

Your 5 Steps to U.S. Study



The U.S. is one of the most preferred destinations for education. Every year, thousands of Indian students navigate the U.S. university application process, a seemingly daunting task. What many students are not aware of is the presence of a very active education team the U.S. Consulate has. 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.

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

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's Virtual Monthly #StudyInTheUS 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 6, 2021	Application Process to U.S. Universities (in Marathi) (details on higher education in the U.S.)
August 13, 2021	Higher Studies in the U.S. (in Gujarati) (details on higher education in the U.S.)
August 20, 2021	Study in the U.S. and Student Visa session (details about the U.S. University application process, and student visas)
September 17, 2021	Shortlisting Universities for Studying in the U.S. (factors to keep in mind for shortlisting universities)
October 14, 2021	Writing a Winning Application Essay and Statement of Purpose (pointers on drafting outstanding essays for applying to U.S. universities)
November 15-18, 2021	International Education Week (IEW) celebrations (sessions on #OffTheBeatenTrack courses in the U.S.)
January 21, 2022	Financing Your Higher Education in the U.S. (learn about financial aid options, cutting costs, scholarships, and more)
February 18, 2022	Building Academic Integrity and Avoiding Plagiarism (provides insight to understand plagiarism and build academic integrity)
March 17, 2022	Safety and Security on a U.S. Campus (addresses security protocols, and provides tips about staying safe in the U.S.)
April 8, 2022	Choosing Amongst Admits Received from U.S. Universities (tips to choose a U.S. University from admits received from multiple U.S. universities)
May 6, 2022	Student Visa session for Fall 2022 batch (simplifies the student visa process for students admitted to U.S. universities for Fall 2022)
May 20, 2022	Guide to Campus Life in the U.S. (information session on student life and experiences in the U.S.)
June 3, 2022	Student Visa session for Fall 2022 batch (simplifies the student visa process for students admitted to U.S. universities for Fall 2022)
June 17, 2022	Support Services for LGBT International Students at U.S. Universities (for Indian students from the LGBT community interested in studying in the U.S.)

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 AvaniBK@state.gov.