



STUDENT GUIDE TO **THE USA**

STUDY ABROAD REFERENCE · 2026/27 INTAKE

ABOUT THE USA

- The USA is an **English-speaking** country with the **world's largest** higher-education system.
- Home to around **335 million people** and the global centre of **technology and research**.
- Famous for **flexible degrees**, world-class facilities and a **3-year STEM work** pathway.
- **English** is the language of instruction throughout.
- The **US Dollar (\$)** is the official currency.
- Some of the most popular student cities:

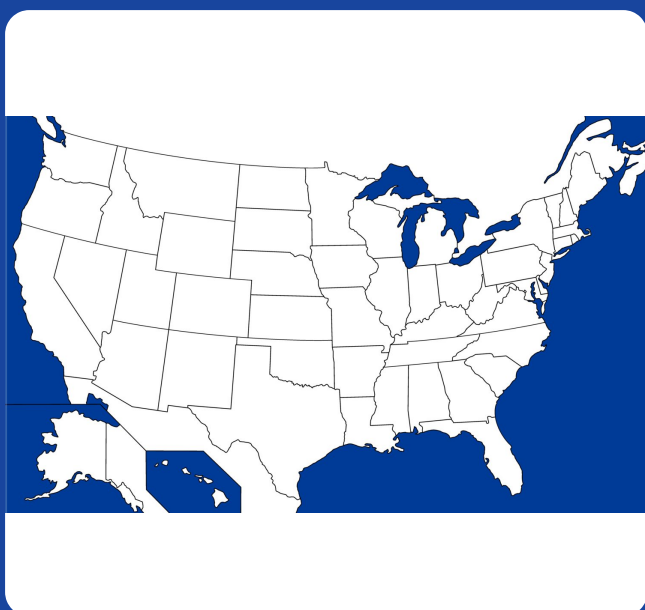


INDIA TO THE USA

CURRENCY

US Dollar (\$) · 1 USD ≈ ₹86 (indicative)

Delhi	≈ 15h 30m	the USA
Mumbai	≈ 16h 00m	the USA
Bengaluru	≈ 18h 00m	the USA
Chennai	≈ 19h 30m	the USA
Hyderabad	≈ 18h 30m	the USA



FACTS

- Capital: Washington, D.C.
- Flight distance: ~12,000 km
- Time zone: UTC -5 to -8
- Tuition: \$28,000–80,000 / yr
- Proof of funds: Full cost on I-20
- Main intakes: Fall · Spring

International students pay full tuition. Figures indicative — verify per institution and intake.

WHY STUDY IN THE USA?



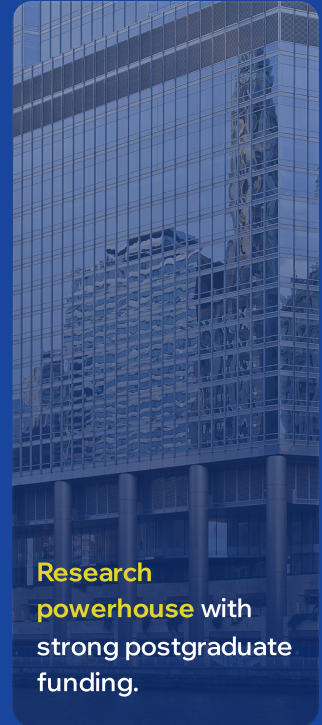
Largest choice of universities and majors worldwide.



Flexible degrees — switch majors and build your path.



STEM OPT gives up to 3 years of US work experience.



Research powerhouse with strong postgraduate funding.



The USA offers the **world's largest choice of universities** and a **STEM work pathway of up to 3 years**.

TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS

- US higher education is the most diverse in the world.
- They fall into three broad groups:



PUBLIC STATE UNIVERSITIES

State-funded, large campuses, strong research.



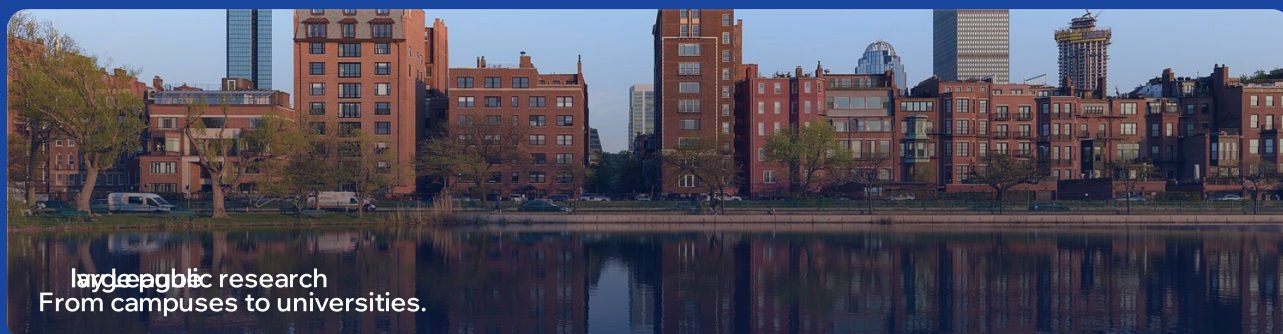
PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Endowment-funded, smaller classes, Ivy League.



COMMUNITY COLLEGES

2-year associate degrees and an affordable transfer route.



TOP UNIVERSITIES

- the USA hosts several **globally recognised** universities.
- Admission is **merit-based** and competitive.

Northeastern University**BOSTON**

Renowned for co-op work placements.

Arizona State University**TEMPE**

Large public university, strong in innovation.

Drexel University**PHILADELPHIA**

Co-operative education and engineering.

University of Illinois Chicago**CHICAGO**

Research-intensive public university.

Colorado State University**FORT COLLINS**

Strong sciences and engineering.

University of South Florida**TAMPA**

Fast-rising public research university.

Indicative selection — confirm each programme's entry requirements and intake before applying.

POPULAR FIELDS OF STUDY

- The USA leads in fields tied to **technology, research and global business.**



COMPUTER SCIENCE & AI

Software, data science and machine learning.



BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

MBA, finance and analytics.



ENGINEERING

Electrical, mechanical and aerospace.



DATA SCIENCE

Analytics and applied statistics.



HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES

Public health, biotech and nursing.



MEDIA & DESIGN

Film, communications and UX design.

TUITION & COSTS

- US tuition varies widely; **public universities** and **community colleges** are the most affordable routes.

Undergraduate (public) international, per year	\$28,000–45,000
Undergraduate (private) per year	\$50,000–80,000
Postgraduate / Master's per year	\$30,000–70,000
Community college per year	\$10,000–20,000
Proof of funds (I-20)	Full annual cost



Graduate assistantships and **merit scholarships** can significantly cut master's costs.

COST OF LIVING

- Living costs depend heavily on the city — **New York** and **California** are the priciest.

Accommodation on / off campus	\$700–1,500
Food & groceries	\$300–450
Transport transit pass	\$70–120
Health insurance mandatory	\$80–200
Phone, internet & leisure	\$150–250
Estimated monthly total	~\$1,500–2,500

Figures indicative for 2026 — costs vary between the capital and smaller cities.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FUNDING

- A mix of government, university and departmental funding helps offset high tuition.

Fulbright-Nehru**GOVT (INDIA)**

Prestigious awards for Indian postgraduates.

University Merit Aid**INSTITUTIONAL**

Partial tuition waivers for strong applicants.

Graduate Assistantships**DEPARTMENTAL**

Tuition plus stipend for research or teaching (PG).

External Fellowships**FOUNDATIONS**

Subject-specific funding from private bodies.

Eligibility, deadlines and amounts change each cycle — confirm on the official scholarship pages.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

BACHELOR'S

- **12 years** of schooling with a strong Class 12 record.
- **SAT / ACT** (where required) and **TOEFL 80+ / IELTS 6.5**.
- Essays, recommendation letters and extracurriculars.
- Apply directly or through the Common App.

MASTER'S

- A recognised **bachelor's degree** (4-year often preferred).
- **GRE / GMAT** for many programmes; **TOEFL 90+ / IELTS 6.5–7.0**.
- Statement of purpose, LORs and résumé.
- Some programmes require relevant work experience.

INTAKES

- **Fall (Aug / Sep)** — main intake — widest choice of courses and funding
- **Spring (Jan)** — second intake at many universities
- **Summer** — limited intake for some programmes

STUDENT VISA & FUNDS

1

ADMISSION & I-20

Accept your offer and receive the Form I-20.

2

PAY SEVIS FEE

Pay the I-901 SEVIS fee online.

3

DS-160

Complete the DS-160 non-immigrant visa form.

4

PAY & SCHEDULE

Pay the visa fee and book your appointment.

5

INTERVIEW

Attend the F-1 visa interview at the US consulate.

6

PREPARE FUNDS

Show funds covering tuition and living costs.

WORK & POST-STUDY

- F-1 students work **20 hours a week** on campus, then up to **3 years** on OPT / STEM-OPT after graduating.

On-Campus Work

20 HRS / WEEK

Work on campus during term time.

CPT

DURING STUDY

Curricular Practical Training for internships.

OPT

12 MONTHS

Post-study work in your field of study.

STEM OPT

+24 MONTHS

Extra 24 months for STEM graduates (36 total).

HOW TO APPLY

1

SHORTLIST

Choose universities and programmes that fit your profile.

2

PREPARE DOCUMENTS

Transcripts, test scores, essays and references.

3

APPLY

Submit via the Common App or directly.

4

OFFER & I-20

Accept your offer and receive the I-20.

5

VISA

Pay SEVIS, file DS-160 and attend the F-1 interview.

6

DEPARTURE

Arrange accommodation and prepare to travel.



Your the USA study journey — one step at a time.