2023 GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY ADMISSION



NACAC
National Association for
College Admission Counseling

About NACAC

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), founded in 1937, is an organization of more than 26,000 professionals from around the world dedicated to serving students as they make choices about pursuing postsecondary education. NACAC is committed to maintaining high standards that foster ethical and social responsibility among those involved in the transition process, as outlined in NACAC's *Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission.*

For more information and resources, visit nacacnet.org.

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Contents

Acknowledgements 2
Foreword 3
Introduction 4

Country Profiles

Australia 8
Canada 17
China 24
Finland 30
France 35
Germany 41
India 49
Ireland 55
Israel 59
Italy 66
Japan 73
The Netherlands 80
New Zealand 88
South Korea 93
Spain 98
Switzerland 103
United Kingdom 111
United States of America 134

Additional Resources

Diverse and Underrepresented Students Abroad 151
American Universities Abroad 154
Gap Year Options 157
Federal Aid Outside the US 161

Appendices

NACAC Member Universities — International 164
Key Information: Applying to International University 169
Key Information: Working While Studying Abroad 174

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Foreword

By Ffiona Rees, Immediate Past Board Chair

Exploring the possibility of leaving one's home country to study internationally is challenging even in the best of times. As we emerge from the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to navigate global political upheaval, those of us who work as college admission counseling professionals know that the decision to pursue a degree outside one's home country can be even more challenging. Yet, as someone who has been a beneficiary of international education, I've been privileged to have seen firsthand the far-reaching benefits of cross-cultural education—to the student, the host university and country, and the student's home country.



As of 2021, 50,933 US students were studying in an institution outside of the United States, with 17 percent of those students enrolled at the undergraduate level. This represents a decline since the beginning of the pandemic. But college admission counseling professionals are beginning to see interest resurfacing, as students who have been confined to their homes for a significant part of their secondary school experience yearn to see the world beyond their own communities.

Globally, and prior to the pandemic, the number of students seeking postsecondary education in a country other than their own had more than doubled, from 2.1 million in 2002 to 4.6 million in 2017. European countries remain the most popular destination for American students, welcoming more than half (58 percent) of total US study abroad students. However, some of these countries were also the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020. As a result, these programs saw enrollment declines of 41 percent to 53 percent. Overall, Americans studied in more than 180 countries.

Our intention for this guide, which is written for professionals and the students they serve, is for it to be an authoritative point at which to begin an international university search. A student's journey to postsecondary education can be shaped by many people, beginning with family and friends, continuing to school counselors and college advisers, and concluding with university admission officers, making for a truly collective effort. At the University of California-Los Angeles where I work, we deploy professionals within the institution and around the state, nation, and globe to ensure we are able to answer questions students have about our programs. Students seeking entry to a university should expect a commitment to transparency, accuracy, and honesty, which are among the best practices that NACAC maintains. Students should ideally also prioritize their best-fit college over considerations of brand recognition or selectivity, neither of which indicates how the institution will serve you.

NACAC appreciates the support of the country specialists who helped inform this guide and the work that college admission counseling professionals to do support students and their families through the process of seeking their best-fit postsecondary institution.

Introduction

This guide responds to the growing desire among high school counselors to broaden undergraduate college options for students, specifically those who have expressed interest in studying internationally. It is designed to be a starting point for counselors building their competence and confidence in advising these students. The guide seeks to take you from where you might be when the first student comes into your office and says, "I heard college is free in Germany," to where you likely want to be as a counselor of students exploring broader options—supportive, informed, and able to assess specifics as the need arises.



Understanding the Big Picture

Students' initial questions about international study options often focus on admission, but as a counselor, your perspective needs to also include matriculation, persistence, graduation, and beyond.

Whether students are moving across town or around the globe, adjustment challenges are expected. For those studying internationally, these can be exacerbated by cultural and language differences, educational system variances, and the distance involved. For Americans, the student experience is often fundamentally different outside the US than it is inside it. As an example, many international universities do not have American-style campuses and on-site housing. And even if students are proficient in the language of the country where they would like to study, living on their own in a different culture can be challenging. Teaching styles and evaluation methodologies may differ from US high schools or US postsecondary institutions. At a practical level, when a student overseas experiences a slump, it is less likely that they can quickly visit home or have a parent or friend visit them. On the other hand, students completing degrees internationally can become true global citizens, and grow and thrive in ways that are hard to fully explain or measure.

Looking ahead to beyond graduation, counselors need to consider a student's potential eligibility to remain in their host country for work or further education. Immigration and visa policies can be complex. Students who wish to stay abroad following graduation need to research their eligibility for short- or long-term work visas as well as the associated requirements.

Students looking to pursue undergraduate degrees in another country should also be aware of the applicability of their intended degree in their home countries. While globally educated students are often very attractive to employers and graduate programs, students considering professional degrees abroad, such as medicine, law, architecture, and engineering, need to carefully research whether their prospective credential will be recognized back home. Additionally, fewer nationally based employers recruit students at overseas campuses for employment back in that country. Alumni networks, however, can be an important resource for graduates of international universities.

Counselors new to helping students apply to universities abroad may want to acquaint themselves with international and national rankings. While NACAC advises caution when using rankings, they can be useful in helping counselors, students, and families build an understanding of various international universities, their sizes, strengths, and how they compare to familiar domestic universities. International rankings such as *Times Higher Education World University*

Rankings, U.S. News & World Report Global Rankings, QS World University Rankings, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University's *Academic Ranking of World Universities* are useful for building awareness of some of the more prestigious institutions across the globe. There are also alternative efforts to help students choose where to apply, such as the UK's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). While performance indicators used in traditional rankings are not always indicative of the student experience, the TEF aims to measure things students care about: teaching, learning, and what students go on to do afterwards.

In some countries, national rankings are done at the course/major level. The much-scrutinized league tables in the UK are one such example. The tables illustrate how an individual university's rank can differ considerably by course of study.

With that background, some of the significant differences in postsecondary education internationally, vis-à-vis the US, include:

Duration and Focus—In many of the countries covered in this guide, the standard duration of an undergraduate program is three years, though there are variations for honors programs and degrees in certain disciplines.

Additionally, the student often selects a major (or course of study) before application, is admitted into that major, and has limited flexibility to change once accepted.

Consequently, the applicant's academic record and other required application materials need to be targeted to the student's specific course of study. This also has implications for the student's experience once at university; the ability to take courses outside one's major would likely be limited when compared to American institutions.

Timing—Academic calendars and the timetable for admission decisions vary by country, and do not necessarily coincide with those in the US or the student's home country. Students who apply to universities in more than one country can find themselves facing different decision notification and acceptance/deposit dates. Additionally, US students bound for New Zealand and Australia, for instance, may have an eight-month gap between high school graduation and matriculation.

Admission Requirements and Processes— Generally, admission decision-making tends to be less holistic at universities outside of the US and requirements are clearer cut.

In part because admission is generally granted into a specific major, universities are often more specific in the courses and grades required at the high school level.

Additionally, some overseas universities do not consider a US high school degree comparable to a secondary school degree from their country. They may accept students with a high number of Advanced Placement (AP) tests or the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma, but may require students with a different academic background to complete another year of schooling (often called a *foundation* year) prior to beginning the three-year degree program. During the application process, counselors may need to provide detailed course descriptions to help the student justify the rigor of his or her high school curriculum.

Conditional Offers—In certain countries, conditional offers of admission are common. These may specify attainment of specific scores on final testing, including AP exams and IB tests. This can mean a student will not know whether they may enroll at the university that made the conditional offer until those results are available in the summer before planned matriculation.

Costs—Some countries regulate university costs. In most cases costs are stated on university websites in the local currency. Students and families should be aware of possible fluctuations in currency exchange rates, and the associated risk of

costs rising. While many international universities are recruiting international students, financial aid opportunities may be limited. There may be additional costs, such as required insurance and travel to and from the home country.

Agents—In some of the countries profiled it is common for universities to recruit international students in partnership with commercial recruitment agencies, and remunerate their partners via per capita commission payments. However, domestic and international universities alike that participate in US federal financial aid programs are prohibited from paying incentive compensation to agencies for the recruitment of financial aid-eligible students (US citizens and permanent residents). Generally speaking, students should exercise caution in considering third-party advisory services. The NACAC publication *Trusted Sources: Seeking Advice on Applying to Universities in Another Country* can help students make informed decisions about these services.

How to Use this Guide

This guide was developed with cooperation from representatives of countries that have proven popular or emerging postsecondary study destinations among international students. Though many countries are featured, NACAC hopes other countries representing more world regions and languages will participate in future editions.

The guide profiles 18 countries based on information provided by the aforementioned representatives and is reviewed by NACAC members with experience counseling students seeking international study. At the time of publication, this guide offers the most up-to-date information available, but counselors and students should always reach out to specific universities, organizations, embassies, or consulates to confirm important details.

The country profiles are organized into sections:

Brief Background—Provides an overview of the postsecondary educational landscape, including numbers and types of universities/colleges, subgroupings of educational institutions, and statistics on the number of international students studying in the country.

Good to Know—Describes the length of a typical undergraduate degree program, country-specific terminology, special strengths of the educational system, and legal protections for international students.

Academic Calendar—Lists the start and end dates of the school year, exam periods, and school holidays.

Search—Provides links to specific websites to learn more about university options and courses of study.

Apply—Addresses whether students must apply directly to a major/course of study, whether applications are processed by a central organization or by each individual university, and whether there are restrictions on the number or type of applications a student may submit.

Deadlines—Lists application timelines by semester of matriculation.

Application Fees—Provides costs to apply to one or more universities.

Admission Requirements—Describes admission factors, such as language proficiency, coursework, and standardized testing. Also describes advanced credit provided for AP or IB coursework, if applicable.

Upon Acceptance—Reviews the documentation provided at acceptance, whether conditional acceptances are common, if there is rolling admission, and timing for student responses and deposits.

Tuition and Fees—Provides general cost ranges; information on tuition regulation at the state or national level; and financial aid options, including how to use US federal student loans.

Housing—Explains typical housing arrangements for international students, including the availability and cost of university-provided housing, methods for securing off-campus housing, and general timelines and caveats.

Visa and Other Permits—Provides tips and resources for obtaining student visas and other permits, including demonstration of proof of sufficient funding and required health insurance. Work eligibility is also discussed.

Advice from the Field—Offers insights and recommendations from NACAC members with ample experience counseling American students about international postsecondary study. Tips include additional website resources, who to contact for more information, and how to identify universities to consider.

Myth or Fact: What You Need to Know about Applying to Foreign Universities

If your students are interested in expanding their college search beyond the US borders, make sure they have the facts.

Myth or fact? Students must be fluent in another language to apply to an overseas university.

Myth! Australia, Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and other English-speaking countries are popular destinations for US students. English-taught programs are also offered through universities in countries such as France, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Spain, and China.

Myth or fact? All countries follow the same academic calendars and college admission timeline.

Myth! Academic calendars and the timetable for admission decisions vary by country, and do not necessarily coincide with those in the United States. US students bound for New Zealand and Australia, for instance, may have an eight-month gap between high school graduation and matriculation.

Myth or fact? US degrees are more valuable.



Myth! Quality higher education options exist across the globe. Keep in mind that students whose prospective careers require certification (such as doctors or architects) may have to complete additional exams or meet other requirements in order to practice outside the country where they studied. In most cases, globally educated students are very attractive to employers.

Myth or fact? Earning a degree abroad will break the bank.

Myth! Affordable options are available. For instance, tuition is generally free at all German public universities (though fees are assessed). Some foreign universities participate in the US federal student loan program. Check with individual institutions to learn more about costs and financial aid options.

Australia

Brief Background

The Australian government's *National Strategy for International Education 2025* sets out a 10-year plan to grow and sustain Australia as a global leader in education, training, and research.

In 2020 there were 686,104 international students in Australia, with about 47 percent enrolled in Australia's 38 public and four private universities—or unis, in local parlance. There were 8,933 US students enrolled in Australian institutions in 2020, a total that included students participating in short-term study abroad programs and well as those enrolled in degree programs. Of those enrolled in higher education, 906 were undergraduates.

Many Australian universities have multiple campuses, often in different states and cities, enabling greater geographical access and lifestyle choices for students. Some universities also have formed groups of like-minded institutions. Universities Australia represents 39 comprehensive universities in Australia and maintains a relationship with its counterpart organizations overseas, including the American Council on Education and Universities Canada.

Australia's Group of Eight (Go8) comprises Australia's eight leading research-intensive universities: University of Melbourne, Australian National University, University of Sydney, University of Queensland, University of Western Australia, University of Adelaide, Monash University, and University of New South Wales. With 99 percent of Go8 research considered world-class or above, this group of universities leads postgraduate education in Australia.

The Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) is made up of five of the country's most innovative and enterprising universities: University of Technology Sydney, RMIT University, University of South Australia, Curtin University, and Deakin University. Members are part of a new generation of universities focused on industry collaboration and research with real-world impact. ATN universities typically have deep expertise in the application and interpretation of the latest technologies and big data. Their objective is to produce employable graduates with the skills for tomorrow.

Innovative Research Universities (IRU) is a network of seven comprehensive universities: Charles Darwin University, James Cook University, Griffith University, La Trobe University, Flinders University, Murdoch University, and Western Sydney University. IRU members seek to lead the way in collaborative teaching, language, research, and policy initiatives. Eighty-nine percent of research at IRU universities is ranked at "world standard" or above, according to *Excellence in Research for Australia 2018*.

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) is a group of seven universities, each headquartered in regional Australia and each playing an influential role in its respective region. RUN universities are Central Queensland University, Southern Cross University, Federation University Australia, University of New England, Charles Sturt University, University of Southern Queensland, and University of the Sunshine Coast.

RUN universities deliver educational programs to over 185,000 students each year, including more than 102,000 students studying externally through distance education. In 2019, the Australian government created the Destination Australia grant program to incentivize more international students to study outside of capital cities.

Good to Know

Students can typically earn an undergraduate degree in Australia in three years. However, there are exceptions that may require an additional year or two of study: honors programs, double bachelor's degree programs, or an area of study that requires research. Honors in Australia is an optional fourth year of independent research with a supervisor that provides excellent preparation for a graduate research degree. Some Australian universities offer professional degrees at the undergraduate level (e.g., medicine, engineering, law, and veterinary science) that will also extend beyond three years.

"The best part for me has been the incredibly nice and welcoming Australian population and their enriching culture. I would absolutely recommend pursuing an undergraduate degree in Australia, as some of the best universities and programs in the world are in Australia. It gives you access to a whole new continent worth of experiences and culture without having the challenge of the language barrier"

—Lleyton Slaysman, Pennsylvania, University of Melbourne



Photo courtesy of Lleyton Slaysman

The majority of US universities recognize Australian three-year undergraduate degrees as the equivalent of American four-year degrees for the purpose of graduate admission. Students should check the policies of individual institutions, as policies vary by institution and degree program.

Recognition by US employers of three-year Australian degrees is widely accepted. The term *course* refers to a program of study.

Students apply for a course, with the ability to apply for multiple courses on one application. Because a general education curriculum is rare at Australian universities, it helps for students to have a clear idea of their academic interests at the start of their studies. It is possible to change majors, courses, and institutions. International students must check with university and immigration officials about any changes to their studies, as their student visa is issued for a specific course.

In Australia, higher education institutions generally set their own admission requirements for domestic and international students. They will take into consideration whether the student has the academic ability to complete the course of study as well as the applicant's English language proficiency. For a range of professional courses, additional admission requirements may be set, such as an interview with the university representative or an independent aptitude test, but this will depend on the institution students are applying to.

Universities develop their professional courses in collaboration with the relevant professional accreditation body or association in that field (e.g., the Australian Medical Council or Engineers Australia) to ensure students will meet Australian accreditation standards once they graduate and will be eligible for entry into their chosen profession. These professional courses tend to include an internship or placement component, and universities will offer various levels of support and services to assist students with completing the requirements.

Internships and work-integrated learning are common in most courses at Australian universities. Students should inquire about their availability with the university. Because of the academic calendar in Australia, students are unlikely to be able to participate in northern hemisphere summer internships. However, the Australian summer break of November to February provides an opportunity to pursue international internships with less competition for placement.

Australia's Educational Services for Overseas Student (ESOS) Act is designed to protect and promote the rights of international students on student visas. For example, institutions are required by law to provide access to orientation and support services, as well as accurate and timely information about fees and study options. Many free services are available to all students on all campuses, including academic guidance, skills and career advice, employment search support, and assistance to students with disabilities.

Two Australian universities (the University of Melbourne and the University of Sydney) feature in the top 10 universities globally in the 2022 QS Graduate Employability Rankings.

The Fair Work Ombudsman is an independent government agency created by the Fair Work Act in 2009. It provides free education and information about people's basic rights and protections in the workplace, including minimum pay and conditions. It also helps to resolve workplace issues, conduct investigations, and enforce relevant commonwealth workplace laws.

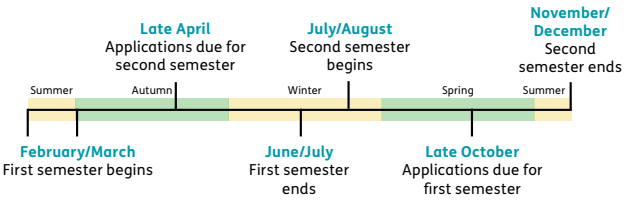
Australian universities have been at the forefront in support of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Australian universities were the first in the world to sign a commitment to the SDGs. *Getting Started with the SDGs in Universities,* which is now being used by universities around the world, was prepared by Australian and New Zealand universities.

Australian universities actively participate in initiatives and networks that seek to accelerate the implementation of sustainability and the SDGs across the whole institution, including the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability, and the UN Principles for Responsible Management Education. All Australian universities offer students a range of curricular and co-curricular opportunities to learn about and contribute to sustainability efforts.

Academic Calendar

The academic year in Australia begins at the start of the calendar year. Most universities have two semesters with a break in between. Some Australian universities offer trimesters or quarters. The fall semester (Semester 1) runs from February/

March to June/ July. The spring semester (Semester 2) runs from July/ August to November/December. Many courses allow students to begin their studies in either semester. Students from the northern hemisphere often start in Australia's second semester in late July or early August but may have the option to defer to the following academic year. The student visa system caters to different enrollment terms.



Most Australian unis run orientation week—known as O-Week—at the start of each semester. Programming generally includes orientation sessions specifically for international students.

Search

The Australian government's Study Australia website offers general advice and information for prospective international students. All institutions offering courses to international students must be registered through the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (known as CRICOS). Its website enables users to search by institution or by course of study. Universities Australia offers additional institutional profiles and key contacts.

Some courses may require additional components in an application, such as a statement of purpose, interview, or portfolio, but this is relatively rare at the bachelor's level. Essays and recommendation letters are generally not required or considered. Australian universities normally do not review the depth of a student's high school curriculum.

State and territory governments also host websites focused on services they provide for international students:

- Australian Capital Territory
- New South Wales
- Northern Territory
- Queensland
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Victoria
- Western Australia



Photo courtesy of Ian Rintala

"My best decision when coming to Australia was applying to and accepting a spot at one of Melbourne's residential colleges. These colleges have their own unique atmosphere and community, providing housing, academic support, dining, sporting activities, social events, and more, to residents."

—Ian Rintala, Pennsylvania, University of Melbourne

Apply

There is no national application system in Australia. International students apply for a course or multiple courses directly on a university's website or through and education agent. Education agents are vetted as official overseas representatives of a university and their services are normally free to international students. Under Australian law, a university must list all contracted agents on its website. An education agent will represent multiple Australian universities, which is helpful if an international student is applying to more than one Australian university. Use of an education agent has no bearing on admission decisions. For more information on agents in Australia, visit the Australian federal Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

Admission for international students is typically offered on a rolling basis. Many universities allow students to apply a year ahead of time, although applications are prioritized for the upcoming semester. The granting of deferrals for one to two semesters tends to be a more automatic process in Australia.

Australian and New Zealand citizens and permanent residents are classified as domestic students, regardless of where they live in the world. Dual citizens are also considered domestic students. Tertiary Admission Centres (TACs) process applications for institutions within a particular state for domestic students. Non-Australian citizens residing offshore are not permitted to apply through a TAC. Overseas domestic students normally must apply through a TAC and only for the upcoming semester. If an overseas domestic student is applying for Australian universities in more than one state or territory, they must lodge an application through each of the corresponding TACs. A few Australian universities allow overseas domestic students to apply directly to their university.

TACs have specific application timeframes and offer dates. Domestic students can list multiple course preferences on a TAC application, but students are initially assessed only on their first choice. There are several rounds of offers each intake in case a domestic student does not receive an offer from their preferred university or if they change their first preference.

Deadlines

Applications for international students are due usually due in December or January for Semester 1 and May or June for Semester 2, with offers made on a rolling basis. For overseas domestic students, TAC applications are between August and September, with offers between January and February to commence in Semester 1 in February/March. TAC applications are open between April and mid-June, with offers in July to commence in Semester 2 in July or August.

For international and overseas domestic students in a northern hemisphere academic calendar, the mid-year intake following high school graduation is the earliest that they can apply to an Australian university. It is possible to provide final transcripts and official test scores after the deadlines, provided there is sufficient time to process the application.

Application Fee

Fees vary by university and TAC, ranging from no charge up to AU$100.

Admission Requirements

Admission is based on a student's high school diploma. These include the US high school diploma, International Baccalaureate, A Levels, and high school diplomas from a select number of countries. If an international student's qualifications are not sufficient to gain admission to an Australian university, they can enroll in a foundation year lasting six to 12 months. Successful completion of a foundation program results in admission to

the university where the program was completed. Australian foundation programs are also widely accepted at other Australian universities.

Most courses base admission solely on grades and test scores, which may vary by course and major. Additional components in an application, such as a statement of purpose, recommendation letters, interview, portfolio, or indicative interest in an institution are rarely required or considered. These components are more likely to be required for undergraduate professional courses or courses in the fine arts. Australian universities normally do not review the depth of a student's high school curriculum.

Admission for the US high school diploma is based on completion of the high school diploma, an unweighted GPA, and either the SAT or ACT exam. Very few Australian universities are test-optional or offer another type of test score as an alternative to the SAT or ACT.

Admission for the International Baccalaureate diploma and the A Levels certificate is based on final scores. Predicted grades might be allowed to admit international applicants but not for overseas domestic students.

Some Australian universities have academic prerequisites for courses. These can be satisfied with AP exam scores or dual credit tertiary subjects for the US high school diploma, IB and A Level subject, or specific subjects from a national high school diploma. Some online classes from an accredited tertiary institution might also meet prerequisite requirements.

All students must also satisfy an Australian university's English language proficiency requirement to be admitted.

For overseas domestic students applying through a TAC, eligibility for a selected program may be determined by converting students' final grades and test scores into an Australia Tertiary Admissions Ranking (ATAR) equivalent. This ATAR score is the result of the final year of high school for Australian students and is the primary metric used for entry into undergraduate programs. Other TACs do not convert overseas qualifications into ATARs but factor in the pool of domestic ATAR scores and whether the results from the overseas qualification meet minimum cut-off entry requirements published by a university.

Domestic applicants, including those overseas, are ranked among the pool of applicants for a course for each intake. Grades and test scores above the published minimums increase the likelihood of domestic admission.

Students may apply to transfer into Australian undergraduate courses. Admission for those with a year or more of full-time tertiary study will be based solely on a student's tertiary academic performance, as well as any academic and English language prerequisites. Admission for those with less than a year of full-time tertiary study will be based on a combination of their tertiary and secondary academic performance. International transfer applicants apply directly to a university. Overseas Australian transfer students typically apply through the relevant state TACs. Transfer students may receive academic credit for previous undergraduate studies. Transfer credit for first-year tertiary subjects from overseas institutions, Advanced Placement (AP) exams, International Baccalaureate (IB), or A-level results is rare.

Upon Acceptance

Accepted students receive a letter of offer, which serves as a contract between the student and the institution. It sets out the course the student will be enrolled in, enrollment conditions, fees, and refund policies.

International applicants are made either a conditional offer subject to final results (if they apply before final transcripts and exam scores are released) or an unconditional offer (if all final results are provided). Normally only unconditional offers can be made to overseas Australians. Copies of final transcripts and exam scores must be official documents.

Universities will issue a *Confirmation of Enrolment* (CoE) once an international student accepts their unconditional offer and pays the fees. These fees include a tuition deposit and the annual premiums for Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the entire duration of a student's course.

OSHC is mandated for international students by the Australian federal government and provides coverage for most health care needs. Annual OSHC premiums vary but are likely to be under AUD$800 per year. See the Study Australia site for more information on OSHC. The CoE is digital document required for international students to obtain a student visa from an Australian embassy.

Tuition and Fees

Annual tuition for a bachelor's degrees ranges from AU$20,000 to AU$50,000 for international students, depending upon the program of study. This range does not include professional courses such as veterinary or medical degrees, which some Australian universities offer at the undergraduate level. Overseas Australians qualify for domestic tuition fees, which are regulated by the Australian government and range from AU$3,500 to AU$15,000 per year.

US undergraduates may be eligible for scholarships, grants, and other forms of financial support offered by the Australian government, individual education institutions, and other public and private organizations. Scholarships from Australian universities for international students are almost exclusively merit-based and eligible students are automatically considered. Australian universities do not award scholarships based on financial need. Australian universities do not grant work study as do some universities in other countries. Most Australian universities accept US federal student and parent loans, US private loans, and US veterans' benefits. Overseas domestic students are eligible for HECS_HELP loans, which are interest-free and payable after graduation, with the amount of monthly repayments tied to a student's salary.

More information on financial aid for international students can be found on the Study Australia website.

Housing

Australian university students traditionally live at home or off campus, but more universities are building accommodations to attract international and local students. Most universities have comfortable and furnished apartment-style living on campus or close by, sometimes with cleaning and meals included. Some universities offer residential colleges that provide dining services; opportunities for social, sporting, and cultural events; and extracurricular academic programs for residents. Individual institutions should be contacted directly to ascertain the accommodations available and how the costs compare with securing housing independently. Many residential colleges offer scholarships.

Minimum cost of living, estimated by Australia's Department of Home Affairs, is AU$25,000 a year. The cost of living in major cities such as Sydney and Melbourne is higher than in other locations. A shared rental can be anywhere between AU$95 and AU$300 per week. On-campus housing ranges from AU$110 and AU$800 per week, depending on location and the inclusion of meal plans. Groceries and dining out range from AU$140 to AU$280 per week. Students will also need to consider the cost of utilities, public transportation, and a phone plan when they arrive in Australia. The Study Australia website has useful tools to estimate living costs, as well as information about scholarships.

Visa and Other Permits

Students planning to pursue an undergraduate degree in Australia will be eligible for a student visa (subclass 500). Visa information is available on the Australian government's Department of Home Affairs website. In addition to a visa, students will also need to meet the Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) requirement stating they intend to stay in Australia temporarily for the purpose of study.

The visa application will require evidence of academic and language skills, evidence that the student has funds to support their study, and evidence of Overseas Student Health Coverage (OSHC). The cost of OSHC varies and all costs will be in Australian dollars. OSHC costs are likely to be significantly less than insurance and medical costs in the US. For more information on health coverage, visit the Australian government's Department of Health website. Visa fees vary depending on an applicant's circumstances. For more information see the Australian government's Department of Home Affairs website.

The student visa status allows students to work part-time (up to 40 hours over a two-week period) when school is in session, and unlimited hours outside term time. Following graduation, students are eligible to remain in Australia on their student visa for approximately two months, provided the course of study they completed was longer than 10 months. International students who wish to work in Australia after graduation—either temporarily or for a longer term—must apply for a new work stream visa, which is granted for durations of 18 months, two years, three years, or four years, depending on the level and type of degree achieved.

Advice from the Field

The vast majority of Australian universities are public, very large, and diverse. Enrollments range from 20,000 to 70,000 students. International students on average represent 25 percent of the student body. Domestic students also come from a wide range of backgrounds. Half of Australians were either born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas.

Class sizes vary by subject and course. All classes are supplemented with tutorials, a weekly small group discussion or lab of 20 to 30 students that will count as a portion of a student's final mark. Thus, even students in a subject with a large enrollment will have access to the learning environments found at smaller institutions.

Grading is rigorous at Australian universities, and only a small percentage of students will receive above average marks. There tend to be fewer assessments that count more heavily. Australian universities are well-suited for mature, independent, and proactive learners. There are extensive support services for academic skills development, learning, and physical differences.

Covid Updates

The Australian border re-opened to international students in December 2021 and to tourists in February 2022. With one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, Australia's borders are likely to remain open provided that current vaccines remain effective. Proof of vaccination or medical exemption is required to enter Australia and for attendance at most Australian universities. Free booster shots of Moderna or Pfizer are available to everyone within Australia, including international students. See Study Australia for Covid-19 vaccine information.

Many Australian universities have recruitment and admission staff for a specific country or region listed on their websites. Professional associations such as the International ACAC, the Council of International Schools (CIS), and the Association of International Regional Representatives—North America (AIRR-NA) are also resources to connect with staff at Australian universities.

For students considering a gap year either before, during, or after undergraduate study, the Australian working holiday visa (subclass 417) provides young people aged 18 to 30 from a variety of nationalities an opportunity to work in Australia for a year or more, fund their travel, and familiarize themselves with the country. It is not possible to enroll in a course at an Australian university on a working holiday visa. But recipients can visit campuses and might be able to audit a subject or two on their working holiday visa.

Alumni Relations

The Australian government has developed a strategy to reach out to the global alumni community, inviting alumni to connect and engage with Australia and the region. The Australia Global Alumni website provides a virtual global network to connect, build, and invigorate the international community of scholars who have studied in Australia and Australians who have studied overseas. The website is also home to the practitioner hub, an exclusive virtual community for practitioners in alumni engagement—such as Australian education institutions, alumni associations, state and federal government agencies, and professional bodies. Each Australian university also has its own alumni program fostering connections among alumni and between current students and alumni around the world.



Canada

Brief Background

Canada has recently committed to renewing its international education strategy to continue to attract top-tier international students to Canadian universities and colleges. The previous strategy, which aimed to increase the number of international students in Canada to 450,000 by 2022, was achieved five years early. In 2019, Canada hosted 498,000 international students enrolled in postsecondary programs and in 2021, the number was up to 504,000. Attracting international students, creating bilateral research agreements, and enriching learning opportunities in the classroom remain the cornerstones of Canada's international education goals.

Canada's public and private nonprofit universities offer more than 15,000 undergraduate and postgraduate programs, as well as professional designations, certificate and diploma courses, and short career-focused programs. Canadian institutions, known for their cutting-edge technology and research labs, provide opportunities for cooperative education, known as co-ops, and internships. Many of the well-known universities in Canada are located in large metropolitan areas, but there are many excellent universities that do not have urban campuses and are similar to US liberal arts colleges.

Three Canadian universities—University of Toronto, McGill University, and the University of British Columbia—rank among the top 100 in the 2022 QS World University Rankings, with many other universities ranking high on QS program-specific rankings.

Canada's higher education options also include more than 150 public colleges, similar to US community colleges, and polytechnic institutes of technology. Colleges and polytechnics provide a variety of credentials including certificates, diplomas, and academic and applied degrees. Together, they offer more than 8,000 programs. Some colleges have transfer agreements with universities and can provide an alternate pathway to a top-ranking Canadian university.

Education is under the legislative jurisdiction of provinces and territories but the basic structures are similar across the country.

Good to Know

A degree from a Canadian university can typically be completed in four years and is considered equivalent to an American qualification. A Canadian degree can lead to work opportunities in Canada, the US, and around the world.

Co-op experiences are a hallmark of many Canadian degree programs. Co-ops involve alternating periods of academic study with periods of work. Almost all postsecondary schools offer co-op options in fields as diverse as business, political science, natural resources, and social services. In many arrangements, students are paid for their work, and upon completion, a student can expect to have gained a year or more of work experience in their field of study. It is important to note, however, that co-op programs can increase the length of a degree/ diploma program and international students must apply for co-op work permit.

Many Canadian universities and colleges have career and co-op offices dedicated to finding and preparing students for co-op placements. Liberal arts universities, for example, specialize in experiential-learning opportunities that allow students a four-year graduation track with relevant internships and work experience completed for pay or academic credit.

A large number of Canadian universities are located within 100 miles of the US border, offering a convenient option for US students who want an international degree that is not too far away.



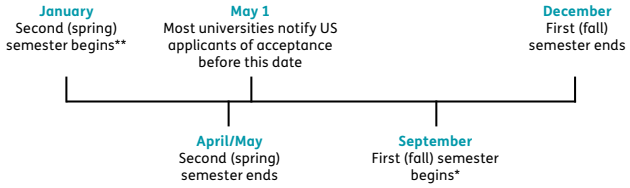
Photo courtesy of Alexandre Silberman

"The best part about studying in New Brunswick is the friendly and welcoming community. I quickly settled in and became comfortable in the city. Consider studying in Canada! It's an incredible opportunity for a world-class education."

—Alexandre Silberman,
Vermont, St. Thomas University

Academic Calendar

Most universities and colleges run from early September until the end of April or early May, but there is no national standard. The academic year is typically split in two semesters running from September to December and January to April. Some universities utilize a trimester system, providing full courses in the summer.



*Students planning to enroll in the first (fall) semester are encouraged to apply in the fall or winter of the previous year.
**Students planning to enroll in the second (spring) semester are encouraged to apply several months in advance.

Search

The official study in Canada portal includes a program finder, cost calculator, information about visas, and links to institutional websites. Universities Canada also offers up-to-date information on universities and academic programs to help with planning. The Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials provides an online directory of universities, colleges, and schools that are recognized and

authorized by Canada's provinces and territories. It also includes information on foreign credential evaluations and qualification recognition. Another resource is the website of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. It offers information on study permits, visas, and work permits.

Apply

Students interested in applying to a Canadian institution are advised to visit the admission website at their institution(s) of choice to find detailed information about program options, the application process, and application forms.

Six Canadian universities are also on Common App: Bishop's University, Queen's University, Quest University, Ryerson University, St. Thomas University, and the University of Guelph.

Some provinces have established a centralized, electronic application process for admission to their institutions:

- **Alberta**—ApplyAlberta: Alberta Post-Secondary Application System
- **British Columbia**—ApplyBC: BC Post-Secondary Application Service
- **Ontario**—Ontario Universities' Application Centre and Ontario Colleges Application Services
- **Nova Scotia**—MyNSFuture
- **Quebec**—StudyQuebec

Depending on the university, students may apply either directly to their intended program or to the larger faculty (i.e., school) with the expectation that they will declare their major in their second or third year. Most Canadian universities allow students to apply to two programs or faculties and students can be accepted by more than one program or faculty.

After a student has applied to a university or college, they will receive an email acknowledging receipt of the application and requesting any additional documents.

The email will also usually contain a personal student number that should be affixed to all documents submitted to the institution thereafter.

Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by institution. Students planning to enroll in the fall semester are encouraged to apply in the fall or winter of the previous year. Students planning to enroll in the semester that begins in January are encouraged to apply several months in advance.

Application Fees

Fees range from CA$55 to CA$250.

Quebec system

Quebec follows a different educational system than the other provinces. Secondary students in Quebec finish their education at grade 11, not 12. As such, students have the option to pursue a two-year CEGEP program that prepares them for university admission. That is also why Quebec university programs for local students are three years instead of four, relative to other provinces in Canada.

High performing international students with AP or IB credits may be eligible to enter the university system in Quebec in sophomore standing, whereas students from outside Quebec who haven't completed such coursework may have to enroll in a full four-year program. Each university has its own policies governing international admission and recognition of credits.

Admission Requirements

For many schools and programs, admission is based almost entirely on academic grades earned in high school, generally grade 12. Some institutions, however, consider grade 10 and 11 marks as well. If course prerequisites have not been fulfilled, a student may not be accepted.

Applicants should keep in mind that high school curricula in Canada and the United States are similar but not identical, which can potentially create confusion about whether a student has satisfied certain requirements. An example of this is how core science classes are taught.

A small number of Canadian universities require SAT or ACT test scores—for entry to specific programs—in addition to a US high school diploma. Scores are typically required to arrive through CollegeBoard or ACT, but some institutions accept school-submitted and/or self-reported scores.

IB students can apply with their transcript and IB predicted scores. Many Canadian universities accept Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) higher level exam scores for academic credit or advanced placement. Information about specific policies should be obtained from the institution's admission office.

An increasing number of institutions recommend the completion of a personal statement for admission or scholarship applications, while highly selective programs may require it. Personal statements give the student a chance to reflect on their background, share non-academic leadership experience and other qualities, and demonstrate interest and understanding of the program they hope to enter. This information may play an important role in admission decisions as the typical college essay is not standard practice in Canada. In some cases, students might be asked to upload a video response to a randomly generated question as part of the application process.

Ethnicity/race, legacy, and advancement potential are not permitted as factors in admission decisions.

Upon Acceptance

Institutions typically operate on a rolling admission basis. Once the university or college receives a student's application form and all supporting documents, they will evaluate the application and may issue an offer of admission or an early conditional offer of admission, which is often contingent on forthcoming grades or exam results. There is no specific date by which applicants will be notified of their admission decision, though most institutions work to notify US applicants before May 1. Many institutions require a separate application for financial aid and scholarship consideration—this deadline is often March 1 and requires the student to already have been accepted for admission.

Tuition and Fees

The average tuition fee for international undergraduate students at Canadian universities was CA$33,623 in 2021–2022, ranging from just over CA$10,000 for some humanities or physical and life sciences programs to over CA$50,000 for some business, management, and public administration programs. Tuition at Canadian colleges ranges, on average, from CA$6,600 to CA$22,000 per year dependent on location, government subsidies, and specialization. The EduCanada website enables students to determine a rough estimate of tuition, food, and housing based on the program and institution, where they are coming from, and whether any dependents will be staying with them.

As the majority of universities in Canada are public, they receive tuition subsidies from federal and provincial governments to keep costs down when compared to US tuition rates. This government funding is also tied to quality assurance where every public university is held to the same rigorous standards thus offering high-quality education

across the country. This allows students to truly find the best-fit campus for their individual learning style and interests.

Currently, 85 higher education institutions in Canada accept US federal student loans, according to the US Department of Education. It is important to note that the Pell Grant cannot be applied outside of US borders.

The Canadian government website has scholarship information for international students. Fulbright Canada also manages a scholarship program for university exchange students. Scholarship and award options for international undergraduates vary greatly by institution. Some relatively small athletic scholarships are also available. Generally, student-athletes must meet certain academic expectations, in addition to possessing athletic talent, to qualify for these scholarships.

Housing

Most colleges and universities offer housing near or on campus. Dormitories vary but generally feature a shared kitchen, bathrooms, lounges, and laundry facilities. Most university housing also provides required or optional meal plans. Many international students in Canada choose to stay on campus during their first and second year before moving to private accommodations. Some university student service offices maintain lists of recommended house or apartment rentals nearby; however, rental agreements are transacted solely between the student and the property owner.

Students should consult their university of choice for an estimate of rent costs. Some institutions have rent cost calculators available on their websites, and these can be the most accurate as each university promotes and updates their information based on their location.

Visas and Other Permits

Any student not possessing Canadian citizenship is required to obtain a Canadian study permit before beginning courses in Canada. American citizens traveling with US passports are eligible to apply for a study permit at a port of entry to Canada. Ports of entry are located at major airports and border crossings. Alternatively, students can apply online several months in advance on the Canadian governmental website or at a visa application center.

Note that students enrolling in Quebec institutions for programs of six months or more must obtain the Certificate of Acceptance from Quebec (CAQ).

The application fee for a study permit is CA$150. There may be an additional cost of CA$85 if biometrics are required. Three key documents are required: an acceptance letter from the Canadian institution (must be a valid Designated Learning Institution (DLI), proof of identity (such as a passport), and proof of financial support.

A valid study permit also allows international students to work on- or off-campus up to 20 hours per week while classes are in session and full-time during regularly scheduled academic breaks, such as spring break and winter and summer holidays.

The Post-Graduation Work Permit Program allows students who have graduated from a participating Canadian institution to work in Canada for up to three years. Skilled Canadian work experience gained through this program helps graduates who wish to stay in Canada longer qualify for permanent residence through the Canadian Experience Class (CEC).

More information on study permits and immigration procedures can be found on the Canadian government website.

Advice from the Field

General inquiries on study opportunities in Canada should be directed to contacts available at EduCanada.

Rankings such as those compiled by *Maclean's* and *The Globe and Mail's Canadian University Report* can be helpful as students begin the process of choosing where to apply. Keep in mind that not all Canadian universities participate in such ventures and some fall outside of the scope of what is collected in rankings. As is true of US universities, rankings only tell part of the story. Students are encouraged to identify universities that offer what they want to study and to reach out directly to learn more or book a virtual campus tour. Canadian universities also offer open houses and webinars year-round for prospective students.

High school grades are often used to determine admissibility to particular programs of study. Many institutions set a minimum standard of academic achievement or publish the cut-off from the prior admission cycle. This gives students more clarity on their chances of admission and can be very helpful in alleviating student anxiety.



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China

Brief Background

With one of the oldest civilizations and a 5,000-year-old history, Chinese culture and society have always held education in high regard. Over recent decades, the Chinese government has sought to revitalize the country through investments in science and education by deepening reform of the educational system and implementing a nine-year compulsory education policy. From local to provincial to the central government, Chinese policymakers are increasing investment in education and encouraging students to experiment with education across different channels and in different forms.



The Chinese government prioritizes education and educational reform, so as to speed up modernization and to continuously develop educational models. In 2019, *China's Education Modernization 2035 Plan,* which aims to achieve education modernization by 2035, was published. The plan sets the direction for the development and objectives of establishing a modern education system of lifelong learning with quality universal preschool, balanced compulsory education, education reforms that reflect the information era, enhanced vocational education, and more competitive higher education.

As the top country in Asia for international students and the third most popular study destination in the world, China has established educational cooperation and exchange agreements with 188 countries and regions and more than 40 major international organizations, in part thanks to the country's popular Study in China marketing campaign. With 76 countries incorporating the Chinese language into their national education systems, the number of people outside China learning and using Chinese has reached 200 million, deepening the pool for educational exchanges between China and other countries.

Education Modernization Milestones

- China's **medical** education standards and certification system have achieved international substantial equivalence.

- China's **engineering** programs joined the *Washington Accord* and achieved international multilateral mutual recognition.
- China has established the **mutual recognition** of academic degrees with 56 countries and regions.
- Actively participating in global education governance, China held the first International Forum on **AI and Education,** during which the *Beijing Consensus* was reached. China also established the Global MOOC Alliance.
- The **China International College Students "Internet +" Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition** has been held for seven consecutive years, accumulatively attracting over 6 million teams with more than 25 million students from 121 countries and regions.

Good to know

By 2021, there were 3,012 higher education institutions across China. Colleges and universities in China fall into four categories: public colleges and universities, private colleges, independent colleges, and Sino-foreign colleges and universities. Among public colleges and universities, 75 universities are directly administered by the Ministry of Education of China for priority investment. Institutions of higher education can be categorized into three types: research institutions, professional institutions, and vocational institutions. In 2018 there were a total of 492,185 international students from 196 countries studying in China.

Colleges and universities that offer domestic students the opportunity to earn bachelor's degrees are also open to international students. In Chinese colleges and universities, students are oriented toward specific majors in the pursuit of their education. Fourteen disciplines and more than 700 bachelor's majors are offered by Chinese institutions of higher education. In accordance with the university/college's orientation and plans, each institution may offer some but not all of the majors.

Sino-foreign colleges and universities

Sino-foreign colleges and universities are considered cooperative institutions established to forge bilateral ties between universities in China and of overseas. See the full list of Sino-foreign institutions by searching "Sino".

A university oriented toward a specific discipline will offer more majors thereof. For example, agricultural universities will focus their research and education around agricultural sciences.

Bachelor's Degrees

Chinese universities and independent colleges offer four-year, full-time undergraduate programs to high school graduates, leading to a bachelor's degree. Certain disciplines, available at medical colleges and some polytechnic institutes, require five years.

Students may obtain a degree from a foreign partnership university and a Chinese degree recognized by Ministry of Education.

- The University of Nottingham—Ningbo
- Beijing Normal University—Hong Kong Baptist University United International College
- Xi'an Jiaotong—Liverpool University
- Shanghai New York University
- Kunshan Duke University
- Wenzhou-Kean University
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen
- Guangdong Technion—Israel Institute of Technology
- Shenzhen MSU-BIT University

English-Instruction Programs

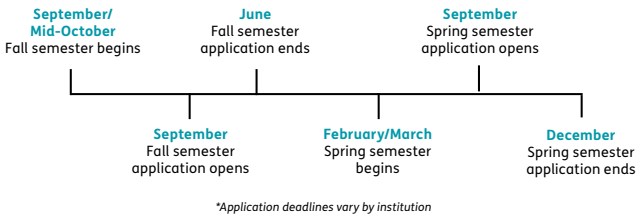
Chinese colleges and universities have aimed to increase international communication and collaboration and promote greater internationalization by establishing more degree programs in which English is the language of instruction. In recent years, this ever-growing group of programs has offered international students more opportunities to study in China. The China Education Association for International Exchanges has selected 150 courses as priority courses to be taught in English for international students. These efforts fold into broader goals to establish China's reputation as a destination for international students and to improve the quality of education offered domestically. For a list of English-taught programs, visit the China Education Center.

There are nine Sino-foreign universities and their courses are delivered in English.

Beside degree-granting programs, colleges and universities also offer non-degree programs to international students. From Chinese language studies to subject courses, from full-year programs to summer school options, there is a wide range of learning opportunities for non-degree seekers. For information concerning the non-degree programs available at each college or university, visit the institution's website.

Academic Calendar and Deadlines

An academic school year starts in September and ends in July. The application deadlines depend on the semester of intended entry and on the programs and host institutions. For autumn/fall admission, applications are generally open from September to June. Spring semester admission tends to run from September to December. Most students apply in the fall semester and only a few students apply in the spring for specific programs. For more information concerning each program's application deadline, please visit the institution's website.



*Application deadlines vary by institution

Search

International students can use China's University and College Admission System (CUCAS), which is an online portal, to search for Chinese universities. In addition, students have the option to submit a Study Plan, a three-minute virtual assessment from CUCAS that provides students a recommendation of the best school and program to meet their goals. Another option for students

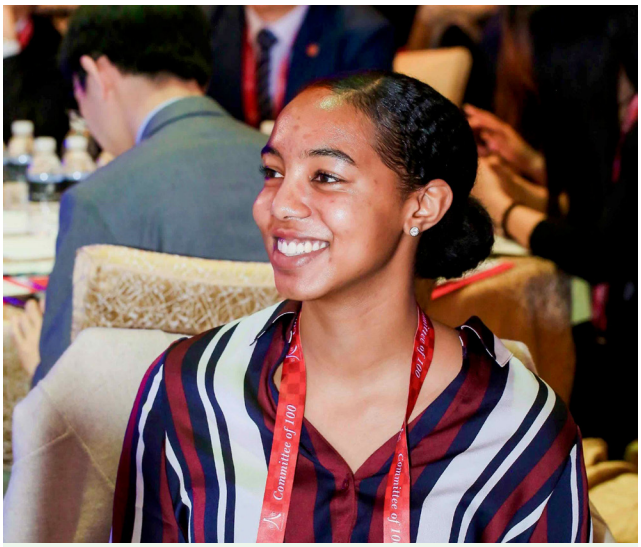


Photo courtesy of Rachel Darius

"When I was a freshman in high school, I had the opportunity to travel to China for spring break with my school, and I knew I wanted to come back somehow. I thought studying in another country would be an exciting experience and allow me to easily travel to more countries."

—Rachel Darius, Florida, Duke Kunshan University

is to attend a free Study in China virtual event to learn more about universities, programs of study, and scholarships.

Apply

It is recommended that international students visit the university's website to apply directly for their program of study.

Application Fee

Applying to Chinese universities is generally free, but some institutions may require an application fee ranging from RMB 200–600.

Admission Requirements

For undergraduate programs, international applicants should have a high school diploma or its equivalent. Since international students do not sit for the National College Entrance Examination, some universities arrange their own entrance examinations for international applicants. The prerequisites for non-degree programs vary among universities. Applicants are advised to contact the universities directly. Chinese institutions usually do not require a SAT or ACT score. However, submitting SAT, ACT, or in some cases AP scores could help accelerate a student's studies at international universities.

Chinese Proficiency

For degree and non-degree programs delivered in Chinese, language proficiency is typically required. The international standardized exam that tests and rates Chinese language proficiency is the HSK test (for Chinese reading, writing, and listening tests) and HSKK test (for oral Chinese proficiency).

These exams rate students from Level I (low) to Level VI (high). Individual programs and universities may have different HSK level requirements. For more information concerning the HSK test and other Chinese language proficiency exams, visit www.chinesetest.cn.

For degree and non-degree programs delivered in English, English language proficiency requirements vary by program and host institution. Concerning specific language requirements, applicants are strongly advised to visit the university's website and contact the admission office one year before the intended application, as language tests must be scheduled in advance.

Upon Acceptance

Upon acceptance to the university, students will receive an admission notice along with their JW201 and/or JW202 form to initiate their student visa process (see "Visa and Other Permits"). Students should be in touch with the international student office at the university they are applying to.

Tuition Fees

According to a 2015 survey by the China Scholarship Council, the average tuition paid by international students was RMB 20,000 (Chinese Yuan Renminbi) per year for undergraduate programs. Students who intend to study in China should note that the tuition fees for programs from different universities may vary tremendously, and that the cost of living in different parts of China also varies. For more information concerning the tuition of degree and non-degree programs, please visit each institution's website and contact the admission office or international student office directly.

International students can receive financial support via Chinese Government Scholarships. The application period for all three Chinese Government Scholarships typically runs from January to April. Applicants should inquire through their own country's organizations responsible for scholarship selection. The scholarships differ widely in coverage and may include accommodations, a stipend, and medical insurance. For more information, visit the CampusChina website.

Scholarships

The Chinese government has set up numerous scholarship programs to sponsor international students and scholars studying and conducting research at Chinese universities. Generally, there are six types of scholarships available to eligible candidates, as listed in the table below.

Local Government Scholarships

Provinces and cities also provide local government scholarships for international students. Usually, international students in China can find the specific requirements and relevant information on scholarship programs on each university's international student website.

School Scholarships

Most colleges and universities also offer their own scholarships to students. Students can check with the international student office for detailed information and requirements.

Enterprise Scholarships

Some colleges and universities cooperate with enterprises (state-owned companies) to provide scholarships for international students. For specific application information and requirements, please refer to each university's website or international student office.

Housing

International students should arrange their housing before arriving in China. The cost of studying and living in China is low compared to other countries and differs from university to university. Typical university accommodations are high quality by international standards. The price can vary from 450 RMB per semester to 80 to 150 RMB per day depending on the university. Students can also look for apartments by working with real estate agents. If a student wants to stay off campus, they will need to arrange it on their own and with the permission of the university.

Scholarships opportunities

- Chinese Government Scholarships—http://www.campuschina.org
- Confucius Institute Scholarships—http://english.hanban.org
- Local Government Scholarships—http://www.campuschina.org
- School Scholarships—http://campuschina.org (or visit the university's website)
- Enterprise Scholarships—http://www.campuschina.org
- Other Scholarships—Please visit the university's website

Visa and Other Permits

International students who plan to study in China must apply for a X1 or X2 student visa using the JW201 and/or JW202 forms. The application process starts at the embassy/consulate in the student's home country.

X1 Visa

International students who intend to study in China for more than six months are required to obtain an X1 visa. The X1 visa is a 30-day visa, valid only for 30 days upon arrival in China. Students must apply for a residence permit within these 30 days; otherwise, their stay will be considered illegal and a heavy fine will be leveled.

X2 Visa

International students who intend to study in China for less than 6 months should apply for an X2 visa. The X2 visa is a short-term student visa and is valid for the period listed on the visa page. Any stay over the visa term will be considered illegal.

According to Chinese laws and regulations, international students MUST register at universities with X1 or X2 visas or residence permits issued by Chinese police stations. Students with other types of visas are NOT permitted to register. For information regarding the location and contacts of the Chinese embassy/consulate in your home country, visit the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs website at http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/.

International Students Working in China

International students may work on or off campus and should not exceed eight hours per week and 40 hours per month. During winter and summer breaks, students cannot work more than 16 hours per week and no more than 80 hours per month.

Advice from the Field

Chinese universities provide opportunities for international students' personal development in various aspects, so as to comprehensively enhance students' core competitiveness.

Hallmarks of Chinese higher education include:

- **High-quality courses:** Options include Chinese language courses, subject courses, courses delivered in English, preparatory courses, and MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). Many courses are internationally accredited.
- **Abundant learning resources:** Expect to find libraries, various kinds of online and offline lectures, international conferences, competitions, and other resources to further your learning.
- **Various extracurricular activities:** Common offerings include international cultural festivals, student associations, domestic and international competitions, and other activities for improving the cross-cultural communication skills of international students.

"The best part of being a student in China had to be how affordable everything was. Compared to the US, everything is so much cheaper, from the food to transportation. Because of this, I was able to travel to other cities within China, as well as to other countries during the breaks without spending a whole lot of money. The most challenging part was probably just learning the language."

—Rachel Darius, Florida, Duke Kunshan University



Photo courtesy of Rachel Darius

- **Internship and employment opportunities:** Expect to find employment guidance centers for international students; an internship, employment, and entrepreneurship platform for international students; and supervisors and peers who are open to extending internship and employment opportunities to international students.
- **International alumni associations:** These associations help members share resources with one another.

Culture Awareness

China offers a continent full of diverse culture, food styles, and dramatic scenery. Students could explore the modern development of China via the Silk Road, an ancient trade route traversing deserts, high plateau grasslands, and glacial valleys. The possibilities are limitless!

Finland

Brief Background

Finland is consistently rated highly as a study destination by international students who value the many perks that Finnish institutions offer, including quality education, academic freedom, and student-centered support services. Finland attracted nearly 26,000 international students in 2020, with the majority enrolled in degree programs, according to the Finnish National Agency for Education.

A national education policy focused on quality, efficiency, equity, and internationalization; excellent basic education; and competitive student admission underpin the high standards of Finnish higher education. The country boasts a world-class knowledge community, and is frequently rated as one of the most innovative countries with first-class higher education and training programs, according to the World Economic Forum's *Global Competitiveness Report*.

Finland has 22 universities of applied sciences (UAS), and 13 universities. At UAS institutions, research and development form the basis for teaching and the curriculum addresses the needs and expectations of both industry and commerce. A UAS bachelor's degree typically takes between 3.5 and 4.5 years, and consists of core and professional studies, optional studies (similar to electives in the US), practical training, and a thesis. At universities, a bachelor's degree consists of basic and intermediate courses, language studies, and a thesis. It is typically completed in three years.

Good to Know

English is considered Finland's third, unofficial language, and most Finns speak it fluently. Finnish higher education institutions provide over 500 full-degree programs taught in English. Most of the bachelor-level degree programs taught in English are offered at universities of applied sciences, but universities offer some as well.

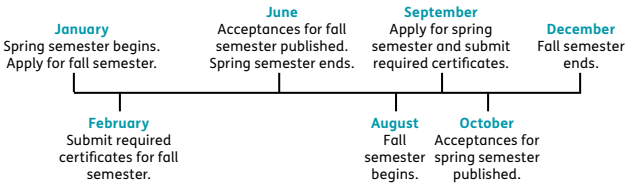
If students are fluent in Finnish or Swedish, they can pursue a degree in one of these national languages tuition-free. Advice, provided in Finnish or Swedish, on how to apply to these programs can be found on the Finnish and Swedish language versions of the Studyinfo website.

Students who complete their bachelor's at a university are automatically admitted for a master's degree program at the same university upon completion of the undergraduate degree, without needing to apply again. With a UAS bachelor's degree, students must separately apply for admission to a master's degree after at least two years of relevant work experience.

The Finnish attitude toward education follows an approach that benefits the individual: Students are challenged and encouraged to think for themselves. Courses offered at Finnish universities are research-based and align with the institution's specialization. These high-quality study programs combine in-depth research with the needs of a student's future working life.

Academic Calendar

Finnish universities and universities of applied sciences usually follow a two-semester calendar. The first semester typically begins at the end of August, and the second semester in January. Summer break occurs between June and August, when some institutions offer courses. A two-week winter break takes place in December and January.



Search

The Studyinfo website is the official source for information on Finland's degree programs. The Study in Finland website also links to the admission information pages for the 13 universities, as well as all 22 UAS.

Apply

Applying to Finnish higher education programs takes place either through a joint application or a separate application. Applications for bachelor's degree programs are primarily completed through a joint application, but there may be some exceptions. Students should always check with the degree program to which they are planning to apply.

With a joint application, students use one application to apply to up to six study programs. The six options may include degree programs from one or several different institutions.

Some programs may require students to apply through a separate application, and there is usually no limit on the number of programs a student can apply to. Separate applications are typically submitted either through Studyinfo or an institution's own website.

Deadlines

For fall admission, most English-taught bachelor's programs have their application period in January. For spring admission, applications usually open in September. Some exceptions may exist so always check the exact application period and supplementary documentation deadlines with the university or UAS to which you are planning to apply.



Application Fees

Universities and universities of applied sciences do not require application fees. Applying through the national Studyinfo portal is free of charge.

Admission Requirements

Student selection is usually based either on grades, an entrance exam, or a combination of the two. Students can learn about entry requirements and eligibility criteria by reading program descriptions on the Studyinfo website. Students can also find this information on the institutions' admission websites. In most cases, students are eligible to apply for bachelor's degree programs in Finland if they have a high school completion certificate (e.g., a US high school diploma), which would allow them to apply to a college or university within that country. Programs also recognize the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma.



"Keep in mind that if at first you feel isolated or homesick, Finns really are extremely considerate people. Don't be discouraged by the lack of small talk, or the occasional silence. Finns are good at knowing when it's necessary to speak and when not to, which is something I took some time getting used to."

—Oksana Mitchell, Maryland, Aalto University, School of Business, Mikkeli Campus

Generally, applicants must have already completed high school for a copy of their diploma to reach the relevant university by the application deadline. Note that universities and universities of applied sciences may also provisionally admit students who apply and have not yet graduated. Once available and prior to enrollment, these students are asked to submit a copy of their diploma.

Entrance Examinations

The entrance examination process is primarily a domestic system and used as part of student admission when applying to bachelor's degree programs, though some universities and UAS institutions are moving away from this process. International students should check with the individual programs to see if entrance examinations are being used. In some cases, institutions may require SAT subject tests in lieu of an entrance examination.

Most of the UAS degree programs use the International UAS Exam. The exam is a joint digital entrance exam of Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS), used for selecting students to study programs leading to a degree and conducted in English. You participate in the International UAS Exam only once, regardless of the number of your study programs.

The entrance exam consists of two phases, a written examination and a group interview.

In the entrance examination, the applicants' readiness for UAS studies are assessed. The entrance exam does not include any advance reading materials or pre-assignments.

You can find more information on the International UAS Exam and the annual test dates on the Uasinfo.fi website.

The universities will instruct students about the type of document needed to verify their upcoming graduation. For example, institutions often accept an official academic transcript as an official statement of upcoming graduation.

Upon Acceptance

After the application and any required entrance exams have been completed, the university will process the student's application and make a final admission decision. Results can be published at different times, but no later than the beginning of June.

If accepted, students will receive an official letter of admission from the university or UAS. They must follow the steps provided by the institution to confirm their placement.

As soon as a student has received the official letter of admission, they should start making arrangements to study and live in Finland.

Tuition and Fees

Non-European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA) students applying to an English-taught bachelor's degree program are subject to tuition fees. These range from approximately 4,000 to 18,000 euros, depending on the program. Tuition exemptions do exist. For example, fees may be waived if a student has an EU/EEA citizenship. Visit the Studyinfo website for more information on exemption rules.

Finnish higher education institutions also offer scholarship options for gifted non-EU/EEA students who are admitted to fee-charging degree programs. Often based on academic performance, these scholarships may include full or partial fee waivers or performance-based refunds. Typically, students apply for a scholarship at the same time they apply for admission.

Students should confirm the details about tuition or scholarships with the university to which they are applying. Finnish citizens are not required to pay tuition in Finland. The admission services office at the university can assist citizens in all matters relating to the application process, including entry requirements, documentation, and fee exemption. Finnish citizens may also be eligible for student financial aid.

Each university and UAS has its own student union. At universities, students are required to pay an annual student union fee. Currently the approximate fees range from 100 to 140 euros. Student union membership is optional at universities of applied sciences. Students who join the local student union receive a student card they can use to access several benefits. Student unions often organize services like student housing or tutoring, and routinely plan sports events or cultural excursions.



Housing

Students are encouraged to inquire about housing options directly from the institution where they will be studying. Student housing organizations work closely with the institutions to provide on-campus housing, which is offered widely, but many students live in local flats. These apartments, which have been designed for students, are often located near campus and are generally easily accessible via public transportation.

The Finnish Association of Student Housing Organisations (SOA) maintains a list of SOA members that provide student apartments. Choosing student housing through the local student housing foundation is often the most cost-effective option. The average monthly rent for a single room in a shared student-flat ranges from approximately 250 to 440 euros per month, and typically includes internet, electricity, and water. Single apartments or family flats are also available, but the rent is higher. Monthly living expenses are around 700 to 900 euros, depending on where a student is studying. Costs are typically higher in the Helsinki metropolitan area and other large cities.

There may be long waiting lists for student flats, especially in the autumn term when many new students start their studies. Students should apply for housing well in advance of their arrival to Finland.

Visas and Other Permits

US citizens do not need to obtain a visa for visits or studies lasting less than 90 days, but their passport must be valid for a minimum of three months after the trip. Therefore, a US citizen would not need a visa to travel to Finland to take an entrance examination.

When staying in Finland for a longer period of time, for example to pursue a degree program, non-EU/EEA citizens need a student residence permit. A student residence permit is a long-term temporary permit issued by the Finnish Immigration Service. As of 2022, such permits are usually granted for the whole duration of a student's studies. More information can be found at www.migri.fi.

In order to apply for the residence permit, students will need a valid passport and an official admission letter. Additionally, students have to show that they have enough funding to cover the cost of their studies and living expenses. Valid health insurance is also required. Detailed information on the health insurance requirement and residence permits for non-EU/EEA nationals can be found on the Finnish Immigration Service website.

Part-time employment during the academic year is allowed on a student residence permit if the work is practical training required by the degree or does not exceed 30 hours a week. Outside the academic terms, such as during summer and winter break, students may work unlimited hours. However, students who don't speak Finnish or Swedish may have difficulty finding a job.

Non-EU/EEA students who have resided in Finland on a student residence permit may apply for a new, two-year residency permit to search for employment. If a graduate finds a job, they can then apply for a new residence permit based on their employment.

Advice from the Field

Check the list of *Five Steps to Studying in Finland.*

Suomi-Seura, or the Finland Society, is an organization that supports Finns living or moving overseas as well as those returning to Finland.

France

Brief Background

Campus France, an agency of the French government, was created with the purpose of promoting French higher education abroad. The Campus France USA branch serves as the primary contact for US students and international students residing in the US seeking guidance about admission to French institutions and pre-visa applications. An excellent overview of the free, online Campus France resources for counselors and students can be found here.

Significant nationwide efforts in recent years have focused on attracting and supporting international students. These efforts include a simplification of the visa and immigration process, new support for student housing options, and continued development of programs taught in English—of which there are currently over 1,500—within French institutions. Additionally, through the *Bienvenue en France* initiative, significant public funding has been made available to French institutions seeking to improve international student services.

Each year, about 17,000 US students choose to study in France, and 50 percent pursue programs that last longer than 90 days. In all, French institutions enroll more than 358,000 international students, who make up about 12 percent of the country's total student population. At the doctoral level in France, international students make up 40 percent of the total student population.

Undergraduate degrees from France are offered at 74 public universities and 250 *grandes écoles. Grandes écoles* are uniquely French institutions and typically offer five-year programs that are equivalent to a master's degree, although some offer three-year bachelor's degrees. A list of *grandes écoles* can be found on the website of the *Conférence des Grandes Écoles* while a complete list of French universities is available through Campus France, or through the Conference of University Presidents' website.

Technical and professional programs—in fields such as music, gastronomy, visual arts, design, fashion, and nursing—are offered at approximately 500 specialized schools *(écoles spécialisées)*. The credential awarded is specific to each institution.

Good to Know

An undergraduate degree is known as a *licence*, and can be completed in three years. Exceptions exist, as some professional degrees follow a different curriculum and may be longer programs. Students can also choose to pursue short programs or summer programs in France to prepare themselves for a degree program.

While programs are mainly taught in French and require French proficiency, more than 1,500 undergraduate and graduate programs are offered in English, across a variety of fields. Students can search programs with English as the language of instruction using Campus France's Taught in English platform.



Photo courtesy of Zoey Ginsberg

"Traveling is one of my favorite things to do, and not only can I say that I have studied in France (in French) but once you're in Europe, you can travel to other countries very easily and inexpensively."

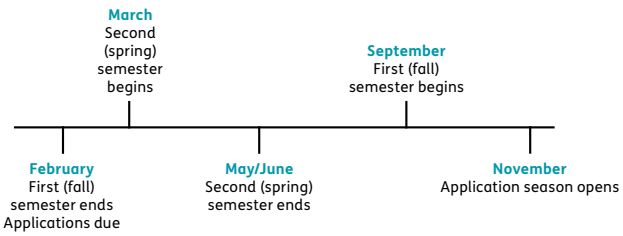
—Zoey Ginsberg, Texas, Université Nice Sophia Antipolis

International students who obtain French degrees in certain specific fields—for example medicine, law, architecture, accounting, and engineering—may have to complete additional courses/exams and meet other requirements in order to be able to practice outside of France.

France strongly supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is reflected in higher education. Students come to France from around the world to study urban design, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, social-impact economic policy, ethical supply chains, and more. France invests heavily in renewable energy development, and French higher education is recognized for its expertise in training engineers and scientists to lead the renewable energy transition.

Academic Calendar

The university academic year typically begins in September and ends in May or June, and is always divided into two semesters of between 12 and 14 weeks each. The academic calendar, including dates of vacations, varies widely among institutions. Students should check with the institutions to which they hope to apply to learn about their specific calendars.



Search

Program-specific information can be found on individual institutions' websites and through Campus France USA's searchable database, which includes a directory of licence degree programs. The Campus France website also allows students to search for programs taught in English.

Bienvenue en france certification

As of spring 2022, 134 higher education institutions in France have been awarded the label Bienvenue en France. This is a certification of high-quality international student services and the capacity of the institution to welcome, retain, and support international students. Students can search for this label when researching programs on the Campus France catalogs.

Apply

International students who wish to enroll as a first-year undergraduate in France apply via Campus France, with several exceptions, such as students seeking admission to a *grande école,* engineering school, preparatory classes, or other selective programs. Campus France charges an application fee of US$250.

Campus France not only streamlines the process of applying to multiple institutions but also offers applicants advice about degree programs and tips on how students can improve their chances of acceptance at their top choice institutions. Students are assigned a representative who they can contact by email or by phone.

Students can apply to up to three programs, offered by the same university or by different universities. Admission examinations will simultaneously start in March by all three selected choices at the same time. All institutions respond—either accepted or refused—to candidates by April 30. All candidates will have to accept one admission offer by early May. If denied admission to all three of their choices, a student can apply again the following year.

Deadlines

The application season typically starts in November and ends in early January. The exact dates are usually released in November.

Application Fees

Public universities do not charge application fees.

The Campus France application fee covers the application process for international students who choose to use the *Etudes en France* common application to apply to multiple French degree programs at the licence and master's levels.

Admission Requirements

Students must meet the equivalent requirements of the French Baccalaureate. A high school diploma, the IB diploma, or an equivalent (such as a GED) is required, as are official high school transcripts. It is recommended, though not mandatory, that students submit scores from AP exams, the SAT, or other tests. While these additional performance indicators are not officially recognized by French institutions, they add value to admission applications.

There is no standardized official equivalency recognition of AP, IB, or other non-European Union qualifications. Each institution has full discretion to admit applicants and determine the level at which they will be admitted.

Diplomas and transcripts must be translated into French by a certified translation service (such as one recommended by the American Translators Association) and uploaded as part of the Campus France application.

All French and European citizens complete the admission procedure for French institutions via the Parcoursup application platform. Deadlines and requirements may differ from those of Etudes en France, which is the common application platform for non-European international students in many countries (including the US) seeking entry to French institutions.

Students who have completed a French Baccalaureate within a French curriculum school abroad may consult the *Guide: Étudier en France après le baccalauréat* for further information on admission procedures and higher education pathways. Students are always advised to contact the institutions directly with specific questions about admission requirements.

A curriculum vitae and goals statement in French are required. In general, universities are looking for information not addressed in the other required application documents, such as motivation to study in France, interests and strengths, and academic and career goals. Recommendation letters and internship documents can improve the chances of being admitted. Although submitting at least one letter of recommendation is strongly advised, it is not mandatory.

International students who wish to apply to an undergraduate or graduate program taught in French must take an official French language test such as the TCF, DELF, or DALF to demonstrate language proficiency. The required level is B2 of the European Framework for Languages. Students who have completed a French Baccalaureate are exempt from this test and, in some cases, other French proficiency tests.



Upon Acceptance

A student's application is either accepted or rejected; French institutions do not utilize wait lists. Once accepted, students will be asked to confirm their intent to enroll. Students then receive a pre-inscription acceptance letter from Campus France that will allow them to apply for a student visa.

Upon arrival in France, students must finalize course registration with the institution's registration office.

Tuition and Fees

The cost of studying in France is among the lowest in the world. For both French and foreign students, the government subsidizes two-thirds of the tuition fees in public institutions of higher education.

For 2022–2023, the tuition fees for international students at French public universities will be 2,770 euros per year for a *licence*. Annual tuition rates at private institutions—including *grandes écoles* and professional schools, such as schools of business and management—are generally higher, with annual tuition ranging from 3,000 to 20,000 euros.

Many universities, however, offer tuition exemptions for international students. Candidates should check with the institutions to which they intend to apply to verify their tuition fees for the upcoming school year.

Many scholarship options are available for US students. Some institutions accept US federal student financial aid, but students are advised to check directly with their prospective institutions for loan options.

Housing

Students are encouraged to secure housing upon being accepted to a university and well before they arrive in France. Contact the institution's office for incoming international students or student association. Either should be able to provide a list of housing options along with tips on how to get started. Campus France also has housing resources.

Many students choose to live in student dormitories. Dormitories for students enrolled in public universities are managed by regional student-service agencies known as CROUS *(centre régional des œuvres universitaires et scolaires)*. As CROUS dorms are the most affordable form of student housing, they are highly sought after. Rent varies from 120 euros to 350 euros per month.

There are also a number of privately run dormitories that house students. These residences are also highly sought after and typically more expensive, their rent ranging between 300 and 700 euros per month depending on location.

International students are eligible for government assistance for housing expenses. Short-term accommodations, including homestays with host families, are another option.

Visas and Other Permits

International students who plan to study for more than 90 days in France must apply for a student visa. Students should first log on to France-Visas, the official website for visa applications. The "visa wizard" will assist students in preparing their applications and includes a list of required documents. Students will then apply in person through their local VFS visa center. Students are advised to take into account possible processing delays when scheduling their visa appointments. It may take up to three weeks after a visa appointment to receive the student visa. The appointment must take place within the 90-day period before the start date of the program.

International undergraduates pursuing their first year of study are eligible for a long-stay visa with residency permit *(VLS-TS—Visa Long Séjour Valant Titre de Séjour),* which must be validated once they arrive in the country by the Directorate General of Foreigners in France.

For information about visa fees, consult the France-Visas website.

Registration to social security is free and mandatory for all students in France. Students will need to register online in order to cover most of their health care expenses throughout their time in higher education. Students may choose to increase the amount of health care expenses that are reimbursed by taking out complementary health insurance, or *mutuelle*. Practical information about social security, health, and insurance is provided on the Campus France website.

International students have the right to work while studying in France as long as they are enrolled in an institution that participates in the national student health care plan. US students must also hold a valid residency permit. The law allows students to work 964 hours in a given year, which corresponds to 60 percent of full-time employment for the year.

Advice from the Field

Campus France is available to respond to follow-up questions from counselors regarding student applications. US counselors may contact Campus France at Washington@campusfrance.org. Include "NACAC counselors" in the subject line of the email.

Campus France USA's Facebook page is another good source of information. France Alumni, a digital bilingual platform, was created to unite, inform, and guide professionals who have completed part of all of their studies in the French education system, and may also be a useful resource for prospective students looking to begin their studies.

In recent years, French universities have developed dedicated resources for international students and made international student recruitment, retention, and support one of their top priorities. Many French universities have dedicated departments to help international students find housing, adjust to life in France, and succeed academically. Furthermore, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, French institutions have continued to prioritize support for international students, and have exempted international students from travel restrictions allowing them to begin and continue their studies in France.

Study of economics, social and political history, and the hard sciences, is popular at French institutions. Furthermore, graduates of French universities in fields strongly associated with France and French culture—such as gastronomy, hospitality, and fashion—may have a competitive advantage in related job markets.

As the world's fifth largest global donor of official development assistance, France supports nations worldwide in their efforts to protect the environment, improve public health, and reduce poverty. As such, French higher education offers some of the best training in the world to prepare students for careers in international development. Home to UNESCO's world headquarters, neighboring UN offices in Switzerland, and located in the heart of Europe, France also offers invaluable opportunities for students to gain exposure to the work of many intergovernmental agencies. Learning in French, one of the UN's six official languages, prepares students around the world for international careers in development and diplomacy.

In France, there are a number of support structures to help students with disabilities succeed academically and professionally. Campus France has a website dedicated to being a student with a disability in France.

Germany

Brief Background

In 2013, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) launched its Strategy 2020 campaign, which included the goal of hosting at least 350,000 international students in Germany by 2020. Toward that end, Germany's public universities offer more than 2,000 degree programs taught in English, though most are at the graduate level. In 2017, Germany reached the goal set in Strategy 2020; it hosted 358,900 foreign students, 5,839 of whom were US students.

DAAD's commitment to the internationalization of its higher education landscape was further discussed in the organization's recently released 2025 strategy. The strategy aims to improve the academic success of international students so that they may be as successful as their German peers. With this, DAAD is committed to shaping foreign science policy and expanding international university relations in the 2020s. The strategy builds on the strength of the German university and science system: partnership, freedom of science, and a commitment to the joint solution to pressing global issues.

Germany is home to more than 427 state-accredited universities in 180 towns and cities countrywide, of which 120 are private institutions. There are three types of higher education institutions in Germany: universities; universities of applied sciences; and colleges of art, film, and music. Universities offer strong theoretical and academically oriented degree programs in a broad range of disciplines. Instruction at universities of applied sciences is very practice-oriented and internships are an integral part of the degree program. Colleges of art, film, and music are for students who want to develop their artistic talents, and instruction at most of these institutions is in German only.

Subjects popular among international students include economics and business administration, Germanic studies, electrical engineering, computer science, and music. In 2016, approximately one-third of all international students studied at the undergraduate level, though this increases to more than 60 percent at universities of applied sciences.

Good to Know

More than 90 percent of all university students in Germany, domestic and international, are enrolled in public universities, where they must choose and specialize in a specific course of study when they first apply. Students pursuing a bachelor's degree can complete their studies in six to eight semesters. Undergraduate programs in Germany are very structured in terms of course selection, when compared with programs at many American liberal arts colleges.

Students are encouraged to study the German language even if they enroll in English-taught programs.



Photo courtesy of Riley Newman-Gatton

"Germany is a beautiful country with a rich history and easy access to other major European cities. The biggest challenge has been the language barrier, especially when dealing with bureaucratic matters, but trust yourself to find your own path in a completely new country."

—Riley Newman-Gatton, Washington, Jacobs University

Private universities in Germany offer undergraduate and graduate programs. These institutions typically offer more of a US-style campus experience.

Academic Calendar

At German universities the academic year is divided into two terms: the winter semester (October to March) and summer semester (April to September).

February
Summer semester application decisions released

March
Winter semester ends

April
Summer semester starts

Early May
Applications open for winter semester

Mid-July
Applications close for winter semester

August
Winter semester application decisions released

September
Summer semester ends

October
Winter semester starts

Early December
Applications open for summer semester

Sometimes students sit for exams during breaks between semesters. They also use breaks to travel, work, or do internships.

Search

Several websites are designed to help international students find best-fit opportunities, including the DAAD-sponsored Study in Germany website. There, students can plan their studies by searching and viewing programs according to the language in which the course is offered. Just use the My Guide tool, a DAAD search engine.

Apply

Upon identifying their desired program of study, US students should check to see if the university offering it is a member of Uni-Assist. Uni-Assist is an application service that evaluates international documents and credentials for roughly 180 member universities. If the university

is part of the Uni-Assist network, international students must apply using the Uni-Assist application service. If the university is not a member of Uni-Assist, international students can apply directly to the institution. Applications from international students whose credentials are determined by Uni-Assist to meet the standards for admission to German university study programs are forwarded to the individual university. The university itself makes the final admission decision.

In most cases, students can apply to as many programs as they would like. For high-demand subjects, including medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, and dentistry, the number of spaces available is restricted. These programs are designated *numerus clausus,* referencing the "closed number" of spaces. Students interested in these areas of study are advised to directly contact their universities of choice for details.

Deadlines

Applications for the winter semester can be submitted from late May through mid-July, though some universities have deadlines as early as the end of May. Applicants who will not receive their high school diploma until after the application deadline are advised to contact the specific university and program for guidance. Decision notifications generally begin in August. Summer semester submission season runs from early December to mid-January, with notification beginning in February.

Application Fees

Uni-Assist charges 75 euros for the first application and 30 euros for each additional application submitted for the same semester. Other fees for translation services, notarized copies, and exams (see "Admission Requirements") may also apply.

Admission Requirements

Many German universities require the equivalent of a German state-accredited Abitur qualification, a document issued to German secondary school students who have passed their final exams. International students can either qualify for direct admission to a course of study or general admission to a preparatory program, depending on their preparation in high school. To find out if you meet the criteria, use this Uni-Assist tool. Early academic planning will help ensure admission requirements are able to be met. Applicants should go to Uni-Assist for the most up-to-date information on requirements and consult with the International Office at the chosen higher education institution.



Direct entry is typically possible with a US high school diploma—as long as the student has completed prerequisite courses—and one of the following: two years at a college, an associate degree, or four Advanced Placement (AP) exams for direct subject-restricted admission. An IB diploma that fulfills Germany's IB requirements also qualifies students for direct admission.

Applicants who do not fulfill direct admission requirements but have a US high school diploma may qualify for general admission to a preparatory program undertaken at a Studienkolleg, which offers foundational courses to prepare international students for university. In some cases, students may sit for the university qualification exam, known as *Feststellungsprüfung*. An IB diploma that does not include six mandated examination subjects would also qualify students for a preparatory program. See the Studienkolleg website for more information.

For *numerus clausus* courses, admission is based on a calculated average grade, which takes into account applicants' high school grades. Because admission is competitive, successful applicants usually have strong grades. GEDs issued by individual states are not accepted by German universities. Moreover, students who were home-schooled for the entirety or part of their studies in grades 9-12 would not be considered eligible for admission to German universities.

With some exceptions, students who plan to enroll in programs taught in German must submit scores from either the German Language University Entrance Examination for Foreign Applicants (DSH) or the Test of German as a Foreign Language (TestDaF). Completion of certain Studienkolleg preparatory courses may also satisfy German language requirements. More information on language requirements can be found through Study in Germany.



Students applying to English-taught programs generally do not have to demonstrate German proficiency.

Letters of recommendation are usually not necessary, though some programs may require them.

Upon Acceptance

Universities typically accept or deny students; conditional offers are uncommon. If accepted, the university will advise students on what paperwork they need to complete.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition, even for international students, is generally free at all German public universities, though students are required to pay fees each semester for public transportation, meals in the dining halls, use of athletic facilities, and cultural programming. The fees average about 250 euros per semester, but vary by university. Universities in the state of Baden-Württemberg, however, charge 1,500 euros for students from outside the European Union, with some exceptions for exchange students and researchers.

Private German universities charge tuition, some up to 20,000 euros per year. Some schools offer flexible financing options, such as allowing students to defer fee payment until after graduation when they have secured employment.

The DAAD website includes a database of merit-based scholarship opportunities for international students.

Housing

Students typically live in either a student residence hall or private accommodation. The DAAD website offers an online search tool based on a student's destination; see "Plan Your Stay." This search feature allows students to view options, locations and prices, the related application process, and deadlines for securing a spot.

Campus life at German institutions is typical of European universities. Many students live off campus in shared or single apartments. Dormitories with cafeterias and meal programs are not usually available at the larger public universities. Most offer only shared kitchen spaces.

Visa and Other Permits

Although US citizens are eligible to enter Germany without a visa, students are still required to apply for a residency/long-term student visa within 90 days after their arrival in Germany.

To apply for this permit, students must first find accommodations and obtain a confirmation of registration (*Meldebestätigung*) document from the local Residents' Registration Office. Students will also need the following when applying for a residence permit: passport, letter of university acceptance, evidence they can cover the expected cost of their education and living expenses (approximately 861 euros per month or 10,332 euros per year), and proof of health insurance. Additional documents may also be required.

The residence permit is valid for two years and must be renewed before it expires. An extension of the residence permit will usually be granted provided



"Choosing a residential international university made all the difference for me. Living among students from all over the world has been the most enlightening part of my undergraduate experience."

—Riley Newman-Gatton, Washington, Jacobs

Photo courtesy of Riley Newman-Gatton

the student shows proof from their university that their studies are proceeding properly. For more information on German visa regulations, visit the German Federal Foreign Office website.

Fees for residence permits vary according to location but cost up to 75 euros. Additional guidance about specific locations can be obtained through the German Consulates General. Non-European Union (EU) students can work 120 full days or 240 half-days per year—or more if a work permit is obtained—excluding research assistant work.

Germany has recently eased its post-study work eligibility requirements for students. After graduation, international students can extend their residence permits by 18 months in order to find a job, beginning from the date their final exam results are issued. If they obtain a job in Germany, after two years of work they can apply for permanent residency status.

Advice from the Field

General queries can be directed to The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) via email at daad.newyork@daad.de. DAAD also provides numerous resources about studying in Germany:

- *A Pocket Guide for International Students*
- *A Practical Guide for International Students*

Academic standards across German universities are high and generally consistent among institutions.

While some undergraduate programs in Germany may be taught in English, the majority are not. Many graduate programs, however, are offered in English.

To take full advantage of their experience, students are encouraged to learn some German either before or during their studies.





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India

Brief Background

Education in India has its roots in ancient tradition dating back to the Vedic period (1500 to 500 BC). Education mostly took place in traditional Hindu village schools called gurukuls, or in Muslim elementary and secondary schools called *maktabs* and *madrasas*.

Much later in the British colonial rule, an education system based on the British system was introduced and imposed. The first institutions of higher learning to emerge under this model in British India were the University of Calcutta, the University of Bombay, and the University of Madras. All were founded in 1857, introduced English as a language of instruction, and were based on the model of British universities.

Education options continued to grow. Upon its independence in 1947, India had approximately 15 universities and about 600 colleges serving approximately 240,000 students. Since then, the sector has rapidly expanded. India is now home to roughly 1,043 universities and 50,000 colleges, serving more than 35 million students.

India's higher education system is one of the largest in the world. The main governing body at this level is the University Grants Commission (UGC), which enforces its standards, advises the government, and helps coordinate between various regional UGC centers and the state. Depending on the nature of the institution and degree awarded, accreditation for higher learning is overseen by 15 professional councils established by the University Grants Commission.

As of 2020, India has more than 1,000 universities, including several central, state, private, and deemed universities. India also has an array of prestigious universities under the category of Institutions of National Importance; they include Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs), and National Institutes of Technology (NITs) among others. In 2016, India announced a new designation of Institutions of Eminence.

The category, which included 19 universities in 2022, is aimed at cultivating world-class teaching and research at both public and private universities.

India also has more than 50,000 colleges, which are affiliated with and operate under universities. This category of institutions includes government degree colleges, private colleges, standalone institutes, and postgraduate research institutions. Colleges may be autonomous, that is, empowered to conduct their own exams, up to Ph.D. level in some cases, or non-autonomous, in which case their examinations are under the supervision of the affiliated university. In either case, degrees are awarded in the name of the university rather than the college. Distance learning and open education is also a feature of the Indian higher education system and is overseen by the Distance Education Council. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is the largest university in the world in terms of number of students, educating approximately 3.5 million people across the globe.

Given India's growing population of youth ages 17–23 and the government's desire to expand high-quality education as outlined in most recent National Education Policy 2020, the country is likely to see significant growth and development in higher education. This, coupled with India's rich culture and diversity, comparatively low cost of living, and the rapidly growing economy, makes India an attractive international study destination. Read more reasons here. According to the most recent *All India Survey of Education* report, 49,348 foreign students, coming from



"As a university student in India, I love being immersed in a socially and culturally diverse environment while pursuing my education. The study patterns have developed my self-confidence and helped me become more independent. I feel very prepared to eventually pursue graduate studies internationally, likely in the US."

—Swati Sharma, Shiv Nadar University

168 different countries, are currently studying in India. Americans account for 1,627 of the foreign students in India.

Good to Know

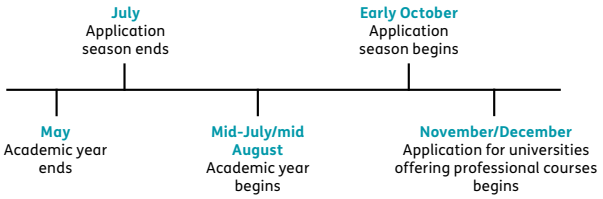
A bachelor's degree is referred to as an undergraduate course in India and is typically attained after three years of study for those students pursing a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Science, or a Bachelor of Commerce. A liberal arts course lasts three years, with an optional fourth year of study available at most universities.

Undergraduate courses in professional disciplines, such as engineering (Bachelor of Technology), dentistry (Bachelor of Dentistry), pharmacy (Bachelor of Pharmacy), and architecture (Bachelor of Architecture) range from four to five years.

Students must successfully complete secondary school to be eligible to pursue an undergraduate course in India.

Academic Calendar

The academic year usually begins between mid-July and mid-August, ending in May of the following year. Summer break is typically between mid-May to mid-August, but this varies among institutions and between regions. Summer courses or internships may be planned in this period, if desired by a student.



* Application process timeline varies with institutions

There are shorter breaks of five to 10 days between semesters or mid-semester. Examination cycles vary too. Some are annual or semester-based. Others use continuous assessment, which includes marks for assignments, projects, and presentations undertaken through the year/semester.

Professional Courses & Qualifications

Course Name	Example	Duration
Medicine	Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (M.B.B.S)	5.5 years
Engineering	Bachelor of Technology (B. Tech)	4 years
Law	Bachelor of Law + Bachelor of Business Administration (LLB+ BBA) Bachelor of Commerce + Bachelor of Law (B.com/ BA)	5 years
Hotel Management	Bachelor of Hotel Management (BHM)	3-4 years
Design	Bachelor of Design (B.Des)	3-4 years
Architecture	Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch)	5 years
Chartered Accountancy	Chartered Account (CA)	Minimum 4 years
Business Administration	Bachelor of Business Administration/ Bachelor of Business Management (BBA/BBM)	3-5 years*

**4-5 years in case of an integrated program—Bachelor of Business Administration + Master of Business Administration (BBA+MBA)*

Search

Study in India, an initiative of the government offered through the Ministry of Education, offers a comprehensive website with more than 100 participating universities to explore. This site assists students in their search for institutions and in understanding the processes involved in seeking admission. There is no centralized college search tool. However, lists of recognized universities under different categories are available:

Central Universities

- State Universities
- Deemed Universities
- Private Universities
- Institutions of National importance
- Institutions of Eminence

Students may also search the ranking report of 2022. This report exclusively captures universities and colleges in India. It was compiled by the Ministry of Education using the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

Apply

Applications range from centralized to institution-based, depending on the nature of the university or college. For example, there is a common centralized application for colleges under Delhi University, while each private university has its own application.

For most applications, the course of interest/ specialization/ major needs to be mentioned in the application form, which is factored into the admission process.

Most universities will have guidelines for foreign applicants, listing the steps interested students must take. Examples of these types of outlines can be found on the University of Delhi and University of Mumbai websites.

There is no limit on the number of institutions an individual can apply to across the country.

Deadlines

The application, registration, and admission process for undergraduate studies/courses begins as early as October and extends up to July of the following year. This timeline varies from institution to institution.

Application to universities/colleges that offer professional courses—entry to which is dependent on an entrance exam—begins earlier (around November or December). The process also starts earlier at some private universities, which may offer multiple application rounds starting in October and running up to May of the following year.

Universities and colleges that base admission decisions on marks obtained on grade 12 national/state board examinations start the application process around mid-April, following the administration of exam.

Application Fees

There is no standard application fee across universities and colleges in India. Fees range from roughly US$8 to US$45. A handful of universities, such as Ashoka University, may have no application fee.

Admission Requirements

Admission to most central universities, state universities, and colleges is based on grade 12 performance for all academic courses. A few private universities with liberal arts or Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Business Administration programs follow a holistic admission process that includes: academic record from grade 9/10 on; activities list; a student profile; essays; standardized testing; and, in some cases, interview. These requirements must verified upon individual university websites for foreign/ international applicants.

Students pursuing an International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum should review the conversion of the IB scores to percentages for the Indian system. Study in India also provides grade conversions for specific country qualifications.

Entry to professional courses—medicine, engineering, design, journalism and mass communication, business administration, law, and hospitality—is determined by meeting a basic academic achievement criterion for grade 12 along with performance in a competitive entrance examination.

Additionally, a group discussion or interview is required in some cases. Application processes for international students can vary by program and institution and may include direct, alternate, or supplemental application processes. For example, students pursuing a Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) or a Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch) must submit a Direct Admission of Students Abroad (DASA) application in addition to completing the Joint Entrance Examination—Main (JEE–Main), used for admission to various engineering and architecture programs.

Upon Acceptance

All offers of admission are strictly contingent upon a passing mark on the qualifying examination at the high school level, which is the basic eligibility requirement. Offers of admission range from:

- **Conditional offer of admission**—These offers of admission are dependent on the achievement of a specified score in the qualifying examination and may be considered invalid if the score is not achieved. This type of admission offer is most often used by private universities.
- **Wait list**—Students placed on a wait list are not offered immediate admission, but could receive an offer if space opens at the institution. This option is used by some universities, particularly those offering professional courses.
- **Provisional admission**—This type of admission offer is based on marks obtained in the qualifying examination for an interim period, until the official mark sheet/transcript is available. Provisional offers upon admission are converted to a confirmed admission on submission of the official documents.
- **Acceptance/confirmed admission**—This offer of admission is granted after the applicant has met the specified criteria and (in some cases) submitted official paperwork verifying all conditions of admission have been met.

Fees must be deposited within the period specified by the institution. Failing to do so would invalidate or withdraw the offer of admission.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition varies depending on the university/college and the type of program. Generally, fees are higher for technical programs that involve laboratory or equipment use.

Tuition could range from US$400 to US$14,500 annually and does not include additional fees, such as the security deposit or cost of books.

Scholarships and financial aid—both merit- and need-based—are available for foreign nationals at select institutions. Information is available on each university's or college's website. Some government programs, such as the Study in India scholarship, may provide financial support to international students, as may scholarships for specialized courses in India like Ayurveda, homeopathy, and yoga by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations.

Housing

Accommodations range from on-campus options provided by the institution to off-campus options managed through private property agents. On-campus accommodations are typically shared or dormitory-style housing where meals, laundry, and other utilities are provided for a fee. Cost varies based on the amenities offered.

Housing capacity at most universities and colleges is limited. Students are encouraged to apply for housing as soon as they are given the opportunity, typically upon confirmation of the admission offer.

Off-campus accommodations can be secured through private property agents or service providers. Costs depend on the city, location, and type of accommodation ranging between US$100 to US$500 per month.

Visa and Other Permits

The visa process can only begin after receiving an offer of admission from a recognized institution. A student visa is offered for a period of five years or for the duration of the program, whichever is shorter.

Health insurance with an evacuation clause is required for the purpose of the visa. More details regarding the documentation and timeline can be found on the official government website and through an FAQ prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Please note that an individual on a student visa cannot take on any employment.

Fees range from US$14 to US$118, depending on a student's citizenship, rather than the country of residence.

Student visas issued for a period of 180 days or more will require the applicant to register with the local Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) within 14 days of arrival. General guidelines are available on the online portal. Government rules state that all international students entering India on student visas must undergo a medical examination and obtain a medical fitness certificate before entering the country.

On arrival to the country all original documents will be required.

Advice from the Field

Identifying an institution that fits best with academic goals should be prioritized while applying to study in India to ensure an enriching global experience. For this purpose the NIRF rankings, Institutions of National Importance, and Institutions of Eminence can serve as points of reference. Accreditation of the university and qualifications must be thoroughly checked to ensure recognition in both host and home country.

Please note that non-resident Indians (NRI) and foreign nationals may be separate categories for most university applications with minor differences in the application and admission process as well as in the fee structure.

A total of 118 higher education institutions are featured in the 2022 QS World University Rankings. The 2020 data available on the website.

Changes in the higher education landscape in the coming years, as envisioned and captured in the National Education Policy 2020, may make the system more flexible, robust, and friendly to international students.

Ireland

Brief Background

Ireland has a long history of welcoming international students going back more than a thousand years to when it was known as the Land of Saints and Scholars. In 2018–19, more than 12,000 international students from the United States studied in Ireland's public higher education institutions. International students globally made up around 16 percent of all higher education enrollments in Ireland. The United States, China, and France are the top places of origin among full-time international students in Ireland, according to IIE's Project Atlas.

Recognizing the value that international students contribute to the education system, and to society in general, Ireland launched Irish Educated, Globally Connected—an international education strategy for 2016 through 2020. This strategy aimed to support the development of global citizens through Ireland's high-quality education system by attracting talent from around the world to its educational institutions, and equipping students with the skills and experience they need to compete internationally.

Irish Universities



- Atlantic Technological University
- Dublin City University
- Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology
- Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Institute of Public Administration
- Irish School of Ecumenics
- Marino Institute of Education
- Mary Immaculate College
- Maynooth University
- Munster Technological University
- National College of Art and Design
- National Maritime College of Ireland
- National University of Ireland, Galway
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- Shannon College of Hotel Management
- Southeast Technological University
- St Angela's College of Education, Sligo



- St. Patrick's College
- Technological University Dublin
- Technological University of the Shannon
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Cork
- University College Dublin
- University of Limerick

Ireland's higher education offerings include 10 universities, five public colleges, nine institutes of technology, and eight private colleges. Irish qualifications are internationally recognized and the full academic range of studies is available, including the arts and humanities, social sciences, medicine, business, and engineering. In the past 30 years, successive Irish governments have put enormous resources into education and research. As a result, the reputation of its higher education system has grown considerably, and its research is now making an international impact. In the *2020 QS World University Rankings*, several individual institutions rank in the global top 50 for a diverse range of key subjects including English, politics, and veterinary science, and in the top 100 for history, pharmacy, and biology.

Ireland is also where some of the world's biggest and best companies have located key strategic research facilities. These include nine of the world's top 10 information and communication technology (ICT) companies; nine of the world's top 10 pharmaceutical and life science companies; and half of the world's major financial services companies. Companies include Boston Scientific, Pfizer, Apple, Facebook, and Google. CEOs of these cutting-edge global companies repeatedly point to the strengths of Irish-educated graduates as crucial to their decision to establish facilities in Ireland.



Photo courtesy of Rowan Fitzpatrick

"I was able to jump directly into course specific classes without having to complete general education prerequisites. During your course in college, you get the opportunity to go on an eight-month cooperative education work placement—either within Ireland or globally located. It is a way to experience what a career in your field is like. It is immensely beneficial for networking future employers."

—Rowan Fitzpatrick, Michigan, University of Limerick

Irish higher education emphasizes the experiential aspects of degree programs, allowing students to gain practical, hands-on experience throughout their academic journey. The proximity to so many innovative companies and organizations grants students unique opportunity to engage with their career fields throughout their education, ensuring that they graduate with the critical skills and experiences they will need in today's economy.

Education in Ireland's website addresses many questions about studying in Ireland, lists internationally recognized and approved programs, and provides links to the websites of Irish universities.

Good to Know

Most undergraduate degrees take four years to complete, though there are some programs that can be completed in three. Courses offered by institutes of technology range in duration from two to four years. The term "course" typically refers to an academic program of study. Undergraduates can directly enter professional programs in medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, and law.

Most Irish degree programs do not include general education requirements. However, several universities offer bachelor's degrees in liberal arts.

When applying, students are advised to consider choosing a general area of interest and refrain from being too specific. Business students, for instance, can begin to specialize in accounting or finance once at university. Students who want to change their major will likely need to start their coursework over.

Search

Students can search by city, course, and university through the Education in Ireland website. Each institution will have information about its courses on its website along with testimonials, interviews, and, in some cases, videos.

Apply

Programs and application processes vary across Irish universities, but overall, the application process is straightforward. Applications are made directly to each institution and students apply directly to their intended course of study. Students can apply to more than one course at a particular university. Special subjects such as law, medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science can all be done at an undergraduate level in Ireland and applicants may apply directly to the institution.

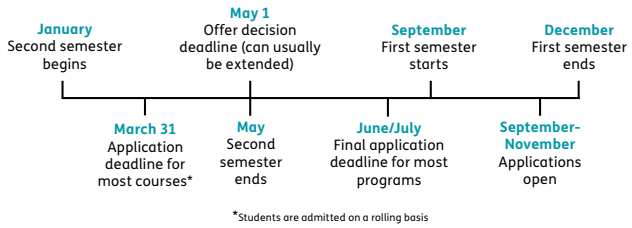
Atlantic Bridge is an application system, similar to the Common App, which allows international students to apply for medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy, and pharmacy programs at six different Irish universities.

Application Fees

Application fees vary among different institutions and average 50 euros.

Academic Calendar

Academic schedules in Ireland begin in late August or early September and end the following May. Specific dates will vary slightly, but generally universities operate on a semester schedule, with mid-term breaks in the fall and spring semesters and winter and summer vacations.



Deadlines

The initial deadline for applications varies by course and institution. Some are as early as Feb. 1, but most deadlines are around March 31. Students are admitted on a rolling basis beginning in October, and offers will generally be honored until May 1. The late application deadline stretches until July 1. In some cases, applications may be considered beyond this date.

Admission Requirements

Requirements vary by institution, but three types of credentials are generally accepted: IB Diploma, French Baccalaureate, or a combination of high school grades and standardized test scores. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some institutions have instituted a temporary test-optional policy for the 2022–2023 application cycle. Some courses may require additional written materials—personal essays, writing samples, and in some cases both. Depending on the institution, students may be required to submit up to two recommendation letters for each course to which they apply.

Upon Acceptance

Students interested in scholarship opportunities should research scholarship deadlines and begin submitting applications once they have received an offer of admission. More information on scholarships can be found on the Education in Ireland website and on each institution's website.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition for full-time undergraduate programs ranges from 10,000 to 22,000 euros per year, though tuition for medical and related fields is usually much higher. The majority of Irish universities are approved by the US Department of Education to accept federal financial aid loans and private student loans.

Housing

On-campus housing is provided for all first-year international students at every university; the average cost is 9,000 euros per year. Following their first year, students are responsible for securing housing. Estimated expenses beyond tuition range between 9,000 and 12,000 euros per year based on location, accommodations, and personal lifestyle.

Visa and Other Permits

US citizens do not need a visa to study in Ireland. However, all students from outside the European Union must register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) within seven days of arriving in Ireland. To register, students must present a letter of acceptance from an Irish institution confirming their place in a recognized program, furnish evidence of having private health insurance, and show proof of sufficient funds (at least 3,000 euros) to cover accommodation and living expenses.

International students studying full-time in Ireland can work up to 20 hours a week or up to 40 hours during holiday breaks. International students who have graduated from an Irish institution can also work in Ireland for one year after graduation.

International students are required to have private health insurance. Students who purchase insurance from their home country must ensure that the insurance will be valid in Ireland and in any other country where the student might travel during their studies. If a student is part of a group insurance program operated by the university he or she will attend, a letter of enrollment mentioning this will be adequate proof for the GNIB authorities.

Advice from the Field

University-specific inquiries can be sent to educationinireland@enterprise-ireland. com. Questions will then be directed to an international recruitment specialist at the university of interest.

Each university in Ireland has its own alumni networks. These networks have global representatives focused on supporting and organizing events for alumni around the world.

Israel

Brief Background

With 4,000 years of history, students are drawn to Israeli culture and its excellent academics. Higher education institutions are known worldwide for their award-winning faculty members; cutting-edge research; and innovative programs, as highlighted by Study in Israel, with several universities ranked among the highest in the world.

Internationalization is a central priority for the Israeli government, which has committed to significantly increasing the number of international students in the country. The Council for Higher Education of Israel, the statutory government agency responsible for all matters related to higher education, has defined internationalization in higher education as a main priority in its multi-year strategy (2017–2022). As part of this strategy, the Council for Higher Education seeks to attract top-tier international students to Israel (degree-seeking students, short-term programs, and post-doctoral researchers), to develop Israeli students' international competence, further international research collaborations, and advance strategic partnerships with leading universities worldwide.

In 2018–2019, there were approximately 12,000 international students in Israel, including students participating in study abroad, short-term programs, and post-doctoral research. Israel aims to increase this number to 24,000 by 2023. In order to achieve this goal, significant resources have been invested in developing English courses and programs and creating the institutional capacity to recruit and support international students.

Students have the opportunity to study at one of the following types of institutions:

Universities

Israel has nine universities, eight of which are publicly funded: Ariel University, Bar Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Technion—Israel Institute of Technology, Tel Aviv University, University of Haifa, and The Weizmann Institute of Science. The ninth, Reichman University (previously IDC Herzliya), is a nonprofit. These institutions engage in teaching and advanced research for undergraduate degrees, master's degrees, and doctoral degrees in a wide range of fields. A notable exception is the Weizmann Institute of Science, which offers only graduate and post-graduate degrees.

Public Academic Colleges

Public academic colleges offer undergraduate and often master's degree programs in a variety of fields, some of which are more professionally oriented. Some of the academic faculty in these institutions conduct their own research. Institutions in this category include general colleges, arts institutes such as Bezalel & Shenkar, the Jerusalem Academy for Music & Dance, and several engineering colleges.

Private Academic Colleges

Private academic colleges offer undergraduate and often master's level education in various fields, particularly in the social sciences. These institutions are not financed by the state. Tuition is higher than at subsidized public institutions. In these institutions, some of the faculty are involved in research. There are 11 private academic colleges in Israel, many of which offer English programming.



Photo courtesy of Ezra Saragossi

"I wanted a program that intertwined my American and Israeli identities. The best part of being a student here is the chance to discover a country filled with history, culture, cuisine, holidays, and lots of places to tour."

—Ezra Saragossi, Florida, dual degree program with Tel Aviv University and Columbia University

Academic Teacher Training Colleges

Academic teacher training colleges are publicly funded and offer undergraduate and master's degrees in education. There are 21 teacher training colleges.

The Open University

This institution offers undergraduate and master's degree studies. However, the teaching methods employed are typical of open universities around the world, namely, online teaching and distance learning. The Open University is publicly funded.

Good to Know

Undergraduate degrees in Israel are generally completed in three years, with engineering degrees spanning four years. Due to mandatory military service in Israel, students usually begin academic studies around the age of 22–24. The average age at graduation from bachelor's degree programs is over 27.

Unlike the US higher education system, Israeli degrees are disciplinary and majors are chosen before enrollment. When applying to an institute of higher education, one applies to a specific faculty and program rather than to the institution more generally. A few of the Israeli institutions do have a more generalized bachelor's degree similar to the US college experience.

Israel prides itself on its excellent higher education system and is home to several leading universities and top professors. Due to the informal culture of Israeli society, and its flat hierarchy, students can engage intimately in this academic environment. Students take an active role in their studies, debate and collaborate with their professors, and develop entrepreneurial skills that will jump-start their careers.

Israel is a world leader in science and engineering. Israeli scientists have won four Nobel Prizes in chemistry, three Turing Awards (the highest

distinction in computer science), three Nobel Memorial Prizes in Academic Sciences, and one Fields Medal and one Abel Prize (awarded for excellence in mathematics). Israel ranks seventh globally in the number of citations per scientific publication and is particularly strong in computer science, engineering, chemistry, and life sciences. Studying these fields in Israel will give students the chance to work with leading researchers and in cutting-edge facilities. Israelis are known as out-of-the-box thinkers, making Israel the "Start-Up Nation" and the reason leading companies from around the world have opened research and development centers in Israel. This sense of innovation is rooted in Israel's higher education institutions, with many academic programs targeted for students who want to succeed in business and entrepreneurship. Some programs include opportunities to conduct internships in leading companies from around the world, giving students the opportunity to receive career skills and build their résumés.

Many of Israel's higher education institutions are engaged in teaching and research related to agriculture and sustainability, which are of critical importance to the world's environment. Since the first kibbutz farmers struck their hoes in Israeli soil, a great deal of progress has been made in the country's agriculture sector. Israel's challenging environment and lack of natural resources has led it to become an agricultural "incubator" of ideas, developing new kinds of plants as well as revolutionary agricultural innovations. Drip irrigation technologies are one famous example of Israel's success in this field.

Israel also offers students an unparalleled opportunity to acquire an in-depth understanding of the political, social, and economic dimensions of the Middle East and the international diplomatic arena. The birthplace of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Israel is the perfect place to study religion—especially Jewish studies, with some of the world's top scholars based there. Archaeology programs are also very strong, with students having the ability to study ruins dating thousands of years old.

International students are welcomed in Israeli universities and colleges. As a result of the national policy, Israeli universities and colleges have invested significant resources into developing their international affairs and international student support services. All universities and colleges that offer programs in English have dedicated staff who ensure that international students receive all support necessary, from academics to student life, housing, and well-being. Many of the institutions have programs that are always taught fully in English, regardless of whether international students are present.

Academic Calendar

The academic calendar in Israel begins in mid-to late-October, following the Jewish high holiday season, with the first semester generally ending in mid-to late-January. Following a month-long break, which includes the examination period, the

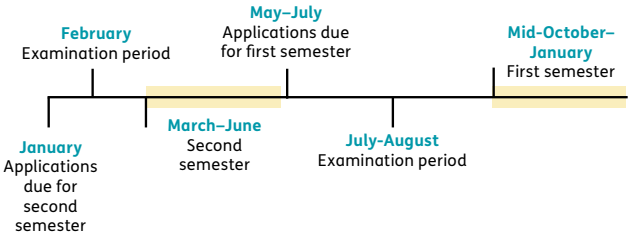


Photo courtesy of Michal Amar

"My advice for current US high school students is to learn the language. Start before you even get here. Despite the many English-speaking communities in Israel, the infrastructure is entirely in Hebrew."

—Michal Amar, Florida, Technion—Israel Institute of Technology

second semester begins in March and continues until the end of June. The examination period takes place in July and August. Students in Israel are given the opportunity to re-take tests for most courses, which extends this period. Some higher education institutions hold summer semester courses from July to September.



Universities and colleges are closed for a two-week Passover vacation in April.

Some higher education institutions hold orientation and preparatory courses from August to September for first-year students in undergraduate degree programs.

Search

The Council for Higher Education manages the Study in Israel website, which provides information to international students about the country's higher education system. The website includes a list of all Israeli universities and colleges as well as a search engine of all courses of study taught in English.

Apply

Students must apply directly to a specific course of study at the relevant university or college. International student applications are generally processed by the institution's international center/school/office. There is no restriction on the number of applications a student may submit to the country's various higher education institutions. All registration can be done in English.

Deadlines

Applications for fall semester must generally be submitted from May to late July. In order to start in the spring semester, students generally must apply by January.

Application Fees

Each university or college determines its application fees. Fees are generally US$100 to US$150 per application.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must submit an application form, high school diploma and transcripts, and two recommendation letters. Most programs require at least one recommendation to be from someone qualified to comment on the student's academic abilities. Standardized test scores are also required, however, many undergraduate programs in English have made their standardized testing requirements optional as a result of COVID-19. Depending on the country of origin, this may include the SAT, ACT, or Aptitude Scholastic Test (AST). Additionally, students who are non-native English speakers must also submit English proficiency test scores from TOEFL or IELTS.

Some institutions require personal essays and résumés as well. In addition, depending on the program, there might be additional math or science requirements. For example, engineering programs require a background in physics and/or SAT subject tests in math and physics. As admission requirements vary between institutions and programs, it is important to verify requirements with the institution.

Upon Acceptance

Most universities review student applications upon submission and rolling admission is utilized. Admitted students are required to pay a deposit to secure their spot. Students will receive a letter of admission, which must be presented to acquire a student visa.

Tuition and Fees

Israeli higher education tuition fees are competitive compared to average costs of college in the United

States. Tuition varies depending on the institution and program, with undergraduate tuition ranging from US$4,000 to US$15,000 per year.

Financial aid is offered by all colleges and universities and scholarships are offered based on merit and need. Many organizations and nonprofits also provide scholarships for international students in Israel. American students are eligible to apply for US Federal Student Aid for undergraduate programs at most Israeli higher education institutions that offer full-degree programs in English.

Housing

International students are eligible to live in on-campus housing, pending availability. Students sign up for dormitories when registering for the academic year. Dorms are furnished and maintained by the university. Information about on-campus housing is provided upon admission.

The international schools and centers have dedicated student life coordinators, all fluent in English, who are available 24/7 for their students. The institutions organize social events and trips for international students around Israel. Many universities and colleges also provide "buddy systems" which give international students the opportunity to meet and build real friendships with Israeli students, as well as integrate into and experience Israeli society and culture.

Visa and Other Permits

In order to study in Israel, international students will need an A/2 student visa. Applications should be submitted to the Israeli embassy or consulate in their home country. Once granted, the visa is valid for up to one year and allows for multiple entrances and exits from the country.

In order to be granted a visa, the following items are needed:

- Completed and signed application for a visa to enter Israel
- Two passport-sized pictures
- A formal letter of acceptance for studies from a recognized higher education institution in Israel
- Proof that the student has the financial means to cover their studies and living costs for the duration of their stay in Israel
- A travel document (e.g., passport) that is valid for the entire period of study and another six months beyond that. If the country has a diplomatic mission in Israel, the passport only needs to be valid for at least a year.
- Fee payment

Note that international undergraduate students are not permitted to work in Israel, and neither are their spouses.

Advice from the Field

Most of the universities have active alumni chapters and conduct activities for alumni in different parts of the world, with a strong focus on the United States.

It is important to note that most degree programs in Israel, which are open to international students, are designed for English speakers and are taught in English. There are opportunities for students to take a Hebrew "Ulpan"—an intensive Hebrew study program that is centered around everyday conversations—which will help students navigate the country when traveling.

Academic programs offer a diverse selection of internship programs for students to gain experience in their field of interest during their studies.

Check out Study in Israel's *Israeli Academia magazine*, packed full of information on studying in Israel.

For more information:

- Visit: https://studyisrael.org.il/
- Email: studyisrael@che.org.il
- Facebook: @StudyinIsrael



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Italy

Brief Background

Art and culture play a very important role in a country where beauty, design, good taste, and fashion are an everyday imperative. Italy's charms—a diverse landscape, an immense cultural and historical legacy, iconic and historic sites, incomparable cuisine, an impressive history of inventions and discoveries—are attractive to tourists and international students. Italy boasts the greatest number of UNESCO world heritage sites of any country and is also home of the oldest European university—the University of Bologna, which was established in 1088. This, coupled with high quality university education, makes Italy an ideal place for living and studying.

The Italian education system is composed of public and private universities, national research centers, and higher education institutions in arts, dance, and music (referred to as *alta formazione artistica e musicale* or AFAM). The 2022 *Times Higher Education World University Rankings* ranked 51 Italian universities among the top 1,000 universities in the world.

According to the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research, approximately 115,000 international students were pursuing degree programs in 2020-2022. Italy is the second-leading destination country in the world for US students studying abroad, only after Spain, according to

Italy invests in international students to achieve SDGS

Focused on increasing the number of youth and adults with relevant skills for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship, per the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation funds a scholarship program to help students from around the world reach their cultural and human potential. Students from nearly 100 countries, many from developing nations, are selected to pursue master's and doctoral research programs at Italian higher education institutions.

IIE's 2022 Open Doors report. In 2019-2020, almost 20,000 US students studied in Italy for academic credit, a reduction from previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2018-2019, for example, 39,000 US students studied in Italy.

Italian universities use the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), which is designed to facilitate international mobility within different educational systems. It is a central tool in the Bologna Process, which aims to make academic credits more easily transferable between different national education systems. Italy is also part of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), the result of collaborative efforts of 49 countries to reform higher education on the basis of common key values.

For participating countries, the main goal is to increase staff and students' mobility and to facilitate employability. International students enrolled in Italian universities benefit from these policies.

The Uni-Italia association—founded jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Education, University and Research, and the Ministry of Interior—has the aim of promoting Italian higher education to foreign students and researchers and encouraging academic cooperation between Italy and other foreign countries. Uni-Italia works closely with Italian diplomatic offices across the globe and cooperates with the Italian cultural institutes and the Italian consulates abroad.

Good to Know

Bachelor's degrees are known as *laurea*, or first cycle degrees, and last three years. A high school diploma is the common requirement for admission to a first cycle degree. Students who are interested in continuing their studies can pursue a master's degree or *laurea magistrale,* which may be required for work in certain fields. These programs typically last two years.

For some subjects (i.e., law, medicine and surgery, veterinary science, dentistry and dental prostheses, pharmacy, chemistry and pharmaceutical technology, architecture, building engineering, and primary education sciences) there is a common study path without division between bachelor's and master's degrees. Called a single cycle master's degree *(laurea magistrale a ciclo unico),* such programs can last from five to six years depending on the subject. To be admitted, students need to have a high school diploma and meet other subject-specific criteria.



For example, applicants for medicine, veterinary science, and dentistry (which are *numerus clausus* programs—a process used to manage enrollment size), must pass a national exam that can be in Italian or English, and which takes place on the same day and time at all Italian universities. The results are valid at the national level.

Students interested in arts, music, dance, and theater can apply to AFAM institutions to acquire knowledge of artistic methods and techniques. As at universities, AFAM students spend three years to get a first level academic diploma and two years for a second-level academic diploma.

Most courses are taught in Italian, but many courses (almost 700 bachelor's and master's degrees) are also offered in English. An international student can choose to apply to a course fully taught in English or fully taught in Italian. Applicants to English courses may be required to submit an English proficiency certificate. For courses taught in Italian, international students have to hold a certificate of proficiency in Italian with a grade above the B2 level, or pass an Italian language exam to be admitted. These exams typically take place each year at the beginning of September. Visit the Italiana website for additional information on language certification.



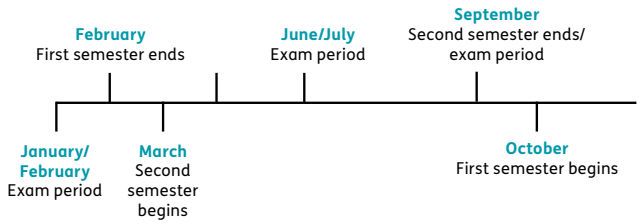
Photo courtesy of Carly Cornell

"Classes here are very theoretical. They may take some getting used to at first, but in the end, it is interesting to be exposed to a new approach to university education. Academics can be difficult at any of the world's top universities, but if you attend university in Italy, at least you'll be living the dolce vita in the process!"

—Carly Cornell, Pennsylvania, Bocconi University

Academic Calendar

Depending on the institution and program, the academic year is generally divided into two semesters: the first one starts in October and ends in February (with a break for Christmas and New Year's), and the second one starts in March and ends in September (with a break in August for summer holidays). Each semester, a certain number of weeks are devoted to lessons and the other weeks are dedicated to exams. Students are required to take an exam at the end of each course, which may be written and/or oral. The length of exam sessions may vary among universities, but they are usually held in the months of January-February, June-July, and September.



In response to the pandemic, Italian universities activated a taskforce to manage any possible campus impacts related to the coronavirus outbreak. Universities also moved their courses, exams, and graduation sessions online. Depending on an array of factors, including the number of infected, ICU admission rates, and other factors, the Italian government may sanction the opening or closing of universities, moving educational activities either partially or entirely online. Many universities developed their own apps to allow students to book a seat in classrooms for in-person lectures. This innovation helped avoid overcrowded classes. Students who are not able to attend classes in person can continue to follow classes online. The Italian Ministry of Health updates its website on a daily basis with useful information about the spread of COVID-19 in Italy.

Search

For more information about the availability of university courses taught fully in English, enrollment requirements, and visa information, visit the following websites:

- Universitaly run by the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research
- Study in Italy run by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Uni-Italia, an association that promotes academic study in Italy

Apply

Applications are made directly to each institution. Deadlines, required documents, language certificates, etc., can vary across Italian institutions. Some may require students to participate in an interview using Skype or another online communication tools.

Medicine, veterinary science, architecture, health care professions, and primary education sciences are courses of study with restricted admission because the number of applicants is greater than the number of spots available in the course of study. Each year, the Italian Ministry of Education establishes a quota for the number of international students who can be admitted.

Deadlines

Each institution/program sets its own deadlines, so students should check each university's website.

Application Fees

It is common for higher education institutions to charge an application fee—typically several dozen euros. The amount varies by institution.

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to an Italian university, international students have to demonstrate academic eligibility for university study in their country of origin. Examples include a US high school diploma or an IB diploma. Students can apply before completing high school, but will need to submit their official documents once available.

Italian citizens with a foreign qualification should verify with the institution to which they wish to apply that it is recognized. Academic qualifications issued by foreign authorities must be accompanied by the documents indicated by the university. Citizens are eligible to gain access to specialized university courses that are restricted for international applicants.

Demonstration of Italian language skills is mandatory for enrolling in courses taught in Italian. If a course is entirely taught in English, students will be required to prove their command of the English language. Always check with Italian institutions as to whether a student's English studies are sufficient to meet this requirement. In these cases, an Italian language test is not required.

Upon Acceptance

Each higher education institution will provide admitted students with useful information about next steps, such as documents to translate or to have authenticated through Italian diplomatic representatives at their local consulate or embassy. Once students arrive in Italy, they need to bring all the documents released and sealed by the Italian representatives to their university to finalize enrollment.

Before enrolling in an Italian university, international students pursuing a bachelor's or master's degree must complete a pre-enrollment process through the *Universitaly* portal. This is different from having a letter of acceptance and enrolling at the university. This process must be completed before applying for a student visa.

Usually, this procedure starts in March and finishes in November but, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many deadlines could be postponed.

Tuition and Fees

Regular tuition fees for EU and non-EU students depend on the student's family income and on the program. On average, public institutions charge 900 to 4,000 euros per year; private institutions charge 6,000 to 20,000 euros per year, not including living expenses and books. In some cases, students need to pay the first installment in advance. The tuition fees may be covered by institutional merit-based scholarships offered annually to talented international students.

Housing

Students are encouraged to rent a place to live before leaving for Italy. Many higher education institutions have an office that can help international students find housing.

Renting a private room in an apartment with shared facilities (bathroom, kitchen, etc.) is a popular option for students because the price is more affordable compared to renting an individual apartment. The price for a private room in a shared apartment is around 300 to 600 euros; the price for an entire apartment could be more than 800 euros. Prices will vary depending on size, location, and city, as well as other factors, such as the apartment's proximity to public transportation and universities.

Depending on a student's financial status and academic merit, students may be eligible for university housing.

Visa and Other Permits

US citizens are eligible to enter Italy without a visa for study reasons for a period of time shorter than 90 days. If students are applying for a study course that is more than 90 days, they need to apply for a student visa through the Italian embassy or consulate in the US prior to departing for Italy. The student visa, called National Visa Type D, is needed to apply for a student residence permit.

To get a student visa, several documents have to be submitted to the Italian diplomatic or consular representatives, which include evidence of the ability to cover living expenses in Italy (approximately 6,000 euros per year) plus the amount of money needed to rent a room/apartment.

Students must apply for a residence permit (which costs about 120 euros) within eight working days of their arrival in Italy. Before applying for a residence permit, which is valid for one year, students need to get a fiscal code *(codice fiscale)* at Italy's Revenue Agency *(Agenzia delle Entrate)* and obtain health insurance.

International students who apply for a residence permit may take out private health insurance, which is very limited and only covers urgent medical assistance. If students prefer to have wider coverage, they can sign up with the national health service *(servizio sanitario nazionale)*. This guarantees full health care and ensures students

receive the same treatment as Italian citizens. Registration lasts for a year (from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31), is not divisible, and costs about 150 euros. US students who already have private health insurance should check with the Italian diplomatic representatives at their local embassy or consulate as to whether it provides coverage in Italy.

Non-EU students who have a residence permit for study purposes can work part-time for a total of 20 hours a week. Work does not have to be related to students' academic program, but should students work in a related field, they are eligible to gain credits through the ECTS system.

Italian citizens living abroad do not need to complete the pre-enrollment procedure through the *Universitaly* portal. Additionally, citizens do not need to apply for a student visa or residence permit.

Advice from the Field

Students can send questions to Uni-Italia, a nonprofit organization that supports internationalization of Italian higher education institutions, with offices located at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Counselors can reach out to Uni-Italia using the following methods:

1. Email: student@uni-italia.it
2. Phone: (+39) 06 3691 2651
3. Facebook: @UniItaliaRome
4. Twitter: https://twitter.com/uni_italia
5. Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/uni_italia_official/
6. Website: https://www.uni-italia.net/

Though English is spoken widely at universities, Italian is the common language outside the campuses. To enjoy the Italian lifestyle, students are encouraged to learn some Italian before and during their studies.

Graduates of Italian higher education institutions in fields strongly associated with Italy and Italian culture—such as engineering, music, arts, medicine, design, architecture, fashion, economy, and gastronomy—may have an edge over other competitors in the job market.



Photo courtesy of Carly Cornell

"There are three reasons I always give when people ask me [why I decided to pursue an undergraduate degree outside the United States]: it's more affordable, it's only three years, and it's Italy! Though my university is one of the more expensive in Italy, my entire three-year degree will cost less than one year of tuition at some of the US universities I was considering."

—Carly Cornell, Pennsylvania, Bocconi University


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Japan

Brief Background

In 2008, the Japanese government announced plans to bring 300,000 international students to Japan by 2020. The Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) reports that international students in Japan numbered 312,214 in 2019, allowing them to achieve the goal of the government plan. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted international student enrollment since 2020 and has witnessed its decline. According to JASSO's annual survey of international students, there were 242,444 international students studying in Japan in 2021, including 1,172 American students.

National Seven Universities

- University of Tokyo
- Kyoto University
- Tohoku University
- Kyushu University
- Hokkaido University
- Osaka University
- Nagoya University

There are hundreds of local and national universities in Japan, varying in size, reputation, and institutional control. The University of Tokyo (known as Todai) and the Kyoto University (known as Kyodai) are considered Japan's top two universities. They are Japan's version of Ivy League institutions referred to as the National Seven Universities or the former Imperial Universities.

Though English-taught programs have existed at Japanese universities for decades, the Japanese government has selected 13 universities as members of its Global 30 initiative, which aims to increase the number of programs taught in English as a way to attract more international students to Japan's most prestigious institutions. No Japanese proficiency is required at the time of admission to these programs. Note that most of these universities offer only a small number of openings in just a few academic areas.

In 2014, the Japanese government announced special funding for 37 universities through its Top Global Universities Project, part of an effort to boost the presence of Japanese universities in global rankings. Most but not all of these

universities offer courses taught in English; students should carefully check the departments at each university to determine whether English-taught programs are offered.

In addition to English-taught programs, some universities such as Kyoto University and Osaka University are introducing a new bilingual program where students can study in English for a couple of years and then shift their language of instruction to Japanese (Kyoto University International Undergraduate Program [iUP] and Osaka University International Undergraduate Program in Science [IUPS]). This would be a good option for those who would like to pursue a specific field of study as well as enhance their Japanese reading, writing, and speaking skills to the academic level.

In 2020, 63 Japanese universities were ranked in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, which assess universities against the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This shows the strong commitment of Japanese universities to the achieving SDGs.



Photo courtesy of Sheena Kanon Leong

"For students who may be looking for a way to refresh themselves after a long semester of studying, there is always something uniquely Japanese and valuable that will never be found elsewhere. Coming here will definitely offer students a way to work hard and play hard."

—Sheena Kanon Leong, California, Osaka University

Good to Know

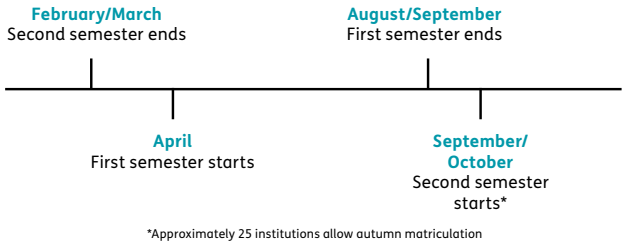
To earn a bachelor's degree, a student must study at a university for at least four years. There are no programs in medicine, dentistry, or veterinary science offered in English.

Despite the growth in English-taught programs, many students wishing to study in Japan enroll in a year-long Japanese language course before beginning their academic program. Some universities offer private language programs. Students also have the option of enrolling in separate language institutes. These programs typically educate students about Japanese language, society, and culture.

By law, Japanese universities cannot accept students who will be under age 18 on the first day of their freshman year. If the applicant will be under 18, it may be possible to apply to some universities as a nontraditional student.

Academic Calendar

Most educational institutions in Japan start their academic year in April. The long holiday seasons are usually in the summer (end of July to early September), winter (end of December to early January) and spring (February to March). There are approximately 25 universities in Japan at which students may matriculate in the autumn. Some institutions are moving to a quarter system to facilitate entry at various points throughout the year.



Students beginning programs in the fall who wish to work in Japan after graduation should be aware that companies typically hire new workers to begin in April. Considering this challenge, some programs offer a fast-track graduation plan, which means that students are able to start the academic year in September, graduate in March, 3½ years later, and then begin work in April.

Search

Students can use JASSO or Univ. In Japan to search for a degree program taught in English, with autumn matriculation, and with admission procedures and assessment standards similar to those in North America.

Each faculty or department within a university typically has a profile or policy that details the requirements and demands of its program. These profiles may be useful in helping students evaluate their options.

Admission Pathway for Expats

An increasing number of returnee students (expats), or *kikokusei* in Japanese, are interested in coming back to Japan for college, and Japanese universities offer a special admission pathway for these students. Admission requirements, processes, and application documents vary from college to college. Please visit the website of each institution to learn about the *kikokushijo* admission pathway.

Apply

Students must apply directly to a Japanese university and to the specific college or program within the university where they hope to enroll. Traditionally, the faculty of each program review and select applicants. However, some universities are beginning to adopt elements of a more holistic admission review process at the behest of Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Additionally, applications to English-taught degree programs may be reviewed by an admission office dedicated specifically to international applicants, with input from faculty.

Many Global 30 schools require an interview component as part of the admission process, but this can be conducted virtually. Some universities also require additional tests; students should check with individual institutions for more details. The SAT or the ACT is accepted (and in many cases required) at almost all universities with English-taught programs.

Students within the Japanese secondary school system are selected based on their results on a competitive nationwide exam, but international students are exempt from this requirement. However, note that the English translations of admission procedures that appear on many university websites use the term examination to refer to all admission methods, which can be confusing.

International students can apply for admission to undergraduate professional degree programs, such as law or medicine, at Japanese universities. These programs are highly competitive and require a high level of Japanese proficiency prior to applying. These programs are not available at all institutions, students should contact universities directly for more information.

Students should be aware that application requirements vary depending upon the university and program. The requirements can be quite

rigid, with the applicant having to follow a set format for completion of the forms or production of application essays. Failure to adhere to the published guidelines can result in an applicant being denied.

Deadlines

Deadlines vary greatly, and many universities have two or even three admission deadlines within the same academic year. If applying to multiple Japanese universities, students are advised to choose one application window and submit their materials to all institutions during that timeframe. Check with each institution to confirm its deadlines.



Photo courtesy of Sheena Kanon Leong

"Japan is also famous for being one of the safest countries to live in. That being said, adhering to Japan's cultural norms may take some time to get used to, but a little observation and practice goes a long way."

—Sheena Kanon Leong, California, Osaka University

Application Fees

Application fees vary by institution, but the average fee is between 5,000 and 35,000 yen and is non-refundable. Additionally, if accepted, a student must pay an entrance/admission fee of between 200,000 and 300,000 yen, on average. The entrance/admission fee should be understood as a contribution to the university; it is not considered part of tuition fees.

Admission Requirements

By law, Japanese higher education institutions can only enroll students who have a high school diploma following 12 years of schooling. Many universities are familiar with the IB Diploma, but they will not accept exam scores for college credit. The same applies to Advanced Placement (AP) exams. However, advanced classes and extracurricular involvement related to the desired program of study will strengthen a student's application.

Students applying to programs taught in Japanese will be required to pass an Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU). Administered by JASSO, it evaluates both Japanese language skills and other basic academic abilities.

In 2020, JASSO canceled the first EJU session held in June due to the spread of COVID-19. In response to this situation, colleges provided applicants with special consideration for the 2021 admission cycle, such as accepting the EJU score from 2019 or using the Japanese Language Proficiency Test scores. Currently EJU is being offered, though impacts from the pandemic are still being evaluated. Check the most updated college admission information with individual institutions.

Upon Acceptance

Students should follow the directions for accepting an admission offer provided by the university. Once accepted, there is a narrow range of dates within which a student must commit to entry,

which includes paying a deposit equivalent to the entire tuition for the first semester. Once a student has committed, the university—most likely the international student office— will supply a Certificate of Eligibility to be used as part of the visa application process.

Tuition and Fees

Annual tuition at national and local public institutions typically ranges between 535,000 and 931,000 yen. Private university undergraduate tuition varies based on the course of study pursued, ranging anywhere between 1,108,000 and 4,189,000 yen. The cost of tuition for studies in medicine and other professional science fields are at the higher end of this scale. International students pay the same tuition and fees as domestic students.

International students can apply for scholarships from universities, private foundations, local governments, JASSO, and MEXT. It is important to note that students cannot receive a MEXT scholarship and a JASSO scholarship simultaneously. According to a 2019-2020 JASSO Survey, 33.4 percent of international students receive scholarship funding to study in Japan.

In addition to scholarships, some universities also offer application fee waivers. Inquiries about these opportunities can be directed to individual universities.

Housing

While most international students choose to live in private apartments or homes, privately-run off-campus student dormitories tend to be a cheaper option—in part because most apartments are not furnished and, in some cases, appliances must also be purchased. A university's international student services office or admission representative can typically recommend housing options or connect students with area landlords or real estate agents. Some universities have on-campus dorms; however, only a limited number of students are able to live there. According to the 2019-2020 JASSO Survey, the average monthly rent paid by students is 35,000 yen, with the Tokyo metropolitan area being the most expensive with rent upward of 41,000 yen. The average monthly cost of living for an international student in Japan, including rent, is approximately 148,000 yen.

Students staying in Japan for more than a year must register for national health insurance and pay yearly premiums of approximately 20,000 yen. Insurance covers 70 percent of medical bills with the remaining 30 percent the responsibility of the individual.

Visa and Other Permits

Students must apply for a visa before traveling to Japan and will need the Certificate of Eligibility issued by their institution to do so. Students planning to live and pursue university study in Japan for more than three months must obtain a residence card. They must carry their College Student Residence Status card with them at all times.

US citizens are exempt from paying all Japanese visa fees, including fees for student visas.



Students who want to work part-time while studying in Japan must submit an application to a regional immigration office. They may not begin part-time work until that application has been approved. Students may not work more than 28 hours a week (there is no maximum number of hours per day), but may work up to 40 hours a week (eight hours a day) during summer break or other vacation periods.

Following graduation, international students can work in Japan as long as they have a job related to their major and receive a salary equivalent to a Japanese national employee. Without satisfying both of these requirements, the student cannot change their status of residency (i.e., acquire a work visa). Students who do not secure a job immediately can remain in Japan for job-seeking activities for a maximum of one year following graduation.



Japanese universities pride themselves on their ability to help their graduates secure jobs in Japan, and much of a student's final undergraduate year is spent job-hunting, with comprehensive support provided by the university.

Advice from the Field

Since there are well-established and reputable universities offering September entry to English-taught programs, the start date should be an important criterion for students and counselors when selecting academic programs. Japan is a relatively safe country with a low crime rate. However, prospective international students should be aware that drug laws are strict and equally applied to foreigners and Japanese citizens. Use or possession of even small amounts of a prohibited drug can result in a prison sentence of one to 10 years, as well as a fine. Individuals arrested in Japan may be held without bail for two to three months during a police investigation and legal proceedings.

Japanese universities are looking to diversify and American students are well sought after. Be aware, however, that English is not widely spoken in Japan, so basic knowledge of Japanese or a desire to learn the language is highly beneficial. The terms international or global appear frequently in some university course descriptions and publicity, but that is no guarantee that all students or professors are fluent in English. It is worth investigating how many professors have studied overseas or the percentage of students from outside Japan within a given university or program. Universities that include these statistics prominently on their websites have likely made a sincere effort to internationalize the education they provide.

Following graduation, international students can stay connected to their institution and fellow graduates by joining an alumni-initiated group in Japan, should they stay to continue their education or work in Japan, or an alumni-initiated group back in their home country or new country of residence. Some universities have designated offices operating in different countries. Students can contact these offices or the universities directly for more detailed information about available networks.



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1-14-29 Taishido, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 154-0004, Japan
E-mail: ac@tuj.temple.edu Tel: +81-3-5441-9800
www.tuj.ac.jp/undergrad

The Netherlands

Brief Background

The Netherlands hosted more than 115,068 international students in 2021-2022, representing 14 percent of all students. The Netherlands was the first country on the European continent to widely offer programs taught in English. A high level of English proficiency nationwide and hundreds of English-taught bachelor's programs make the country an attractive destination for students. The Netherlands is also near some of Europe's most popular travel destinations and has a reputation as one of the safest countries in the world.

The Dutch are historically explorers, inventors, and entrepreneurs, and this legacy continues to be a driving force in Dutch academia. The Netherlands boasts strong science, architecture, economics, and engineering programs, as well as a thriving creative sector of designers, journalists, artists, and film producers.

Although small in size, the Netherlands is a strong academic force. All of the thirteen Dutch research universities rank among the top 250 universities in the world, according to the 2022 *Times Higher Education World University Rankings.*

Higher education in the Netherlands aims to bring people, the environment, and the economy into equilibrium, and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals are evident in this effort. Dutch higher education institutions integrate sustainability in their research, education, architecture, and business operations. Students can get involved with clubs and organizations on-campus focused on sustainability, in addition

Research Universities

Research universities are a good fit for students who like asking "why" questions and for students who enjoy abstract thinking, building analytical skills, and pondering theoretical questions. The emphasis is on learning to look analytically and critically at the way a certain field can be approached. Students learn to present convincing oral and written arguments and to draw conclusions from them. Students are expected to study of their own initiative, have self-discipline and independence.

to the over 400 bachelor and master programs that involve sustainability in some manner. Furthermore, institutions are working on more sustainable student mobility, building sustainable partnerships, working on global development, as well as diversity and inclusion initiatives.

Good to Know

Higher education in the Netherlands is a binary system featuring research-oriented and profession-oriented institutions. Research-oriented programs—*wetenschappelijk onderwijs* or WO—are available at 13 public research universities. Among these research universities, some are general comprehensive institutions and others are universities of technology, specializing in technology, engineering, or agriculture. Academic programs focus on theoretical aspects of the field of study and prepare students to undertake independent research. Many programs offer internships and study abroad opportunities; minors are also possible. Bachelor's programs are typically three years in length. The vast majority of students continue on to complete a master's degree, a process which typically lasts an additional one to two years. Over the past 20 years, Dutch universities have created university colleges, or selective honors colleges, that follow a liberal arts and sciences curriculum. These international programs are relatively small—between 300 to 900 students—and are often residential to foster a tight-knit community of students within the larger research university.

Profession-oriented education, or professional higher education—referred to as *hoger beroepsonderwijs* or HBO—is offered by 36 universities of applied sciences, called *hogescholen*. These programs prepare students for particular professions, tend to be practically oriented, and include internships and minors in the last two years of study. The programs lead to four-year bachelor's degrees. Though less common than at research universities, students can continue on to master's programs at universities of applied sciences. Graduates of these universities can also apply to research universities to complete a graduate-level qualification; however this will likely require a bridge year in which research skills and specific preparatory requirements are taught.

Dutch professors often encourage student participation and questions. The Dutch teaching style is often interactive, student-centered, and focuses on teamwork. Students learn not only to operate at an academic level, but also to work independently on real-world issues—just as they will later in their careers.



Photo courtesy of Malachi Shapiro

"Living internationally and leaving everyone you know behind is definitely challenging. However, it's incredibly rewarding to meet and study with people from all around the world. We are encouraged to work together and learn in groups, so I can comfortably organize study sessions and share notes to engage in the learning process with my classmates."

—Malachi Shapiro, Pennsylvania, University College Utrecht

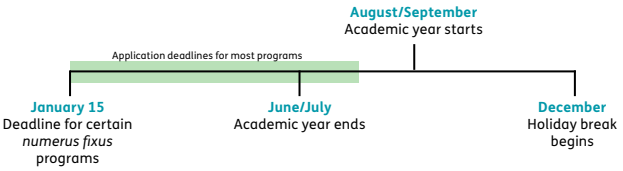
Universities of Applied Sciences

Universities of applied sciences are a good fit for students who like to ask "how" questions, as they provide opportunities for concrete, practical learning. Students apply knowledge and work in a solutions-oriented way. The educational experience is directed toward the acquisition of competences. Programs at universities of applied sciences usually involve more contact hours as compared to research-oriented programs. More time is spent on each topic at a relatively relaxed teaching speed.

Under a code of conduct created in 2006, and renewed every five years, participating higher education institutions commit to provide reliable and easily accessible information for international students about their programs of study, accreditation status, admission process and requirements, and similar policies.

Academic Calendar

The academic year generally begins in late August or early September and ends in June or July, with a holiday break in December/January.



The academic year is 42 weeks long and is either divided into two semesters or four blocks or periods.

Search

Study in Holland includes a course search; scholarship finder; and information about visas, housing, daily expenses, working while studying, learning Dutch, and more. Study in Holland is run by Nuffic, the official independent, nonprofit organization based in The Hague that supports internationalization in higher education, research, and professional education. Students can also search study programs taught in English. Note that Dutch citizens living abroad who want to study in a Dutch-taught program should research the level of language proficiency required for that program.

Studielink, a Dutch national enrollment system for degree-seeking university students, also provides a complete list of Dutch institutions.

Apply

Applying to a bachelor's program in the Netherlands generally involves applying to the program of choice and registering for free on Studielink.

Step 1: Decide on the program(s) and institution(s) of choice.

Step 2: Check the admission requirements of the university and entry requirements of the specific program. Requirements and application processes differ not only from institution to institution, but also from program to program within institutions. Check if any matching activities are required.

A matching process may be used to determine if a program is a good fit for the student. This can take place via online skills testing, questionnaires, tests about the student's interests, an interview or meeting, a letter of motivation (see below), or other requirement. Taking part in the matching process may be mandatory, but the outcome is only advisory, not binding.

Step 3: Confirm the deadlines of the specific program.

Step 4: Check the program's application instructions. Most application processes will include both an application to the specific program as well as registration in Studielink. The program instructions will tell you in what order to complete these two steps. Follow all instructions from both the institution and Studielink.

To submit an application to the program(s) of interest, you will need to do so through an online system. Supporting documents, such as transcripts and a copy of your passport, may be requested. Note that a letter of motivation and letters of recommendation are not required by the majority of programs.

> Letters of motivation give students the opportunity to explain their interest in the program of study. University colleges and other selective programs typically use these letters as an official criterion of admission, whereas other institutions may not use them at all.

To register with Studielink, create an account and register your applications. Students may register for up to four programs in Studielink, only two of which can be *numerus fixus* programs, though exceptions exist.

> *Numerus fixus* programs are highly selective programs, including medicine; physiotherapy; psychology; and some types of business, which have a capped number of seats available. (The programs listed are a few examples and do not represent the exhaustive list of programs available.)

Deadlines

Deadlines generally range from Dec. 1 through July 1 depending on the nationality of the student (for visa purposes) and the particular program. Some programs offer rolling admission. The deadline for all *numerus fixus* programs is Jan. 15. A single university may have a different deadline for each academic program, so students should check the deadline of the specific program to which they are applying.

Application Fees

Some institutions require application fees. Students should confirm whether application fees are required by their prospective program and/or institution.

Admission Requirements

Nuffic (a higher education organization) equates certain diplomas around the world to either the Dutch HAVO diploma or the Dutch VWO. Typically, an accredited US high school diploma is deemed equivalent to a Dutch HAVO diploma and would allow application to a university of applied science. An accredited US high school diploma, combined with a minimum number of Advanced Placement (AP) courses (usually three or four) and sufficient scores on AP exams (typically 3 or higher), full IB diplomas (and many more international credentials) are recognized as equivalent to the Dutch VWO, allowing application to research universities.

Higher education in the Netherlands is a right for those who are qualified. As such, for most programs, admission decisions are based on diploma equivalencies. A smaller proportion of programs will have additional selection criteria and are only allowed to select students for specific reasons.



Numerus Fixus

Numerus fixus designations are typically given to highly popular subjects in an effort to control numbers of enrollments. All *numerus fixus* programs have a minimum of two selection criteria. These criteria will be outlined per program on the program websites and can include grades, standardized tests, international experience, letters of recommendation, and more.

Some programs at certain universities may be designated *numerus fixus* while not having that same status at others, and this can change from year to year.

Special Status Programs

Some programs offering an intensive education in a small-scale setting, for instance the university colleges and hotel schools, are selective and use a holistic admission process similar to universities and colleges in the United States. Each program utilizes a process unique to the institution where it is based. University colleges, for instance, tend to look for students who are highly engaged in their studies and who have contributed to the student community. Motivation, as demonstrated in a personal statement, is important, and so is academic achievement. Some of these programs require interviews as part of the admission process.

These are conducted by faculty and explore students' academic motivation, commitment, and curiosity. When required, interviews can be conducted virtually.

Fine arts, performing arts, and hospitality also have special status and may require auditions, interviews, or the submission of a portfolio. These talent-driven programs also consider motivation and prior academic performance.

The ACT and SAT are not typically considered as part of the admission process but may be a factor in scholarship decisions. Additional entrance exams are not common, although a very small number of programs may require them. It is important to check with the institution about specific requirements.

There is little standardization of eligibility requirements, application processes, deadlines, or non-European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA) tuition fees in the Netherlands. When in doubt, students should contact an institution directly. The university's admission office ultimately makes all final decisions regarding applications.

Upon Acceptance

Each higher education institution will provide instructions on the acceptance of an admission offer and next steps. This will include practical information about how to arrange housing, visas, and residence permits; instructions for joining social/virtual communities of admitted students; welcome/orientation week schedules; and other pre-departure and arrival information.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition rates for non-EU/EEA citizens are set by each university and usually range from approximately 6,000 to 33,000 euros per year. Tuition fees for students with a passport from the EU, EEA, Switzerland, or Surinam are approximately 2,168 euros for 2022-2023 academic year. A select few programs, among them the university colleges, charge between 3,000–5,000 euros.

The Dutch government and some institutions offer scholarships, financial aid, or some reduced tuition fees under some conditions. These opportunities can be found on individual institutions' websites, or through the Nuffic scholarship overview. FAFSA loans can be used for a few Dutch universities such as Utrecht University, University of Amsterdam, Maastricht University, and VU Amsterdam.

Housing

Due to governing laws in the Netherlands, universities do not have a tradition of on-campus accommodations. Finding good, affordable housing can be a challenge, as there is a shortage. Students will need to take responsibility and start looking for a room as soon as possible. If the university has a housing liaison office, this will be a good place to start. Otherwise, students can work through private organizations or housing corporations, and network through social media groups. It is imperative for students to arrange accommodation prior to arrival in the Netherlands, and their search should start early.

Students will ordinarily have their own private bedroom; rooms that two or more students share together are uncommon. Universities do not typically have a meal plan, although many provide some on-campus dining options.

University colleges operate differently when it comes to student accommodations. Many university colleges in the Netherlands are residential and require students to live in the student residences for all or part of their studies. Single dwellings with many amenities are the most common.

Visa and Other Permits

American citizens do not need visas to enter the Netherlands, but students will need to apply for a residence permit, called an MVV. All students—unless they are Dutch citizens, come from a country that belongs to the EU/EEA, or are from Switzerland—will need a residence permit if staying for more than 90 days. Students cannot apply on their own behalf; the Dutch government has mandated that higher education institutions are responsible for overseeing the visa/residence permit application process for each international student they admit. The institution will inform admitted students about the application procedure and documents needed.

As part of the residence permit application process, all institutions require students to submit documentation confirming that they have sufficient funds to support their living costs; in 2022 this amount was set at 935 euros a month, or approximately 11,220 euros a year. This fee is

adjusted biannually. The application for a regular provisional residence permit (MVV) costs 257 euros. This fee is adjusted biannually.

Residence permits are granted for the full duration of a student's study. They are only terminated when the university reports that the student has completed their studies or did not earn sufficient academic credits to continue.



US students can work a maximum of 16 hours per week while classes are in session and full-time during the summer months of June, July, and August. A student's prospective employer must apply for a work permit on his or her behalf. If a student is employed, they must also purchase Dutch health insurance, which is more expensive than student plans. Students do not need a work permit if they are participating in an internship that is required by their program of study.

Graduating students may opt to stay in the Netherlands for up to one year in order to look for employment. Students interested in this option must apply for an orientation year visa through the Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND). Students have up to three years after graduating to exercise this option. Therefore, if they wish, they can return to their home country or travel elsewhere before deciding to return to search for work. If the student is subsequently offered a position that meets the requirements to work in the Netherlands, her or she will be authorized to do so. It is possible to apply for the orientation year visa both after a bachelor's program and then once again after a master's. More information can be found at the Immigration and Naturalization Service's website.

Advice from the Field

The Dutch government aims to make international students feel welcome in the Netherlands. English is widely spoken and the Dutch welcome international students into their communities. Many universities also offer free Dutch courses, even for students studying in English-taught programs.

English-taught programs at Dutch universities attract students from all over the world. Dutch institutions have ample experience accommodating international students and tend to offer a diverse array of related student support services, clubs, and activities.

University colleges focus on undergraduate study only, and the degree structure can be almost as flexible as a program of study at a US liberal arts college. Early planning is important as some courses have strict prerequisites that students may not meet if they do not prepare early enough in high school. Many business and science programs in the Netherlands, for example, require an advanced level of math. Students should check each program to confirm specific entry requirements.

Within the Dutch higher education system, transferring to the same type of program at a different institution may be possible, though there may be limits on how many credits are accepted. Changing one's program of study is difficult and would most likely require a student to start his or her studies anew.

Each institution will have an alumni office in some form, which offers resources to graduates. In addition, the Netherlands as a whole offers the Holland Alumni Network through Nuffic. Holland alumni are invited to join the network to stay in touch with fellow Holland alumni; join existing communities or establish new ones; and stay informed about upcoming alumni activities across the globe. Alumni can also use the network to find refresher courses as well as news and trends in an area of expertise; share experiences with prospective international students; find information about career opportunities in Holland; and browse internship and job vacancies.



New Zealand

Brief Background

New Zealand has a robust international education strategy that is underpinned by the three pillars of an excellent education and student experience: high-quality education delivery, sustainable growth, and global citizenship. The country has a longstanding reputation for being a safe and welcoming study destination for international students, as set forth in the International Student Wellbeing Strategy released in June 2017. This strategy was designed to protect and enhance this reputation and ensure that international students enjoy a high-quality education and are valued for their contribution to New Zealand.

Over 33,000 international students pursued studies at New Zealand universities in 2019. US student enrollment totaled 2,687 that year, with most American students participating in one-semester study abroad programs at the undergraduate level.

All eight of New Zealand's universities were ranked among the top 500 institutions in the *QS World University Rankings 2022,* placing them among the top 2.5 percent of universities worldwide. New Zealand university programs also ranked among the world's top 50 in several subjects, including law, psychology, civil and structural engineering, dentistry, veterinary sciences, and education.

New Zealand Universities

- Auckland University of Technology
- Lincoln University
- Massey University
- University of Auckland
- University of Canterbury
- University of Otago
- University of Waikato
- Victoria University of Wellington

In addition to its universities, New Zealand is home to Te Pūkenga, formerly 16 independent Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics, which provides applied learning and qualifications ranging from undergraduate certificates to doctoral degrees.

Many students are drawn to New Zealand because of its emphasis on student safety. The country

ranked second out of 163 countries in the 2021 Global Peace Index.

Students and other visitors are also attracted to New Zealand for its magnificent outdoor recreation, mountains, coastlines, glaciers, and hiking trails.

Good to Know

Though English is the predominant language in New Zealand, the two official languages of the country are Te Reo Maori (the Indigenous language) and New Zealand Sign Language. Higher education is known as tertiary education and majors or programs of study are typically referred to as courses.



Photo courtesy of Kristina Gee

"Being a student in New Zealand is great, I have made so many friends from all over the country and the world. Making connections and networking with my peers has made my studies overseas priceless and memorable and that's what university and life is all about."

—Kristina Gee, California, Massey University

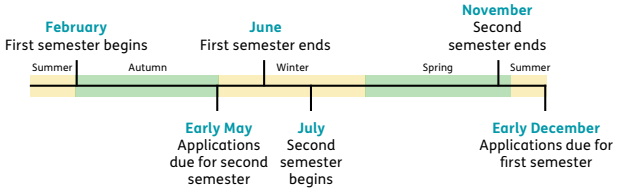
New Zealand's primary and secondary education system is based on the 13-year British model. As such, undergraduate degrees are typically three years in length. A fourth year is an option if students want to pursue an *honours* degree.

When applying, students choose to study a broad area of interest known as a *programme* (i.e., Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts). Once at university, students can more narrowly focus on a specific major. Double degrees and double majors are possible.

New Zealand has established Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021 to ensure the fair treatment of international students in New Zealand. All New Zealand educational institutions hosting international students must comply with the code.

Academic Calendar

For most tertiary institutions the academic year starts in February (the end of New Zealand's summer) and finishes in November (late spring). Although the year is usually divided into two semesters with the second semester starting in July, a third term—known as a summer semester—is becoming more common. A summer semester will run from November to February.



Search

Students can explore specific programs and courses, including professional degrees, at the Study with New Zealand website, the official government site for advice on studying abroad in New Zealand.

Enrollment Timing

The difference in academic calendars between the US and New Zealand has implications for the timing of a US student's transition to a New Zealand university. US students who want to begin in February for semester one, which is when most students enroll, might consider a gap experience after completing high school in May or June. A gap experience may include entering the workforce or taking classes at a community college. Others may opt for a quick transition after graduation and begin during semester two, with orientation programs typically offered in mid-July.

Apply

Students apply directly to universities. Application forms are available online but some documents, including certified copies of academic transcripts and a résumé, may need to be delivered by mail or international courier service. It is best to confirm individual requirements with preferred institutions.

Students who wish to begin in the second semester in July may be admitted conditionally, pending the submission of their high school diploma.

Deadlines

Deadlines vary considerably, so students should carefully check institutional websites for details. Generally speaking, students should submit their applications approximately three months before the start of their intended first semester. Thus, students should apply by early December to enroll for *semester one* (late February start) and by early May to begin studies in "begin studies in *Semester Two*" (July start) with their preferred institutions for more details.

Upon Acceptance

Accepted students will receive an *offer of place* that confirms course and program details as well as start dates. An invoice for tuition fees covering tuition for the full academic year will also be included. Before receiving a visa to enter New Zealand, students must provide evidence that they have paid their tuition fees in full for their first year of study. Payments are made directly to the institution.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees vary across universities and programs. Information is available on respective university websites and the Universities New Zealand website. Generally, the cost of undergraduate tuition and fees for an international student is NZ$23,000 to NZ$33,000 per year.

US students are eligible to use direct loans from the US Federal Student Aid program at the University of Auckland, University of Otago, Massey University, and Victoria University of Wellington.

Housing

Residential colleges are halls of residence provided by the university where students can lease a single-occupancy room for their academic year of study, somewhat similar to US dormitories. Residential colleges offer meal plans and other support services, such as academic tutorials for key first-year classes. Most international students live in a campus residential college during their first year but later on move to private or independent accommodations with other students (known in New Zealand as flatting). Some students choose to live in a residential college for two or even three years. Students may need to submit an essay and additional personal information to obtain a place in a residential college. Further information about accommodation options can be acquired from university websites.



Based on various university websites, estimates for housing costs (both flatting and halls of residence) range from NZ$11,000 to NZ$20,000 annually.

Visa and Other Permits

Students will need to apply for a visa to study full-time in New Zealand. Students need to pay the full cost of their courses and enroll with an approved education provider. US citizens do not have to pay a fee for their visa application but may be required to pay an International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) of NZ$35 as part of the application process. The levy is to help pay for conservation and tourism infrastructure. Visit the Immigration New Zealand website for further information on requirements and the application process.

With this visa students can:

- Study full-time at the course stated on their visa.
- Work part-time up to 20 hours a week while studying or full-time during the holidays, depending on the visa conditions.
- Live alone, if they meet minimum age requirements.

Things to note

Students must have enough money to pay tuition fees and living expenses while in New Zealand. The student visa is normally for the same length of time as the program of study the student has paid for. For example, if a student pays for a year of study and demonstrates sufficient funds to cover living costs for a year, they will receive a visa for that year.

Health care for visitors on a student visa is charged on a pay-as-you-go basis; most accidents are covered by New Zealand's Accident Compensation Corporation, which helps to provide emergency treatment and services to anyone injured in New Zealand. International students must be able to show they have comprehensive international travel and health insurance. This is a legal requirement (per the Code of Practice), and the university's international admission office will confirm that students have current and appropriate coverage. Students engaged in degree studies at the undergraduate level or higher are eligible to apply for a Post Study Work Visa.

Depending on the qualification and location of study, students can work for any employer for up to three years. Visit the Immigration New Zealand website for more information on post-study work visas.

Note About Visas and the Pandemic

Entry to New Zealand from all countries has been strictly controlled throughout the global pandemic to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

During the pandemic, international students have been able to study at New Zealand universities online without a visa. Evidence of online study can support a student's visa application. Normal visa processing for student visas will resume in October 2022.

Advice from the Field

Counselors can contact New Zealand institutions directly to ask about entrance requirements, visa requirements, and more. Counselors are invited to direct general questions about studying in New Zealand to northamerica@enz.govt.nz.

US students applying to New Zealand universities typically need to do thorough independent research about particular institutions and programs. Prospective students and applicants may not experience the same level of engagement and communication from a New Zealand institution as they would from a US college.

New Zealand is generally an easy and safe place to live—an attractive feature for many, as is its stunning natural beauty. New Zealand is also a diverse country. Auckland is the largest Polynesian city in the world, for example, and you will have people from all over the world in your classes.



Photo courtesy of Kristina Gee

"The application process was easy and didn't cost anything, people overseas were always willing to help. The university provided a process that was simple and personal."

—Kristina Gee, California, Massey University

Classes at New Zealand universities are often lecture-style and relatively large. This might be an important consideration if a student is looking for a more intimate academic experience.

There are a number of alumni networking opportunities available for New Zealand alumni. In addition to various "Study In New Zealand" social media alumni groups, each university has its own alumni association and regularly hosts events in the US. Additionally, Kiwi Expats Abroad (KEA) is an international organization which aims to connect Kiwi expats and alumni with one another to find global opportunities. Alumni are also encouraged to get in touch with a local honorary consul, consulate-general, or embassy to stay in the loop for New Zealand events.

Students and counselors are also encouraged to explore NauMai NZ, the official government site for international students studying or about to study in New Zealand. Nau mai in Te Reo is an invitation and a welcome, and this platform is designed to welcome each individual student to prepare them for their time in New Zealand. NauMai NZ is underpinned by the values of *manaakitanga*—to welcome, host, and care for visitors with respect and generosity.

The platform addresses international students' needs for accurate, relevant, and easily available information on topics including visa conditions, work rights, how to "live like a local," suggestions to improve well-being, and help with understanding Kiwi slang and Te Reo. The content was designed with input from students on the information they most wanted and needed.

South Korea

Brief Background

South Korea, officially known as the Republic of Korea, has seen a rapid increase in international students in recent years. In 2021 there were nearly 152,281 international students enrolled in Korean institutions. The Korean government is actively working to internationalize universities and develop international student support systems with the aim of increasing that number to 200,000 by 2023. In 2021, there were 2,218 American students in South Korea, making the US the seventh-leading country of origin within Korea's international student population.

Higher education institutions in Korea are largely divided into junior colleges (two- to three-year programs), universities (four-year programs), and graduate schools. The majority of institutions are private, with only 58 public institutions out of 413 nationwide. The International Education Quality Assurance System (IEQAS)—a national structure—ensures Korean universities offer global competitiveness and desirable conditions for international students. Under the system, a joint delegation from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Justice monitor and assess universities' educational responsibilities to international students, with IEQAS certification awarded to those meeting the required standards. In 2021, the number of IEQAS-certified institutions in South Korea was 132 degree programs (comprising 110 universities, eight junior colleges, and 13 graduate school universities) and 106 Korean language programs (comprising 92 universities, four junior colleges, and 10 graduate school universities).

Good to Know

South Korean university degrees generally take at least four years to complete, with some variation depending on the field of study. Most universities offer English-taught programs, the number of which is steadily increasing.

International students may pursue associate, bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees in diverse academic fields by enrolling at a Korean university or college as a full-time student. Classes are often conducted in Korean, but reading materials are generally in English and coursework can usually be written and submitted in English. There is also an increasing number of programs that are offered entirely in English.

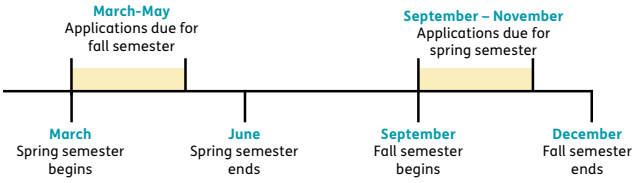
Many South Korean universities have an affiliated Korean language center that provides intensive training to prospective international students and others interested in learning the language. Programs last from 10 to 12 weeks, but some universities also offer short-term programs of two to six weeks.

Universities generally require students to have achieved at least a level 3 on the Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) before enrolling in a degree-seeking program. Students who achieve level 2 must take more than 300 hours of Korean language study for a year after entering university. Universities offer Korean language training courses to help enrolling students bring their language proficiency to the required standard, however this requirement can be waived for students applying to programs delivered entirely in English, or for certain programs with separate entry requirements for native English speakers. Each university sets its own standards and requirements, so check with the desired university.

Nonetheless, a basic command of the Korean language is recommended to get the most out of student life in South Korea. For more information, visit the TOPIK website.

Academic Calendar

An academic year in South Korea is split over two semesters. The first semester of the academic year is in spring (March through June) followed by one in fall (September through December).



The long vacations offer an ideal opportunity to make the most of the seasonal leisure. Ski trips in winter and beach holidays in summer are common activities for students studying in South Korea, which boasts an abundance of both mountains and coastline.



Photo courtesy of Zach Mooney

"I would suggest getting at least a basic knowledge of the language, not only for classes but also just so you can talk to people. The best part is the feeling I get when I have long complex interactions with people without using English. It feels incredibly rewarding."

—Zach Mooney, California, Sogang University

Search

More information on studying in South Korea can be found on the Study in Korea website, run by the National Institute for International Education (NIIED), a division of the Ministry of Education.

The site contains detailed information about South Korean universities; international student admission; a list of IEQAS-certified universities; a calendar of local Overseas Study in Korea Fairs and virtual fairs, as well as a guide to the Global Korea Scholarship (GKS). Students can look up institutions based on criteria such as university classification, courses, region of the country, and whether scholarship support, English lectures, and dormitories are offered.

Apply

Applications can be made directly through university websites. Alternatively, some universities also accept online applications through the Study in Korea portal.

The academic year starts with the spring semester. It's more common for students to apply for admission in the spring semester; however, many universities also allow students to first enroll in the fall. Because the application requirements and selection process (including interviews and document submission) are different for each university, it is vital to confirm them prior to application, either via the university's website or by contacting its international admission department. In particular, the visa issuance requirements for international students are subject to the guidance and procedures of the university sponsoring the visa.

A professional degree can be obtained as part of an undergraduate program, but the number of universities offering them is limited. In the case of specialist programs (e.g., medicine), support for international students is not universal. Before applying, check with each university and program as to whether it can accommodate international students.

Deadlines

Applications to begin studying in the spring semester are accepted from September to November; fall semester applications are open from March to May.

As admission criteria may differ, check the specific requirements and other information provided on the website of each university to which you plan to apply.

As the deadline for admission is different for the spring and fall semesters, and there are differences in the admission schedules of each university, check the application deadlines with each university.

Application Fees

Though it varies from one university to another, application fees generally range from 20,000 to 200,000 South Korean won. It is important to check with each university for the exact application fee. Other minor administrative fees, such as those assessed when obtaining and submitting the required documents, may also apply.

Admission Requirements

Applications are open to international candidates who have graduated (or are expected to graduate) high school in their home country



Photo courtesy of Emma Rose Rorick

"Korean culture and American culture are so dissimilar in so many ways that it's inevitable to face culture shock. But I will say that, having been here three years now, the culture shock has largely dissipated. I actually feel at home here now, and have slowly but surely carved out my little community in Seoul. My part-time job has led to new friendships, as have my volunteer activities and personal hobbies. Seoul is a city of so much opportunity."

—Emma Rose Rorick, Arkansas, Sogang University

and whose parents are not Korean nationals. An applicant's TOPIK score must be level 3 or above (level 2 for science and engineering programs) to be eligible. However, requirements can vary by institution, so it is important to check before applying. In some cases, applicants without the required TOPIK score can take a Korean language course to bring them up to the required level before beginning their academic program. In the case of universities that have separate entry criteria for native English-speakers and for programs delivered entirely in English, the Korean proficiency requirement can be waived.

Upon Acceptance

Once a student's acceptance is confirmed, the university will provide specific details and instructions for admission and visa applications. The institution will guide students in applying for a D-2 visa. Students will receive a Certificate of Admission that they will need to take, along with other relevant documents, to the Korean consulate in order to be issued the D-2 visa.

Note on enrollment during the pandemic

Korean universities restrict leaves of absence and freshmen are typically not allowed to apply. However, most universities made exceptions during the pandemic or allowed students to attend online classes. Each university sets its own standards and requirements, so check with the international student affairs staff at each institution for up-to-date information related to COVID-19.

Tuition and Fees

Generally, the fees for private universities average about 3.6 million won per semester, while those of national universities average about 2 million won per semester. There is some variation depending on university and program, so it is important to check the university website or contact the institution's admission office before applying.

There is a range of excellent scholarship opportunities available for international students, including GKS scholarships, which pay all tuition fees and provide a living allowance for the duration of study, including a year of fully-funded Korean language tuition. Visit Study in Korea for more details.

Housing

According to a 2017 survey by NIIED, 58 percent of international students make use of the dormitory facilities available on university campuses. Most universities have on-campus dormitories available for international students. The fees vary, but generally average about 1.4 million won



Photo courtesy of Katarina Jolene Froseth

"In South Korea things like study cafés, language exchange meetings, and affordable public transportation are quite common. Making it easier for me to be able to study in peace and to easily travel to and from school. The most challenging part was making friends and learning the new culture, but I think these things are unavoidable for everyone."

—Katarina Jolene Froseth, Arizona, Sogang University

per semester based on double occupancy. Both dormitory fees and non-university housing prices vary based on room type and area, with downtown Seoul being notably more expensive for non-university housing.

Check directly with universities for information about dormitory fees and availability. Detailed information about the cost of living, and other aspects of life in South Korea, can be found through Study in Korea.

Visa and Other Permits

International students must obtain the relevant visa–D-2 for academic programs; D-4 for language training programs–before entering the country. Any non-Korean staying in the country for more than 90 days is issued a Residence Card, which they must keep with them at all times.



International students are able to take part-time jobs working up to 20-25 hours per week (dependent on their course of study), provided they obtain prior approval from their university and make a formal application at the Immigration Office. Due to the strictness of immigration law, it is advisable to check the proper procedures with the international student advisory department of the university in all visa-related matters, including part-time employment.

A range of programs offering career advice and support are available to international students after graduation. As of March 1, 2021, international students studying in Korea on D-2 (overseas study) or D-4 (general training) visas are subject to a mandatory subscription to National Health Insurance.

Advice from the Field

South Korea is a very comfortable and convenient place to live, boasting very low crime rates, world-leading information and communications technology and internet speed, highly efficient and affordable public transportation, and a host of public conveniences and facilities, not to mention internationally renowned pop culture.

One of the greatest advantages international students in South Korea enjoy is the financial manageability compared with studying in other developed countries. In recent years the government has invested heavily in developing policies to maximize both the safety and meaningfulness of the international student experience. Studying in South Korea offers students the chance to broaden their horizons, discovering simultaneously the mysteries of the East and the world of academia, living in a creative and dynamic culture blending 5,000 years of history with cutting-edge modern technology.

A guide to South Korean universities and international admission can be found on the Study in Korea website. Refer to the *Guidebook for International Students* for detailed information about each university's admission policies and procedures. Korean universities have developed alumni networks locally and abroad. NIIED also runs GKS Alumni associations in various countries.

Spain

Brief Background

Higher education is an honored tradition in Spanish society. The first university, Universidad de Salamanca, was established in the 13th century. As such, many of Spain's institutions have developed strong programs that have earned them a solid international reputation. In fact, several universities are ranked in the top 500 in the world in various international university rankings including *Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU),* the *QS World University Rankings*, and *Times Higher Education World University Rankings.* There are currently 82 universities in Spain, of which 50 are public and 32 are private.



From 2009 to 2010, Spain immersed itself in a transformation of its higher education system. Its goal was to harmonize its academic qualification framework to fit into the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) to increase student mobility in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). For the 2017-2018 academic year, 127,597 international students enrolled in Spanish higher education institutions, of which 64,124 students pursued undergraduate degrees mostly in the Madrid and Catalonia region.

Good to Know

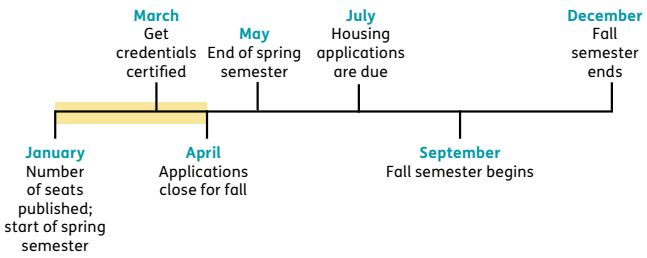
In Spain, an undergraduate degree is referred to as *grado*, and can fall into one of two categories: official, those that are government-regulated and recognized by the EHEA; and unofficial (*propio*), which are independently established by an institution and generally not recognized by other institutions or education systems. A student pursues an official degree (*grado oficial*) as they would an undergraduate degree in the US. An unofficial degree (*grado propio*) is typically meant for students that have already completed an official degree and are looking to improve their technical knowledge in a specific field or subject. Length of study for an undergraduate degree varies by subject. While the majority can be completed in three to four years, more technical degrees, like engineering, medicine, and architecture, can take five to six years.

The Study in Spain website is a government-sponsored resource for English-language speakers. It features information on the cultural and academic value of studying in Spain and has a university search engine that filters by province and university type. It also provides information about administrative procedures; however, the entries often include links to the official resource in Spanish.

Most undergraduate degrees are taught in Spanish or in one of Spain's recognized regional languages, such as Basque or Catalan. However, there has been an increase in the number of programs taught completely in English or in a bilingual immersion format. In bilingual immersion programs, students begin their undergraduate careers in English-taught classes and are slowly transitioned into a full Spanish learning environment.

Academic Calendar

The school year in Spain generally starts in the fall and ends in late spring. The majority of Spanish universities operate on a two-semester system: the first from September/October to late December, and the second from January/February to May. Semester exams are usually scheduled right after the semester ends in December/January or May/June.



Search

The official source of information for international students is the Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education (*Servicio Español para la Internacionalización de la Educación* or SEPIE), a government-run initiative that aims to internationalize the Spanish education system. Its resources include the Study in Spain website providing general information about the Spanish culture and education system, as well as a list of tools students can use to identify what and where to study, English-taught or bilingual programs, and available grants and scholarships.

To search universities by program, region, oremployability of graduates, use the What to Study and Where tool *(Qué Estudiar y Dónde en la Universidad or QEDU)* on the website of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports.

Apply

Spain does not have a centralized application system for university admission. Each university sets its own requirements and deadlines for applications and in some instances these can even vary by program within the university. Some universities or programs may require applicants to attend an interview, submit additional materials, or even take a subject or general knowledge exam. It is important that students familiarize themselves with the requirements for each university and program of interest. Students can follow the six steps for applying set forth by UNEDassis, a service from the distance learning institution UNED.

Each year, universities assess the number of seats in each program that will be open for new applicants. For public universities, this number is determined by the regional governments and is based on projected labor market needs. Of this number, a specific percentage—determined by the universities—is reserved for international students. The number of seats open for general and international admission are typically published in January or February. Students are advised to apply soon after these numbers are published, as space is limited. Private institutions set their own enrollment goals and are not limited in the number of international students they can enroll.

When applying, students can begin the process of having their credentials certified for equivalency by the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports. This process is known as *homologación*. Students holding a International Baccalaureate diploma or other European-recognized diplomas may not need to go through the *homologación*. Students holding an International Baccalaurate (IB) or European diplomas may not need to go through the *homologación* process. Since this can't officially be completed until a student finishes high school, students can apply for a permit for conditional admission (*volante de inscripción condicional*) through the Spanish embassy or consulate that would show they have initiated the credential equivalency certificate process, allowing them to be considered for admission to the university of their choice. While this is a responsibility of the student, some universities do provide assistance.



Photo courtesy of Madeline LaSota

"I was drawn to Europe for its diversity of culture, language, and history. I also felt that the opportunity to learn Spanish and experience a full cultural immersion would benefit me not only academically but also personally by pushing me past my comfort zone."

—Madeline LaSota, Illinois, University of Navarra

Students should contact the admission office of their prospective school or program to verify which resources are available to them. The Spanish Education Advising Office in the United States recommends that students begin this process as early as possible—since it can take three to six months—to assure they'll have all their documentation in time for enrollment. For the most accurate and updated information about the credential equivalency certificate process and its requirements, students can contact the Spanish Education Advising Office by visiting its website.

Deadlines

Students typically begin their academic studies in the fall semester. Deadlines vary by university, but applications are generally due in April.

Application Fees

Application fees vary by universities. The fee usually remains less than US$50. Contact the university for the exact amount.

Admission Requirements

International students are not required to take Spanish exams, unless they apply for general admission at public universities. In this scenario, universities may require international students to take one or more subject proficiency tests (*Pruebas de Competencias Específicas* or PCE). These tests are managed by UNEDasiss and are administered in Spain and several other locations across the globe. It is important that students reach out to the university of their choice to determine which tests they will need to take, if any.

Admission is generally based on students' prior academic performance and high school GPA. International students may also be required to take a language proficiency exam for Spanish or English depending on the program they are applying to and their country of origin. There are several testing platforms for language proficiency. The most widely recognized evaluations

for Spanish are those given by the *Servicio Internacional de Evaluación de la Lengua Española* (SIELE) and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). For English, the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) are accepted. It is important for students to research whether their institution or program of choice requires them to take a language proficiency exam, which tests are accepted, and the minimum scores required for admission.

Upon Acceptance

The university will send a letter of acceptance, which is needed to apply for a student visa before coming to Spain. Students will also need to complete *homologación* once they have their final high school transcript and diploma.

Tuition and Fees

The cost of tuition at Spanish universities varies by the type of degree a student enrolls in (official or unofficial) and by the nature of the university (public or private). The cost of public universities is regulated by the General Assembly for University Policy (*Conferencia General de Política Universitaria*) and the regional governments where they reside. While the universities are not allowed to raise tuition for Spanish and EU students, legislation does allow them to increase the fees for international students. It is important to research each institution individually to assess the true cost of tuition for an international student. However, public university tuition for international students can still be considerably cheaper than the cost of attending a private university.

The cost of tuition at Spanish universities varies greatly. For public universities, tuition for an academic year typically ranges between 680 and 2,100 euros, and at private universities it ranges between 5,500 and 18,000 euros. Tuition fees at private institutions may be higher if students pursue a double degree.

The Study in Spain website provides guidance on how to obtain a grant or scholarship to study in Spain. Including resources from the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sport.

Housing

The average cost of living for students in Spain is estimated between 850 and 1,000 euros per month, depending on the city or town of residence and the individual needs of each student. There are various housing options for students enrolled in Spanish universities:

- **Colegio Mayor:** Similar to American residence halls, these dormitories may be privately-funded or affiliated with a particular university or student organization. However, space is often limited and students must submit a separate application, typically due by mid-July.
- **Apartment rentals or shared apartments:** Some universities provide a service for students and community members to promote alternative housing options.



Photo courtesy of Gabriel Virador

"I love my university as well as life here in Spain. I thoroughly enjoy studying medicine at an excellent institution while making friends with people from all over that study different degrees."

—Gabriel Virador, Maryland, University of Navarra

- **Host families:** Students living with host families can immerse themselves in the Spanish language and culture. Students should contact their universities to confirm the availability of this option.
- **Intergenerational living:** Some universities have adopted programs that pair a student with an older person in their community who offers accommodation at a low rate in exchange for some help at home.

Visa and Other Permits

Students from countries outside of the European Union pursuing studies for longer than 90 days must apply for a student visa (*Autorización de Estancia por Estudios*) through the Spanish embassy or consulate in their country of origin or residence. Students should apply within three months of their planned arrival in Spain. This visa expires on a yearly basis, and must be renewed within the 60-day period prior to its expiration date. For the most reliable and up-to-date information, students should contact their local embassy or consulate or visit the Ministry of Employment and Social Security's website.



Citizens of countries outside of the European Union, the European Economic Area, or citizens from countries that do not currently have a reciprocity agreement for social services with Spain must independently enroll in a private health insurance plan. This is a prerequisite for the student visa application. The selected health insurance plan must cover the cost of repatriation of remains and stay valid for the entirety of the student's time in Spain.

Upon arrival in Spain, students will have one month to register for the Foreigner Identity Card (*Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero or TIE*) at the local Foreigners Office or police station. This permit serves as an identification for the student. More information can be found through the Ministry of Interior's website.

Advice from the Field

The internationalization of Spanish universities is still developing. While there is a growing number of undergraduate degrees offered in English, it is difficult to find English-language resources outlining admission procedures. Moreover, the higher education system and relevant authorities are currently in the process of adopting changes to make the admission process more amenable for international students. During this transition period, counselors are advised to reach out directly to universities, embassies, or consulates via e-mail or telephone for the most accurate and reliable information regarding the application process and requirements.

When deciding where in Spain to apply, students should keep in mind the remarkable differences in temperature and precipitation found in different regions of the country. Cities in the central region undergo major changes throughout the year, while coastal regions can be less stark.

Switzerland

Brief Background

Switzerland is most known for watchmaking, cheese, and chocolate, but it is also a very innovative and sustainable country. Switzerland has a population of 8.6 million, and a quarter of the population is non-Swiss.

Switzerland has four national languages—German, French, Italian, and Romansch—so you can take comfort as a foreign visitor or resident that the Swiss are accustomed to different languages within their country.

The country is divided into 26 cantons or states. Most undergraduate programs in Switzerland are still taught in the cantonal/regional language, with a few bilingual programs or English language programs offered. This does change, however, for the master's and doctoral level, where more bilingual and English programs are offered.

Switzerland's university system is based on three pillars: fundamental research, applied sciences and arts, and teacher education. Each university type serves a specific purpose in Swiss education, research, and innovation.

Switzerland also boasts several private universities, primarily focused in the hospitality industry. The main organization of Swiss universities—swissuniversities— promotes cooperation and coordination among the institutions.

Research Universities



The oldest university in Switzerland—the University of Basel, founded in 1460—is one of 12 publicly funded research universities. Two of these institutions are federal research universities—ETH in Zurich and EPFL in Lausanne—that have consistently ranked among the top universities worldwide. The other 10 universities are cantonal public universities divided by linguistic region:

- **German-Speaking**—University of Basel, University of Bern, University of Lucerne, University of St. Gallen, University of Zurich
- **French-Speaking**—University of Geneva, University of Lausanne, University of Neuchâtel
- **Bilingual German and French-Speaking**—University of Fribourg
- **Italian-Speaking**—University of Lugano

For the 2020-21 academic year, research universities enrolled approximately 164,575 students—80,250 of whom were studying at the bachelor's level. Of those students, 16,650 were non-Swiss nationals and only a small number were US citizens.

Universities of Applied Sciences are Highly International

- Bern University of Applied Sciences (10% international students)
- FHNW University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (9% international students)
- HES-SO University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland (27% international students)
- Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences (14.3% international students)
- Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (5% international students)
- OST Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences (5% international students)
- University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI) (33% international students)
- University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons (3% international students)
- Zurich University of Applied Sciences and Arts (4.7% international students)

Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts

The country also offers nine universities of applied sciences and arts—one private and eight public—with about 95,000 students enrolled. These schools are closely linked to the economy, culture, and society. They promote close partnerships with companies, institutions, and other organizations in the educational sector. The Swiss universities of applied sciences and arts prioritize practice-relevant degrees and continuing education.

Teacher Education, Conservatories, and Theology Schools

The universities of teacher training, of which there are 20, have nearly 21,000 students enrolled. The country also has two conservatories in Lugano and Geneva and three theology schools in Lugano, Basel, and Chur.

Private Universities

Switzerland is also very well-known for hospitality management, with schools such as Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL), which was founded back in 1893 and is considered the oldest hospitality school in the world. EHL holds a dual accreditation from the Haute Ecole Spécialisée de Suisse Occientale (HES-SO) and the New England Commission of Higher Education in the US. Other institutions include Glion and Les Roches, as well as the Swiss Education Group, which includes the Cezar Ritz Colleges, SHMS Swiss Hotel Management School, HIM Hotel Institute Montreux, and the Culinary Arts Academy Switzerland.

Switzerland also has two accredited American universities. Franklin University Switzerland, located in Lugano, was established in 1969 and holds dual accreditation from the Swiss Accreditation Council and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in the US. Webster University Geneva, established in 1978, is an international campus of Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. Both of these universities welcome a number of students from the US as degree-seeking as well as visiting, study abroad students.

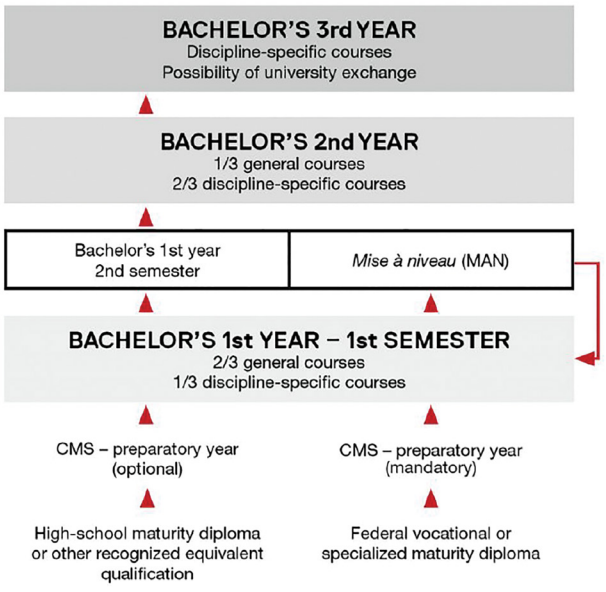
The Swiss University Conference and its accreditation body—Swiss Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education (AAQ)—safeguards and promotes quality teaching and research at universities in Switzerland. It is independent, uses internationally recognized methods, and is able to draw upon the knowledge and experience of leading experts. It perceives its role as an external partner for quality assurance and development and provides a range of supporting services. The AAQ is also part of the European Quality Assurance Registration for Higher Education.

Good to Know

Switzerland is part of the European Higher Education Area and follows a system similar to other European countries. Bachelor's degree programs usually require three years of study, achieving 180 credits within the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). For some Swiss universities the curriculum is divided into a first exploratory year sometimes called *propaedeutic cycle*—followed by two years with a higher percentage of courses in the chosen field of study. Students apply to specific programs/majors. Some universities give students the option to change programs after admission, but before enrolling. Others will require you to reapply all together.

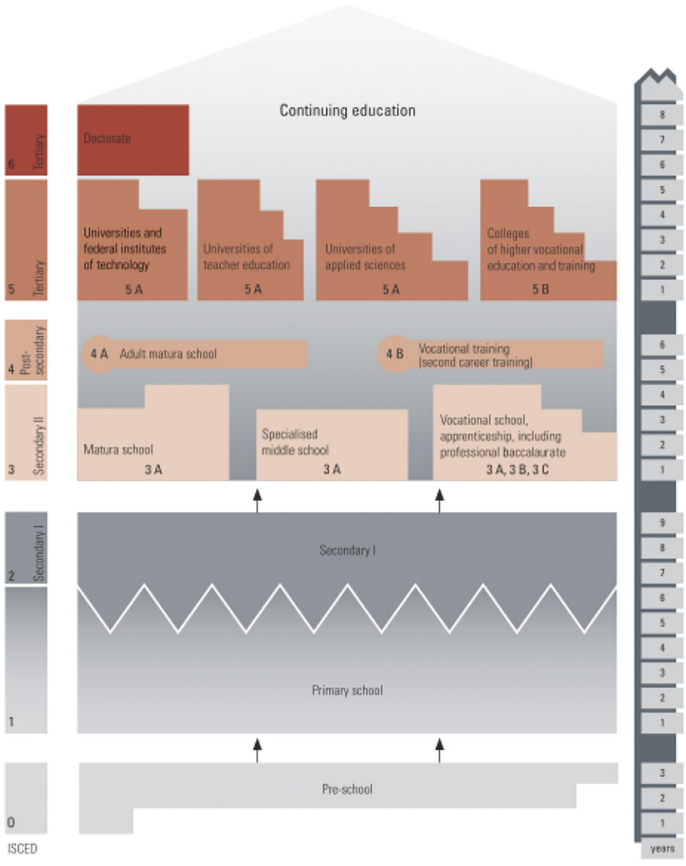
The possibility to study abroad for one year is offered under certain conditions. Switzerland is no longer part of the European Erasmus program, but it does value student mobility and supports a number of study abroad options for students in collaboration with partner universities worldwide.

Sustainable development initiatives are increasingly part of Swiss universities. One program of *swissuniversities* is the Development and Cooperation Network (SUDAC), which aims to consolidate and promote universities' efforts related to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Switzerland with higher education partners in the global south. In 2019, the SUDAC program started a policy dialogue on the relevance of SDGs in Swiss higher education.



Source: EPFL, 2021

Diagram of the Swiss Education System

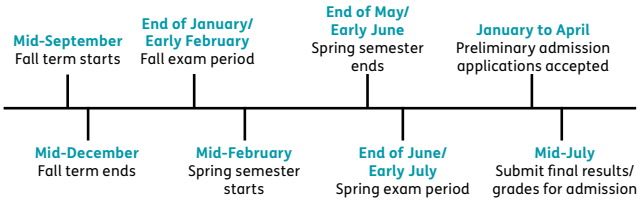


Source: Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education 2005

After temporarily suspending entry in response to COVID-19, Switzerland has been processing student visas since June 2020 and has not restricted access for students entering Switzerland for study purposes. As a result, the country witnessed an above-average increase in foreign student enrollments. Switzerland's universities opened in-person teaching in June 2020. The restriction for online learning implemented in November 2020 was lifted in April 2021.

Academic Calendar

The academic year in Switzerland is split into two semesters or terms: autumn and spring. Fall term starts around the second or third week of September and runs through the third week of December. Spring term starts around the third week of February and runs through the end of May or early June. With a few exceptions, courses at Swiss universities start with the autumn semester in September.



Students take their courses during the academic term and then have several weeks to prepare for the examination period. Exams begin at the end of January or start of February (autumn semester) and then at the end of June or start of July (spring semester). Usually, exams run over a three-week period.

Search

Prospective students can search for university options through Study in Switzerland+. Students can search based on the type of university, location, or the course of study. A summary of the university's programs, number of international students, and ranking are provided, along with a link to each university's website.

Apply

There is no common application in Switzerland. Students must apply to each individual university. Most universities follow a two-part application process. Part one generally requires an application, photo, passport copy, and the intermediary grades from the last two years of secondary school, as well as language certification. The second part includes final grades, transcript, and diplomas.

Most universities of applied sciences and arts will not admit students with only a high school diploma and will ask for at least one year of practical, internship, or work experience relevant to the degree.

Deadlines

Many Swiss universities will accept first/preliminary applications from January to the end of April. The second part of the application (final results/grades) are submitted by mid-July. Students who require a visa to study in Switzerland are encouraged to submit the first part of the application by the end of February.

Application Fees

For Swiss citizens most application fees are 50 Swiss francs, while non-Swiss students pay 150 Swiss francs per application.

Admission Requirements

Swiss universities look strictly at the student's secondary school qualifications across specific subjects and are very transparent about curriculum requirements for foreign, non-Swiss degree applicants. They offer specific guidelines for various types of curriculum, by country and by system, such as International Baccalaureate (IB), A-levels, etc.

The swissuniversities website provides an overview of requirements based on the student's country. Institutions' websites will give more specific guidelines for each education system worldwide

and note the standards each candidate must achieve to be considered for admission.

For the US, the general list includes classes in English, a second language, mathematics, natural sciences (biology, chemistry, and physics), humanities and social sciences (geography, history, economics/law), and electives taken during the last three years of secondary school. Most universities will require five Advanced Placement (AP) subject tests in particular areas with scores of 3 or higher (several AP subjects are not recognized, such as art history and psychology), or two years of university-level work on top of the applicant's high school diploma. If students are enrolled in the IB program, they will also have specific subject requirements, including a strong preference that higher level (HL) subjects include a math and/or science. The 10 cantonal universities ask for a minimum IB score of 32/42, while the research institutes—ETH and EPFL—ask for a minimum score of 38/42.

Some Swiss universities allow students who do not qualify based on their secondary school performance to take an entrance examination. Based on the student's background there are partial- and full-examination options. A university official can recommend which option is right for you. Registration tends to happen in the fall (September-December) and the examinations take place in May.

Because most programs in Switzerland are taught in German, French, and Italian, language proficiency is key. The majority of programs ask for a C1 level based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Most universities recommend sending language proficiency certification along with the application, however it can also be submitted later. Some universities will waive the language requirement if the completion of the last three years at an upper secondary school was in the language of instruction relevant for the studies and in a region where the official language is the same as the language of instruction.

"Living in such a multicultural country where there are four national languages, three distinct linguistic areas, and countless adventures to be had every weekend, I would recommend that anyone who is interested in taking a different path for their college education consider looking at studying in the amazing country that is Switzerland!"

—Spencer Landry, Michigan, Franklin University Switzerland



Photo courtesy of Spencer Landry

Swiss citizens living abroad will follow a similar application process, as their university entrance will still be determined by their secondary school academic curriculum.

Upon Acceptance

For most Swiss universities, students apply with preliminary results and will be asked to submit their final grades, scores, and diplomas in order to finalize their acceptance at a later date. This usually occurs in mid-July unless students are part of a system where final grades are released at a later time.

Conditional acceptance is offered pending results of language proficiency exams, final grades, or AP/IB results.

Deadlines related to acceptance need to be adhered to without exception. Students cannot defer and will need to reapply to change the program of acceptance or the term.

Tuition and Fees

Swiss university costs are relatively low due to federal funding that helps support the universities. The range is between 500 Swiss francs to 4,000 Swiss francs per semester for international students, with the majority of institutions charging less than 1,000 Swiss francs. The universities of applied sciences have very similar costs, generally ranging from about 800 to 5,000 Swiss francs. Tuition at private institutions can reach up to 10,000 Swiss francs.

Some universities provide small scholarships and stipends, but due to the low costs, universities typically do not offer financial support. In partnership with several countries, the Swiss government offers scholarships for international students. Most scholarships are available for postgraduate or doctorate degrees; however, it is important to contact the university to determine its undergraduate scholarship and grant availability.

One thing to keep in mind is that even though tuition costs are low, especially when compared to costs at many US colleges and universities, Switzerland is an expensive country in which to live. Zurich and Geneva tend to appear on top 10 lists of the most expensive cities worldwide.

Most universities will also have small fees for access to student identification cards and other benefits offered to students and student organizations. Students are typically not required to pay the tuition prior to enrollment. Billing is generally sent at the start of the semester once the student has officially checked into the university.

For Swiss citizens living abroad, the costs of the programs will be slightly cheaper and assistance from the Swiss government is available if they cannot fully fund their studies.

Housing

Swiss students generally either live in shared flats, with their parents, or in a rented apartment or studio within a commutable distance via bicycle or public transportation. Residence hall rooms are limited. With average rental prices of more than 2,000 Swiss francs per month in Geneva and Zurich, shared flats are the most common form of accommodation for students and young professionals. Studyinswitzerland.plus provides an overview of all possible accommodations in the different Swiss cities.

Monthly rents for rooms in a shared flat can range from around 400 to 900 Swiss francs or more, depending on the size of the flat, the available room, and the flat's location. As a general rule of thumb, the further away from the city center, the lower the price. You will need to weigh the cost of public transportation against the lower cost of rent.

Switzerland has an amazing transportation system so students don't always feel the need to be as close as possible to the university. Many Swiss universities are also spread out across different locations in a city. Trains, buses, and trams are all linked under the same Swiss network, SBB/CFF/FFS, depending on the language region. There are also popular bike shares in cities as well as car-share options like Mobility.

For young people, generally under the age of 26, there are numerous discounts available. For the Swiss residency permit, students will need a signed contract and a permanent address, so it is important to research housing options as soon as possible. Airbnb locations are not considered primary residences.

Visa and Other Permits

Students who are Swiss nationals but residing in another country have the option to be registered in Switzerland during their studies or retain their abroad status as a Swiss with their local embassy in whichever country they consider home. This is a choice for the student and would have an impact on voting and taxes, as well as military service.

European citizens studying in Switzerland can enter the country and register themselves with their local town hall by presenting the necessary documentation including a criminal record certificate from their EU country. They do not require a visa prior to their arrival.

Student Visa

For all other nationalities, students are required to obtain a Swiss National Type D Visa for stays of more than 90 days/ three months. This visa is processed ahead of time with the Swiss Embassy in the student's country of residence. In the US, students will gather the necessary documents and then mail them to the Swiss Embassy in San Francisco, Atlanta, New York, or Washington, DC, based on their home address. The process can take four to 12 weeks. Once the student arrives in Switzerland, they will present themselves to their local town hall within two weeks of arrival to start the process for their Swiss residency permit. Students from Singapore, Japan, New Zealand, Brunei, and Malaysia are exempt from the visa requirement.

Students are generally asked for their visa application, passport copies, passport photos, documents and diplomas of their previous study, résumé/CV, motivation statement as well as future plans, official enrollment certificates or university acceptance letters, and a statement that they will leave Switzerland after completing their studies. More information on visas is provided by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

Students are also asked for financial/bank documents. For the public system, students should show sufficient funds for residing in Switzerland. This requires a confirmation from a Swiss-domiciled bank (foreign bank with a branch in Switzerland, or a Swiss bank with a branch in your home country) stating that you have access to the equivalent of 21,000 Swiss francs at the beginning of your studies. A list of all approved banks in Switzerland has been published by Finma: FINMA List of Authorized Banks and Securities Dealers.

The account must be held in the student's name and the currency must be Swiss francs, euros, or US dollars. Letters of support or bank statements from parents or relatives will not be accepted by most public universities.

For private institutions, the authorities do not look for a specific amount of money as the university will usually issue a letter that all finances have been reviewed and that the university is guiding the student through the necessary steps under Swiss law. If they have received scholarships or have a sponsor, they can include that information. If they are dependents, they can include information from their parents or guardians.

In most countries, applying for the Swiss student visa is free of charge, however that may vary.

Swiss visa applications are sent to the immigration office in the canton where the student will be studying. Students from certain countries may also require a secondary approval at the federal level.

Residency Permits

Non-Swiss nationals will need to obtain a Swiss Residency Permit for any long-term stay program of more than three months. Most students will receive a B status permit that is valid for one year and will be renewed for any subsequent year of study in the country.

Employment

During the semester, students may accept a paid part-time job of no more than 15 hours a week. Full-time employment is permitted during the lecture-free period.

Job-seeking after graduation is a bit more complicated for third country nationals (excluding Swiss nationals and citizens of countries within the European Union [EU] and European Free Trade Association [EFTA]). Only those foreign students who graduate from a Swiss-accredited university can obtain a residency permit for six months to look for a job in Switzerland that is consistent with their qualification. Swiss citizens have greater options to look for employment following graduation.



Students will need to submit their certified letter from the university confirming the end of study, show that they have the necessary financial means to remain in Switzerland, and have suitable housing.

The six-month residence permit cannot be extended and will allow the student to work for only 15 hours per week. If a student finds a position, their employer will guide them through the new residency permit application.

Please note students who come from non-EU countries (including the UK) will have to apply for their work permit at the cantonal Office for Economy and Labour (*Amt für Wirtschaft und Arbeit*—AWA). This is only possible once a student has received their residence permit.

Health Insurance

Health insurance is mandatory in Switzerland and offered through private providers. Comparis can offer several comparisons and evaluations of different health insurance policies. It's also possible to take out an international student health insurance policy that is recognized in Switzerland (e.g., Swisscare). Proof of insurance will be required when students obtain their residency permit.

Advice from the Field

Switzerland has several private day and boarding schools with a robust university counselor community that has been very helpful in supporting anyone interested in studying in Switzerland. American universities like Franklin University Switzerland and Webster University Geneva, as well as the hospitality management schools, can also serve as reliable resources.

Because Switzerland hosts numerous international companies and organizations, there are plenty of job opportunities available for foreigners. Employers are looking for qualified candidates and will assist with the necessary work permits for those they want to hire. It's always best for students to network throughout their university experience and take advantage of internships, traineeships, and other work as permitted by their visa.

There are a number of expatriate groups, such as InterNations, and societies for both social and networking opportunities.

United Kingdom

Brief Background

The United Kingdom, which encompasses England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, is home to 165 higher education institutions offering postsecondary degree programs.

In 2020-2021, the UK enrolled 562,300 overseas students. Of the more than 17,500 US students pursuing full degrees in the UK, about 8,200 were undergraduates. The most popular courses of study for American undergraduate students include politics, veterinary medicine, history, law, psychology, English, business/ economics, and design.



The *Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022* lists four British institutions among the top 20 universities in the world: University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, and University College London. These institutions are members of the Russell Group, an organization representing 24 leading UK universities committed to outstanding research and teaching.

Universities in the UK support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through their teaching, research, and outreach. There are 20 UK universities in the top 100 of the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, which assesses universities against the SDGs. Many UK universities have a page on their website dedicated to specific initiatives aimed at tackling the SDGs.

The UK has six ancient universities which are extant medieval universities and early modern universities founded before 1600. Four of the ancient universities are in Scotland (University of St Andrews, University of Glasgow,

University of Aberdeen, and University of Edinburgh) and two are in England (University of Oxford and University of Cambridge). The ancient universities in the UK are among the oldest extant universities in the world.

Good to Know

A bachelor's degree in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales can be completed in three years and degree programs tend to be very focused from the outset. Whereas, in Scotland, four years is usually standard, with breadth and flexibility offered in the first two years of study. The term *course* refers to what US institutions typically call a major or program of study, and are declared during the application process. Most programs are honors courses, which require students to produce a dissertation or capstone project based on independent research in their final year.

Some UK universities have courses that allow students more flexibility in their studies. Combined honors give students the opportunity to study up to three subjects, similar to having multiple majors or minors in the US. There are also broad-based courses such as a bachelor's in liberal arts. Students who are unsure of what they want to study might want to focus on Scottish universities, as these allow students to explore additional subjects during their first year.

Professional degrees—such as law, medicine, veterinary science, and dentistry—are available

Law

In the UK, students can study law straight after high school and the degree takes three or four years to complete. If a student decides at the end of their course that they want to become a legal professional, there are opportunities to pursue a Graduate Diploma in Law. After successful completion of this one-year course, students receive Qualifying Law Degree status, which is needed to practice law in the UK.

Students thinking of practicing law in the United States with a foreign law degree should keep in mind that each state has different requirements. The requirements for each are listed on the state-specific bar exam website and are summarized by the *National Conference of Bar Examiners' Bar Admission Guide*.

Law is also offered as an academic subject that can be combined with another discipline for students who are interested in law, but may not want to practice. For example, there are dual honors options such as BA (Hons) Business and Law, BSc (Hons) Law and Psychology, and BA (Hons) Law and International Relations.

Special Entrance Requirements

The National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT) is a two-part test that is used to help assess aptitude for studying law. LNAT is required for most law courses at the University of Bristol, University of Durham, University of Glasgow, Kings College London, London School of Economics, University of Nottingham, University of Oxford, SOAS University of London, and University College London.

Application Deadline

The majority of institutions expect international students applying to law to apply by the Jan. 15 deadline.

Medicine

There are 31 medical schools in the UK that offer an undergraduate medicine program. These programs provide students the opportunity to pursue medicine without a prior degree, and typically take five to six years. The application process for international students is extremely competitive due to capacity, the volume of applications, and high academic qualifications required for entry.

Applications must be made through UCAS. Applicants are able to apply to up to four medical courses and their fifth application choice must be to a non-medical course. The fifth choice cannot be dentistry or veterinary science, and is recommended to be an allied health program or life science.

Entrance requirements typically include:

- The equivalent of 13 years of secondary school (although, in some cases, exceptional grades in 12-year schooling systems are accepted).
- Excellent grades in chemistry and/or biology.
- Academic excellence in another science or math course (e.g., chemistry, biology, physics).
- Significant experience in a health care environment gained prior to the application submission. Experiences can be voluntary, paid work, or informal.
- Additional tests, such as the The University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) and Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT) are commonly used to assess aptitude. Applicants must find out whether additional tests are required and, if so, which tests are required by their university of choice.

Interviews for medical courses normally take place in the UK between November and March. When a university receives a high volume of quality applications from a particular geographic region, interviews may be arranged at an alternative location. During the COVID-19 pandemic, interviews have taken place virtually.

Students who want to practice in the US should familiarize themselves with the requirements for practicing medicine in the US with a foreign degree.

Application Deadline

Oct. 15 in the year before the student wants to enroll.

at the undergraduate level. It is important to note that entry requirements for these programs tend to be more demanding than those for other majors, and the duration of the course may be longer. There might also be additional steps involved to practice with these degrees in the US.

As part of their degree programs, many UK universities offer work placements, or internships, sometimes referred to as a sandwich year. Sandwich years are typically undertaken between the second and final year of the degree, and allow a student the opportunity to put their knowledge into practice, network within companies in their field, and earn money. This experience does not usually require an additional visa, as it is closely tied to a student's academic course. The sandwich year might also be used to study abroad.

Veterinary Science

In the UK, students can pursue a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVMBVS) or Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVetMed). These degrees can be completed within four to six years.

Some veterinary medicine courses in the UK are accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and/or the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), giving students the ability to practice throughout the UK, Europe, North America, and Australasia.

Special Entrance Requirements: International academic entry requirements vary by institution for veterinary medicine courses, and in some cases, may be more rigorous than for BA or BSc courses. Applicants are typically expected to have relevant practical experience with handling animals. UCAT, BMAT, or an institution's own test may be required. This will be stated on the entry requirements page of the institution's website.

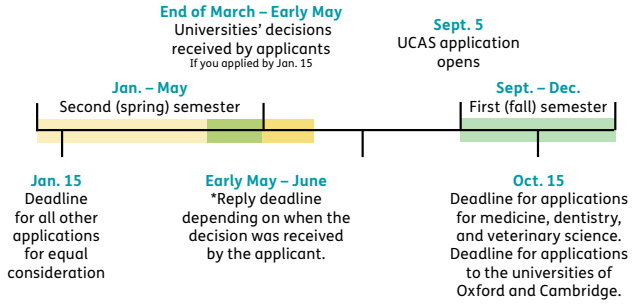
Interviews are required for most veterinary medicine courses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, interviews have taken place virtually.

Application Deadline

Oct. 15 in the year before the student wants to enroll.

Academic Calendar

UK academic years run from September to May, with breaks in mid-December to early January and in March to mid- to late-April. Major exam periods are usually in January and May.



*Students are recommended to apply as early as possible at *www.ucas.com/apply.*

Search

The British Council's website gives students information about selecting a course and institution. Students can search for courses and institutions through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). The nonprofit organization offers a UK-specific online application system comparable to Common App. UCAS also provides tips and other guidance to potential students and families. Another useful website is DiscoverUni where you can search and compare undergraduate courses in the UK.

UK media outlets publish university and subject league tables, which are similar to rankings. Because the UK university system is geared toward a student's course of study, subject league tables may provide useful perspective or serve as a starting point for students looking to study a particular major. However, methodologies vary; students are urged to read the fine print, such as the criteria used for the rankings, number of people surveyed, and the year the information was gathered.

Examples include:

- *The Guardian's University Guide*
- *The Complete University Guide*
- *Times Higher Education World University Rankings*

Apply

Most students, domestic and international, apply to British universities through UCAS. Over 20 British universities also participate in the Common Application. Some universities also accept applications made directly through their institution's website.

Students can apply to a maximum of five courses in the UK, regardless of application method. The British Council recommends students apply to three target and two safety courses. Target courses are those for which a student is likely to meet the entry requirements, and safety courses are those that may require grades slightly below the student's expected results. A student can apply to more than one course at the same institution. Admission officials at the universities where a student has applied cannot see where else the student has submitted an application.

Students considering Oxford or Cambridge can apply to only one of the two institutions. For more on the Oxbridge application process, see page 91. Students will self-report their high school grades and any standardized scores which they have achieved in the education history section of UCAS. Students should also include any current or future classes and standardized tests they intend to take, and mark these as "pending." As part of their UCAS application form, students will submit one personal statement and a letter of recommendation from an advisor, teacher, or similar academic professional.

Personal statements should show "a student's passion and motivation for applying and why they are suitable for the course" according to UCAS. Applicants have 4,000 characters to write one statement, that is sent to all the universities to which they have applied. The statement should straightforwardly reflect why the student wants to study their chosen course. Topics such as extracurricular interests or hardships overcome should be linked to how they have impacted the student's desire and preparedness for studying their course of choice.

Additional guidance for students can be found on the UCAS website. If a university requires additional application documents, the student will be asked to upload the documents in a Supplementary Application Questionnaire that is sent to them electronically after they have submitted their UCAS application. Counselors are sometimes required to submit supplementary documents upon request by the university.

Application advice

Advise students to apply to courses that are similar at each of the universities to which they are applying. A personal statement that tries to weave together too many different courses will not be read favorably. For example, a student should not apply for engineering at one university and business at another.

References

Letters of reference should focus on the applicant's suitability for studying the intended course. Application readers—admission officers or professors who teach the course—want to know whether the student is knowledgeable about the subject and has demonstrated an interest in various ways, to gauge whether they can successfully study it in depth. The letter of reference should also include a link to the school profile—particularly the curriculum—and cite any extenuating circumstances.

Counselors should be aware that applicants have the right to request access to their recommendations under UK law. This law applies to all UK schools and their applicants, regardless of whether students have waived their FERPA rights on Common App.



Photo courtesy of Laura Maria Necsoi

"The UCAS system in the UK was fairly straightforward and similar to the Common App process with the added bonus of only having to write one personal statement instead of multiple essays like some US universities require."

—Laura Maria Necsoi, New Jersey, University of Liverpool

The teacher or counselor who serves as the applicant's academic referee will also be asked to predict final year grades or exam results. Such predictions are based on professional judgment, the student's past performance, current progress, and the school's historical performance. Referees are encouraged to work with department heads and the student's teachers to provide predictions.

Although some universities require predicted grades for the application to be considered complete, others will accept applications without them. Check with the university's International Office to find out how critical the predicted grades are to the application. Because most offers of admission are conditional on achieving the predicted grades or scores, counselors and teachers should do their best to make fair and accurate predictions. Inflating a student's predicted grades may result in a student missing out on a conditional offer. See the "Upon Acceptance" section for more details.

Deadlines

The application season opens in early September. The deadline for applying to Oxford and Cambridge is Oct. 15, as well as medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science courses. Jan. 15 is the equal consideration deadline for all other UK universities, which students are encouraged to meet. Some institutions, however, may accept applications after the equal consideration deadline, and up to as late as six weeks before the course starts.

Some art and design courses have March deadlines so that applicants have adequate time to prepare a portfolio.

Application Fees

UCAS charges applicants 22.5 pounds for one course, or a total of 27 pounds for multiple courses, up to five.

Admission Requirements

Entry requirements for UK institutions are generally transparent and straightforward, and can be found on university websites or by contacting individual admission offices. A counselor should be able to confirm the minimum GPA, test scores, and other requirements for admission.

In addition to a high school diploma, requirements typically include a combination of advanced coursework such as AP courses and test results; IB or college credits; SAT or ACT test

scores. Admission offices in UK universities are aware of the disruption to testing caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many UK universities will look at alternative entry requirements if a student has not been able to take a test because of the pandemic. Students can check with the universities' international office if they are unsure of the entry requirements.

Typically, students apply through UCAS without submitting a high school transcript. The high school transcript, one of the most important elements of the application process in the US, is not usually considered for US applicants to the UK, though some universities may ask for it. Rather, on the qualifications section of the UCAS application form students will indicate qualifications they have already received. In this section students will also include results on any exams such as AP tests, SAT, or ACT. Qualifications that are pending, such as AP and IB exams scheduled to be taken in May of their senior year, should be listed here as well.

Upon Acceptance

UK universities are usually able to send an offer of admission electronically within two months of an application's submission. Students may be admitted unconditionally or conditionally. An unconditional offer means that the student has no conditions to meet and has a place at the institution if they choose to accept it.

A conditional offer is the most common offer made to both UK and international students. If a student has a conditional offer this means there are certain requirements outlined by the institution that the student must meet to secure their spot, such as obtaining a certain final exam score (AP exams, IB scores, ACT, or SAT) or certain GPA. These offers are legally binding on the part of the university and cannot be rescinded by the university.

Students who applied to five universities and received no offers of admission may have the option of adding an extra choice. UCAS Extra is a free service that allows these students to apply to one course at a time from late February up until early July. A final option, called clearing, is the period during which universities are allowed to fill any places they still have available. Clearing runs from July to September each year.



Photo courtesy of Laura Maria Necsoi

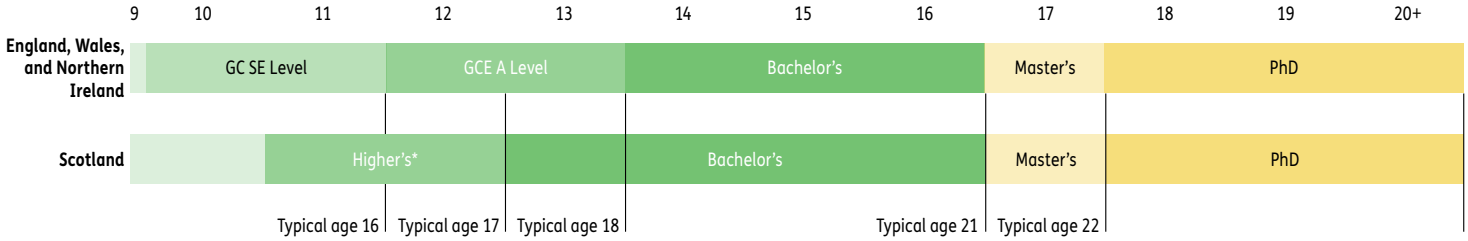
"The best part about studying in the UK is how student-friendly most cities are. Most things about living here are easy and accessible whether it's student discounts at pubs, walkability, or being able to go to museums and exhibits for free."

—Laura Maria Necsoi, New Jersey, University of Liverpool

Once a student is notified of decisions, UCAS enables a student to hold two offers from institutions in the UK. The first is a firm choice, or the student's first choice, and the second is an insurance choice, which provides the student with a safety net should they not obtain the results required by their firm choice's conditional offer.

Years in Formal Education: Comparing England, Wales, and Northern Ireland to Scotland

Chart courtesy of the British Council



*Some universities require advanced highers, which is an additional 1-year course. If advanced highers have been taken, a student would not complete their bachelor's degree until the age of 22.

Tuition and Fees

Each university sets its own fees. Annual tuition fees for international students range from about 10,000 to 21,000 pounds per year, with the exception of medical courses, which can be up to 38,000 pounds per year.

US students are eligible to use direct loans from the US Federal Student Aid program at most UK universities. Students can also check with the universities to which they are applying about scholarships for international students. The British Council website can provide more details about global scholarships.

Housing

Many universities guarantee on-campus housing—typically single-occupancy—for first-year international students. International students are usually integrated into first-year housing with domestic students. Many student residences are self-catered, meaning students prepare and cook their own meals. In city campuses, for-profit, privately run residence halls are common.

Many students elect to live in these private dorms or other private rental accommodations after their first year. Minimum monthly costs for housing and other living expenses are estimated at 1,023 pounds outside London and 1,334 pounds in London by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI).

Visa and Other Permits

Universities typically advise admitted students on how to apply for a student visa. Visas are issued by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI).

Students are advised to apply for a visa as soon as their offer of admission becomes unconditional. Students must receive a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from the institution they plan to attend to complete the visa application. Most US students meet the requirements for what is called the student visa, which is valid for the duration of an undergraduate degree program, for up to five years. To obtain a visa, students must demonstrate they have sufficient funds for living costs. However, US citizens applying from within the US do not need to show evidence of funds.

The visa application cost is 363 pounds. See the UKVI website for more information.

Though US students do not need to prove they have private health insurance, they will be asked to pay an annual health care surcharge upfront as part of the visa application process which will give them access to the UK's National Health Service for the duration of their degree. Students must pay the per year fee (470 pounds in 2022) for the duration of the visa.

International students are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week while courses are in session, and full-time during university breaks.

International students who have successfully completed an undergraduate or master's degree are also able to benefit from the new Graduate Route. Successful applicants on this route will be able to stay and work, or look for work, in the UK at any skill level for a maximum period of two years. Students who complete their Ph.D. will be able to stay for three years. The Graduate Route will require a new visa application, which will only be possible from inside the UK.

Check the Study UK website for more information about eligibility for this route.

Advice from the Field

The British Council provides numerous resources for counselors advising students on higher education in the UK, including the Study UK website and social media channels are a great resource for students considering studying in the UK.

Additionally, UCAS has a guide for counselors that explains the application process and how advisers can monitor a student's progress. Counselors can fill out a practice UCAS application, allowing them to see what students will encounter when formally applying.

Counselors and students who have specific questions pertinent to an individual university are advised to contact the institution's international admission office.

Many UK universities, particularly those in London, are known as city universities. Students should be advised that these may not have campuses in the traditional American sense. This can be daunting to students who are adapting to both college life and overseas living.

Some American students may prefer the familiar nature of campus universities, which look and feel more like many American institutions.

The UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) provides student visa advice as well as a wealth of information about other aspects of living and studying in the UK.

UK universities have adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring student safety remains a top priority while continuing to deliver the world-class teaching the UK is known for. Universities have implemented COVID-19 support services that international students can access, such as airport pick-up services, helplines for students that run 24/7 and facilitate free counseling and mental health support services. The UK's National Health Service (NHS) continues to remain available to all international students, including testing and treatment for COVID-19. For the latest information on COVID-19 and related support, students should stay in touch with their university's international office. Students can also visit the Study UK FAQs for more information about COVID-19 and international students.

Many US cities are home to local chapters of UK university alumni associations which regularly host social, professional development, and volunteer events. Alumni can also stay connected with their university through newsletters and online networks. Similar to US universities, UK universities' career services will continue to offer their alumni support to help them progress and develop their career. Some alumni may also choose to become involved in connecting with prospective students and sharing their experience at student recruitment events.

The British Council Alumni Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of alumni and showcase the impact and value of a UK higher education. Award winners and finalists are leaders in their fields who have used their experience of studying at a UK university to make a positive contribution to their communities, professions, and countries. You can find out more about past winners and how to apply or nominate someone through the British Council website.

Oxford and Cambridge application process

The University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge are two of the most prestigious destinations for postsecondary study in the United Kingdom. Both universities are rated at the top of international rankings for quality of teaching and research. Students entering either Cambridge or Oxford can expect a challenging curriculum. Admission decisions at each university are based solely on academic indicators of a student's ability and potential, according to stated selection criteria for each course, and, importantly, the application process for Cambridge and Oxford has some additional steps compared with other British universities.

Only a small number of courses are available for study (48 at Oxford and 30 at Cambridge), and programs of study are traditional and rigorous. One of the distinguishing characteristics of an Oxbridge education is the focus on small-group instruction led by academic experts. At Oxford, these sessions are called tutorials; at Cambridge they are supervisions. Both systems allow students to debate and discuss ideas with some of the best minds in the world.

An important caveat: Students can only apply to either Cambridge or Oxford, but not to both. Both schools have the same UCAS application deadline: Oct. 15 at 6 p.m. local time. Students who want to attend either university should familiarize themselves with entrance requirements early in their high school years, since both universities require specific qualifications and have early deadlines.

The College System

Oxford and Cambridge are collegiate universities, meaning that a successful applicant gains a place at the university and will be a member of a college for the entirety of their undergraduate course. A college is miniature campus and is the center of undergraduate life, including a wide range of clubs, societies, and socializing.

Each college at Oxford and Cambridge differs in a number of ways, including size, location, atmosphere, and facilities, although they also have a lot of similarities. Students can research colleges of interest prior to application, but this is not compulsory. Individual colleges are responsible for admitting their own students, although they do this on behalf of the university as a whole. Students either apply to a specific college or make an open application, meaning they will be assigned to a college based on space availability. Both universities also operate a pooling system—reallocating applicants from over-subscribed colleges to level out the application field.

Oxford or Cambridge?

Bright and motivated students who have an academic passion for a particular subject may find it difficult to decide between Oxford and Cambridge. Students must choose their course when applying, rather than declaring a major while enrolled. When deciding between Oxford and Cambridge, students should look first at the degrees offered by each institution, as these vary considerably. Oxford offers more joint-honors courses (e.g. philosophy, politics, and economics; or computer science and philosophy), whereas Cambridge tends to offer more single-subject honors courses, though it has recently introduced joint programs in history and politics, as well as history and modern languages.

For subjects such as history or law that are offered by both universities, students are advised to research the content of the degree course before making a final decision. Note the compulsory and optional modules, opportunities for studying abroad, and teaching and assessment methods.

Apply

International student application requirements are online.

- University of Oxford
- University of Cambridge

University of Oxford

Qualifications

IB Diploma

Depending on the program of study, students are expected to have a total of 38, 39, or 40 points, including the core points. Specific minimum scores in certain courses may be required; students should check online for course-specific requirements. See the course listing and international qualifications webpages for details.

SAT

Oxford will accept the SAT. Students taking the SAT will need to achieve a total score of at least 1460 out of 1600. Oxford does not require the optional essay. For details of the university's policy on superscoring, visit their international qualifications webpage.

ACT

A minimum score of 31 out of 36 is required. Oxford does not require the optional essay.

AP Tests

SAT or ACT scores should be supplemented by three or more AP tests in appropriate subjects with scores of 5. For information about changes to entry requirements in light of the discontinuation of SAT Subject Tests, please visit Oxford's international qualifications webpage.

Other Tests

Most programs also require students to take additional, subject-specific tests. Students seeking a bachelor's in law must take the National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT), for example, and math applicants must take the Mathematics Admissions Test (MAT). Results help to determine which candidates will be invited to interview. Some tests need to be completed before the application deadline, while others are completed after application, but before the interview. Students must check course websites to learn what tests are required and should schedule them early in the process. Most tests are administered in early November or late October. Students should check the details of which test(s) they need to take no later than early September to allow time to find and register at the nearest test center. Students are not expected to come to Oxford for their test(s), but their nearest test center may not be local. Schools and colleges may be able to register as a test center, if they haven't already. Further details can be found through Oxford's website.

Writing Sample

Some courses require a writing sample that demonstrates the student's analytical, reasoning, and writing skills. Students must submit their work by the deadline. The college that is considering their application may have particular format requirements (e.g., submitted in PDF form), so it is important that students ensure their submissions meet these requirements.

Interviews

Course faculty, known as tutors, typically create a shortlist of candidates by late November or early December and then invite selected students for an interview. Applicants may receive very short notice of an interview date. Note that any travel costs incurred are at the student's expense. The college considering the application may choose to interview the student via phone or on Microsoft Teams, but this is not guaranteed.

Continues.

University of Oxford *Continued.*

Interviews for specific subjects take place within a designated timeframe, and applicants must make sure that they are available on the dates required for their subject, although remote interviews may need to be scheduled outside of this time period, subject to the availability of the professors.

Interviewees should be well-read and knowledgeable about the subject matter of the course to which they are applying. They should also thoroughly review the selection criteria for their course, be fully familiar with what they wrote in their personal statement, be cognizant of relevant arguments, and be prepared to discuss their own views.

Offers

Students can expect a decision by the end of January of the year in which they plan to matriculate. An offer may come directly from the college to which a student applied, or it may come from another college within the university. For students who have not yet completed high school, the offer will likely be conditional on final results.

Resources

- US and Canada-specific information
- Interview Arrangements for International Students

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University of Cambridge

Qualifications

IB Diploma

Typical offers require scores between 40 and 42 points out of 45, with 7/7/6 in IB Higher Level subjects. Applicants may be required to achieve a 7 in a particular subject, depending on individual circumstances.

SAT

Applicants will need to achieve a score of 750 in each component to give a combined score of 1500 for most science courses and economics. For all other courses, a score of 730 in evidence-based reading and writing and a score of 730 in mathematics is required to achieve a combined score of at least 1460.

ACT

An ACT composite score of at least 32 (for arts and humanities) or 33 (for sciences) is accepted as equivalent to the SAT.

AP Tests

Applicants must submit a minimum of five College Board Advanced Placement (AP) tests (with scores of 5) taken within two years of matriculation and with particular focus on subjects related to the course applied for. Students do not need to complete all AP tests before the point of application.

Additional Questionnaire(s)

After you've submitted your UCAS application, you will need to fill in an additional Cambridge-specific form. The link will be sent by email.

Transcripts

You'll be required to submit a high school transcript as part of your application to Cambridge. For most students, the transcript will be an official document or certificate from your school or college which lists the subjects you've studied and the grades/qualifications that you've achieved in the last or most recent two years of schooling. More information about transcript submission deadlines can be found on the University of Cambridge's website.

Admission Assessments/Other Tests

Most applicants are required to take a written admission assessment. For some assessments applicants need to be registered in advance via an authorized assessment center, whereas for others this will be organized by a Cambridge college, if you're shortlisted for interview. Other tests may be required depending on the course of study. For example, applicants to Mathematics must complete the Sixth Term Examination Paper (STEP). Students should check the relevant course pages online for details about required tests.

Interviews

In 2022-23, if invited to interview, non-UK based applicants will be interviewed virtually in December. For details of what to expect visit the online interviews webpage.

Offers

Students will be notified about admission decisions by a Cambridge college. An offer may come directly from the college to which the student applied, or it may come from another college, through the pooling system. For students who have not yet completed high school, offers will usually be conditional on final results. More details are available online.

Resources

- US-specific information
- Chat with current students
- Contact a Cambridge admission representative



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QS Five-Star University: We were awarded a five-star score overall in the QS Stars rating in 2020. The University also received the maximum score in categories including teaching, employability, and facilities.

Gold Standard: The University of Lincoln was awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework. This award is evidence of our exciting teaching, great support for students, and excellent employment outcomes.

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LONDON'S CAMPUS UNIVERSITY



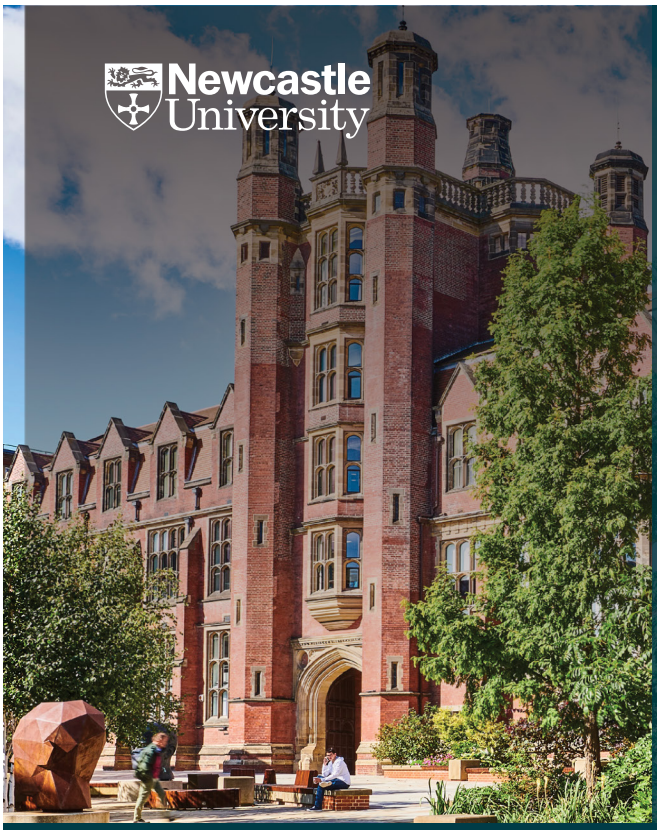
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Nichole Lim - Former U.S. Student Ambassador

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United States of America

Brief Background

The higher education system features a large number of institutions that vary in the types of degrees awarded, the number of students attending, the degree of funding and control from the public sector, and their status as nonprofit or for-profit entities. International students are typically attracted to the US because of the quality of instruction, the robust offerings, and the flexibility of the educational approach.

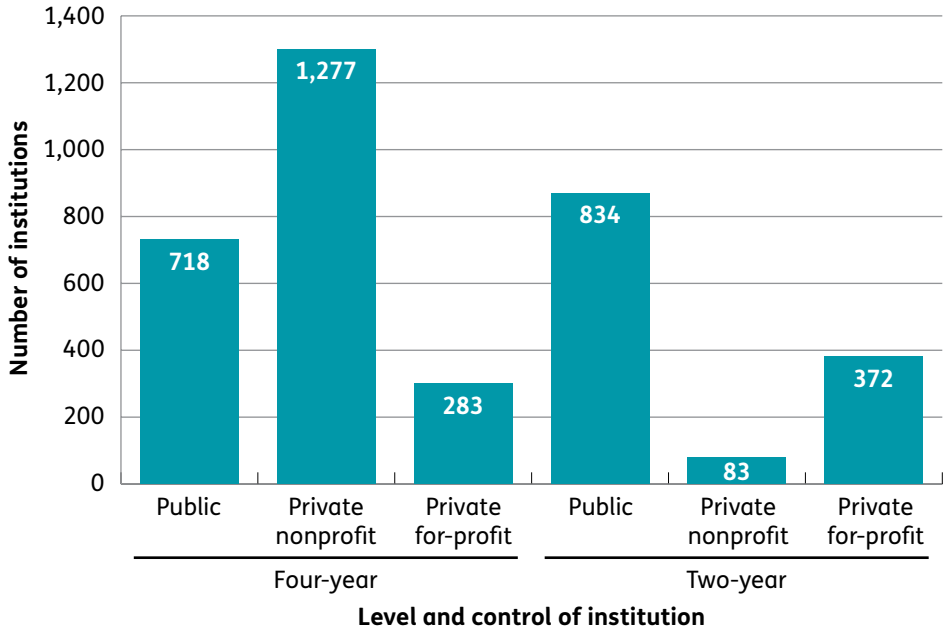
There are about 3,700 degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the US. Of these, just over 2,300 confer bachelor's degrees, following a four-year study model (referred to in the chart below as four-year colleges). Many of these institutions also offer graduate degrees, such as master's or doctorate degrees. There are also just over 1,300 institutions that offer associate degrees, and these are sometimes referred to as two-year colleges, community colleges, or junior colleges. Students attend two-year colleges either to gain skills for employment or as a pathway to continue their studies at a four-year college and earn a bachelor's degree.

In the 2020-2021 school year, about 914,000 international students enrolled in US colleges and universities, representing 4.6 percent of the students in higher education. This was a significant drop from previous years, due largely to the travel restrictions related to the global pandemic. The largest number of students come from China, followed by students from India, South Korea, and Canada. International students typically pursue a bachelor's or graduate degree, in about equal numbers, though some pursue non-degree educational paths.

US colleges and universities (the terms are often used interchangeably) hold 16 of the top 25 spots in the *Times Higher Education University World Rankings,* with 38 institutions in the top 100. While international attention has historically focused on eight private institutions that make up the Ivy League athletic conference, quality runs deep throughout US higher education, at both private and public institutions.

US higher education, unlike that of many other countries, lacks national oversight. Instead, the 50 individual states are responsible for educating

Number of degree-granting institutions with first-year undergraduates, by level and control of institution, 2020-2021



students at the primary and secondary level, and higher education institutions are accredited through regional or national entities. Students can check an institution's status through the US Department of Education's Database of Accredited Postsecondary.

Compared to private institutions, public universities tend to have larger enrollments and admit students with a wider range of academic profiles. Because of the state funding they receive, these institutions may also restrict the percentage of out-of-state students they enroll.

Good to Know

Students attending secondary school study a broad range of topics and are not tracked by aptitude or interest. Higher education follows a similar model, with an emphasis on the liberal arts and sciences. Students explore their strengths, interests, and aspirations before determining a major, or course of study. There are exceptions, such as engineering or nursing, where students apply for a specific major or program. Generally, however, changes between majors are common and most students do not need to declare their major until their second year of college. Professional studies, such as medicine, architecture, and law are not typically direct-entry undergraduate subjects.

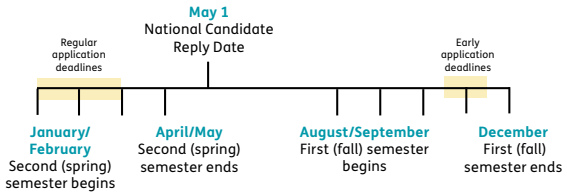
Many four-year colleges or universities offer on-campus living options, based on the idea that living away from home fosters independence. On many campuses, residential academic communities are designed to provide significant learning opportunities outside the classroom. Traditionally, athletic competitions have been a central aspect of social life on US campuses, and many also feature Greek life (fraternities for men and sororities for women), a form of social organization that may include a residential component as well.

International students may be surprised by the residential nature and strength of the university community found at many US institutions. Students are often highly engaged in their college or university, regardless of whether they live on campus. There are hundreds or even thousands

of student-run clubs and organizations, including some particularly targeted to the needs and interests of international students. Intramural, club, and varsity sports teams provide athletic and social opportunities, and formalized volunteer and leadership activities are common.

Academic Calendar

Most universities run from mid-August until the end of April or early May, but there is no national calendar. The academic year is typically split into two semesters—August to December and January to May—but some universities run on a quarter or trimester system with shorter terms, while still others use a 4-1-4 calendar, with a month-long concentrated session sandwiched between two more traditional four-month terms. A few offer a block plan of studies in which one subject is studied for three to four weeks. Many offer optional summer terms.



Search

With so many colleges and universities to choose from, students should consider their educational objectives before beginning their search. There are numerous tools available to use, and data is regularly published on admission rates, retention rates (showing the percentage of students who return for a second year of study at an institution), and graduation rates.

Education USA's website, run by the US Department of State, provides an overview for international students considering studying in the US. The organization also has 430 advising centers for international students in more than 170 countries.

The US Department of Education's College Navigator is a search tool students can use to find colleges by location, course of study, degree type, institution type, admission selectivity, and other factors.

Students with a particular region in mind may want to review the US Department of Commerce's listing of educational state consortia.

The Big Future website, sponsored by the nonprofit College Board (owners of the SAT and Advanced Placement tests), provides another search tool.



Photo courtesy of Rotila Hyka

"One of the most remarkable experiences of my undergraduate career is living in the residence hall. It helps you build character, become self-sufficient, and learn how to be responsible. I also value the sense of acceptance most Americans have and the sense of welcoming and making you feel like a part of the whole."

—Rotila Hyka, Florida Gulf Coast University, Albania

Apply

Students are not limited in the number of colleges and universities to which they can apply. The majority of first-time freshmen apply to at least three colleges and the average number is growing. In 2021-22, the average was 5.62 applications per applicant.

Though there is not a single, universal application platform in the US, in the most recent application cycle, more than 1.2 million students submitted applications to about 900 colleges and universities through the Common Application. Students can also apply to about 150 colleges through a new simplified college application called Scoir. Additionally, many universities have their own applications, or participate in a state application platform, such as in California or Texas.

Most institutions have no preference for applications submitted through one application platform over another.

The applications specify which information is to be included for each institution; what documents are to be uploaded (either by the student, a counselor, or a teacher/recommender); which are to be self-reported (sometimes test scores and/or grades); and which are to be sent separately (sometimes ACT or SAT scores). The requirements may differ by institution, and it is important to double-check the individual institutions' websites for further direction.

Admission plans

- **Regular Decision:** Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.
- **Rolling Admission:** Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render decisions throughout the admission cycle.
- **Early Action (EA):** Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.
- **Early Decision (ED):** Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.
- **Restrictive Early Action (REA):** Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED, EA, or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

Admission Deadlines

Deadlines vary by institution, by application type, and occasionally by major, but generally the early deadlines are mid-October to mid-November for students applying for the following fall. These early deadlines are for binding early decision applications or non-binding early action applications, and for both, students are informed whether they are admitted between mid-December and mid-January.

Under regular decision deadlines, which generally fall sometime between Jan. 1 and March 1, students submit their application by a specific deadline and then are notified within a specified period of time (which can be as late as early April for fall entry).

Some institutions practice rolling admission, which means that students can apply as soon as the application opens, with admission decisions released on a rolling basis as the applications are reviewed, rather than on a single date. Still other institutions utilize open admission policies—as long as students meet the college's entry requirements, they will be admitted. Rolling and open admission schools may continue to accept applications up until the term begins, on a space-available basis.

Application deadlines for financial aid (either merit or need-based) are specified by institution. Certain scholarships are only available to students who apply by a stipulated early deadline. The availability of aid varies considerably for domestic or international students, by institution, and even by state, for US citizens. Students seeking need-based aid are asked to provide significant documentation of their family's financial situation as part of the application.

Application Fees

Application fees vary by university, ranging from US$0 to US$100 and averaging US$45. Fee waivers may be available, typically with support from a school counselor. Institutions also sometimes have application events where they waive the application fee for a particular date or range of dates. NACAC, the Common Application, and other organizations have further information for counselors about fee waivers on their websites.

Admission Requirements

Many colleges and universities utilize what is referred to as "holistic admission" processes, looking at academic performance, background, personal qualities, activities, and other factors when considering which students to admit. It is important to note that US citizens enrolled in high schools internationally may be evaluated in the pool of international candidates rather than domestic students attending secondary school in the US.

On average about two-thirds of applications receive favorable decisions, but admission rates vary widely by institution (and in some cases, major) from as low as 3 percent of students admitted at the most selective institutions to nearly 100 percent at schools with open admission policies.

Each university or college sets its own admission requirements, process, and decision-making criteria. For some institutions, admission is based strictly on high school grades (generally grades 9–11, and depending on the time of application, the first half of grade 12) and/ or standardized test scores. Note that NACAC research suggests that students' grades and the strength of a their curriculum are considered to be more important to universities when making admission decisions than standardized tests. Generally, the institutions with lower admission rates (more selective institutions) require more information from students. Policies change frequently and vary widely between institutions, making it imperative that students check each institution's individual policies throughout the application process.

Students must submit their grade reports or transcript upon application, and then supply a final transcript and/or proof of diploma/completion before matriculation.



Photo courtesy of Agneeta Moisio

"The application process was much more complex than applying to a school in my home country. However, the admission process is also a lot more holistic, emphasizing more than just grades."

—Agneetta Moisio, Vanderbilt University, Finland



Historically, most four-year colleges have required ACT or SAT test scores, though even prior to the global pandemic, many had adopted test-optional policies, where scores could be submitted if desired but are not required. Virtually all colleges moved to test-optional for the Class of 2021, Class of 2022, and will continue for the Class of 2023.

Testing policies change frequently and an institution's testing requirements may differ for domestic and international students and may differ for admission and scholarship purposes. Refer to The National Center for Fair and Open Testing for an overview and visit individual university websites for the most up-to-date testing information.

International students, particularly those coming from countries where English is not the native language, may be required to submit proof of English proficiency, such as TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo test scores.

Many colleges or universities may require students to submit one or more personal essays as part of their application process. Some may also require or recommend admission or alumni interviews, and certain programs, such as those in performing or visual arts, may require submission of a portfolio or an audition.

Many universities also accept Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and other advanced course exam scores for academic credit or placement. They may also grant credit for a college course that a student takes either at their high school (dual enrollment) or on a college campus.

Upon Acceptance

Students receive one of four responses to each application: admitted, not admitted, deferred to regular decision (for early action or early decision applications), or waitlisted. Acceptance is typically contingent upon a student continuing to perform at a level consistent with previous academic performance.

Students who are admitted may attend assuming that their final transcript (or proof of completion

through exams) is in line with their previous grades, they submit any required deposits (usually due May 1, a well-established National Candidate Reply Date) and obtain a student visa.

Students who are deferred may be asked to provide additional information such as updated grades or test scores, a letter of continued interest, or an update on non-academic achievements. Deferred students generally receive more information on their application status by April 1.

Students can also be waitlisted. This means the institution might accept the student at a later date, depending on whether spaces open up in the incoming class. Waitlisted students will typically be notified sometime between May and August if they are being offered a place for fall entry.

Students typically receive all their admission decisions by April 1 and will need to choose among their options and submit a deposit by a date specified by their selected university, typically May 1 for enrollment the following fall.

Tuition and Fees

Each college sets its own tuition, housing, meals, and other fees. Generally, published costs are lower at public universities, however, private universities may provide more generous financial aid, though policies on aid to international students vary widely.

Public universities charge tuition based on whether a student resides in the state. For out-of-state students, including international students, the average undergraduate tuition and fees at a four-year public school in 2019-2020 was approximately US$27,000 per year while at a public two-year community college out-of-state students pay approximately US$8,100. Private universities do not differentiate tuition based on residency, and the average cost of tuition and fees is approximately US$33,000 per year at a 4-year institution. At both public and private universities, international students may be charged additional fees.

Cost of attendance is a term used to describe an estimate of the full costs of attending a specific college for one year. Universities include this information on their websites, both for domestic and international students. Total cost of attendance (factoring in tuition, housing, required insurance, mandatory fees, books, and miscellaneous expenses), can exceed US$80,000 at some institutions, though it can be much lower at others.

EducationUSA provides information about paying for college in the US.

NAFSA: Association of International Education provides detailed information on financial aid for international undergraduate students studying in the US.

The Institute of International Education provides selected information about scholarships programs for international students in the US. Scholarship and award programs for international undergraduates vary greatly by institution.

Housing

Many four-year colleges and universities, and some two-year institutions, have their own housing, and may require students to live on campus and purchase a university meal plan, at least for the first year. First-year students have historically been housed in residence halls, with multiple students sharing a bedroom/study area. Styles vary, but generally feature shared bathrooms, laundry facilities, and other common areas. Some universities have suites or apartment-style living, though this is often reserved for upperclassmen. Application for on-campus housing generally occurs after a student has chosen their institution and paid an enrollment and/or housing deposit.

Many students move off campus to private accommodations after their first or second year if the university allows it. Some institutions provide a list of off-campus housing, but the rental agreements are transacted solely between the student and the property owner.

The fees for housing and meals are referred to as room and board and should be accounted for when planning for study in the US. Students should refer to individual university websites for cost estimates for on- and off-campus living, as the rates vary by institution and location.

Visa and Other Permits

Nonimmigrant international students usually enter the United States using one of three visa types: F-1, J-1, or M-1. The F-1 status is for international students who wish to individually enroll in a more traditional academic program, such as a two- or four-year college or university. International students with M-1 status usually are enrolled in a shorter-term program at a vocational school that teaches a technical skill like culinary arts, cosmetology, or aviation. J-1 exchange visitors come to the United States to participate in a program specifically geared toward cultural exchange, including academic exchanges.

J-1 exchange visitors must be sponsored by an organization designated by the US Department of State. Students can learn more about the Exchange Visitors Program on the Department of State website.

The US Department of Homeland Security website has useful information for students on visa types, applications, and requirements. Federal regulations require that all F-1 and M-1 international students attend a school or program certified by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). Students can search the SEVP website to confirm their school's status.

Subject to approval from their university's international student office, international students on F-1 or M-1 visas may be able to work on campus up to 20 hours a week their first year and can apply to work off campus in subsequent years.



Advice from the Field

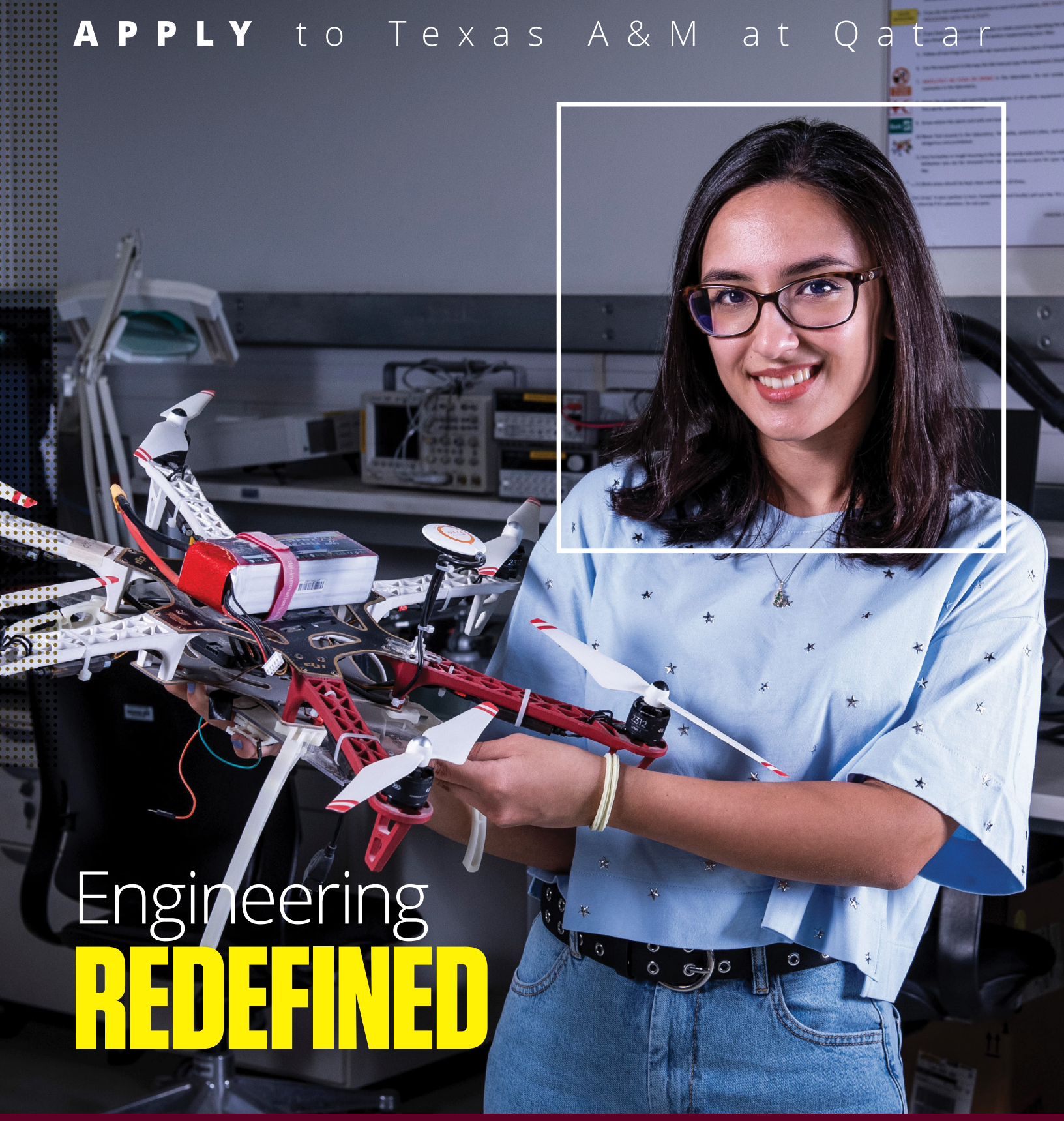
In part because of the number and variety of higher education institutions, there is emphasis on "fit" as students select a college or university. The definition of fit varies and is personal but includes factors such as academic approach and areas of study, social and extracurricular life, affordability, size, location, and more. And through the holistic admission policies practiced at many colleges, the concept of fit goes both ways: admission officers reviewing student applications are assessing what the student would bring to the residential and social community in addition to evaluating their academic credentials and ability to succeed in the classroom. Accordingly, university admission can appear arbitrary, and admission decisions are often difficult to predict. It is very important for students to apply to a balanced list of schools, with a range of admission selectivity.

University rankings can be controversial in the US, as it would be incredibly difficult to create a systematic way to measure educational quality delivered by institutions that vary on so many dimensions. The most well-known ranking is produced annually by *U.S. News & World Report*. Other media outlets have created college rankings, including *Forbes, Money Magazine,* and *Princeton Review.* Colleges that Change Lives, both an organization and book of the same name, provides in-depth information on some innovative, small liberal arts and sciences colleges.

US colleges and universities often have strong alumni networks throughout the states and the world. Alumni can often provide career advice, connections, and other opportunities to graduates.



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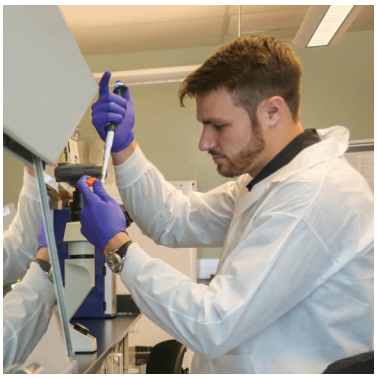
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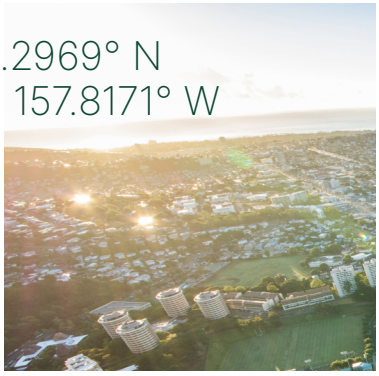
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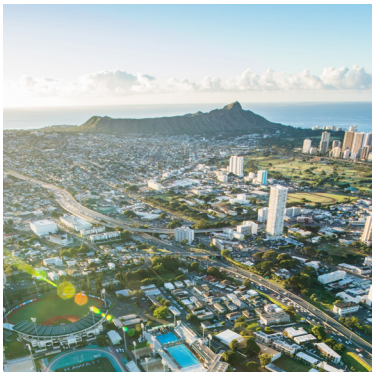
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Diverse and Underrepresented Students Abroad

An international educational experience offers students many long-term benefits, including self-confidence, a broadened worldview, and expanded career path. Yet traditionally underserved populations remain underrepresented in education abroad. Given the benefits gained, non-participants may be at a competitive disadvantage. Building awareness of the barriers these populations face in pursuing international opportunities—and how to better support them—plays a critical role in addressing this disparity.

In 2020, the National Center for Education Statistics reported that 47.2 percent of all undergraduate students in the US identified as people of color, about a 30 percent increase since 1980. While diversity in higher education continues to increase, representation in other areas of the undergraduate collegiate experience have not followed suit. This is particularly true of international experiences. In 2021, 70 percent of US study abroad students were white; 11 percent were Hispanic or Latino; 9 percent were Asian, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander; 6 percent were Black or African American; 5 percent were multiracial; and less than 1 percent identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, according to IIE's *Open Doors* data. These numbers are an improvement over previous years, but there is still room for further growth.

It is also important to think of representation in terms beyond race and ethnicity, including all groups that have not traditionally participated in global programs. In addition to racial and ethnic minorities, Diversity Abroad—an international organization that connects diverse students with meaningful international experiences—identifies the following groups: economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, LGBTQI+ students, and first-generation students. Gender is another important consideration. Though women make up the majority of American study abroad participants, they are included in diversity discussions as a result of sensitivities around gender inequality in host countries. Men, on the other hand, have in fact been underrepresented in international programs. IIE's data for the past decade show the female-to-male participation rate for students studying abroad has consistently been two-to-one.

The factors influencing participation from these groups are varied and complex. However, by identifying the issues deterring international study and recognizing factors that encourage participation, counselors can better serve their students. Table 1 offers a breakdown of these obstacles as well as practices proven to mitigate these challenges.

Making the decision to pursue an international educational experience takes time and energy, but above all it requires students to be aware it's even a possibility. There are several organizations currently working to provide services and information for underrepresented populations in international education. Some of these organizations cater specifically to certain groups, and most of them focus on short-term educational opportunities. However, their content can also be applicable as students consider the viability of pursuing other international experiences, such as three-year full degrees abroad and community college-to-international university pathways. A list of organizations and resources can be found in Table 2.

Table 1: Challenges and Strategies for Diverse and Underrepresented Student Representation in International Education

Population	Challenges/Concerns	Strategies
Racial and Ethnic Minorities	Financial barriers, lack of information, social capital, fear of discrimination, lack of support, institutional and academic barriers	Inclusive messaging, broader understanding of why it is important, presenting the cost of lost opportunities, early planning and budgeting, institutional and external scholarships, cost savings of pursuing full degree abroad, peer support
Economically Disadvantaged Students	Financial barriers, loss of income (job) while abroad, family obligations, heavily structured majors	Exposure to program options, presenting the cost of lost opportunities, early planning and budgeting, institutional and external scholarships, cost savings of pursuing full degree abroad, peer support
Students with Disabilities	Insufficient knowledge of available programs, lack of assistive devices and services, financial barriers, challenges to requesting accommodation, concerns about perception abroad, family support	Awareness of available opportunities, support from peers and study abroad alumnae, equal access to advising
Women	Social norms in the destination country, as well as the US, home obligations (e.g., single mothers)	Research on safety abroad, social norms of the host country, adaptability, advice from peers, support from program organizers, scholarships for women that consider special circumstances
Men	Peer influence, perceived incompatibility with course requirements (particularly STEM majors), perceived as a female-dominated activity, home obligations	Link reasons for going directly to major or career, provide support from professionals in the field or major faculty
LGBTQI+ Students	Privacy, fear of discrimination by host culture and program organizers	Inclusive messaging, research on safety abroad, social norms of the host country, adaptability, advice from peers, support from program organizers
First-Generation Students	Financial barriers, loss of income (job) while abroad, family obligations, heavily structured majors	Exposure to program options, presenting the cost of lost opportunities, early planning and budgeting, institutional and external scholarships, peer support
Undocumented Students	Legal status, academic success, reduced social and cultural capital, financial barriers	Advance parole, legal counsel from a board-certified attorney with access to US Citizenship and Immigration Services or representative from a Board of Immigration Appeals, participation in local global programs

Table 2: Resources by Student Demographic

Population	Strategies
Racial and Ethnic Minorities	• Diversity Abroad
Students with Disabilities	• Diversity Abroad • Mobility International USA
Women	• Diversity Abroad
LGBTQI+ Students	• Diversity Abroad • International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Association • NAFSA Rainbow SIG • NAFSA LGBTQI+ Student Advising Guide for Education Abroad Professionals
First-Generation Students	• Diversity Abroad
Undocumented Students	• NAFSA



American Universities Abroad

Brief Background

American Universities Abroad (AUA) is a group of private American universities located outside of the US that offer English-taught degree programs modeled on American curricula and quality oversight practices. AUA universities meet the following criteria:

- Have US regional accreditation
- Are nonprofit
- Operate on the US academic credit system
- Participate in US federal financial aid

AUA universities are located in different regions of the world, and encourage international perspectives and cross-cultural education within the context of their degree programs. Each AUA university enrolls a significant number of international applicants, leading to a diverse and multinational population of students on campus.

American students make up the largest percentage of students at most AUA universities, but there is typically less than 50 percent of any one nationality.



Good to Know

Many AUA institutions specialize in the humanities. AUA universities offer a liberal arts style of education, including general education as well as major requirements, and grant US degrees. Some AUA universities also offer a nationally recognized degree from the local host country.

For institutions that have a US-based campus and a campus abroad—such as Webster University (MO) or Saint Louis University (MO)—degrees can be completed in their entirety at the campus abroad, or students can spend time completing academic requirements in both countries. Some AUA universities, such as John Cabot University, have direct exchange partnerships with US universities, allowing students to complete part of their undergraduate experience in the United States.

Fundamental to the student experience in AUA programs is engagement with global issues, experiential learning, travel and cross-cultural exchange, and an emphasis on global citizenship. AUA universities instill a cosmopolitan outlook and teach students how to adapt to change.

Students have the opportunity to experience not only a US-style education, but are also uniquely situated to immerse themselves in the culture of the university's host country as well.

Academic Calendar

AUA universities follow a traditional American academic calendar, generally beginning in August or September and continuing until May, with summer course options.

Search

Many AUA universities are members of Common App and can be found using the Common App

search function. Many AUA university admission representatives are also active in events and fairs in the United States throughout the fall and spring, and some AUA institutions have admission representatives based in the United States.

Apply

AUA universities follow a traditional US timeline, with applications accepted beginning in the late summer or fall. Institutions that are members of Common App require students to use the portal to apply, sometimes asking applicants to complete a supplementary essay. As in the US, other requirements vary, and sometimes include an interview, meeting, or phone conversation in addition to the application. Those schools not on Common App use a similar approach to admission, but requirements differ among institutions.

Deadlines

AUA admission decisions are often rolling, though there are deadlines for confirmation of acceptance. For US students the May 1 deadline is generally observed.

How do I know if a university abroad has us regional accreditation?

US regional accreditation is one way to assess institutional quality. In the US there are seven regional accrediting bodies that oversee postsecondary education at public and private institutions. While national accreditation seems like it would be more important, regional accreditation is older and generally more prestigious. American accrediting agencies are increasingly evaluating foreign institutions as they believe they have a role to play in promoting the mobility of students and faculty.

Application Fee

Fees vary by institution, even those that accept Common App.

Academic Requirements

Most AUA institutions opt to review applications holistically. Counselors and students should check with each school for the required minimum GPA, as they vary by institution. The universities award academic credit demonstrated by Advanced Placement (AP) test scores, International Baccalaureate (IB) diplomas, and A-level exams. While test scores are not always required, the institutions will accept and may assess them as a part of the application review when submitted.

Upon Acceptance

US students should confirm enrollment by May 1.

There are associated deposit fees for confirmation and in some cases for housing. AUA universities generally have an extensive pre-arrival process. Admission counselors and student life officials help students with each step they need to complete to arrive promptly and safely—including visa acquisition, as well as travel, housing, and banking arrangements. Some AUA universities direct students to websites that offer discounted student airfare.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition varies among institutions. Counselors and students should check each school for estimates regarding tuition and living costs.

The following agencies keep an updated directory of accredited institutions, including non-US institutions:

- Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education
- Higher Learning Commission

- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges
- New England Commission of Higher Education
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

Some AUA universities bill tuition in the currency of the country where they are located. Some schools list the dates when the exchange rate will be set—typically early July for the fall semester, and early November for the spring semester—so students and families can better understand what they will pay in US dollars and budget accordingly.

Financial aid, both institutional and federal, is available at all AUA institutions. Institutional financial aid is determined by each university. US citizens can also access federal student loan opportunities by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Note that current US government legislation prohibits US citizens enrolled in colleges or universities outside the United States from receiving Federal Work-Study funds, even though they may be eligible for such assistance.

Additionally, all AUA universities offer merit-based scholarships. Some award need-based scholarships and have programs similar to American work study.

Housing

Each university strives to provide affordable housing options for their students. Accommodations vary among institutions and can include on-campus housing (some with residential advisers) and off-campus accommodations, such as apartment-style living, host families, or residence halls managed by local universities. Meal plan options also exist at many AUA universities.

Most AUA institutions have a housing department and/or housing partner that will help students secure housing for their first year and beyond. Some AUA universities require that students use university-approved housing—on-campus or provided by a partner—during their first year of studies.

Visas and Other Permits

In most cases students will need a student visa to study in their AUA host country. The visa acquisition process varies in length, but students begin it once they have confirmed their attendance. Fees to obtain the student visa vary depending on the destination country. AUA institutions offer admitted students help with the required paperwork and process. However, students must follow the host country's policies for visa application.

Students may be able to work part-time with their student visa while studying at an AUA institution, however, availability varies by country. For the most part, students are not guaranteed any type of visa or permit to remain in-country after they complete their education, unless sponsored by another organization or employer.

Advice from the Field

Communications and the assistance provided by an AUA university are similar to that of US-based institutions. One possible difference is that many of the AUA universities are smaller in size compared to many universities in the US, so the support that students and counselors receive tends to be very personalized. Students can expect one-on-one attention starting with the admission process and extending on to academic advising and on through graduation.

Because student visas are required in most cases, it is important that counselors encourage students to be in constant contact with their admission representative for help with each step of the process.

Gap Year Options

Brief Background

A gap year is an option for students who want to spend a semester or year away from a traditional academic environment and immerse themselves in an experiential learning environment, typically before starting their first year of college or at some point during their early undergraduate years.

The Gap Year Association (GYA), a nonprofit membership association, estimates that prior to 2020, about 80 percent of gap year participants traveled internationally for some portion of their gap year time, and 71 percent report studying abroad later in college. The GYA focuses its work on four key pillars 1) gap year research, 2) gap year program and consultant accreditations using federally recognized standards, 3) resources for students, families, and educators, and 4) equity and access.

A gap year is distinguished from study abroad in its timing and focus, and in the ways students experience, explore, and experiment with different possible future pathways. Most students on a gap year will touch on practical, professional, and personal learning outcomes, whereas a study abroad is more focused on one particular area of study and accompanied by a credit- bearing academic component.

Some examples of a transformative gap year include being an assistant teacher for lower-income communities in the AmeriCorps CityYear program domestically in the US, volunteering for two months with baboons in South Africa, interning with a mobile cinema in rural Argentina, studying solar panels in an international community in Northern India, or learning from a local artist in Mexico.

Good to Know

GYA defines a successful gap year as one that: primarily employs experiential learning methods, lasts a minimum of two months, and supports the long-term success of the gapper—a term used to refer to gap year students. Gap year students should approach their gap year as an experience in its own right; not as a strategy to get into a better school or get more financial aid. In all cases, students benefit by going beyond classroom environments where grades and lesson plans drive student learning, and instead re-engaging in their own curiosity and personal connection to the material.

General Structure

Think about a gap year as multiple, independent activities superimposed onto an academic calendar—trimesters or semesters. The best gap years include at least two of the following distinct classes of experience: service-learning to promote



empathy and global citizenship; an internship or career experimentation to inform college and career paths; paid work to help fund a solid gap year and to encourage personal investment in the experience; and some unstructured time to leave room for unplanned opportunities. Students frequently choose a balance of independent and structured activities, with intended outcomes that encourage both social and individual maturation.

The majority of students who participate in a gap year spend most of their year unaffiliated with a formal program, stitching together a mix of experiences and travel. However, GYA recommends launching the gap year with a structured introductory experience, leaving the remaining time to be more independent and lower-cost. This allows ample opportunity to get trained on cultural issues, safety, global politics, responsible volunteering, etc.

Benefits

- Research shows 90 percent of gap year graduates enter a four-year college within a year of their gap year experience.
- Gappers over-perform in college, often achieving GPAs 0.15 to 0.45 points higher than would have been predicted—benefits that are sustained throughout their college career, per a 2012 Middlebury College study.
- 95 percent of gap year graduates say their gap year prepared them well for their transition to education and/or the workforce, according to a 2020 survey of gap year alumni.

Search

The GYA's accreditation process is regulated by the US Department of Justice and focuses largely on pedagogy and safety with opportunities to accredit both gap year programs and gap year consultants. A searchable list of programs and gap year consultants can be found on the GYA website.

The GYA has a Gap Year Student Membership level with toolkits, discounts, and access to experts; as well as membership levels for high school and independent counselors. New online resources are available to help create an independent gap year, modeled off the heralded Duke of Edinburgh Award from the UK.

There are two organizations coordinating gap year fairs around the US. USA Gap Year Fairs has collaborated with more than 40 high schools across the country to offer in-person fairs. These fairs tend to be in the spring and connect a wide variety of gap year programs with interested families, educators, and gap year alumni.

Other resources, such as Go Overseas, offer more general listings of gap year programs and while these platforms do not formally vet programs, they do host peer reviews and can provide a great variety for students to consider. Additionally, *TeenLife* has their own unique platform for virtual fairs. There are also a number of professional gap year consultants who work with families to maximize the gap year.

Apply

Programs that depart in the fall months are usually filled by June/July of the same year. The vast majority of students who participate in a gap year program will begin researching options a year or more in advance. However, some students might not begin considering a gap year until the spring of their senior year once they have received decisions from the colleges they applied to and the concrete reality of "four more years" settles in. Students who engage in a gap year during their undergraduate years may be among the last to plan their gap year search, as their decision to take time away from college is at times more reactionary to personal circumstances and/or spontaneous.

Typical Cost

There is no typical cost associated with gap years—they range from paid (e.g., AmeriCorps) to expenses on par with college. Gap year consultants, who charge a nominal fee, can help families find low- cost or paid options, or, leverage familial and friend networks to keep costs down. Many students will spend US$15,000 for a full program. At this price point, students are typically able to find a program that meets safety and education expectations. GYA-accredited programs gave away more than US$5 million in need- based financial aid in 2018.

An increasing number of programs can be financed by US federal loans and grants, which students access by filing the FAFSA. Additionally, several US Department of State scholarship opportunities are available that could fund the entire year or defray a portion of the expenses. Note that in order to be eligible for US federal loans and scholarships, students have to be earning college credit (see below). College savings plans such as 529 funds are becoming widely accessible to gap year students through partnerships with higher education institutions. Contact the program directly to determine if this, and other Federal Financial Aid, is a possibility. The GYA website can provide more information.

Can a student get college credit from participating in a gap year?

Some gap year programs offer college credit. In these cases, it is typically applied as general education credit or on par with Advanced Placement (AP) credit. Lowering the overall cost of college, by coming in with a semester of credit for instance, is how some students and families justify participation in a gap year. However, credit transfers can be challenging to navigate.

Students are strongly encouraged to check with individual institutions about the potential financial aid implications of entering college as a first-year student with some credit already earned. In some cases, they may be treated as a transfer student even if they have deferred admission.

The method for assigning credit for a gap year experience varies depending on the partnership between the gap year program and partner university. Typically, organizations work to ensure the experiential learning pedagogies of the gap year program are not sacrificed, instead requiring papers, journals, and/or presentations after completion of the program. Innovative models for fusing the gap year and freshman year experience are emerging, like those offered by Verto Education—a first semester abroad program that guarantees acceptance into one of Verto's partner colleges and universities to streamline the college admission process.

Gap Year Colleges

Some institutions run their own gap year programs, such as Tufts University (MA), Princeton University (NJ), Duke University (NC), Savannah College of Art and Design (GA), Florida State University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, more colleges have begun offering their own gap year programming. Each tends to operate with a particular focus. Tufts, for instance, focuses on service as the central theme. Find out more about universities with favorable deferral policies though GYA's Official Gap Year Colleges listing.

Advice from the Field

A good litmus test to determine whether a gap year would be appropriate for a student is to ask what excites them about college. If they genuinely light up at the academic prospects of an institution of higher learning, then they should strongly consider matriculating. If, however, they show more enthusiasm for experiential learning, or they focus only on the social learning and academic excitement is not present, then a gap year should be actively discussed.

Counselors are encouraged to initiate a conversation as most students do not know that a gap year is an option or may have misperceptions about its outcomes. In an informal survey by the Independent Educational Consultants Association, 50 percent of students who were offered a gap year option on their college list chose to become a gapper. In every case, however, make sure the student leads the way and their families don't take on the lion's share of the work and exploration.

Gap year program providers offer varying levels of support, though some students may require additional supports or accommodations. For example, if a student requires therapeutic supports, they may be better suited for a wilderness therapy program or a "pre-gap year" program.

In helping students identify gap year options, ask them to spend an hour writing down the various elements—countries, languages, activities, housing, physical/ emotional/academic challenges, personal goals, and other skills—that they think would be most interesting. Keep in mind that as a student's research broadens and self-awareness grows, options will often change, and a good plan will adjust with new information and experience.

Many students who take a gap year have already applied and gained admission to a university. It is much easier logistically to gather materials and fill out college applications during high school where systems are designed to support this process. There is also a chance that students may have limited access to internet, depending on the location of their gap year. If a student intends to pursue an undergraduate degree following their gap year, encourage them to share their gap year plans with admission officers at their deferred or prospective institutions. Increasingly, colleges and universities are developing formal policies for students choosing to defer so they can take part in a gap year. Furthermore, some schools are recruiting gap year graduates with higher merit-aid awards knowing that, on average, they will significantly contribute to the college reputation and campus community.

Roughly 12 percent of gap year students change their college plans as a result of the personal growth they experience during their gap year. Some students apply to other schools during the gap year and some reapply to schools where they were not originally accepted in hopes that the gap year will improve their chances of being accepted. Again, this experience should not be encouraged as a means to an end.

Several gap year programs provide participants with college application resources and supports. Nonetheless, students should work through the high school counselor who has expertise and access to transcripts and academic records. These should include letters of recommendation requested by the student and written by teachers and the counselor during the student's final year of high school.

Conclusion

A running commentary in the gap year field goes like this: "Most students take a gap year, it's just called their freshman year." This implies that stereotypical first-years in college are expensive and focus more on social-learning than academics. Gap year advocates are keen to highlight that participants emerge from their gap years happier and more focused about their path because it is within an experienced context. As career and technical schools grow in popularity and importance, gap years are being talked about as a smart way to help students determine the appropriate next step for their education and chosen career path.

Federal Aid Outside the US

Students may be able to use US federal student loans to finance studies outside the United States for a semester or an entire degree. The type of aid a student can obtain and the process for applying depends on the type of program they intend to enter.

Types of Aid

Hundreds of universities around the world participate in the US William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. Students planning to attend one of these schools may be eligible to use either a Direct Subsidized Loan or Direct Unsubsidized Loan to finance their undergraduate education.

Parents also might be able to borrow on a student's behalf, via the Direct PLUS Loan program for parents. International universities do not participate in the US Department of Education's grant programs, so US students may not use Pell Grants to finance studies at an international university.

Some institutions accept GI Bill funding. The US Department of Veterans Affairs provides guidance for military veterans who wish to attend schools outside the United States and a search function to find participating foreign institutions by country.

Seek aid early

State and local financial assistance programs, including private scholarships, may be available to help with study abroad and overseas study. Students should take the time to check carefully, calling or emailing the funding agency and asking specific questions well in advance of committing to a course of study outside the United States.

Students should contact the student financial aid office at any international institution they are interested in attending to confirm its participation in the federal aid program and to learn about application policies and procedures.

Amount of Aid

The annual limit for Direct Subsidized Loans plus Direct Unsubsidized Loans for undergraduate students varies from $5,500 to $12,500, depending on a variety of factors, such as year in school and whether a student receives financial support from his or her family. Check annual and aggregate limits for subsidized and unsubsidized loans on the Federal Student Loan website.

Steps

The application process to obtain student loan funding for undergraduate studies at an international university is similar to that used for US schools. Generally, the student must take the following steps:

Complete the FAFSA

Fill out a FAFSA form at fafsa.gov. The FAFSA form is available on Oct. 1. Students select the international university they plan to attend in the question about Federal School Codes. The FAFSA site includes a search tool to help locate the appropriate institution and its code. Select "Foreign Country" in the required "State" field. The international institution will gain access to a student's FAFSA information electronically once it is submitted.

Note: The award year and the academic year at the international institution can differ depending on the country; questions about timing and process should be directed to the institution's financial aid office.



Complete Entrance Counseling

Students borrowing federal funds for the first time must complete entrance counseling to learn about their loan responsibilities. This must be done before funds are released. Depending upon the school, entrance counseling might occur electronically before a student leaves the United States. It could also be administered once the student arrives in the host country electronically or by the host institution's financial aid office or admission staff. Students should be prepared to advocate for themselves and proactively seek out the information they need once abroad. A good deal of perseverance may be needed to connect with the right person and/or office at an international university.

Submit a Master Promissory Note

The Master Promissory Note (MPN) is a legal document that obligates students to repay their loan(s), plus the accrued interest and fees, to the US Department of Education. Students complete the MPN online.

Note: One MPN must be completed per loan. Thus, separate MPNs must be submitted for student borrowers whose parents are also taking a PLUS loan.

Contact the University, Complete the Loan Application

Once steps 1 through 3 have been completed, the student should notify the university to confirm and inquire about next steps. This will typically entail the completion of a loan application form by email or via the institution's online portal.

Receive Financial Aid Award Letter from University

The university will calculate the student's estimated cost of attendance. Students deemed eligible for loan funding will receive an award letter indicating the maximum amount they may borrow.

Accept the Loan

Following instructions accompanying the award letter, students can opt to formally accept loan funding, specifying the total amount they wish to borrow. The institution will then originate the loan, and in most cases the money will be electronically applied to the student's university account to pay for tuition and fees. The remainder will be available to the student.

Note: Funds are likely to be rendered in the local currency. And, depending upon timing, funds might not be disbursed before a student departs the United States. This means travel and initial expenses will need to be self-financed.

With the exception of entrance counseling, this process must be completed each year a student accepts loan funding. Entrance counseling is only required before the first year.

Advice from the Field

Assessing the cost and value of pursuing a full degree program at an institution outside of the United States should be part of the financial aid discussion counselors have with students. For students interested in institutions outside of the United States, travel may represent a significant expense. So can renting an apartment, as not all universities offer dormitories or student housing. If not bundled with the tuition, families should also be aware of fees for visas and international health insurance costs.

Students should be mindful of school breaks. Not all students receiving financial aid can afford to come home for long holiday breaks and perhaps not even for the summer.

Currency fluctuations are another consideration. The value of most foreign currencies relative to the US dollar is in continual flux. While short-term changes are unlikely to be significant, costs can increase or decrease considerably over a period of years. Students and families should budget with this in mind.

Any school that participates in federal student aid programs is required to provide information on its cost of attendance and to offer a net price calculator on its website, although this requirement is still being phased in at some institutions.

If a student is interested in pursuing a study abroad program for a semester or a year during their undergraduate program, they should contact the financial aid office at the US colleges or universities they are considering. Note that the US institution must participate in the federal student aid program for a student to be eligible to use federal aid for their study abroad program.

NACAC Member Universities — International *As of June 2022*

To search all NACAC member institutions, including US colleges and universities, visit www.nacacnet.org/membership/member-resources/member-directory/.

University	Country	Website
Deakin University	Australia	deakin.edu.au
James Cook University	Australia	jcu.edu.au
Macquarie University, Sydney	Australia	mq.edu.au
Monash University	Australia	monash.edu.au/north-america-info
The University of New South Wales	Australia	unsw.edu.au
The University of Sydney	Australia	sydney.edu.au
American University in Bulgaria	Bulgaria	www.aubg.edu
Bishop's University	Canada	www.ubishops.ca
Brescia University College	Canada	brescia.uwo.ca/
Brock University	Canada	discover.brocku.ca
Capilano University	Canada	www.capilanou.ca
Carleton University	Canada	admissions.carleton.ca
Concordia University	Canada	www.concordia.ca
Corpus Christi College	Canada	www.corpuschristi.ca
Dalhousie University	Canada	www.dal.ca
Emily Carr University of Art And Design	Canada	www.ecuad.ca
McGill University	Canada	www.mcgill.ca
McMaster University	Canada	www.mcmaster.ca
OCAD University	Canada	www.ocadu.ca
Ontario Tech University	Canada	www.ontariotechu.ca/
Queen's University	Canada	www.queensu.ca
Quest University Canada	Canada	www.questu.ca
Ryerson University	Canada	www.ryerson.ca
Simon Fraser University	Canada	www.sfu.ca/students/admission

University	Country	Website
St. Francis Xavier University	Canada	www.stfx.ca
St. Thomas University	Canada	www.stu.ca
The University of British Columbia	Canada	you.ubc.ca
Tyndale University	Canada	www.tyndale.ca
University of Alberta	Canada	www.ualberta.ca/prospective-students
University of Guelph	Canada	www.uoguelph.ca
University of Manitoba	Canada	www.umanitoba.ca
University of New Brunswick	Canada	www.unb.ca/international
University of Saskatchewan	Canada	www.usask.ca
University of Toronto	Canada	www.utoronto.ca
University of Victoria	Canada	www.uvic.ca
University of Waterloo	Canada	www.uwaterloo.ca/international
University of Winnipeg	Canada	www.uwinnipeg.ca
Vancouver Island University	Canada	www.viu.ca
York University	Canada	www.yorku.ca
Duke Kunshan University	China	https://www.dukekunshan.edu.cn/
Rennes School of Business	France	www.rennes-sb.com
Burgundy School of Business	France	https://global.bsb-education.com/
The American University of Paris	France	www.aup.edu
Bard College Berlin, A Liberal Arts University	Germany	www.berlin.bard.edu
Jacobs University Bremen	Germany	www.jacobs-university.de
KIT Carl Benz School of Engineering	Germany	www.carlbenzschool.kit.edu
University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt	Germany	www.fhws.de/en
American College of Thessaloniki	Greece	www.act.edu
American College Dublin	Ireland	www.iamu.edu
Maynooth University	Ireland	www.maynoothuniversity.ie
Trinity College Dublin	Ireland	www.tcd.ie
University College Dublin	Ireland	www.ucd.ie

University	Country	Website
University of Limerick	Ireland	www.ul.ie/international
Hebrew University of Jerusalem	Israel	en.huji.ac.il/en
Bocconi University	Italy	https://www.unibocconi.eu/
John Cabot University	Italy	www.johncabot.edu
International College of Liberal Arts (iCLA), Yamanashi Gakuin University	Japan	icla.ygu.ac.jp/en
Nagoya University	Japan	https://admissions.g30.nagoya-u.ac.jp/apply/
Osaka University	Japan	www.chadwickinternational.org/
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University	Japan	admissions.apu.ac.jp
Temple University—Japan Campus	Japan	https://www.tuj.ac.jp/
Waseda University	Japan	www.waseda.jp/top/en
American University of Beirut	Lebanon	https://www.aub.edu.lb/
Leiden University	Netherlands	www.universiteitleiden.nl/en
University College Roosevelt	Netherlands	www.ucr.nl
Northwestern University in Qatar	Qatar	www.qatar.northwestern.edu
Texas A&M University at Qatar	Qatar	www.qatar.tamu.edu
Saint Louis University-Madrid	Spain	www.slu.edu/madrid
UIC Barcelona	Spain	https://www.uic.es/en
Universidad de Navarra	Spain	www.unav.edu
University Carlos III of Madrid	Spain	www.uc3m.es/ss/Satellite/C3IS/en/PortadaMiniSite/1371220461783/Carlos_III_International_School
EHL	Switzerland	www.ehl.edu
Franklin University Switzerland	Switzerland	www.fus.edu
Les Roches/Glion Institute of Higher Education	Switzerland	https://www.glion.edu/
Abertay University	United Kingdom	abertay.ac.uk
Aberystwyth University	United Kingdom	aber.ac.uk
Bangor University	United Kingdom	bangor.ac.uk/index.php.en
Bath Spa University	United Kingdom	bathspa.ac.uk
Brunel University London	United Kingdom	brunel.ac.uk

University	Country	Website
Cardiff University	United Kingdom	https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/
City University London	United Kingdom	city.ac.uk
Durham University	United Kingdom	dur.ac.uk
Edinburgh Napier University	United Kingdom	napier.ac.uk
ESCP Business School	United Kingdom	escpeurope.eu
Falmouth University	United Kingdom	https://www.falmouth.ac.uk/
Goldsmiths, University of London	United Kingdom	gold.ac.uk
Imperial College London	United Kingdom	imperial.ac.uk
Hartpury University	United Kingdom	Hartpury.ac.uk
King's College London	United Kingdom	kcl.ac.uk
Kingston University London	United Kingdom	kingston.ac.uk/northamerica
Leeds Arts University	United Kingdom	leeds-art.ac.uk
Leeds Beckett University	United Kingdom	leedsbeckett.ac.uk/international
Liverpool John Moores University	United Kingdom	ljmu.ac.uk
London Metropolitan University	United Kingdom	londonmet.ac.uk
Loughborough University	United Kingdom	https://www.lboro.ac.uk/
Manchester Metropolitan University	United Kingdom	mmu.ac.uk
Newcastle University	United Kingdom	ncl.ac.uk
Northumbria University	United Kingdom	northumbria.ac.uk
Norwich University of the Arts	United Kingdom	nua.ac.uk
Oxford Brookes University	United Kingdom	brookes.ac.uk
Queen Mary University of London	United Kingdom	qmul.ac.uk
Queen's University Belfast	United Kingdom	https://www.qub.ac.uk/
Richmond, The American International University in London	United Kingdom	Richmond.ac.uk
Royal Holloway, University of London	United Kingdom	Royalholloway.ac.uk
SOAS University of London	United Kingdom	soas.ac.uk
Swansea University	United Kingdom	swansea.ac.uk/international
The Glasgow School of Art	United Kingdom	https://www.gsa.ac.uk/
The University of Greenwich, London	United Kingdom	gre.ac.uk/usa

University	Country	Website
The University of Sheffield	United Kingdom	sheffield.ac.uk
The University of Sussex	United Kingdom	https://www.sussex.ac.uk/
The University of York	United Kingdom	york.ac.uk
UCL, University College London	United Kingdom	ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/international
University for the Creative Arts	United Kingdom	https://www.uca.ac.uk/
University of Aberdeen	United Kingdom	abdn.ac.uk
University of Birmingham	United Kingdom	birmingham.ac.uk/index.aspx
University of Bradford	United Kingdom	bradford.ac.uk
University of Bristol	United Kingdom	bristol.ac.uk
University of Central Lancashire	United Kingdom	uclan.ac.uk
University of Chester	United Kingdom	chester.ac.uk
University of Dundee—Scotland	United Kingdom	https://www.dundee.ac.uk/
University of East Anglia	United Kingdom	https://www.uea.ac.uk/
University of East London	United Kingdom	uel.ac.uk
University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom	ed.ac.uk
University of Essex	United Kingdom	Essex.ac.uk
University of Exeter	United Kingdom	exeter.ac.uk
University of Glasgow	United Kingdom	gla.ac.uk/international
University of Leeds	United Kingdom	leeds.ac.uk
University of Lincoln	United Kingdom	Lincoln.ac.uk
University of Plymouth	United Kingdom	plymouth.ac.uk
University of Roehampton	United Kingdom	roehampton.ac.uk
University of Southampton	United Kingdom	southampton.ac.uk/international
University of St. Andrews	United Kingdom	www.st-andrews.ac.uk
University of Stirling	United Kingdom	stir.ac.uk
University of Strathclyde	United Kingdom	strath.ac.uk
University of Sunderland	United Kingdom	Sunderland.ac.uk/international
University of the West of England, Bristol	United Kingdom	uwe.ac.uk
University of Warwick	United Kingdom	warwick.ac.uk
University of Westminster—United Kingdom	United Kingdom	westminster.ac.uk

Key Information: Applying to International Universities

(see chapters for more detailed information)

Country	Australia	Canada	China	Finland
Degree Type	Bachelor's	Bachelor's	Bachelor's	Bachelor's
Typical Duration	3 years	4 years	4 years	3.5-4.5 (universities of applied sciences) 3 (universities)
Major	Declared at admission	Declared during study	Declared at admission	Declared at admission
Typical Application	Through institution	Through institution or centralized province application	Through institution	Joint application
Application Fee*	Varies by institution	Ranges from CA$55 to CA$250	Varies by institution	No fee
Application Deadline	Late October or late April, depending on whether a student intends to start in the first or second semester.	Varies by institution. Students planning to enroll in fall semester should generally apply in fall or winter of previous year.	Varies by institution.	Early January for fall admission; September for spring admission
Visa Requirements	Higher Education Visa (Subclass 500) required	American citizens can apply for a study permit at a Canadian port of entry	X1 or X2 Student visa required	Student residence permit required
Annual Tuition Cost*	AU$20,000–$50,000	CA$10,000–$50,000 varies by academic program	Average of RMB 20,000	4,000–18,000 euros

Country	France	Germany	India	Ireland
Degree Type	Licence	Bachelor's	Bachelor's	Bachelor's
Typical Duration	3 years	3-4 years	3 years; 4 to 5 years (professional disciplines)	3-4 years
Major	Declared at admission	Declared at admission	Declared at admission	Declared at admission
Typical Application	CampusFrance	Uni-Assist	Through institution or centralized application	Through institution
Application Fee*	US$205 for three choices via CampusFrance	75 euros for first application, 30 euros for all additional applications via Uni-Assist	Varies by institution	Varies by institution
Application Deadline	Early January	Applications for the winter semester are due from late May through mid-July. Summer semester deadline is mid-January.	Varies by institution. Students should generally apply between early October to July.	Between Feb. 1 and March 31
Visa Requirements	The VLS-TS visa and study permit is required	US citizens do not require a visa, however, a student visa is recommended to obtain a residency permit.	Student visa required	No visa required. Must register with Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) upon arrival.
Annual Tuition Cost*	Public: 2,770 euros per year for a licence; Private: 3,000–20,000 euros	Tution is generally free at public unis; students are required to pay fees for housing, transport, and extracurriculars. However, unis in some provinces charge additional fees to international students. Fees range from 250–1,500 euros. Private unis charge up to 20,000 euros. 10,000–22,000 euros	US$4,000–$15,000	10,000–22,000 euros

Country	Israel	Italy	Japan	The Netherlands
Degree Type	Bachelor's	Laurea	Bachelor's	Bachelor's
Typical Duration	3 years; 4 years (engineering degrees)	3 years	4 years	3 years
Major	Declared at admission	Through institution	Declared at admission	Declared at admission
Typical Application	Declared at admission	Varies by institution	Varies by institution	Through institution and Studielink
Application Fee*	Varies by institution	Varies by institution	Varies by institution; average fee between 5,000-35,000 yen.	Varies by institution
Application Deadline	Late July for fall semester. January for spring semester.	Varies by institution	Varies by institution	Jan. 15 for *numerus fixus* programs, depending on the program
Visa Requirements	A/2 student visa required	A student visa is required for programs longer than 90 days.	Visa required for entry. US citizens are exempt from paying all visa fees.	Residence permit required
Annual Tuition Cost*	US$4,000–$15,000	Public: 900-4,000 euros; Private: 6,000-20,000 euros	Public universities: 535,000-931,000 yen. Private universities: 1,108,000–4,189,000 yen.	6,000–33,000 euros

Country	New Zealand	South Korea	Spain
Degree Type	Bachelor's	Bachelor's	Grado
Typical Duration	3–4 years	4 years	4 years
Major	Declared at admission	Declared at admission	Declared at admission
Typical Application	Through institution	Through institution, but can also apply through Study in Korea	Through institution
Application Fee*	Varies by institution	Varies by institution, average fee between 20,000 to 200,000 won	Varies by institution
Application Deadline	Varies by institution. Generally apply three months before the start of the intended first semester.	November for spring semester, May for fall semester	April
Visa Requirements	Student visa required	Must obtain relevant visa: D-2 for academic programs; D-4 for language training programs.	Student visa is required. Must register for a foreigner identity card within one month of arrival.
Annual Tuition Cost*	NZ$23,000–$33,000	Public: 2-3 million won per semester. Private: 3-5 million won per semester.	Public: 680–2,100 euros. Private: 5,500-18,000 euros.

Country	Switzerland	UK	US
Degree Type	Bachelor's	Bachelor's	Bachelor's
Typical Duration	3 years	years (England, Wales, and Northern Ireland); 3 year (Scotland)	4 years
Major	Declared at admission	Declared at admission	Declared during study
Typical Application	Through institution	UCAS	Through institution, Common Application or other application platforms
Application Fee*	150 Swiss francs	UCAS 5 Choice Application: 26 pounds; CAS 1 Choice Application: 20 pounds	Varies by institution
Application Deadline	January to April for preliminary admission applications. Mid-July for submission of final results/ grades for admission.	Oct. 15: Oxbridge degree programs as well as medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science courses. Other course deadlines range from Jan. 15 through mid-September.	Varies by institution
Visa Requirements	Student visa required: Swiss National Type D Visa	Student visa required	Student visa required: F-1 for traditional academic programs.
Annual Tuition Cost*	4,000-40,000 Swiss francs	10,000–38,000 pounds	US$26,000–$80,000

Key Information: Working While Studying Abroad

Country	Can you work while a student?	Can you work in the country following graduation?
Australia	Yes. Up to 40 hours a week over a two-week period while classes are in session. Unlimited hours outside of term.	Yes. You must apply for a new visa. The length of the visa is dependent on the level and type of degree previously achieved. You can then apply for permanent residency.
Canada	Yes. Up to 20 hours a week during term and up to 40 hours during scheduled academic breaks.	Yes. If you graduated from a Canadian university participating in the Post- Graduation Work Permit Program, you can stay for three years and then apply for permanent residency.
China	Yes. Up to 40 hours a month and up to 80 hours a month during winter and summer breaks.	No. Graduates cannot legally work in China unless they have two years of full-time work experience.
Finland	Yes. Under 25 hours a week, or if the work is practical training required by the degree.	Yes. However, you will need to apply for an extended residence permit before your current permit expires to allow you to search for work for up to a year following graduation. If you find a job, you can then apply for a new residence permit based on your employment.
France	Yes. Up to 964 hours annually with a valid residency permit.	Yes. Non-European students must have a promise of employment or a work contract and be paid at least one and a half times the minimum wage (2,220 euros gross per month in 2017). Alternatively, a foreign, non-European graduate may request a temporary resident permit valid for twelve months and non-renewable.
Germany	Yes. Up to 120 full days or 240 half-days per year, excluding research assistant work. An additional work permit is required if you want to work more than 120 days/240 half-days.	Yes. You can extend your student residence permit by 18 months. As soon as you receive a job offer you can apply for a new residence permit and then for permanent residency.
India	International students are not permitted to work.	Yes. However, you will be required to apply for a work permit and is granted for a limited time.
Ireland	Yes. Up to 20 hours a week during term and up to 40 hours during scheduled academic breaks.	Yes. Graduates from Irish universities can remain in the country for one year under the Third Level Graduate Scheme to seek employment and work. After 12 months, students may be eligible to apply for a green card or work permit.

Country	Can you work while a student?	Can you work in the country following graduation?
Israel	International undergraduate students are not permitted to work.	Yes. However, you will be required to apply for a B/1 work visa, which is approved for a limited time.
Italy	Yes. Up to 20 hours a week with a residence permit. Work does not have to be related to students' academic program.	Yes. However, you will need to apply for a work permit.
Japan	Yes. Up to 28 hours a week during term and up to 40 hours a week during scheduled academic breaks. Work permit required. There is no limitation on work hours for research assistants.	Yes. After graduating you have one year to find full-time employment. After finding a job you must then change your status of residence.
The Netherlands	Yes. Up to 16 hours a week during term or up to 40 hours a week during scheduled academic breaks. Work permit required.	Graduates who have yet to find employment can apply for a one-year residence permit. Employers must submit an application on behalf of a highly skilled migrant as their recognized sponsor in order for the graduate to obtain a residence permit.
New Zealand	Yes. Up to 20 hours a week during term and up to 40 hours during scheduled academic breaks.	Yes. Per a new policy that came into effect in 2018, students engaged in degree studies at the undergraduate level or higher will receive a three-year open work visa.
South Korea	Yes. Up to 20–25 hours a week, depending on the course of study. Students must obtain prior approval from their university and make a formal application at the Immigration Office.	Yes. However, students must change their visa status. There are several options, including one for job seekers (D-10). The career section of the Study in Korea website can provide more details.
Spain	Yes. Up to 20 hours a week, so long as the work is related to their field of study or research.	Yes. However, you will have to apply for a resident work permit. This process requires the students to have completed at least 3 years of study in Spain, to not have received any scholarships or grants from their country of origin, and to have been offered a job with at least a one year contract.
Switzerland	Yes. Up to 15 hours a week. Full-time during academic breaks.	Yes. However, you will need to look for work consistent with your degree qualification from a Swiss accredited university. Application for a six month residency permit is required when looking for work. New residency permit application is required once employment is found.

Country	Can you work while a student?	Can you work in the country following graduation?
UK	Yes. Up to 20 hours a week during term and up to 40 hours during scheduled academic breaks.	Yes. However, you will need to apply for a new visa. Starting 2020–21 academic year, international students who have studied any subjects can stay up to 2 years to find employment.
US	Yes. On-campus employment for up to 20 hours a week during term and full-time during scheduled academic breaks. After the first academic year, students may engage in off-campus employment related to their field of study with approval.	Yes. Students are eligible for up to a year of post-completion practical training with their student visa. STEM graduates are eligible for a 24-month extension. Students may also apply for the H1-B visa if they have earned a bachelor's or higher.

NACAC
National Association for
College Admission Counseling