Information for International Students Wishing to Attend College in the United States

Study in the United States is a serious undertaking. To decide if it is the best option for you, consider carefully how it will fit into your long-term educational and professional plans. To learn about financial aid, student visas, and required tests, explore the resources described below.

Financial Aid Eligibility

Most foreign citizens are not eligible for federal student aid from the U.S. Department of Education. There are, however, some instances in which noncitizens may be eligible for financial aid from the U.S. federal government. Visit **StudentAid.gov/eligibility/non-us-citizens** to learn more.

You also should check with your country's government and with the college you plan to attend to see what aid they might be able to offer you.

Admissions Tests

Most U.S. schools require the TOEFL exam for nonnative English speakers, while many undergraduate institutions also require you to take the SAT or the ACT test. Visit **StudentAid.gov/prepare-for-college/tests** for information about the SAT and ACT, and visit **www.toefl.org** for information about the TOEFL.

Student Visas

If you are coming to the U.S. primarily for tourism, but want to take a short course of study of fewer than 18 hours per week, you may do so on a tourist visa. Otherwise, you will need to obtain a student visa. In most countries, first-time student visa applicants are required to appear for an in-person interview.

Each embassy and consulate sets its own interview policies and procedures regarding student visas. Consult the U.S. embassy website for your country for specific application instructions.

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