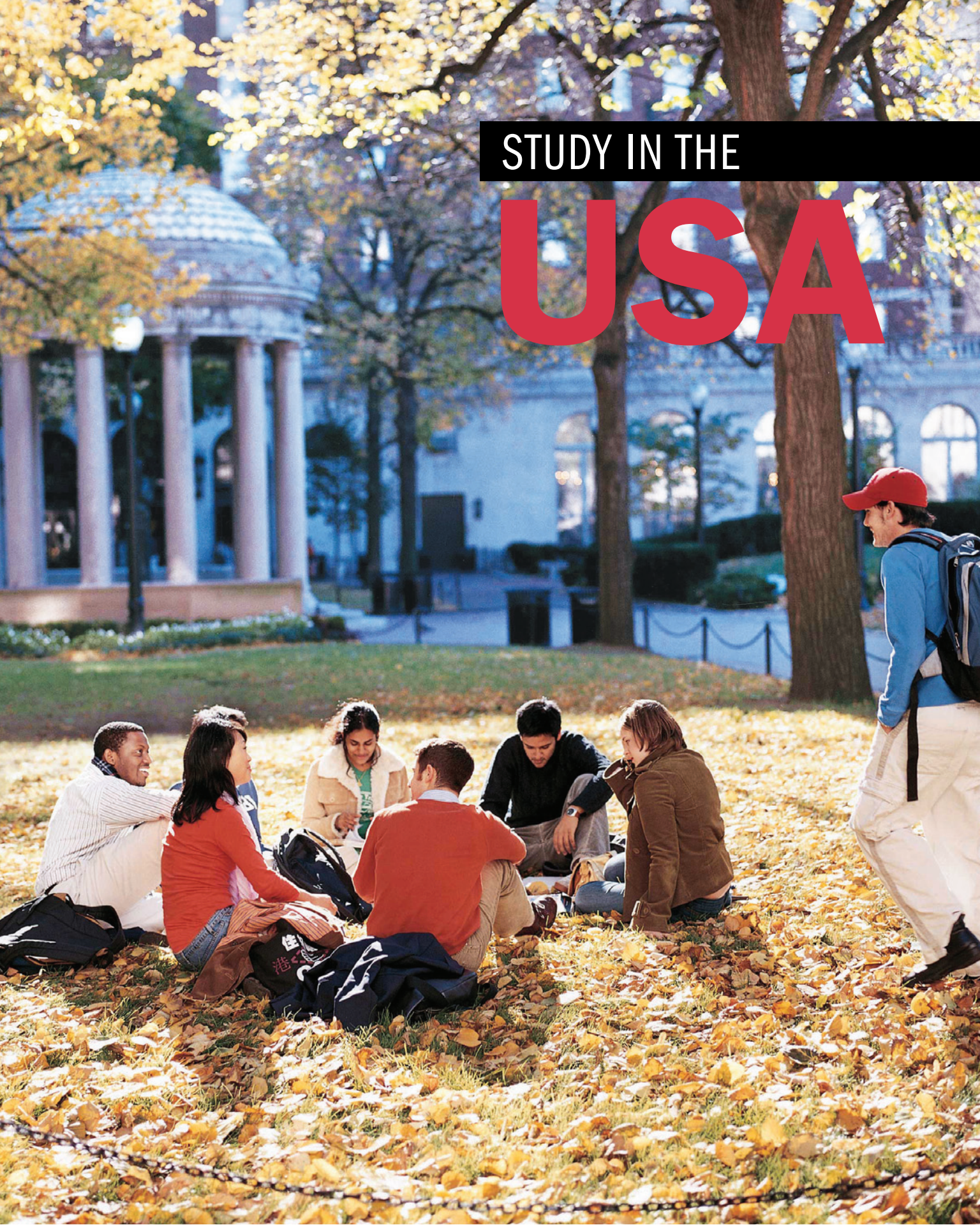
STUDY IN THE
USA

EducationUSA's Five Steps to U.S. Study

1 RESEARCH YOUR OPTIONS

Start 18 months before your projected enrollment. Why do you want to study in the United States? What type of school suits you best? Will you need financial assistance? What are the application deadlines? Identify sources of financial aid and prepare for tests such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test and an English language proficiency test. Go to your nearest EducationUSA Center (www.EducationUSA.state.gov) for help.

2 FINANCE YOUR STUDIES

While the cost of living varies by region, studying in the United States can be affordable and yield high returns on your investment. Start your financial planning early. If you have good grades, think about applying for an international student scholarship. Applications for financial aid are submitted along with applications for admission.

3 COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

Send an original transcript or certified copy of your academic records from your secondary school, as well as your standardized test scores. Submit recommendation letters from people who know you well: your principal, counselor, teacher or job supervisor. Your recommenders should discuss your potential to do well in college. Include a personal essay; it's often one of the most important parts of your application.

4 APPLY FOR YOUR STUDENT VISA

Learn about the student visa requirements in your country and allow time to prepare your application. You need an admission letter and a certificate of eligibility for nonimmigrant student status from a U.S. school before you can apply for a visa. The U.S. Department of State issues visas at U.S. embassies and consulates. Visit www.travel.state.gov for information about student visas for non-U.S. citizens.

5 PREPARE FOR DEPARTURE

Consult an EducationUSA Advising Center in your country and the international student adviser at your chosen U.S. school. Advisers and students who have returned from the United States can help you prepare for new experiences and challenges. Discuss changes from your home environment, U.S. academic systems and expectations, housing and coping in a new school and culture.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
www.EducationUSA.state.gov

U.S. colleges and universities differ widely in the academic programs and degrees they offer, as well as in campus life. Some campuses are huge, some tiny. Some are urban, some rural. Some have warm weather, some have cold. But all U.S. colleges strive to provide students a safe, secure environment for studying with good food and housing, activities outside the classroom and opportunities to meet Americans from all regions of the United States as well as students from around the world.

Meaningful Cross-Cultural Connections

Pooja Sharma Nepal
University of Washington, Seattle, Washington,
a large research university on an urban campus

Respect for cultural differences is simply part of the experience at the University of Washington. My fellow students and the faculty members understood that English is not my native language and did not make it an issue. I was able to share my culture, giving out handicrafts and making presentations, at events on and off campus. One campus event, called Holi (festival of colors), intends specifically to celebrate cultural diversity. My host family, friends and professional mentor all made efforts to create meaningful cross-cultural connections for me. What I liked most of all was sharing Nepali food with my friends and seeing how much they craved it.

Learning in a Safe Environment

Ana Isabel Lozano Colombia
Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina,
a historically black liberal arts college on an urban campus

Since I came to Benedict 19 months ago as a nondegree student, I have had the most wonderful experience. I have always felt safe living here on campus and going into the city, and my peers tell me they feel the same way. The college has an on-campus police department committed to providing a safe environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors. I am very happy to have the opportunity to come to the United States to improve my English skills in such a safe, comfortable setting.

Bonds of Friendship

Sabastian Mugazambi *(roommate of Jonah Tuchow)*, Zimbabwe
Carleton College, Minneapolis, Minnesota,
a small liberal arts college on a rural campus

Right from the day I got admitted into Carleton, questions about the U.S. floated in my mind, questions my family could not answer. Luckily enough, when I got to Carleton, my roommate, Jonah, was ready to answer all of them. Our bonding as two freshmen excited for college was strengthened by the fact that we had lived thousands of kilometers apart. In the deep night hours, we found ourselves chatting about the legends of African kings or the difference between a bagel and a doughnut. Enduring Minnesota's bitterly cold winter, I find comfort knowing that when I open my door, there is someone else from a warmer climate who understands me when I say it's freezing. I have done my best to share my cultural experiences and clarify some ideas about Africa Jonah had. The U.S. is a very big melting pot of cultures, emotions, ideas, views and rights; my roommate and I spend lots of time exchanging knowledge from two different continents and finding some common ground. My dormitory is now my home.

Jonah Tuchow *(roommate of Sabastian Mugazambi)*, United States
Carleton College, Minneapolis, Minnesota

I had mixed feelings when I first found out that my roommate, Sabastian, was from Zimbabwe — I knew embarrassingly little about the culture or what it was like to live in Harare, and, frankly, I didn't know what to expect. However, when we first introduced ourselves, it turned out that we had a number of shared interests ranging from soccer to the study of higher mathematics. Having grown up in California, I was not used to Minnesota's freezing cold weather either, so learning to deal with life in the snow together was a really positive experience for both of us. The exchange of cultural experiences has broadened my view of the world beyond U.S. borders, and now I know several things about Zimbabwe that my geography class did not teach me. Having the chance to live closely with someone from such a different background is a rare experience, so I'm very fortunate.

What I Wish I Had Known

Agnieszka Cenzartowicz Poland

Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago, Illinois, *a Ph.D.-granting research university*; Loyola University Chicago, *the largest Roman Catholic Jesuit university in the United States*

Before I went to law school in the United States, I wish I had known how to respond when people asked me "How are you?" Instead of responding to that question with a quick "Fine, thank you," I went into a quite lengthy description of whatever was on my agenda, including the mood I was experiencing at the time. People looked quite confused, if not shocked. I learned my mistake thanks to a classmate who had traveled a bit and understood the cultural difference. Now I know you usually just give a quick "fine" or "OK" since Americans are typically so casual.

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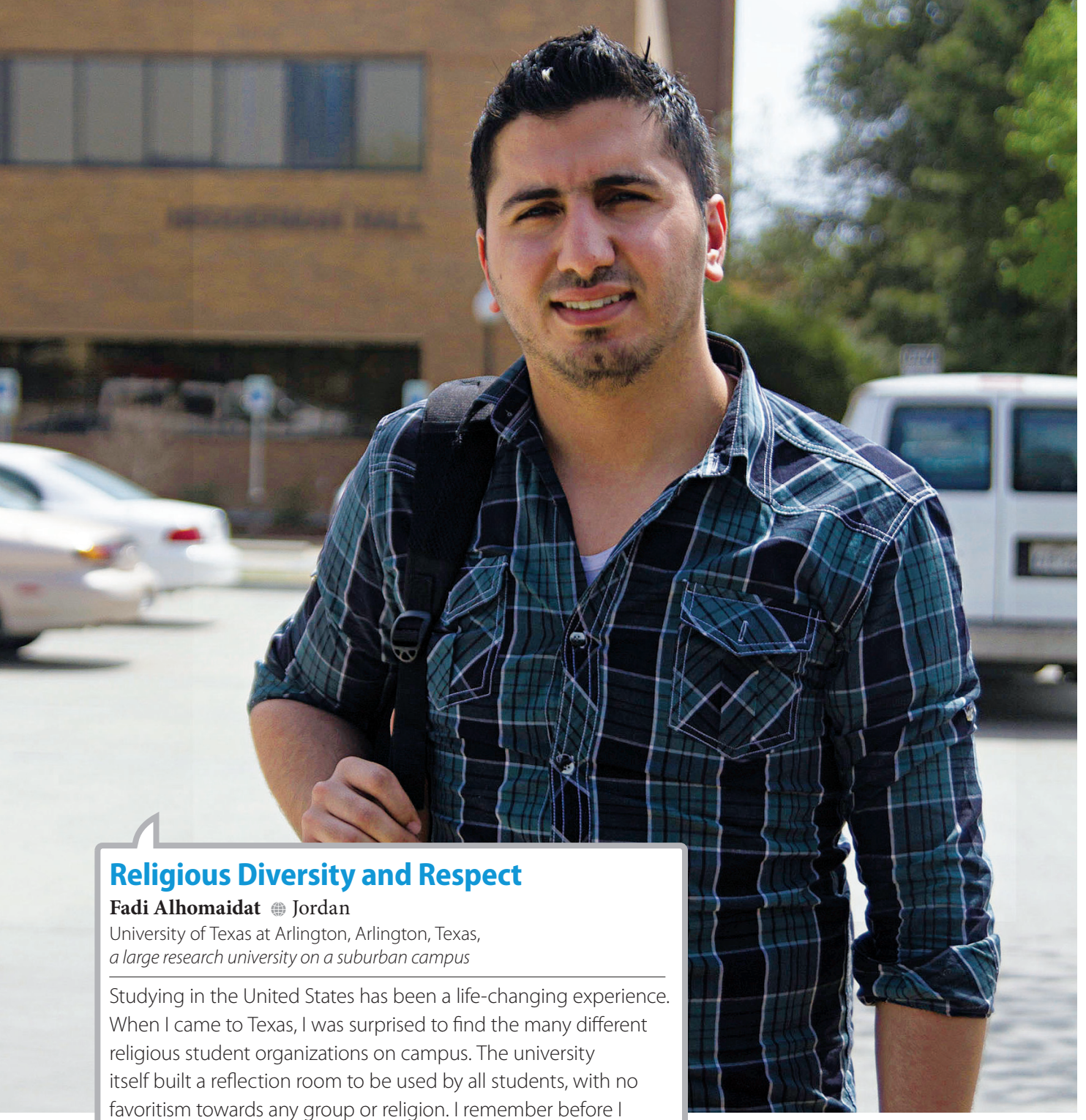
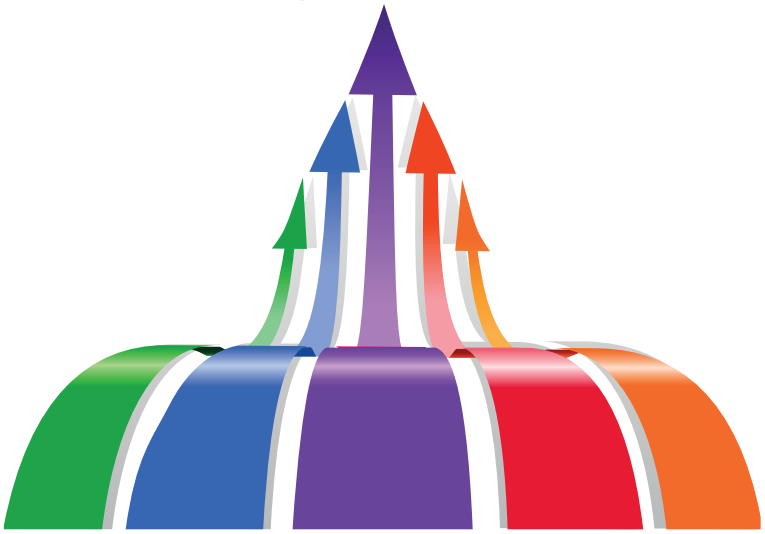


Religious Diversity and Respect

Fadi Alhomaidat Jordan
University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas,
a large research university on a suburban campus

Studying in the United States has been a life-changing experience. When I came to Texas, I was surprised to find the many different religious student organizations on campus. The university itself built a reflection room to be used by all students, with no favoritism towards any group or religion. I remember before I traveled to America I was very anxious about discrimination, but once I arrived I was surprised to find that I was invited to lunch by a faculty member so he could learn more about my background and religious practices. The academic culture in the United States is one that fosters diversity, promotes understanding of differences, and respects cultural and religious traditions, and I am very pleased that I chose to study in the U.S.

Finding the Best Fit



Choices, Flexibility and Quality are the cornerstones of undergraduate study in the United States.

The undergraduate degree, also known as a bachelor's degree, is awarded after completing a specified number of credits in a major field of study. Every course confers a certain number of credits, and each institution has its own requirement for the total number of credits needed to graduate. The bachelor's degree is usually completed in four years of full-time study. An associate's degree requires fewer credits for graduation and can be earned at U.S. community colleges usually after two years of full-time study. The credits earned for an associate's degree can usually be applied toward a bachelor's degree.

Prospective students can choose from more than 4,700 accredited colleges and universities in the United States. High school (secondary school) graduates can pursue a wide range of study options, from astronomy to zoology, in a variety of academic settings — public or private, small or large, urban or rural.

In the end, the best college or university is the one that is best for each student and best meets his/her requirements — academic, financial and personal.

While there is no officially recognized ranking system for colleges and universities in the United States, U.S. schools are considered among the world's best and are often found at the top of world rankings because of their academic rigor and their commitment to helping students achieve their full potential. A U.S. degree is highly valued in many countries and can be the key to a successful career.

Tutoring U.S. Students

Ahngeli Shivam Malaysia

University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee,
a large research university on an urban campus

I am an international student from the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany. Born in Malaysia and raised in Germany, I am ethnically half Chinese and half Indian. Right now, I am studying and working at the University of Memphis, but not seeking a degree there as I will be completing my studies in Germany. At Memphis I am gaining amazing experience by working and studying abroad; it is important to me to get to know more cultures and countries. In my job as a native speaker assistant for the German Language Department, I have students joining me for free tutoring and language practice. Meanwhile, I am also earning credits toward my major subject, American studies, and minor subject, linguistics, by taking classes. As part of the arrangement, my tuition is waived and my housing paid for.

Developing Self-Confidence and Cross-Cultural Skills

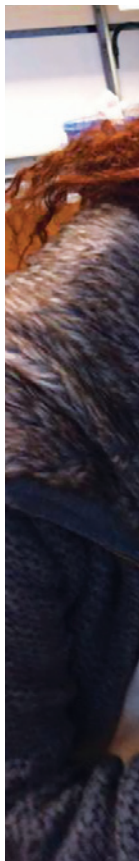
Sonya Hakobyan Armenia
Utah State University, Logan, Utah,
a large research university on a suburban campus

Undergraduate study in the United States is a rewarding experience for any international student. The USA offers the world's finest colleges and universities, with outstanding programs in all possible fields, including my own major, international studies. An emphasis on leadership, broader global knowledge and passion for success are the hallmarks of U.S. universities. They provide an opportunity to develop self-confidence and cross-cultural skills and to become independent — qualities that are highly demanded worldwide. I am thankful to be at USU through the Huntsman Scholarship for Armenians and I am looking forward to seeing many more Armenians attending schools in the USA.

Good Value, Affordability

Emmanuel Ngoga Rwanda
Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona,
a large research university on an urban campus

The U.S. education system provides all the resources that students need to succeed. As a student from Rwanda, I was fortunate to receive a private foundation's scholarship; this program helps finance the education of outstanding students from sub-Saharan Africa. This good fortune has provided me an opportunity to meet and learn from other students from all over the world attending school in the USA. U.S. schools are really not so expensive when you consider that they provide the world's best professors, the best facilities and the best preparation for career success.



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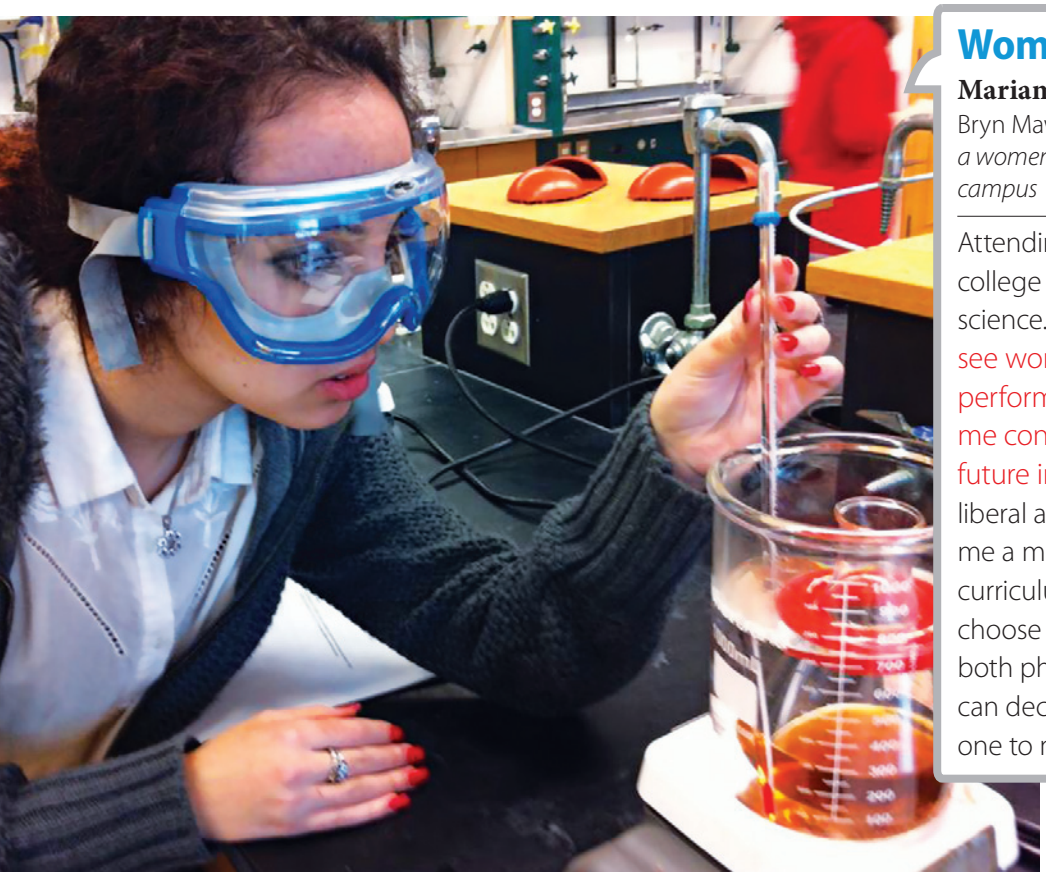
www.EducationUSA.state.gov

Learning by Teaching

Inom Mirzaev Tajikistan
University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado,
a large research university on an urban campus

Working as a teaching assistant and researcher in the applied mathematics Ph.D. program has been a good experience for me. I have not only improved my communication skills by teaching others, but also improved my own understanding of math. As a result of my research on the math involved in biochemical reactions between different species, I was able to publish my first contribution to science in a prestigious journal. All these opportunities have helped me decide that I intend to earn a doctorate degree in applied mathematics with an emphasis on mathematical biology, then do research as a postdoctorate to ultimately start a career in academia.



Women as Leaders

Mariam Khoudari Morocco
Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania,
a women's liberal arts college on a suburban campus

Attending an all-woman liberal arts college is preparing me well for studying science. Bryn Mawr College lets me see women in powerful positions performing all kinds of research, making me confident that women have a bright future in science and technology. The liberal arts part of my education is giving me a more critical view of the world. The curriculum is allowing me the time to choose a major wisely. I am able to take both physics and chemistry now so that I can decide in my sophomore year which one to major in.

Approachable Teachers

Nilma Barsallo Panama

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), Blacksburg, Virginia,
a large research university on a rural campus

There is such a difference between my professors at Virginia Tech and professors at other schools I have attended outside the USA. Virginia Tech professors are always helpful during the class, never turning aside a good question. During office hours outside of class they are even more approachable, willing to spend considerable time answering exceedingly technical questions about every aspect of the course. Similarly, my advisers for my master's degree are always ready to discuss my ideas about performing every aspect of my research. I don't hesitate to approach faculty members at Virginia Tech.

Classroom Interaction, Critical Thinking

Chatura Randeniya Sri Lanka

Harvard Law School, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts,
the oldest operating law school in the United States, on an urban campus

Harvard Law School introduced me to the Socratic method of teaching, where the teacher does not give information directly, but asks the student a series of questions based on reading material given in advance. Through this process, the student is guided towards the knowledge the teacher wishes to impart, and in the process the student obtains a deeper understanding of the subject. It was a wholly new experience for me, as my previous academic experience was one of attending lectures where the teacher would directly give information, with less extensive interaction.

I found the Socratic method to be a powerful tool in fostering critical thinking, something I found useful not only in academics, but also in my work as a legal practitioner. All this, of course, came at a cost; at the end of my first semester, I had to purchase my first pair of spectacles. I cannot state with certainty whether this was the result of the volume of academic reading or my advancing years, but if it was the former, it was well worth the price.

Some Things to Consider When Applying to School

As you narrow the list of schools that offer the degree you want to pursue, be sure to consider the following factors:

- ✓ Quality of the research programs and facilities, including libraries, laboratories and computer facilities.

- ✓ Cost of tuition, fees, health insurance, etc.

- ✓ Academic admission requirements, including required test scores, degrees and undergraduate grade average required.

- ✓ Size of the institution and size of the department in which you would study, including faculty-to-student ratios.

- ✓ Faculty profiles.

- ✓ Accreditation of the institution and, if applicable, the department or program (check out http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/).

- ✓ Course and thesis requirements for graduation.

- ✓ Length of time required to complete the degree.

- ✓ Availability of financial assistance.

- ✓ Location, housing options, campus life, climate and cost of living.

- ✓ Availability of international student services, activities and other services on campus.

A Small Investment for Major Gains

Deciding to pursue a graduate education in the United States is a big decision. More than 1,000 U.S. colleges and universities offer programs leading to a graduate degree in a wide range of fields.

The two main graduate degrees in the United States are the master's degree and the doctoral degree. Both degrees involve a combination of research and coursework. Compared with undergraduate programs, graduate-level study and learning are more self-directed.

The U.S. higher education system is different from systems in many other countries in that it is decentralized. U.S. colleges and universities design their own curricula and can pursue accreditation through an accrediting agency that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. To help select the best graduate program for you, first define your educational and career goals.

A U.S. graduate degree is highly valued in many countries. Consult educators, government officials, working professionals and labor statistics in your country to learn how the value of a U.S. graduate degree — including any increased earning potential — offsets the expense. In addition to the monetary value, you should also consider the intangible value of exposure to new ideas and living in a different culture.

Unique Opportunities

Binbin Zhang China

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada,
a large research university on an urban campus

I have been very interested in astronomy since I was young. Luckily, I found UNLV is equipped with one of the world's highest-level research teams in high-energy astronomy and astrophysics. So I applied and got admitted into UNLV and spent four and a half years studying and doing research in gamma-ray bursts. After I got my Ph.D. in 2011, I was offered a postdoctoral research fellowship at Penn State University in Pennsylvania, working as a member of the NASA/Swift team. I currently work as a postdoctoral researcher and member of the NASA/Fermi team in gamma-ray astronomy for the National Space Science and Technology Center at the University of Alabama at Huntsville. My opportunities as a graduate student in the United States would be difficult to find anywhere else.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
www.EducationUSA.state.gov

Personal Attention, Hands-on Experience

Pi-Hsuan Huang Taiwan
Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois,
a college specializing in arts and media on an urban campus

I'm in the college's Music Composition for the Screen program, which offers advanced degrees in writing music for film, television, games and other visual media. Here I receive personal attention from experienced faculty and film music professionals. We examine all aspects of music production, from composition and orchestration to in-studio recording and mixing. In the final semester of the program we'll have internships at studios in Los Angeles, where students will gain real-world experience in the creative, technical and business aspects of the craft. This kind of precious learning experience could not be matched in schools outside the USA.

Myth vs. Reality

Riva Rifianti Indonesia
Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana,
a research university on an urban campus

Hollywood movies typically portray U.S. students as partying, drinking and bullying. I was a little worried about being a student at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, regarded as a party school in a party city. After spending the first semester, though, my opinion has completely changed. The students inspire me: Yes, they are partying (not as crazy as in the movies). But, still, education is the main priority for them. They are enjoying life, studying hard, engaging in extracurricular activities or social work, and respecting other students' ways (no bullying). It is a really great environment for studying. Awesome!

Feeling at Home

Ziyad Ben Taleb Libya

Florida International University, Miami, Florida,
a large research university on an urban campus

Since I landed in Miami, I have felt at home, from the welcoming weather to the vibrant, student-centered environment at Florida International University (FIU) — a public research university that is worlds ahead in its commitment to learning, research and creativity. When you walk into the Student Center, you enter a multicultural world of students, with many clubs to join, ranging from the Muslim Student Association to the International Student Club. At FIU, no matter where you are from and regardless of your background, you will develop a sense of belonging where both faculty members and students celebrate diversity and embrace international students as parts of the FIU family.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
www.EducationUSA.state.gov

Why I Chose a Community College

Arion Ndregjoni Albania

Bergen Community College, Paramus, New Jersey, *a two-year community college on a suburban campus*

My decision to attend a community college in the United States was the best choice for me for three reasons. First, a two-year community college gives me the opportunity to transfer my associate degree as credits to a four-year college or university aiming for a bachelor's degree. Second, while I am in a community college, I can improve my academic English for use later at another school. Third, a community college costs much less to attend than a four-year college or university. If I do very well in community college I might have a better opportunity to get a scholarship when I transfer my studies to a four-year school.

TOP 10 REASONS to Choose a U.S. Community College

The United States has a strong tradition of community colleges. There are currently more than 1,100 accredited community colleges, which are mostly two-year schools that offer associate degrees. Community college fields of study that are especially popular among international students include business, computer science, computer graphics, Internet technology, multimedia, hotel management, restaurant management, psychology, accounting, early childhood education and environmental conservation.

What are the top 10 reasons for attending a community college in the United States?

1. Lower cost

Tuition and fees at community colleges are significantly lower than at four-year colleges and universities. Students can often lower the overall cost of a bachelor's degree by earning the first two years of course credits at a community college.

2. Excellent transfer opportunities

Most community colleges have articulation agreements with four-year colleges and universities, which allow students to use their community college credits toward a university degree. Community colleges offer programs in all major fields of study that can transfer to four-year colleges and universities. Some community colleges also offer bachelor's degrees in specific fields of study.

3. Flexible English proficiency requirements

Because community colleges provide their own assessments and often offer Intensive English Programs (IEPs) to students who need additional English proficiency, standardized English language proficiency test scores, such as Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), are not always required for admission to a community college.

4. Focus on teaching and student success

Community colleges emphasize teaching rather than research as the primary responsibility of faculty. Community college students can enjoy a great deal of personal attention from their professors; extra help and support are available when you need it.

5. Small class sizes

The average community college class size is between 15 and 20 students, which allows professors to devote more time to individual students and students to interact with each other.

6. Additional year of hands-on training

International students with F-1 visa status may be eligible to complete one year of practical training in their fields of study immediately following completion of an associate degree, and a second year of training immediately following completion of a bachelor's degree.

7. The latest technologies

Because of their strong ties with business and industry, many community colleges have state-of-the-art computer and other technology in classrooms and facilities.

8. Flexible admissions requirements

Many community colleges do not require standardized admissions tests and many allow students to enroll throughout the year.

9. Opportunities to experience U.S. culture

Like other U.S. campuses, community colleges have strong ties to their surrounding communities, which offer international students both a rich academic environment and an opportunity to experience many aspects of life in the United States — both on and off campus.

10. Excellent student support services

Community colleges are committed to attracting a diverse student population and ensuring that all students succeed.

More than Just Study: Getting Involved

Colette Bishogo South Africa
Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts,
a research university on an urban campus

I am majoring in African studies with a minor in economics as well as studying Arabic. Outside of class, I am the publications chair of the Black Students Association, the secretary of the finance committee of the undergraduate council and a member of the planning committee for the Harvard African Student Association's Africa Week. This past winter I co-directed a service trip to the Navajo Nation in New Mexico. Because I have a lot of liberty with making my own timetable, I schedule all my classes for the morning and typically leave some free time in the afternoon to do other activities and then carry on studying in the evening. Having activities outside of class allows me to be actively involved in my community. Being able to participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities, while still fully engaging in all my classes, is the aspect of college life in the United States that I value the most.

Flexibility to Pursue Courses of Interest

Hiroki Kato Japan
Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina,
a regional comprehensive university on a rural campus

I really wanted to take a debate-style class, but, because I delayed my decision, the class was already full when I tried to get in. I asked the professor whether I could join the class anyway. The professor gave me permission to join the class, without asking any questions. Flexibility to switch classes or even change your field of major study seems to be pretty common at U.S. schools. I found from my own experience that, even if there is some problem of class size or prerequisite requirements, at least some professors will allow you to join their classes if you show the proper enthusiasm.

Sharing Food, Sharing Cultures

Phuong Hoang Vietnam

University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Oklahoma, *a small university known for science and engineering, on an urban campus*

I enjoy preparing spring rolls and pho and other traditional Vietnamese foods for my friends here as a special treat. And my perception of American food is changing. My first impression was that it is mostly fast food like hamburgers or pizzas. Then, after dining in the school cafeteria for a couple of years, I began to think that biscuits with gravy, chicken pot pie and apple pie represented American food. Now, after nearly four years, I'm coming to understand that American food is a combination of dishes from all around the world — a simple reflection of the diversity in American culture. American cuisine is like a melting pot where its flavor comes from many different nations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
www.EducationUSA.state.gov

Academic Contacts, Networking

Ruby Piña Mimbela Peru

The Ohio State University-Wooster Campus, Wooster, Ohio, *a regional, small-city campus of a large research university*

Studying for my master's degree in veterinary medicine at Ohio State, I had the opportunity to participate in conferences and seminars to present my research. I met outstanding scientists from my field who wrote most of the papers I read and had a chance to talk with them in social and academic meetings. Indeed, conferences and seminars are important networks to interact with researchers related to your field of study, not only to get feedback on your own research, but also for having contacts for future Ph.D. applications or for postdoctoral positions in other universities.

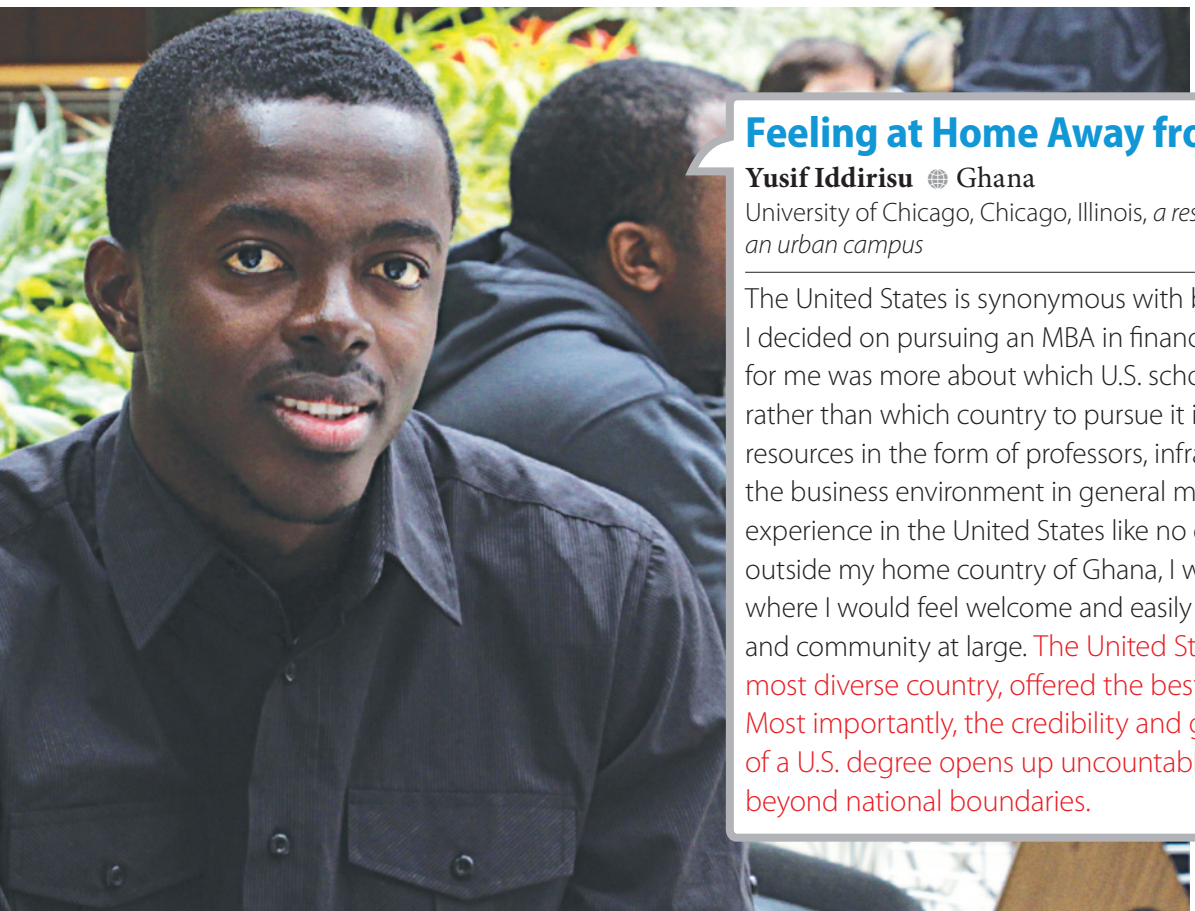
FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
www.EducationUSA.state.gov

Value of a U.S. Degree

Mohammad Hasan Bangladesh

University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, Mississippi, *the health sciences schools of a research university on an urban campus*

Since my undergraduate study at the University of Dhaka (Bangladesh), it was my dream to study microbiology in the USA to become a researcher in this field. Among several admission offers from U.S. universities, I decided to come to UMMC because of its reputation. As a research assistant, I am working on a project aiming to understand the mechanism that human cytomegalovirus (CMV) uses to cause disease; CMV mostly afflicts people with deficient immunity, such as people with HIV. I believe this work will help me start a career in microbiology research. What most attracted me to a U.S. graduate school was the high recognition of a U.S. degree for getting a research job in Bangladesh, better financial support for study compared to what was available in other countries and the multicultural U.S. lifestyle.



Feeling at Home Away from Home

Yusif Iddirisu Ghana

University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, *a research university on an urban campus*

The United States is synonymous with business, and, once I decided on pursuing an MBA in finance, the question for me was more about which U.S. schools to apply to rather than which country to pursue it in. The quality of resources in the form of professors, infrastructure and the business environment in general makes the learning experience in the United States like no other. Studying outside my home country of Ghana, I wanted a place where I would feel welcome and easily fit in the school and community at large. The United States, being the most diverse country, offered the best opportunity. Most importantly, the credibility and global recognition of a U.S. degree opens up uncountable opportunities beyond national boundaries.

Close Ties in a Welcoming Community

Nur Al-Ashikin Haji Abdullah Brunei

East-West Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Hawaii, *an education and research organization established by the U.S. Congress, on an urban campus*

Aloha! Hello! Studying in another country has definitely changed me as a person, and in a positive way. I am lucky to be part of the East-West Center community, or "ohana" — ohana is Hawaiian for "family" — which promotes cooperation among the people and nations of Asia and the Pacific and the United States. The center's Community Building Institute orients new participants and welcomes them into the community; the institute's activities have helped me discover skills and traits that I wasn't sure I had. The Ohana program fosters close ties between participants and host families, whereby both learn different cultures from total immersion. I'll be walking away from Ohana with not only photos but also valuable experience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
www.EducationUSA.state.gov

The J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program

What is the J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program?

The J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) allows some 275,000 foreign visitors to come to the United States each year to experience U.S. society and culture and interact with Americans. The EVP offers 13 different types of exchange programs, of which the college and university student category is just one.

How can I pursue post-secondary studies under the J-1 Visa Program?

Under the J-1 Visa Program, foreign students have the opportunity to study at American degree-granting post-secondary accredited academic institutions. They also may participate in a student internship program that fulfills the educational objectives of the student's degree program in his or her home country. Students may pursue degree-granting programs in the U.S. until completion or non-degree granting programs for up to two-years.

How many post-secondary students participate in the J-1 Visa Program?

In the last calendar year, around 45,000 students from nearly 180 countries and territories at various stages of their academic careers came to the United States as J-1 Visa college/university students.

What is the role of J-1 Visa Program designated sponsors?

More than 1,400 for-profit, nonprofit, and federal, state, and local government entities have been selected by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to serve as sponsors for the overall J-1 Visa program. There are currently around 800 sponsors working with the U.S. Department of State in the college and university category of J-1 Visa exchange.

How can I apply to study in the United States on the J-1 Visa Program?

Students may apply to the J-1 Visa Program through any of the sponsors that have been designated by the U.S. Department of State to offer the college and university program. Students must meet all program eligibility requirements to apply and be selected.

How are J-1 Visa Program exchange visitors financed?

In the college/university student category of the J-1 Visa Program, students are financed directly or indirectly by the U.S. government, the government of their home country, an international organization of which the United States is a member, or supported substantially by funding from another source other than personal or family funds.

For more information on studying in the United States through the J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program, please visit **www.J1visa.state.gov**.
For more information on U.S. Department of State-sponsored exchange programs, please visit **www.exchanges.state.gov**.

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