

Timeline - Year 11



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**



21 months before applying – beginning of Year 11

- Start researching U.S. colleges/universities and academic programs that interest you
- Identify and prepare for standardized tests you will need to take - register to sit these exams as soon as possible
- Work hard in school to maintain good grades
- Talk to your school's career practitioner so they can help you
- Build a timeline of your tasks and deadlines for the next two years

14-16 months before applying – mid-Year 11

- If you have not done so already - talk to your school's career practitioner so they can help support your goals
- Continue to research and build a spreadsheet of U.S. colleges
- Identify if you'll need to re-sit any standardized tests

11-12 months before applying – end of Year 11

- Request any forms and information, if necessary
- Identify who you would like to approach to complete your school recommendations
- Research U.S. colleges in more detail by visiting their websites to get information
- Take virtual tours of colleges you're interested in - these can be found on the institution's homepage or at [Campus Tours](#) or [You Visit](#)



Timeline - Year 12



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**



10 months before applying - beginning of Year 12 (January/February)

- Register to re-sit any standardized tests if you want to improve your scores
- Approach the two teachers you identified to write your school recommendations
- Identify your financing options
- Start a running record of all your extracurricular activities and awards—add any new achievements throughout the year
- Discuss your progress with your career practitioner
- Continue to research and refine information on your spreadsheet of shortlisted colleges

4-5 months before applying - mid-Year 12 (June)

- Narrow your college selections down to the 5-7 you'll apply to
- Identify which application deadline you will use for each college on your list—consider applying through the Early Decision or Early Action options
- Start drafting your application and brainstorm ideas for essay responses
- Research scholarship opportunities and their closing dates
- Create any relevant accounts you'll need to begin your applications, e.g. [CommonApp](#)

2-3 months before applying (August)

- August 1: [CommonApp](#) is released for the next application cycle
- Colleges will release admission materials online
- Download and begin completing applications for your target colleges
- Begin drafting your essay(s)/personal statement
- Follow-up with your teachers and career practitioner regarding their recommendation

1 month prior to application deadlines - late-Year 12

- Complete all financial aid application forms
- Ensure all aspects of your application have been completed—including items to be lodged on your behalf, such as recommendations
- Submit your applications well before the deadline

After applying - following year

- Receive notice of offer by April 1 (Regular Decision)
- Accept offer and provide deposit by May 1

Helpful terminology

- Freshman - Year 9 or first year at college
- Sophomore - Year 10 or second year at college
- Junior - Year 11 or third year at college
- Senior - Year 12 or final year at college

