



1 Research your options

2 Finance your studies

3 Complete your application

4 Apply for your Student Visa

5 Prepare for your departure

Your 5 Steps  
to U.S. Study



## Being resourceful

Applying to U.S. colleges is a challenge for American and international students alike as the requirements are the same for everyone.

U.S. college applications will be different to what you may experience applying to Australian institutions. Your U.S. application is not just about your final grade in high school—instead it takes a holistic view. Admissions officers are evaluating what you can offer to their college campus, so communicating this through your application is critical. But before you get to that stage, you have to work out where you want to apply.

There are over 3700 options to choose from to study in the U.S., so don't be concerned if during your research you come across a college name unfamiliar to you. Instead, this is a sign that you need to investigate and research further!

Get to know institutions through their websites as part of your decision-making process, and try to talk to current students. You can visit campuses in-person or take virtual tours from [Campus Tours](#) or [You Visit](#).

### Start your search here!

A great place to start is to identify your interests and things that are important to you. You shouldn't try to match yourself to a college, but rather find the college that matches you, your priorities and your long-term career goals. These websites can help find a college that best fits your needs:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>  
<https://www.usnews.com/education>  
<https://www.petersons.com/>  
<https://college.usatoday.com>  
<https://www.ctcl.org>  
<https://www.cappex.com/>  
<https://www.khanacademy.org/college-admissions>

### Students and parents - understanding the application process

The more you understand the process, the better your application experience will be. EducationUSA recommends you complete the following online free courses:

1. [Applying to U.S. universities](#): A four-week online course especially developed for international students, regardless of which U.S. institution you want to attend.
2. [How to Apply to College](#): A six-week online course on learning to navigate the college admission process. This course has a particular emphasis on students and families who are unfamiliar with this process and may not have access to a range of counseling support and resources.