EducationUSA: StudyintheUnitedStates

1 Research Your Options   **2** Finance Your Studies   **3** Complete Your Application   **4** Apply For Your Student Visa   **5** Prepare For Your Departure

EducationUSA is a U.S. Department of State network of over 400 international student advising centers in more than 170 countries. The network promotes U.S. higher education to students around the world by offering accurate, comprehensive, and current information about opportunities to study at accredited postsecondary institutions in the United States.

Every year, thousands of Indian students navigate the U.S. university application process, a seemingly daunting task, without knowing about EducationUSA and the counseling services it offers at its Mumbai and Ahmedabad offices. If an Indian school or college would like EducationUSA to speak to your students virtually on the application process to U.S. universities, or if a student would like to receive free and individual counseling on #StudyInTheUS, please contact USEducationQueries@state.gov

The key to successfully navigating university applications is to follow a 5-step approach:

1) **Define your priorities, research options, and short-list universities**
2) **Financing your education**
3) **Complete your applications**
4) **Apply for your student visa**
5) **Prepare for your departure**

The first and often ignored step is to **define your priorities, research options and short-list universities**. It is important for students to understand the various options the U.S. has to offer. Researching universities is another integral part of the first step. Students should look at a range of factors when short-listing universities – factors including course structure, faculty profiles, student to faculty ratio, facilities available on campus, internship opportunities, scholarship options, and cost of the program. Students should shortlist universities which are the best fit for them and which will help prepare them for their chosen career.

The second step consists of **financing your education**. The total cost of attending college includes not only the tuition, but also, other expenses such as housing and books. It is important to set a budget for the entire duration of study (typically four years for a Bachelor's degree and two years for a Master's degree). Funding options are available for international students, especially for graduate programs including many fully-funded Ph.D. programs in STEM, and it is crucial to thoroughly research all funding options well in advance.

Step three has students **completing the application**. Students are evaluated in a holistic manner, and are usually required to submit transcripts, standardized test scores such as the SAT/ACT for undergraduates, GRE/GMAT for graduates, proof of English proficiency (IELTS/TOEFL exam), application essay(s), letters of recommendation, and any additional documents the university requests. It is very important to follow all application instructions and submit the application packets before the deadline.

Once students apply and receive their admission offers, they move on to step four where they **apply for a student visa**. The Consulate, and the EducationUSA center conducts information sessions with visa officers who provide detailed information on the visa application, interview process and student visa (F1) regulations.

After receiving the visa, students can **prepare for their departure** – the final step in the process. During this time, students can attend a Pre-departure Orientation at their nearest EducationUSA center. The orientation provides an excellent opportunity for students to meet other students going to the U.S and learn about port of entry procedures, life in the U.S., academic culture as well as the socio-cultural environment.

Students should start planning and preparing well in advance and follow the 5-steps to make the application process easy and stress free. To learn more about higher studies in the U.S., and to obtain more details about the 5-steps, you may visit www.EducationUSA.state.gov.

U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai

Monthly #StudyInTheUS Virtual Series

All online sessions begin at 6:00 p.m.

(Program, date, and time are subject to change. Sessions are free of cost, but registration is mandatory.)

August 19, 2022	**Navigating the U.S. Admission Process and Student Visas** (learn the university application process, admission tests, how to apply for a U.S. student visa)
September 16, 2022	**Shortlisting and Finding the Best Fit School in the United States** (factors to keep in mind for shortlisting universities)
October 14, 2022	**Writing an Effective Application Essay and Statement of Purpose** (pointers on drafting outstanding essays for applications to U.S. universities)
November 14-18, 2022	**International Education Week (IEW) celebrations** (sessions on #StudyInTheUS)
December 2, 2022	**Supporting Students with Disabilities at U.S. Campuses** (session on opportunities in the United States for international students with disabilities)
January 20, 2023	**Financing Your Higher Education in the U.S.** (learn about financial aid options, cutting costs, scholarships, and more)
February 10, 2023	**Building Academic Integrity and Avoiding Plagiarism** (understand plagiarism and learn to build academic integrity)
March 17, 2023	**Campus Life in the United States** (information session on student life and experiences, including tips on safety and security)
April 13, 2023	**Received Multiple Admits? How to Select Your University** (tips to choose a U.S. University from admits received from multiple U.S. universities)
May 4, 2023	**Student Visa Session for Fall 2023 Incoming Students** (simplifies the student visa process for students admitted to U.S. universities for Fall 2023)
June 2, 2023	**Student Visa Session for Fall 2023 Incoming Students** (simplifies the student visa process for students admitted to U.S. universities for Fall 2023)

To receive updates on #StudyInTheUS events hosted by the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai check out: **https://bit.ly/StudyInTheUS-events-US-Consulate-Mumbai** . For any queries please write to **USEducationQueries@state.gov**