



www.EducationUSA.state.gov

Education Advising Centres

Consulate General of the United States of America - aucklandeducation@state.gov / (09) 303 2724
 Fulbright New Zealand - educate@fulbright.org.nz / (04) 494 1504



Research 10 to 15 universities	April – June
Investigate sources of financial assistance	
1 May: International Fulbright Science and Technology Awards applications close	
Contact four to seven universities for admission packs	July – August
Register for standardised tests	
Seek non-university sources of funding	
1 August: Fulbright Graduate Award applications close	
Fill out university application forms	August – October
Submit university applications	October – February
Receive notification of acceptance from universities	March – May
Obtain a student visa	June – July
Depart for the US	August – September

The process of applying to study in the US takes far longer to organise than the application process for study in New Zealand. It is recommended that you start 12-18 months before you plan to begin study in the US. This timetable is based on starting your studies in late August/early September.

Application Timetable

Studying in the United States of America is an opportunity to gain world class qualifications, explore the US, share your culture and make friends with students from around the world. There are thousands of accredited tertiary institutions in the US, offering a wide variety of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The quality of teaching, facilities and resources is renowned worldwide.

★ Types of Institutions

Degree-granting institutions in the US are referred to as colleges, universities or institutes. As a general rule, colleges tend to be smaller and usually offer only undergraduate degrees, while universities also offer postgraduate degrees. Institutes usually specialize in degree programs in a group of closely related subject areas such as art and design, fashion or technology.

State Universities

State or public universities are run by US state governments to provide subsidised, low-cost education to state residents. They tend to be very large and generally admit a wider range of students than private universities. Tuition costs are generally lower than at private universities, although international students and those from other states pay higher fees than residents.

Private Universities

Private universities are funded by endowments, tuition fees, research grants and gifts from their alumni. Tuition fees tend to be higher than at state universities. They are generally smaller and may have fewer than 2000 students on their campuses.

Community Colleges

Community colleges (sometimes called junior colleges or two-year colleges) are community-based institutions with close links to secondary schools, community groups and employers. They provide two-year associate degree programmes as well as technical and vocational programmes. Tuition costs are often lower than at four-year institutions, and many have agreements to allow students to transfer easily into the third year of a bachelor's degree at the local state university.

Technical and Vocational Colleges

These institutions specialize in preparing students for entry into, or promotion within, the workplace. They offer certificate and other short-term programmes that train students for a specific vocation or technology. Programmes usually last two years or less.

★ Types of Degrees

There are two types of undergraduate degrees in the US – an associate's degree which is a two-year degree awarded by a community, technical or vocational college, and a bachelor's degree which is a four or five-year degree awarded by a college or university.

In the US, postgraduate study is called 'graduate' study. There are two levels of graduate degree programmes in the US – a master's degree which usually takes one or two years of full-time study to complete and a doctoral degree which usually takes three to five years of full-time study. Both involve a combination of research and coursework.

★ Admission Process

Finding the right university to suit your requirements is important. This will depend on the academic discipline and qualification you wish to study, and the location, size and academic quality of the university you want to study at.

Some institutions are very selective, while others accept most applicants. Most students apply to between four and seven institutions in order to secure acceptance at an institution that meets their needs, ability and financial means.

Application requirements and fees vary depending on the university you wish to attend. Applications may require an application form, academic transcripts, standardised test results, a personal statement and letters of reference. Each university's admission pack will let you know exactly what is required.

★ Standardised Tests

Standardised tests are a requirement for entry into most US universities. The test you will be required to sit will depend on your level and field of study. Contact the admissions department at the university you apply to for advice on which test you need to sit.

The ACT and SAT tests are both widely recognised for undergraduate college admissions. They measure students' knowledge and ability to complete college-level work.

The GRE test is widely recognised for postgraduate college admissions. A General Test measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills, and further Subject Tests gauge undergraduate achievement in specific fields of study.

The GMAT test helps business schools assess the qualifications of applicants for advanced study in business and management, and is often required in place of GRE test scores for MBA or other graduate management programmes.

The TOEFL test measures the ability of non-native speakers of English to use and understand English as it is spoken, written, and heard in college and university settings, and may be required for international students whose native language is not English.

★ Financial Aid

Study in the US can be expensive. A degree in the US can cost from US\$5,000 to US\$40,000 per year in tuition fees alone, depending on the institution you choose to attend. There is limited assistance for international students.

Few scholarships pay a student's entire costs and many are inclined to give partial financial aid to students who are able to contribute something themselves. There are three main sources of funding – university-based, private and government. You should explore as many possible avenues for funding assistance as you can.

When you request an admission pack from a US university, you should also request a financial aid pack. Be aware that deadlines for funding applications often occur up to 12 months before the actual date of enrolment. The average turn-around time – from initial application to offer of funding – takes from six to

nine months.

There are a number of books and websites listing sources of financial aid. The *EducationUSA* website and Advising Centres are a good starting point for advice.

★ Fulbright New Zealand

Fulbright New Zealand offers a range of awards for students who have completed the equivalent of four years of full time tertiary study and obtained a bachelor's degree. Applicants must show academic excellence, leadership potential and the ability to be cultural ambassadors for New Zealand. Grantees can undertake study or research in any field of study at the US institution of their choice.

Fulbright New Zealand also operates an *EducationUSA* Advising Centre at its office in Wellington. Visit www.fulbright.org.nz for further information.

★ Further Information

EducationUSA provides unbiased, current and comprehensive information on educational opportunities in the US. If you are thinking about studying in the US, please visit the *EducationUSA* website or contact your nearest *EducationUSA* Advising Centre.

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