



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



## Finances and financial aid

Evaluating your finances is important when considering to study in the U.S. International students can receive significant amounts of financial assistance for their studies; however, it rarely covers the full cost. The U.S. is a large country and the cost of living varies greatly from place to place. You need to assess your finances and establish what you are able to contribute towards your education and living expenses.

A good place to start is our [Finance your studies page](#).

### Other helpful websites:

[EducationUSA financial aid](#)

[International students seeking to study in the U.S.](#)

[Funding for U.S. study](#)

[Schools awarding financial aid](#)

[CollegeBoard - paying for college](#)

### College Scholarship Search Service (CSS Profile)

International students are often required to fill out financial documentation to receive scholarships or financial aid. Most colleges will request that you complete a [CSS Profile](#); however, some may use their own application forms.

The CSS Profile is an application from the [College Board](#) used by [many colleges](#) to gather financial information from international students for scholarship and financial aid applications. It is available from October 1 in each application cycle. It's important to check the CSS Profile deadlines, especially if you're applying early.

Creating your CSS Profile is a detailed process that requires family financial information—but it's often a necessary step for you to be reviewed or merit or needs-based scholarships.

### Who should apply

In reviewing your finances, if you could not pay for some or all of your college expenses, you should consider applying for financial aid.

**Note:** You should **always** confirm finance-related information and deadlines on each institution's website—often this will be on the college's 'Financial Aid' page.



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# Scholarships

Scholarships can be invaluable for international students coming to the U.S. however, they cannot be relied on to cover all your college expenses. Whether you're an incoming first year or you instead decide to go to the U.S. for graduate school, it's important to recognize that scholarship applications are competitive and will take time.

Most scholarship information can be found online for free, if you take the time to search. Your first step should be to visit each college's website and find their listed opportunities, but looking further afield is also important. EducationUSA suggests that you set up a profile on scholarship search sites—consider starting with [College Greenlight](#).

You can continue searching for scholarship funds even after you lodge your college applications—in fact, you can do this right up until your start date and even during college.

## Helpful links

[College Greenlight](#)

[International scholarships](#)

[International scholarship searches](#)

[CollegeBoard scholarship searches](#)

[Admission statistics](#)

