **Provides the most choices:** Your test results are accepted at more than 5,000 institutions in the United States. That's more than any other English-language test.

TOEFL Test Format

The chart on the next page shows the range of questions and the timing for each section.

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TEST SECTION	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	TIMING	SCORE SCALES
Reading	3–4 passages, 12–14 questions each	60–80 minutes	0–30
Listening	4–6 lectures, 6 questions each, 2–3 conversations, 5 questions each	60–90 minutes	0–30
BREAK		10 minutes	
Speaking	6 tasks, 2 independent and 4 integrated	20 minutes	0–30
Writing	1 integrated task 1 independent task	20 minutes 30 minutes	0–30
TOTAL			0–120

Learn everything you need to know about the *TOEFL iBT*® Speaking and Writing sections with our *Inside the TOEFL*® Test videos. These videos include tips, sample questions, scoring criteria and a sample response. See the videos at www.ets.org/toefl/video_library.

Practice Made Easier

Compared with other English-language tests, the TOEFL test has made practice easier for you—with resources to help you prepare to take the test and study abroad. The best-selling test-prep book, *The Official Guide to the TOEFL*® Test, includes in-depth information about the test from the people who make the test. And *TOEFL*® Practice Online gives you the real TOEFL iBT test experience so you can be confident and prepared. Check out www.ets.org/toefl/practice/susa for these resources and more.

Don't forget to visit our TOEFL page on Facebook® at www.facebook.com/toefl.

TOEFL Test Results

When you register for the test, you can designate which universities you want to receive your scores. Or, you can wait until you receive your scores before sending them to your selected universities.

- You can request that a paper score report to be mailed to you by selecting that option before test day.
- Your score report gives you scores for each test section (0–30) and a total score (0–120).

It's important to get started soon, because your test date should be at least two to three months before your application deadline. Register NOW at www.ets.org/toefl/register/susa.

For more information about the TOEFL test, visit www.ets.org/toefl/susa. 🌟

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*Source: National Universities Ranking, U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges 2011.

**Source: Survey of 263 admissions officers at U.S. universities, of which 212 accept both the TOEFL® test and the IELTS® test and 152 state a preference.

TOEFL iBT® STUDY TIPS

Step 1: Learn how to do well on the TOEFL iBT® test

By scoring well on the *TOEFL iBT*® test, you can be eligible for admission to virtually any school in the United States. For helpful tips, visit www.ets.org/toefl/susa and download *TOEFL iBT*® Tips. Review the Speaking and Writing Scoring Guides located in the back of *TOEFL iBT*® Tips to understand how your responses will be evaluated.

You can also find helpful videos on the TOEFL® TV Channel on YouTube® which includes tips created by English-language teachers and students like you. www.youtube.com/toefltv

Step 2: Take a practice test

TOEFL® Practice Online offers real TOEFL iBT tests and an actual TOEFL iBT testing experience for all four skills (Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing). Take a practice test to preview your performance level and get instant scores and feedback on your performance. Practice now at www.ets.org/toefl/practice/susa.

Step 3: Build up your weaker skills

Follow the skill-specific suggestions in *TOEFL iBT*® Tips and use the targeted practice sets in *The Official Guide to the TOEFL*® Test, available in eBook and paper book formats at www.ets.org/toefl/guide/susa. Then take another complete practice test from TOEFL Practice Online to confirm you are ready for test day.

Step 4: Use good test-taking strategies on test day

Follow directions carefully in each section to avoid wasting time. Select Help to review directions only when absolutely necessary because the clock will not stop while the Help function is being used.

Do not become overwhelmed or panic.

Concentrate fully on the current test question and not on other questions you may have answered. This is a good test-taking strategy that can be learned through practice and helps you focus.

Avoid spending too much time on any one question. If you have given the question some thought and you still do not know the answer, eliminate as many choices as possible, then select the best choice. Remember to pace yourself so you have enough time to answer every question. Be aware of the time limit for each section and budget your time to avoid having to rush at the end of the test.

Want tips to help you plan for your study-abroad journey? If so, join the TOEFL® social pages. You can connect with other test-takers from around the world! All of the TOEFL social pages offer news, study tips, fun facts and more.

Visit www.ets.org/toefl/susa today! 🌟

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The GRE® Tests

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Who should take a GRE® test:

Each year, prospective graduate and business school applicants from around the world take a GRE® test. Applicants come from varying educational and cultural backgrounds, and the tests provide a common measure for comparing candidates' qualifications. For more than 60 years, GRE scores have been used by admission or fellowship

panels to supplement undergraduate records, recommendation letters and other qualifications for graduate-level study.

How to register:

Visit the GRE website at www.ets.org/gre to register for a GRE test and for the most up-to-date information about GRE tests and services.

GRE® revised General Test

The GRE® revised General Test is the most widely accepted graduate-level admissions test worldwide. You can use your GRE test scores to apply to graduate *and* business schools around the world — giving you more opportunities for your future.

The GRE revised General Test content reflects the kind of thinking you'll do and the skills you need to succeed in today's demanding graduate and business school programs. Specifically, the test measures your verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills — skills that have been developed over a long period of time and are not related to a specific field of study. The GRE revised General Test features a test-taker friendly design that gives you the flexibility to use your own test-taking strategies and the *ScoreSelect*® option, which lets you decide which scores to send to schools.

When and Where the Test is Offered

The test is administered at more than 850 Educational Testing Service (ETS)-authorized test centers in more than 160 countries. In most regions of the world, the computer-based test is available on a continuous basis throughout the year. In Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea, the computer-based test is available one to three times per month. In areas of the world where computer-based testing is not available, the test is administered in a paper-based format up to three times a year in October, November and February.

Test Content

The GRE revised General Test is composed of three measures — *Analytical Writing*, *Verbal Reasoning* and *Quantitative Reasoning*.

The Analytical Writing section measures the ability to articulate and support complex ideas, examine claims and accompanying evidence, sustain a focused and coherent discussion, and control the elements of standard written English. The Analytical Writing section requires you to provide focused responses based on the tasks presented, so you can accurately demonstrate your ability to directly respond to a task.



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The **Verbal Reasoning** section measures your ability to analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information obtained from it; understand the meanings of words, sentences and entire texts; and understand relationships among words and concepts.

The **Quantitative Reasoning** section measures your ability to understand, interpret and analyze quantitative information; solve problems using mathematical models; and apply basic mathematical skills and elementary mathematical concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, probability and statistics.

The Computer-based GRE revised General Test

Test Design Features

The computer-based GRE revised General Test design features advanced technology that allows you to freely move forward and backward throughout an entire section. Specific features include:

- Preview and review capabilities within a section
- “Mark” and “Review” features to tag questions, so you can skip and return later
- The ability to change/edit answers within a section
- An on-screen calculator for the Quantitative Reasoning section

The Paper-based GRE revised General Test

Test Design Features

- You will enter your answers into the test book, rather than a separate answer sheet.
- You will be provided with an ETS calculator to use during the Quantitative Reasoning section; you may not use your own calculator.
- The test includes new answer formats, including tasks such as numeric entry and text completions.

Test Preparation

Free official test preparation tools are available to make it easy for you to start practicing for the GRE revised General Test.

- If you are preparing for the computer-based test, download the free *POWERPREP® II* software, the only comprehensive test prep that’s as close to taking the computer-based test as you can get.
- If you are preparing for the paper-based test, download *The Practice Book for the Paper-Based GRE® revised General Test*, which

The Computer-based GRE revised General Test Structure

MEASURE	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	ALLOTTED TIME
ANALYTICAL WRITING (One section with two separately timed tasks)	One “Analyze an Issue” task and one “Analyze an Argument” task	30 minutes per task
VERBAL REASONING (Two sections)	20 questions per section	30 minutes per section
QUANTITATIVE REASONING (Two sections)	20 questions per section	35 minutes per section
UNSCORED* (Position varies)	Varies	Varies
RESEARCH** (At the end of the test)	Varies	Varies

*An unidentified unscored section that does not count toward a score may be included and may appear in any order after the Analytical Writing section. Questions in the unscored section are being tried out either for possible use in future tests or to ensure that scores on new editions of the test are comparable to scores from earlier editions.

** An identified research section may be included in place of the unscored section. The research section will always appear at the end of the test. Questions in this section are included for ETS research purposes and will not count toward your score.

The Analytical Writing section will always be first, while the other sections may appear in any order.

The Paper-based GRE revised General Test structure

MEASURE	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	ALLOTTED TIME
ANALYTICAL WRITING (Two sections)	One “Analyze an Issue” task and one “Analyze an Argument” task	30 minutes 30 minutes
VERBAL REASONING (Two sections)	Approximately 25 questions per section	35 minutes per section
QUANTITATIVE REASONING (Two sections)	Approximately 25 questions per section	40 minutes per section

The Analytical Writing sections will always be first, while the other four sections may appear in any order.

offers a simulated test-taking experience of the paper-based GRE revised General Test.

Check out all the FREE and low-cost official test preparation tools available at www.ets.org/gre/prepare.

Stay Informed and Connected

For additional information about the GRE revised General Test, visit www.TakeTheGRE.com and get the official news and important reminders you need, when you need them. To connect with other

test takers worldwide, visit the official GRE® revised General Test page on Facebook®.

This page gives you an opportunity to share advice, cheer on other prospective test takers and get clear information about the GRE revised General Test.

Test Registration

You can register for the computer-based GRE revised General Test online at www.ets.org/mygre (using a credit card), by phone or by mail. You can register for the

paper-based GRE revised General Test online at www.ets.org/mygre (using a credit card) or by mail. The fee to take the GRE revised General Test is US\$195 worldwide. Note that test fees are subject to change. For the most up-to-date pricing, visit the GRE website at www.ets.org/gre.

Score Reporting

The following scores are reported for the GRE revised General Test:

- **A Verbal Reasoning score** on a 130–170 score scale, in 1-point increments
- **A Quantitative Reasoning score** on a 130–170 score scale, in 1-point increments
- **An Analytical Writing score** on a 0–6 score scale, in half-point increments

If you don't answer any questions in a Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning or Analytical Writing section, you will receive a No Score (NS) on that measure.

If you take the computer-based GRE revised General Test, official scores will be available approximately 10–15 days after your test date. If you take the paper-based GRE revised General Test, official scores will be available within six weeks after your test date. You can view your scores online free-of-charge when they are available at www.ets.org/gre/mygre.

Sending Your Scores

The *ScoreSelect*® option lets you decide which GRE test scores to send to the schools you designate. As part of your four free score reports, you can send scores from your most recent test administration or from all administrations of the General Test taken in the last five years. After test day, you can send scores from your *Most Recent*, *All* or *Any* specific test administration(s) for a fee when ordering Additional Score Reports online. Just remember, scores for a test administration must be reported in their entirety.

The *ScoreSelect* option helps you approach test day with more confidence, knowing you can send the scores you feel reflect your personal best. The *ScoreSelect* option is available for both the GRE revised General Test and GRE Subject Tests, and can be used by anyone with reportable scores from the last five years. For additional information on the *ScoreSelect* option, visit the GRE website at www.ets.org/gre/scoreselect.

GRE® Subject Tests

The GRE® Subject Tests can help you stand out from other applicants by emphasizing

your knowledge and skill level in a specific area. Subject tests, which measure undergraduate achievement, are available in the following fields of study:

- Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Literature in English
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology

Each Subject Test assumes an undergraduate major or extensive background in the discipline. The tests are given at ETS-authorized paper-based testing centers worldwide up to three times per year, in October, November and April. Additional information about the content of the tests is available at www.ets.org/gre/subject.

Test Preparation

Free official test preparation materials are available to anyone who registers for a Subject Test or who visits the GRE website at www.ets.org/gre/subject/prepare. Each Subject Test practice book contains a full-length test and answer key, test-taking strategies and information to help you understand the score(s) you earned. The appropriate practice book is sent to individuals who register for a Subject Test, or you can download this material free of charge at www.ets.org/gre/subject/prepare.

Test Registration

You can register for a GRE Subject Test online at www.ets.org/mygre (using a credit card) or by mail. The fee to take a GRE Subject Test is US\$150 worldwide. Note that test fees are subject to change. For the most up-to-date pricing, visit the GRE website at www.ets.org/gre/subject.

Score Reporting

Every Subject Test yields a total score on a 200–990 score scale, in 10-point increments. Some Subject Tests yield subscores on a 20–99 score scale, in one-point increments. Subject Test scores are available within six weeks after your test administration. You can view your scores online free-of-charge when they are available at www.ets.org/gre/mygre.

ScoreSelect Option

The *ScoreSelect* option previously described is also available if you take a GRE Subject Test.

Additional Services for GRE Test Takers

GRE® Search Service

The FREE GRE® Search Service can help match you with the right participating schools and fellowship sponsors, based on background information that you provide. If a graduate or business school sees your recruitment profile and considers it a match, they can reach out and contact you directly about their program. It's an effective way to learn about schools and programs you may not have considered. You will be given the option of being included in the Search Service when you register for a GRE test. You can also sign up for the Search Service online any time. To learn more, visit www.ets.org/gre/stusearch.

ETS® Personal Potential Index

Show graduate and business schools a more complete picture of your potential for success — with the *ETS® Personal Potential Index* (ETS® PPI).

A convenient and easy-to-use web-based tool, the ETS PPI can help you distinguish yourself from the competition. In less than 15 minutes, evaluators you select are able to provide feedback about you on six personal attributes that graduate and business school deans and faculty have identified as essential for success, including teamwork, resilience, and planning and organization.

When used with GRE scores and transcripts, the ETS PPI Evaluation Report will help graduate and business schools know you are up to the challenge. When you register for the GRE revised General Test, you can send up to four FREE ETS PPI Evaluation Reports to the graduate or business schools of your choice — that's an \$80 value! The ETS PPI is also available for a fee of US\$20 per report to individuals who are not planning to take the GRE revised General Test. To get started or learn more, visit the ETS PPI website at www.ets.org/ppi.

For further information about the GRE tests and services, please visit www.ets.org/gre. ★

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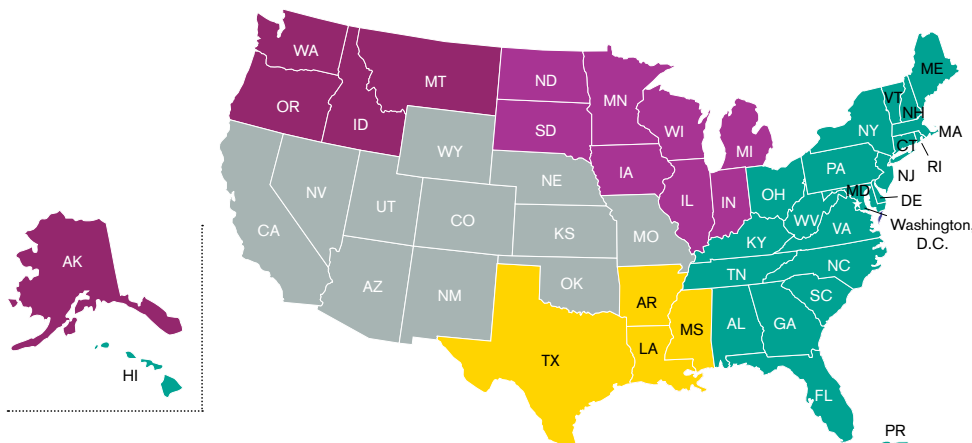
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- ✦ Certificate of Eligibility: I-20 form or DS-2019
- ✦ Credit card
- ✦ American currency
- ✦ Copy of your prescription and medical documents, including your immunization record



Clothes

- ✦ Shoes (casual, athletic, plus one dress pair)
- ✦ Jeans/pants/shorts
- ✦ Shirts (short and long-sleeved)
- ✦ Pajamas
- ✦ Socks & underwear
- ✦ Bathing suit
- ✦ Jacket



Toiletries

- ✦ Toothbrush
- ✦ Toothpaste
- ✦ Shampoo
- ✦ Comb/brush
- ✦ Soap
- ✦ Deodorant
- ✦ Any special items or medication that you can only get in your country

Towels & Bedding

(bring from home or buy in the U.S.)

- ✦ Towels
- ✦ Sheets
- ✦ Pillow



Miscellaneous

- ✦ Lightweight, non-perishable food items, such as spices
- ✦ Photos of friends and family
- ✦ Any sentimental item that reminds you of home



Electronics

- ✦ Adapters
- ✦ Computer
- ✦ Flash drive
- ✦ Camera
- ✦ Translation calculator

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