

# GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY ADMISSION



**NACAC**

National Association for  
College Admission Counseling



## About NACAC

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), founded in 1937, is an organization of 15,000 professionals from around the world dedicated to serving students as they make choices about pursuing postsecondary education. NACAC is committed to maintaining high standards that foster ethical and social responsibility among those involved in the transition process, as outlined in the NACAC's Code of Ethics and Professional Practices.

For more information and resources, visit [nacacnet.org](http://nacacnet.org).

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National Association for  
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# FOREWORD

*By Beth Gilfillan, counselor education doctoral student; former college counselor at Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest (IL); past president of Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling*

One of the college counselor's most important jobs is to educate students on their college options as we guide them through the search and application process. A few years ago, a [report from the Institute of International Education](#) confirmed what a group of Chicago-area high school counselors had begun to notice: a growing interest among students who aspired to earn their college degree outside the United States. Meanwhile, representatives from universities in a number of countries were beginning to knock on our doors.

In fall 2013, the group of counselors organized a program called [International College Options \(ICO\)](#). The program includes college fairs and counselor luncheons aimed at helping students, and those advising them, explore the expanding landscape of university admission. The ICO program has become an annual event and has expanded to Detroit, Denver, New York, and Pittsburgh. The most recent events in 2017, drew 33 institutions from 9 countries.

The majority of counseling participants who participated in research about the ICO program reported seeing an increase in students' and families' interest in international college options. And, as a result of participating in the program, reported feeling more prepared to counsel these students and families. It is promising to see programs, such as ICO, having a positive effect on counseling students and families.

With more US students looking to earn a full bachelor's degree outside the United States, NACAC provides this guide to assist and support counselors, families, and students as they navigate the sometimes confusing search and application process.

Why do students choose to pursue a degree abroad? The reasons vary. Some students want to take advantage of

dual citizenship, or have family abroad, while others long for an adventure. Lower tuition may attract their interest—helped along, in some cases, by a full degree program that can be completed in three years.

The type of student who has the potential to thrive overseas is independent and open-minded, loves to travel, enjoys experiential learning, appreciates diversity, and is interested in other cultures. Not every student fits that description, of course, but if a student you are working with demonstrates some of these characteristics, you might mention the idea of a full degree program abroad. I also find that students who express a desire to study abroad in college are well-suited to this option.

It is also important for counselors to understand the application process, deadlines, and chances of admission for a US student. While institutions that welcome US students are eager to provide helpful information, it can be difficult to gather and compare information from schools' websites in different countries. Language barriers, differing time zones, and unfamiliar application processes are just three challenges students will face.

Just as when we research US schools, it is important to look at fit—that is the alignment of academic offerings, social aspects, campus culture, cost, employment rates, and other critical factors, with a student's goals and expectations for their undergraduate experience. Few families have the resources to visit multiple colleges overseas. The high school counselors involved in ICO events consider them to be a useful alternative. Through these activities, students, parents, and counselors can talk individually with international college representatives about courses, the application process, visa requirements, and any other questions they might have. This guide is another valuable resource for counselors. We encourage you to use it as a starting point.

# INTRODUCTION

This guide responds to the growing desire among high school counselors to broaden undergraduate college options for US students, specifically students who have expressed an interest in studying internationally. It is designed to be a starting point for counselors building their competence and confidence in advising these students. The guide seeks to take you from where you might be when the first student comes into your office and says, “I heard college is free in Germany,” to where you likely want to be as a counselor of students exploring broader options—supportive, informed, and able to assess specifics as the need arises.

## Understanding the Big Picture

Students’ initial questions about international study options often focus on admission, but as a counselor, your perspective needs to also include the bigger picture of matriculation, persistence, graduation, and beyond.

Whether students are moving across town or around the globe, adjustment challenges are expected. For those studying internationally, these can be exacerbated by cultural and language differences, educational system variances, and the distance involved. The student experience is often fundamentally different outside the US than it is inside it. As an example, many international universities do not have American-style campuses and on-site housing. And even if students are proficient in the language of the country where they’d like to study, living on their own in a different culture can be challenging. Teaching styles and evaluation methodologies may differ from US high schools or US postsecondary institutions. At a practical level, when a student overseas experiences a slump, it is less likely that he or she can be shored up by

a quick visit home or a visit from a parent or friend. On the other hand, students completing degrees internationally can become true global citizens, and grow and thrive in ways that are hard to fully explain or measure.

Looking ahead to beyond graduation, counselors need to consider a student’s potential eligibility to remain in their host country for work or further education. Immigration and visa policies can be complex, and what’s more they frequently change. Students who wish to stay abroad following graduation need to research their eligibility for short- or long-term work visas, and the associated requirements.

Students looking to pursue undergraduate degrees in another country should also be aware of the applicability of their intended degree in the US. While globally educated students are often very attractive to employers and graduate programs, students considering professional degrees abroad, such as medicine, law, architecture, and engineering, need to carefully research whether their prospective credential will be recognized back home. Additionally, fewer US employers recruit American students at overseas campuses for employment fairs available to students attending institutions in the US. Alumni networks, however, can be an important resource for graduates of international universities.

Counselors new to helping American students apply to universities abroad may want to acquaint themselves with international and national rankings. While NACAC advises caution when using rankings, they can be useful in helping counselors, students, and families build an understanding of various international universities, their sizes, strengths,

and how they compare to familiar domestic universities. International rankings such as *Times Higher Education World University Rankings*, *U.S. News & World Report Global Rankings*, *QS World University Rankings*, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University's *Academic Ranking of World Universities* are useful for building awareness of some of the more prestigious institutions across the globe. There are also new efforts to help students choose where to apply, such as the [UK's Teaching Excellence Framework \(TEF\)](#). While performance indicators used in traditional rankings are not always indicative of the student experience, the TEF aims to measure things students care about: teaching, learning, and what students go on to do afterwards.

In some countries, national rankings are done at the course/major level. The much scrutinized league tables in the UK are one such example. The tables illustrate how an individual university's rank can differ considerably by course of study.

With that background, some of the significant differences in postsecondary education internationally, vis-à-vis the US, include:

**Duration and Focus** – In many of the countries covered in this guide, the standard duration of an undergraduate program is three years, though there are variations for honors programs and degrees in certain disciplines. Additionally, the student often selects a major (or course of study) before application, is admitted into that major, and has limited flexibility to change once accepted.

Consequently, the applicant's academic record and other required application materials need to be targeted to the student's specific course of study. This also has implications for the student's experience once at university; the ability to take courses outside one's major would likely be limited when compared to American institutions.

**Timing** – Academic calendars and the timetable for admission decisions vary by country, and do not necessarily coincide with those in the US. Students who apply to universities in more than one country can find themselves facing different decision notification and acceptance/deposit dates. Additionally, US students bound for New Zealand and Australia, for instance, may have an eight-month gap between high school graduation and matriculation.

**Admission Requirements and Processes** – Generally, admission decision-making tends to be less holistic at universities abroad and requirements are clearer cut.

In part because admission is generally granted into a specific major, universities are often more specific in the courses and grades required at the high school level. Additionally, some overseas universities do not consider a US high school degree comparable to a secondary school degree from their country. They

may accept students with a high number of Advanced Placement (AP) tests or the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma, but may require US students with a different academic background to complete another year of schooling (often called a *foundation* year) prior to beginning the three-year degree program. During the application process, counselors may need to provide detailed course descriptions to help the student justify the rigor of his or her high school curriculum.

**Conditional Offers** – In certain countries, conditional offers of admission are common. These may specify attainment of specific scores on final testing, including AP exams and IB tests. This can mean a student will not know whether they may enroll at the university that made the conditional offer until those results are available in the summer before planned matriculation.

**Costs** – Some countries regulate university costs. In most cases costs are stated on university websites in the local currency. Students and families should be aware of possible fluctuations in currency exchange rates, and the associated risk of costs rising. While many international universities are recruiting US students, financial aid opportunities may be limited. And there are additional costs, such as required insurance and travel to and from the home country.

**Agents** – In some of the countries profiled it is common for universities to recruit international students in partnership with commercial recruitment agencies, and remunerate their partners via per capita commission payments. However, domestic and international universities alike that participate in US federal financial aid programs are prohibited from paying incentive compensation to agencies for the recruitment of financial aid-eligible students (US citizens and permanent residents). Generally speaking, students should exercise caution in considering third-party advisory services. The NACAC publication [Trusted Sources: Seeking Advice on Applying to Universities in Another Country](#) can help students make informed decisions about these services.

## How to Use this Guide

This guide was developed with cooperation from representatives of countries that have proven popular postsecondary study destinations among US students. Though many countries are featured, NACAC hopes other countries representing more world regions and languages will participate in future editions.

The first section profiles eleven countries based on information provided by the aforementioned representatives, and reviewed by NACAC members with experience counseling American students seeking international study. At the time of publication, this guide offered the most up-to-date information available, but counselors and students should always reach out to specific universities, organizations, and embassies, or consulates to confirm important details. Following the

country-specific information, the guide briefly addresses other options for international educational experiences.

The country profiles are organized into sections:

**Brief Background** – Provides an overview of the postsecondary educational landscape, including numbers and types of universities/colleges, subgroupings of educational institutions, and statistics on the number of international students studying in the country.

**Good to Know** – Describes the length of a typical undergraduate degree program, country-specific terminology, special strengths of the educational system, and legal protections for international students.

**Academic Calendar** – Lists the start and end dates of the school year, exam periods, and school holidays.

**Search** – Provides links to specific websites to learn more about university options and courses of study.

**Apply** – Addresses whether students must apply directly to a major/course of study, whether applications are processed by a central organization or by each individual university, and whether there are restrictions on the number or type of applications a student may submit.

**Deadlines** – Lists application timelines by semester of matriculation.

**Application Fees** – Provides costs to apply to one or more universities.

**Admission Requirements** – Describes admission factors, such as language proficiency, coursework, and SAT, SAT Subject, ACT, and IB and AP testing. Also describes advanced credit provided for AP or IB coursework, if applicable.

**Upon Acceptance** – Reviews the documentation provided at acceptance, whether conditional acceptances are common, if there is rolling admission and timing for student responses and deposits.

**Tuition and Fees** – Provides general cost ranges, information on tuition regulation at the state or national level, and financial aid options, including how to use US federal student loans.

**Housing** – Explains typical housing arrangements for international students, including the availability and costs of university-provided housing, methods for securing off-campus housing, and general timelines and caveats.

**Visa and Other Permits** – Provides tips and resources for obtaining student visas and other permits, including demonstration of proof of sufficient funding and required health insurance. Work eligibility is also discussed.

**Advice from the Field** – Offers insights and recommendations by NACAC members with ample experience counseling American students about international postsecondary study. Tips include additional website resources, who to contact for more information, and how to identify universities to consider.

### Myth or Fact: What You Need to Know about Applying to Foreign Universities

If your students are interested in expanding their college search beyond the US borders, make sure they have the facts.

#### Myth or fact? Students must be fluent in another language to apply to an overseas university.

Myth! Australia, Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and other English-speaking countries are popular destinations for US students. English-taught programs are also offered through universities in countries, such as France, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, and Spain.

#### Myth or fact? All countries follow the same academic calendars and college admission timeline.

Myth! Academic calendars and the timetable for admission decisions vary by country, and do not necessarily coincide with those in the United States. US students bound for New Zealand and Australia, for instance, may have an eight-month gap between high school graduation and matriculation.

#### Myth or fact? US degrees are more valuable.

Myth! Quality higher education options exist across the globe. Students whose prospective careers require certification (such as doctors or architects) may have to complete additional exams or meet other requirements in order to practice outside the country where they studied. In most cases, globally educated students are very attractive to employers.

#### Myth or fact? Earning a degree abroad will break the bank.

Myth! Affordable options are available. For instance, tuition is generally free at all German public universities (though fees are assessed). Some foreign universities participate in the US federal student loan program. Check with individual institutions to learn more about costs and financial aid options.



# Help Your Students Take on the World with BigFuture



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## Sample BigFuture Profiles





# AUSTRALIA

**Brief Background:** The Australian government's National Strategy for International Education 2025 sets out a 10-year plan to grow and sustain Australia as a global leader in education, training, and research.

In 2017 there were 624,000 international students in Australia, with about 44 percent enrolled in Australia's 39 public and four private universities—or unis, as known in local parlance. In 2017 there were 11,900 US students enrolled in Australian higher education institutions, including 800 undergraduates, 1,300 graduate students. Most other American students participated in short-term study abroad programs (6,400).

Many unis have multiple campuses, often in different states and cities, to improve access and choice for students. Some universities also have formed groups of like-minded institutions. [Universities Australia](#) represents 39 comprehensive universities in Australia and maintains a relationship with its counterpart organizations overseas, including the American Council on Education and Universities Canada.

Australia's [Group of Eight](#) (Go8) comprises Australia's eight leading research intensive universities: University of Melbourne, Australian National University (ANU), University of Sydney, University of Queensland, University of Western Australia, University of Adelaide, Monash University, and University of New South Wales (UNSW). Go8 members are consistently ranked in the top 150 institutions worldwide (with 6 in the top 100) in the Academic Ranking of World Universities from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, the Times Higher Education World Rankings, and the *QS World University Rankings*.

The [Australian Technology Network of Universities](#) (ATN) comprises five of the most innovative and enterprising universities in Australia: Queensland University of Technology (QUT), University of Technology Sydney (UTS), RMIT University, University of South Australia, and Curtin University. Members are a new generation of universities focused on industry collaboration and research with real-world impact. Their focus: To produce work-ready graduates.

[Innovative Research Universities](#) (IRU) is a policy network of seven comprehensive universities: Charles Darwin University, James Cook University, Griffith University, La Trobe University, Flinders University, Murdoch University, and Western Sydney University. IRU members seek to lead the way in collaborative teaching, language, research, and policy initiatives. More than 80 percent of research at IRU universities is ranked at world standard or above, according to Excellence in Research for Australia 2015.

The [Regional Universities Network](#) (RUN) is a group of six universities with headquarters in regional Australia and playing major roles in their regions. RUN universities are Central Queensland University, Southern Cross University, Federation University Australia, University of New England, University of Southern Queensland, and University of the Sunshine Coast.

**Good to Know:** Students can typically earn an undergraduate degree in Australia in three years. However, there are exceptions that may require an additional year or two of study: professional fields (for example, veterinary science), honors programs, double

bachelor's degree programs, or an area of study that requires research.

The term *course* generally refers to a program of study. Only rarely can students enroll at an Australian university with an undecided program of study, though options are available for students who want to change their course after enrolling. International students who want to change majors are urged to check with immigration officials to ensure they follow the correct procedure.

In Australia, higher education institutions generally set their own admission requirements for domestic and international students. They will take into consideration whether the student has the academic ability to complete the course of study as well as English language proficiency. For a range of professional courses, additional admission requirements may be set, such as an interview with the university or an independent aptitude test, but this will depend on the university students are applying to.

Universities develop their professional courses in collaboration with the relevant professional accreditation body or association in that field (for example, the Australian Medical Council or Engineers Australia) to ensure students will meet Australian accreditation standards once they graduate and will be eligible for entry into their chosen profession. These professional courses tend to include an internship or placement component, and universities will offer various levels of support and services to assist students with completing the requirements. Students should contact the university at which they would like to study, to discuss internship availability.

Australia's Educational Services for Overseas Student (ESOS) Act is designed to protect and promote the rights of international students on student visas. For example, institutions are required by law to provide access to orientation and support services, and accurate and timely information about fees and study options. Many free services are available to all students on all campuses, including academic guidance, skills and career advice, employment search support, and assistance to students with disabilities.

The Overseas Students Ombudsman is a specialist role of the Commonwealth Ombudsman which investigates complaints about problems that prospective, current or former overseas students have with private education providers in Australia.

The Fair Work Ombudsman is an independent government agency created by the Fair Work Act in 2009. It provides free education and information about people's basic rights and protections in the workplace, including minimum pay and conditions. It also helps to resolve workplace issues, conduct investigations, and enforce relevant Commonwealth workplace laws.

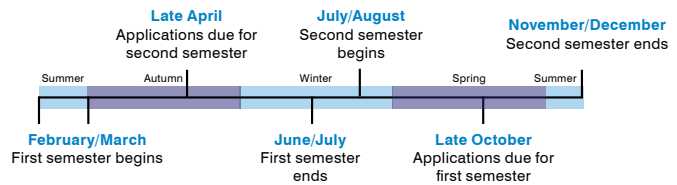


Photo courtesy of Sharon

**“One of my initial worries was whether my Australian degree would limit me after graduation. I thought that if my degree, including law and business courses, were restricted to an Australian context, it might not apply globally. However, all my classes so far have been teaching content within the context of a global industry and not only focusing on the Australian aspect of it.”**

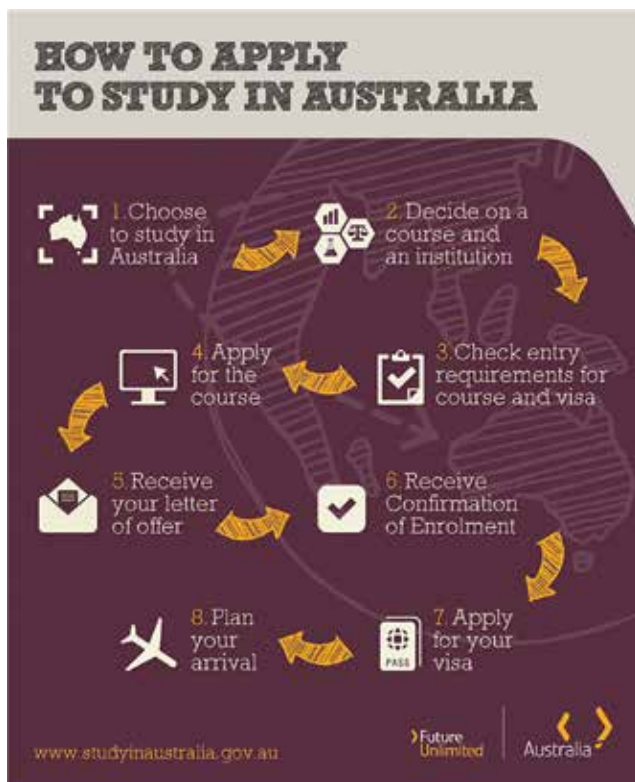
—Sharon Thomas, Georgia/TCK, Queensland University of Technology

**Academic Calendar:** Most universities have two semesters: February/March to June/July, and July/August to November/December, with breaks in between. Many courses allow students to begin their studies in either semester. International students from the northern hemisphere often start in Australia's second semester, late July or early August. The student visa system caters to different enrollment terms.



However, many Australian universities are moving toward more flexible arrangements, (e.g., some have three semesters, some four) with the intent of making things more convenient for northern hemisphere international students.

Most Australian unis run orientation week—known as O-week—at the start of each semester.



**Search:** The Australian government's [Study in Australia](http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au) website offers general advice and information for prospective international students. All institutions offering courses to international students in Australia must be registered through the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (known as CRICOS). Its [website](http://www.cricos.gov.au), enables users to search by institution or by course of study. [Universities Australia](http://www.universitiesaustralia.gov.au) offers additional institutional profiles and key contacts.

State and territory governments also host websites focused on services they provide for international students:

[Australian Capital Territory](#)

[New South Wales](#)

[Northern Territory](#)

[Queensland](#)

[South Australia](#)

[Tasmania](#)

[Victoria](#)

[Western Australia](#)

**Apply:** There is no national application system for international students. However, Tertiary Admission Centres (TACs) process applications for institutions within a particular state. International students should check if the course they are interested in encourages direct application to the institution or application through a TAC.

Students apply to a course of study within a university. Many universities allow students to apply a year ahead of time. Admission is typically offered on a rolling basis, and students are encouraged to submit their application as soon as they can.

**Deadlines:** Applications are due in late October or late April, depending on whether a student intends to start in the first or second semester.

**Application Fee:** Varies by university. Can be up to 100 Australian dollars.

**Admission Requirements:** For a majority of programs, admission is based on completion of a high school diploma, AP exam scores, and scores on either the SAT or ACT exam. Full IB diplomas are also accepted. Some programs require a minimum high school GPA.

If a student is applying through a TAC, eligibility for a selected program is determined by converting a student's final results (GPA + SAT; IB) into an Australia Tertiary Admissions Ranking (ATAR) equivalent. This ATAR score is the result of the final year of high school for Australian students and is the primary metric used for entry into undergraduate programs.

If an international student is applying directly to a university, eligibility will be determined by assessing the final high school results (GPA + SAT; IB) against the cut-off entry requirements published by each university.

Some courses may require additional components in an application, such as a statement of purpose, interview, or portfolio, but this is relatively rare at the bachelor's level. Essays and recommendation letters are generally not required or considered.

**Upon Acceptance:** Accepted students receive a *letter of offer*, which serves as a contract between the student and the institution. It sets out the course the student will be enrolled in, enrollment conditions, fees, and refund policies. The letter of offer is required to obtain a student visa.

Applicants are either offered a conditional place subject to final results (if they apply before final exam scores are released) or an unconditional offer if completed results are provided. Copies of final result statements and certificates must be notarized. Details on this step in the process will be provided to successful candidates.

If a student's qualifications are not sufficient to gain admission to an Australian university, he or she can enroll in a *foundation* year lasting six to twelve months. Successful completion of a foundation year results in admission to the university where the program was completed.

**Tuition and Fees:** Tuition and fees are regulated at the national level and tend not to fluctuate. Annual undergraduate bachelor's degree charges range from AU\$15,000 to AU\$33,000 (this range does not include professional courses such as veterinary or medical), depending upon the program of study.

US undergraduates may be eligible for some scholarships, grants, and other forms of financial

support offered by the Australian government, individual education institutions, and a number of other public and private organizations. Several Australian universities also accept US federal student loans.

More information on financial aid for international students can be found through [Study in Australia's website](#).

**Housing:** Australian university students traditionally live at home or off-campus, but more universities are building accommodations to attract international and local students. Most universities have comfortable and furnished apartment-style living on campus or close by, sometimes with cleaning and meals included. Some universities offer residential colleges that provide dining services; opportunities for social, sporting, and cultural events; and extracurricular academic programs for residents. Individual institutions should be contacted directly in order to ascertain the accommodations available and how the costs compare with securing housing on one's own.

Minimum cost of living, estimated by Australia's Department of Home Affairs, is AU\$20,290 a year. A shared rental can be anywhere between AU\$85 and AU\$215 per week, and on-campus housing, AU\$90 and AU\$280 per week. Groceries and dining out range from AU\$80 to AU\$280 weekly. Students will also need to consider the cost of utilities, public transportation, and a phone plan when they arrive in Australia. More information can be found through [Study in Australia's website](#).

**Visa and Other Permits:** Students planning to pursue an undergraduate degree in Australia will be eligible for a student visa (subclass 500). Visa information is available on the Australian government's [Department of Home Affairs website](#). Australia also runs a Visa and Citizenship Information Service office, located in Ottawa, Canada, which can be reached by phone at (613) 238-1040. In addition to a visa, students will also need to meet the Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) requirement stating they intend to stay in Australia temporarily for the purpose of study.

The visa application will require evidence of academic and language skills, evidence that the student has funds to support their study, and evidence of Overseas Student Health Coverage (OSHC). The cost of OSHC varies and all costs will be in Australian dollars. For more information on health coverage, visit the [Australian government's Department of Health website](#).

Visa fees vary depending on an applicant's circumstances. For more information see the Australian government's [Department of Home Affairs website](#).

The student visa status allows students to work part-time (up to 40 hours over a two-week period) when school is in session, and unlimited hours outside term time. Following graduation, students are eligible to remain in Australia on their student visa for approximately two months, provided



**“Studying abroad can be quite hard sometimes, and I think the only way to make it through is if you feel passionate about what you’re doing. When exploring options, select a program you are passionate about and don’t necessarily focus on the country or location. When you get a little homesick you can think about what you are doing this for and it’s because you love what you’re doing, you love that field of study.”**

—Sharon Thomas, Georgia/TCK,  
Queensland University of Technology

the course of study they completed was longer than 10 months. Students who wish to work in Australia—either temporarily or for a longer term— must apply for a new work stream visa, which is granted for durations of 18 months, two years, three years, or four years, depending on the level and type of degree achieved.

**Advice from the Field:** Students can apply to Australian universities through education agents, however this is not necessary. Note that under Australian law, an Australian university that works with agents must list all of its contracted agents on the institution's website. For more information on agents in Australia, visit [Study in Australia](#).

The Australian government has developed a strategy to reach out to the global alumni community, inviting alumni to connect and engage with Australia and the region. The [Australia Global Alumni website](#) provides a virtual global network to connect, build and invigorate the international community of scholars who have studied in Australia, and Australians who have studied overseas. The website is also home to the practitioner hub, an exclusive virtual community for practitioners in alumni engagement – such as Australian education institutions, alumni associations, state and federal government agencies, and professional bodies. Each Australian university also has its own alumni programs.



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And, you can blend your IT studies with other disciplines that you might love just as much – like arts, commerce, design, or environmental studies – so you graduate with double the qualifications, in less time.

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# CANADA

**Brief Background:** Canada launched an international education strategy in 2014 that aims to increase the number of international students in Canada to 450,000 by 2022. That goal was achieved 5 years early with 495,000 international students in Canada as of 2017. Attracting international students, creating bilateral research agreements, and enriching learning opportunities in the classroom remain the cornerstone of Canada's international education goals.

Canada's public and private nonprofit universities offer more than 15,000 undergraduate and post-graduate programs, as well as professional designations, certificate and diploma courses, and short career-focused programs. Canadian institutions, known for their cutting-edge technology and research labs, provide opportunities for cooperative education, known as co-ops, and internships. Many of the well-known universities in Canada are located in large metropolitan areas, but there are many excellent universities that do not have urban campuses and are similar to US liberal arts colleges.

Four Canadian universities—University of Toronto, McGill University, University of British Columbia, and University of Alberta—rank among the top 100 in the 2018 QS World University Rankings, with many other universities ranking high on QS program-specific rankings.

Canada's higher education options also include more than 150 public colleges, similar to US community colleges, and polytechnic institutes of technology. Colleges and polytechnics provide a variety of credentials including certificates, diplomas, and academic and applied degrees. Together, they offer more than 8,000 programs. Some colleges have transfer agreements with

universities and can provide an alternate pathway to a top-ranking Canadian university.

Education is under the legislative jurisdiction of provinces and territories but the basic structures are similar across the country.

**Good to Know:** A degree from a Canadian university can typically be completed in four years and is considered equivalent to an American qualification. A Canadian degree can lead to work opportunities in Canada, the US, and around the world.

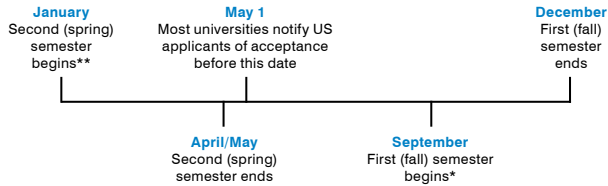
Co-op experiences are a hallmark of many Canadian degree programs. Co-ops involve alternating periods of academic study with periods of work. Almost all postsecondary schools offer co-op options in fields as diverse as business, political science, natural resources, and social services. In many arrangements, students are paid for their work, and upon completion, a student can expect to have gained a year or more of work experience in their field of study. It is important to note, however, that co-op programs can increase the length of a degree/diploma program.

Many Canadian universities and colleges have career and co-op offices dedicated to finding and preparing students for co-op placements. Relevant internships may also be available and can be completed for pay or academic credit.

A large number of Canadian universities are located within 100 miles of the US border, offering a convenient option for US students who want an international degree that is not too far away.



**Academic Calendar:** Most universities and colleges run from early September until the end of April or early May, but there is no national standard. The academic year is typically split into two terms running from September to December and January to April. Some universities utilize a trimester system, providing full courses in the summer.



\*Students planning to enroll in the first (fall) semester are encouraged to apply in the fall or winter of the previous year.  
 \*\*Students planning to enroll in the second (spring) semester are encouraged to apply several months in advance.

**Search:** The official [study in Canada portal](#), includes a program finder, cost calculator, information about visas, and links to institutional websites. The [Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials](#) provides an online directory of universities, colleges, and schools that are recognized and authorized by Canada's provinces and territories. It also includes information on foreign credential evaluations and qualification recognition. Another resource is the [website of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#). It offers information on study permits, visas, and work permits.

**Apply:** Students interested in applying to a Canadian institution are advised to visit the admission website at their institution(s) of choice to find detailed information about program options, the application process, and application forms.

Some provinces have established a centralized, electronic application process for admission to their institutions:

**Alberta**—[ApplyAlberta](#): Alberta Post-Secondary Application System

**British Columbia**—[ApplyBC](#): BC Post-Secondary Application Service

**Ontario**—[Ontario Universities' Application Centre](#) and [Ontario Colleges Application Services](#)

**Nova Scotia**—[MyNSFuture](#)

And, general information about [studying in Quebec](#)

Depending on the university, students may apply either directly to their intended program or to the larger faculty (i.e., school) with the expectation that they will declare their major in their second or third year. Most Canadian universities allow students to apply to two programs or faculties and students can be accepted by more than one program or faculty.

After a student has applied to a university or college, he or she will receive an email acknowledging receipt of the application and requesting any additional documents. The email will also usually contain a personal student number that should be affixed to all documents submitted to the institution thereafter.



Photo courtesy of Sadie

**“From my experience, the admission process to Canadian universities is very grade-oriented. When I applied no supplemental essays were required, for example, so do your best to maintain competitive marks in high school because they will be representing you the most.”**

—Sadie Sherman, California, University of Alberta

**Deadlines:** Application deadlines vary by institution. Students planning to enroll in the fall semester are encouraged to apply in the fall or winter of the previous year. Students planning to enroll in the semester that begins in January are encouraged to apply several months in advance.

**Application Fees:** Fees range from 100 to 250 Canadian dollars.

**Admission Requirements:** For many schools and programs, admission is based almost entirely on academic grades earned in high school, generally grade 12. Some institutions, however, consider grade 10 and 11 marks as well. If course prerequisites have not been fulfilled, a student may not be accepted. Applicants should keep in mind that high school curricula in Canada and the United States are similar but not identical, which can potentially create confusion about whether a student has satisfied certain requirements. An example of this is how core science classes are taught.

Some Canadian universities require SAT or ACT test scores in addition to a US high school diploma. Some may require SAT Subject tests, depending on the program. Scores can be sent directly to the Canadian institution.

## QUEBEC SYSTEM

Quebec follows a different educational system than the other provinces. Secondary students in Quebec finish their education at grade 11, not 12. As such, students have the option to pursue a two-year CEGEP program that prepares them for university admission. That is also why Quebec university programs for local students are three years instead of four, relative to other provinces in Canada.

High performing international students with AP or IB credits may be eligible to enter the university system in Quebec in sophomore standing, whereas students from outside Quebec who haven't completed such coursework may have to enroll in a full four-year program. Each university has its own policies governing international admission and recognition of credits.

IB students can apply with their transcript and IB predicted scores without having to take the SAT or the ACT.

Many Canadian universities accept AP and IB exam scores for academic credit or placement. Information about specific policies should be obtained from the institution's admission office.

An increasing number of highly selective programs (often business, engineering, fine arts, and other majors with limited enrollment) require additional application components, such as a personal profile or a short essay. Personal profiles give the student a chance to reflect on their background, share non-academic leadership experience and other qualities, and demonstrate interest and understanding of the program they hope to enter. This information may play an important role in admission decisions. In some cases, students might be asked to upload a video response to a randomly generated question as part of the application process.

Ethnicity/race, legacy, and advancement potential are not permitted as factors in admission decisions.

**Upon Acceptance:** Institutions typically operate on a rolling admission basis. Once the university or college receives a student's application form and all supporting documents, they will evaluate the application and may issue an offer of admission or an early conditional offer of admission, which is often contingent on forthcoming grades or exam results. There is no specific date by which applicants will be notified of their admission decision, though most institutions work to notify US applicants before May 1.

**Tuition and Fees:** The average tuition fee for international undergraduate students at Canadian



Photo courtesy of Sadie

**“One of the most challenging aspects of being a student in Canada has been managing the logistics around financing my education. I would recommend that new students from America open a Canadian bank account upon arriving for school.”**

—Sadie Sherman, California, University of Alberta

universities was CA\$25,180 in 2017-18. Tuition can vary significantly depending on program of study, however, ranging from around CA\$20,000 for programs such as humanities and social sciences to over CA\$50,000 for dentistry and veterinary medicine. Tuition at Canadian colleges range, on average, from CA\$6,600 to CA\$22,000 per year. The [EduCanada website](#) enables students to determine a rough estimate of tuition, food, and housing based on the program and institution, where they are coming from, and whether any dependents will be staying with them.

Currently, 85 higher education institutions in Canada accept US federal student loans.

The [Canadian government website](#) has scholarship information for international students. [Fulbright Canada](#) also manages a scholarship program for university exchange students. Scholarship and award options for international undergraduates vary greatly by institution. Some relatively small athletic scholarships are also available. Generally student-athletes must meet certain academic expectations, in addition to possessing athletic talent, to qualify for these scholarships.

**Housing:** Most colleges and universities offer housing near or on campus. Dormitories vary but generally feature a shared kitchen, bathroom, and laundry facilities. Most university housing also provides required or optional meal plans. Many international students in Canada choose to stay on campus during their first and second year before moving to private accommodations. Some university student service offices maintain lists of recommended house or apartment rentals nearby; however, rental agreements are transacted solely between the student and the property owner.

Students should consult their university of choice for an estimate of rent costs. Some institutions have rent cost calculators available on their websites, and these can be the most accurate as each university promotes and updates their information based on their location.

**Visas and Other Permits:** American citizens traveling with US passports are eligible to apply for a study permit at a port of entry to Canada. Ports of entry are located at major airports and border crossings. Alternatively, students can apply for a study permit while still outside Canada, either online or in person, at a [visa application center](#).

Note that students enrolling in Quebec institutions for programs of six months or more must obtain the [Certificate of Acceptance from Quebec \(CAQ\)](#).

The application fee for a study permit is CA\$150. There may be an additional cost of CA\$83 if biometrics are required. Three key documents are required: an acceptance letter from the Canadian institution, proof of identity (such as a passport), and proof of financial support.

A valid study permit also allows international students to work on- or off-campus up to 20 hours per week while classes are in session and full-time during regularly scheduled academic breaks, such as spring break and winter and summer holidays.

The Post-Graduation Work Permit Program allows students who have graduated from a participating Canadian institution to work in Canada for up to three years. Skilled Canadian work experience gained through this program helps graduates who wish to stay in Canada longer qualify for permanent residence through the Canadian Experience Class (CEC).

More information on study permits and immigration procedures can be found on the [Canadian government website](#).

**Advice from the Field:** General inquiries on study opportunities in Canada should be directed to contacts available at [EduCanada](#).

Rankings such as those compiled by [Maclean's](#) and [The Globe and Mail's Canadian University Report](#) can be helpful as students begin the process of choosing where to apply. Keep in mind that not all Canadian universities participate in such ventures. As is true of US universities, rankings only tell part of the story.

High school grades are often used to determine admissibility to particular programs of study. Many institutions set a minimum standard of academic achievement or publish the cut-off from the prior admission cycle. This gives students more clarity on their chances of admission and can be very helpful in alleviating student anxiety.

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# FINLAND

**Brief Background:** Finland is consistently rated highly as a study destination by international students who value the many perks that Finnish institutions offer including quality education, academic freedom, and student-centered support services. Finland attracted nearly 31,000 international students in 2015-16, with the majority enrolled in degree programs, according to the Finnish National Agency for Education.

A national education policy focused on quality, efficiency, equity, and internationalization; excellent basic education; and competitive student admission underpin the high standards of Finnish higher education. The country boasts a world-class knowledge community, and is frequently rated as one of the most innovative countries with first-class higher education and training programs, according to the World Economic Forum's *Global Competitiveness Report*.

Students who complete their bachelor's at a university are automatically admitted for a master's degree program upon completion of the undergraduate degree, without needing to apply again. With a UAS bachelor's degree, students must apply for admission to a master's degree and are not automatically granted a place in the program.

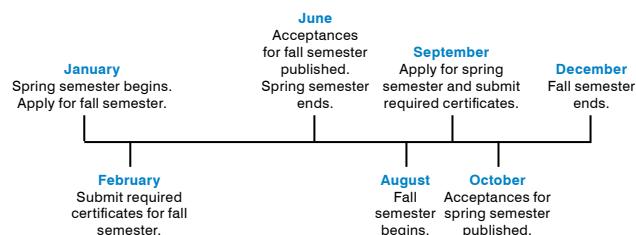
Finland has 24 universities of applied sciences (UAS), formerly known as polytechnics, and 14 universities. At UAS institutions, research and development form the basis for teaching, and the curriculum addresses the needs and expectations of both industry and commerce. A UAS bachelor's degree typically takes between 3.5 and 4.5 years, and consists of core and professional studies, optional studies (similar to electives in the US), practical training, and a thesis. At universities, a bachelor's degree consists of basic and intermediate courses, language studies, and a thesis. It is typically completed in three years.

**Good to Know:** English is considered Finland's third, unofficial language, and most Finns speak it fluently. Finnish higher education institutions provide over 400 full-degree programs taught in English. Most of the bachelor-level degree programs taught in English are offered at universities of applied sciences.

If students are fluent in Finnish or Swedish, they can pursue a degree in one of these national languages tuition-free. Advice on how to apply to these programs can be found on the [Finnish National Agency for Education's Study in Finland website](#).

The Finnish attitude toward education follows an approach that benefits the individual: Students are challenged and encouraged to think for themselves. Courses offered at Finnish universities are research-based and align with the institution's specialization. These high-quality study programs combine in-depth research with the needs of a student's future working life.

**Academic Calendar:** Finnish universities and universities of applied sciences usually follow a two-semester calendar. The first semester typically begins at the end of August, and the second semester in January. Summer break occurs between June and August, when some institutions offer courses, with a two-week winter break taking place in December and January.



**Search:** The [Studyinfo website](#) is the official source for information on Finland's degree programs.

The Study in Finland website also links to the admission webpages for the [14 universities](#), as well as all [24 UAS](#).

**Apply:** Applying to Finnish higher education programs takes place either through a joint application or a separate application. Applications for bachelor's degree programs are primarily completed through a joint application. Students should always check with the program to which they are applying to ensure they are applying in the correct way.

With a joint application, students use one application to apply to up to six study programs, placing the programs in order of preference on the application form. The six options may include degree programs from one or several different institutions.

Some programs may require students to apply through a separate application, though this is not common at the bachelor's degree level, and there is no limit on the number of programs a student can apply to. Separate applications are typically submitted either through Studyinfo or an institution's own website.

#### Steps to Applying through a Joint Application:

1. Find program options using [Studyinfo](#).
2. Add programs to a [shortlist](#) and compare study options.
3. Select up to six study programs.
4. Fill in the application form.
5. Submit the application along with a copy of the high school diploma or official statement of upcoming graduation.
6. Participate in the entrance examination, if required.

The universities will instruct students about the type of document needed to verify their upcoming graduation. For example, institutions often accept an official academic transcript as an official statement of upcoming graduation.

**Deadlines:** For fall admission, there are two application periods. The first period typically runs for two weeks beginning in early January, and the second runs for two weeks beginning in the middle of March. Dates are adjusted annually. If seeking admission to UAS bachelor's degree programs, most students apply during the first period in January.

If applying during the first period, a copy of the high school diploma or official statement of upcoming graduation must be submitted to the higher education institutions by early February. Student selection results are published in late June, and students have approximately two weeks to accept an offer of admission.

For spring admission, there is only one application period that typically runs from early- to mid-September. Required certificates must be submitted by the end of September. Shortly following that date, student selection results will be published, and students have until early December to accept. Again, all deadlines are updated annually.

If all places are not filled during the primary application rounds, a supplementary application round is held. For fall admission, this takes place between July and August, and for spring it happens between November and December.

**Application Fees:** Universities and universities of applied sciences do not require application fees.

**Admission Requirements:** Student selection is usually based either on grades, an entrance exam, or a combination of the two. Students can learn about entry requirements and eligibility criteria by reading program descriptions on the [Studyinfo website](#). Students can also find this information on the institutions' admission websites.

In most cases, students are eligible to apply for bachelor's degree programs in Finland if they have a high school completion certificate (e.g., a US high school diploma), which would allow them to apply to a college or university within that country. Programs also recognize the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma.

Generally, applicants must have already completed high school for a copy of their diploma to reach the relevant university by the application deadline. For universities of applied sciences, the qualification will be sent to the admission office of the UAS marked as the first choice on the application form. That institution will determine the applicant's eligibility for all UAS programs selected. Note that universities and universities of applied sciences provisionally admit students who apply and have not yet graduated. Once available and prior to enrollment, these students are asked to submit a copy of their diploma.

**Entrance Examinations:** The entrance examination process is primarily a domestic system and used as part of student admission when applying to bachelor's degree programs, though some universities and UAS institutions are moving away from this process. International students should check with the individual programs to see if entrance examinations are being used. In some cases, institutions may require SAT subject tests in lieu of an entrance examination.

Many universities of applied sciences cooperate in the design and administration of entrance examinations, meaning that a student will take one examination and the results will be shared with multiple institutions. Exam types vary by field of study. In some cases, a student is invited to take the entrance examination of his or her highest ranked institution, with the results transferred to cooperating degree programs. If institutions require separate entrance examinations, a student must sit for all the necessary exams to be considered for admission.

Some entrance exams are offered only in Finland, while others may be offered abroad through the [Finnish Network for International Programmes \(FINNIPS\)](#). Students will be able to access a list of countries where entrance examinations will be held at the time of applying. Some entrance examinations include multiple phases, with only some applicants continuing after each phase of the process.

**Upon Acceptance:** After the application and any required entrance exams have been completed, the university will process the student's application and make a final admission decision. Results are usually announced by the end of June.

If accepted, students will receive an official letter of admission from the university or UAS. They must follow the steps provided by the institution to confirm their placement.

As soon as a student has received the official letter of admission, they should start making arrangements to study and live in Finland.

Photo courtesy of Oksana



Finland

**“Finland’s student culture is unlike any I’ve seen. Growing up in the US I always had a picture in my head of what university would be like. In Finland the opportunities to be out and about with not only your classmates, but with students from all over the country are endless. There are always different events going on and clubs and associations for every interest under the sun.”**

—Oksana Mitchell, Maryland, Aalto University, School of Business, Mikkeli Campus

**Tuition and Fees:** Non-European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA) students applying to an English-taught bachelor's degree program are required to pay tuition. Fees range from 4,000 to 11,000 euros, depending on the program. Students should confirm details about tuition or scholarships with the university to which they are applying. Tuition exemptions do exist. For example, fees may be waived if a student is an EU/EEA citizen, a citizen of Switzerland, or is related to an EU/EEA citizen. Visit the [Studyinfo website](#) for more information.

Each university and UAS has its own student union. At universities, students are required to pay an annual student union fee, which is approximately 80 to 100 euros. Student union membership is optional at universities of applied sciences. Students who join a local student union receive a card they can use to access several benefits. Student unions often organize services like student housing or tutoring, and routinely plan sports events or cultural excursions.

Finnish higher education institutions offer scholarship options for gifted non-EU/EEA students who are admitted to fee-charging degree programs. Often based on academic performance, these scholarships may include full or partial fee waivers or performance-based refunds. Typically, students apply for scholarships at the same time they apply for admission.

**Housing:** Students are encouraged to inquire about housing options directly from the institution where they will be studying. Housing organizations work closely with the institutions to provide on-campus housing, which is offered widely, but many students live in local flats. These apartments, which have been designed for students, are located near campus and are generally easily accessible via public transportation.

The [Finnish Association of Student Housing Organisations](#) (SOA) maintains a list of SOA members that provide student apartments.

Choosing student housing through the local student housing foundation is often the most cost-effective option. The average monthly rent for a single room in a shared student flat ranges from approximately 160 to 400 euros per month, and typically includes internet, electricity, and water. Single apartments or family flats are also available, but the rent is higher. Monthly living expenses are around 600 euros, depending on where a student is studying. Costs are typically higher in the Helsinki metropolitan area and other large cities.

There may be long waiting lists for student flats, especially in the autumn term when many new students start their studies. Students should apply for housing well in advance of their arrival to Finland.

**Visas and Other Permits:** US citizens do not need to obtain a visa for visits or studies lasting less than 90 days, but their passport must be valid for a minimum of three months after the trip. Therefore, a US citizen would not need a visa to travel to Finland to take an entrance examination.

When staying in Finland for a longer period of time, for example to pursue a degree program, non-EU/EEA citizens need a student residence permit. A student residence permit is a long-term temporary permit issued by the Finnish Immigration Service that is typically granted for two years at a time. In order to apply for the residence permit, students will need a valid passport and an official admission letter.

Additionally, students have to show that they have enough funding to cover the cost of their studies and living expenses. Valid health insurance is also required. Detailed information on the health insurance requirement and residence permits for non-EU/EEA nationals can be found on the [Finnish Immigration Service website](#).



**“Keep in mind that if at first you feel isolated or homesick, Finns really are extremely considerate people. Don’t be discouraged by the lack of small talk, or the occasional silence. Finns are good at knowing when it’s necessary to speak and when not to, which is something I took some time getting used to.”**

—Oksana Mitchell, Maryland, Aalto University,  
School of Business, Mikkeli Campus

Part-time employment during the academic year is allowed on a student residence permit if the work is practical training required by the degree, or does not exceed 25 hours a week. Outside the academic terms, such as during summer and winter break, students may work unlimited hours. However, students who don’t speak Finnish or Swedish may have difficulty finding a job.

Non-EU/EEA students who lived in Finland on a student residence permit can apply for an extended residence permit for up to a year after graduation to search for work. Students must apply for this extended residence permit before their valid student residence permit expires. If a graduate finds a job, they can then apply for a new residence permit based on their employment.

**Advice from the Field:** Use the [Steps to Finland checklist](#).

Universities and universities of applied sciences are currently considering changes to the admission process for many bachelor’s degree programs. Check the [StudyInfo website](#) for updates.





# FRANCE

**Brief Background:** Campus France, an agency of the French government, was created with the purpose of promoting French higher education abroad. The Campus France USA branch serves as the primary contact for US students seeking guidance about admission to French institutions and pre-visa applications. Measures have been taken in recent years to simplify visa procedures, increase student housing options, and boost the number and diversity of programs available to international students in France.

Each year, about 17,000 US students choose to study in France, and more than half (56 percent) pursue programs that last longer than 90 days. In all, French institutions enroll more than 295,000 international students, who make up about 12 percent of the country's total student population.

Undergraduate degrees from France are offered at 74 public universities and 250 *grandes écoles*. *Grandes écoles* are uniquely French institutions and typically offer five-year programs that are equivalent to a master's degree, although some offer three-year bachelor's degrees. A list of *grandes écoles* can be found on the website of the Conférence des Grandes Écoles while a complete list of French universities is available through Campus France, or through the Conference of University Presidents' website.

Technical and professional programs—in fields such as music, gastronomy, visual arts, design, fashion, and

nursing—are offered at approximately 500 specialized schools (*écoles spécialisées*). The credential awarded is specific to each institution.

An undergraduate bachelor's degree is known as a *licence*, and can be completed in three years. Exceptions exist, often for business courses and highly technical degrees, such as architecture, which can take four years to finish. The *licence* entails a course of study that is strictly defined, so a French degree provides a very clear indication of what a student has studied and is thereby capable of doing.

While programs are mainly taught in French and require French proficiency, about 1,000 undergraduate and graduate programs are offered in English, across a variety of fields.

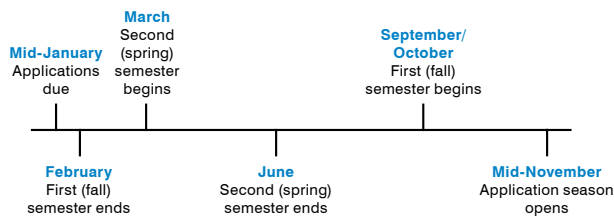
International students who obtain French degrees in technical fields—for example medicine, law, architecture, and engineering—may have to complete additional courses/exams and meet other requirements in order to be able to practice outside of France.

**Good to Know:** An undergraduate bachelor's degree is known as a *licence*, and can be completed in three years. Exceptions exist, often for business courses and highly technical degrees, such as architecture, which can take four years to finish. The *licence* entails a course of study that is strictly defined, so a French degree provides a very clear indication of what a student has studied and is thereby capable of doing.

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**Academic Calendar:** Depending on the institution and program, the academic year begins in September or October and ends in May or June, with a two-week break at the end of the calendar year for Christmas and the New Year. The two semesters are divided by a short break following final examinations at the end of the first semester, usually in February or March. The summer vacation runs more than two months and always includes July and August.



**Search:** Program-specific information can be found on individual institutions' websites, and through [Campus France USA's searchable database](#), which includes a directory of *licence* degree programs. The Campus France website also allows students to [search for programs taught in English](#).

**Apply:** International students who wish to enroll as a first-year undergraduate in France apply via Campus France, with few exceptions. Campus France charges an application fee of 180 US dollars. Campus France not only streamlines the process of applying to multiple institutions but also offers applicants advice about degree programs and tips on how students can improve their chance of acceptance at their top choice institutions. Students are assigned a representative who they can contact by email or by phone.

Students can apply to three institutions. Admission offers by the student's first-choice institution are determined in mid-April. If the student is denied admission by the first-choice institution, the application goes to the student's second-choice institution, with a decision rendered in mid-May. If a student is denied admission there, the application goes to the third and final-choice institution, with a decision rendered by mid-June. If denied admission to all three of their choices, a student can apply again the following year.

Photo courtesy of Zoey



**“Traveling is one of my favorite things to do, and not only can I say that I have studied in France (in French) but once you're in Europe, you can travel to other countries very easily and inexpensively.”**

—Zoey Ginsberg, Texas, Universite Nice Sophia Antipolis

**Deadlines:** The application season opens in mid-November and ends in mid-January.

**Application Fees:** Universities do not charge application fees.

The Campus France application/admission fee covers the application process for international students entering the first year of an undergraduate degree program.

**Admission Requirements:**

**Note:** *Due to proposed education reforms, the university admission process will likely change for students applying for the 2019–20 academic year. Check with Campus France or individual institutions for updates.*

Students must meet the equivalent requirements of the French Baccalaureate. A high school diploma, the IB diploma, or an equivalent (such as a GED) is required, as are official high school transcripts. US students must also pass at least two AP exams. SAT scores may be submitted but cannot serve as a substitute for AP exam scores or the French Baccalaureate exam. Likewise, SAT Subject test scores in French may enhance an application, but do not count as a substitute credential.

There is no standardized official equivalency recognition of AP, IB, or other non-European Union qualifications. Each institution has full discretion to admit applicants and determine the level at which they will be admitted.

Diplomas and transcripts must be translated into French by a certified translation service (such as one recommended by the American Translators Association) and uploaded as part of the Campus France application.

A curriculum vitae and goals statement are required; in general, universities are looking for information not addressed in the other required application documents, such as motivation to study in France, interests and strengths, and academic and career goals. Recommendation letters and internship documents can improve the chances of being admitted. Although submitting at least one letter of recommendation is strongly advised, it is not mandatory.

International students who wish to apply to a French-language undergraduate program must take the TCF-DAP (*Test de Connaissance du Français – Demande d'Admission Préalable*) to demonstrate language proficiency. The required level is B2 of the European Framework for Languages.

**Upon Acceptance:** A student's application is either accepted or rejected; French institutions do not utilize wait lists. Once accepted, students will be asked to confirm their intent to enroll. Students then receive a pre-inscription acceptance letter from Campus France that will allow them to apply for a student visa.

Upon arrival in France, students must finalize course registration with the institution's registration office.

**Tuition and Fees:** Tuition rates at French institutions are identical for all students, domestic and international, based on the type of degree they are pursuing. Annual tuition at public universities is set by law. The rate for *licence* programs in the 2015–16 academic year was 184 euros. Additional fees may be charged for an English-taught course. Annual tuition rates at private institutions—including *grandes écoles* and specialized schools, such as schools of business and management—are generally higher, with annual tuition ranging from 3,000 to 10,000 euros.

Some scholarship options are available for US students. Students are advised to check directly with their prospective institutions for loan options.

**Housing:** Students are encouraged to secure housing upon being accepted to a university and well before they arrive in France. Contact the institution's office for incoming international students or student association. Both should be able to provide a list of housing options along with tips on how to get started.

## FRENCH SUBJECT STREAMS

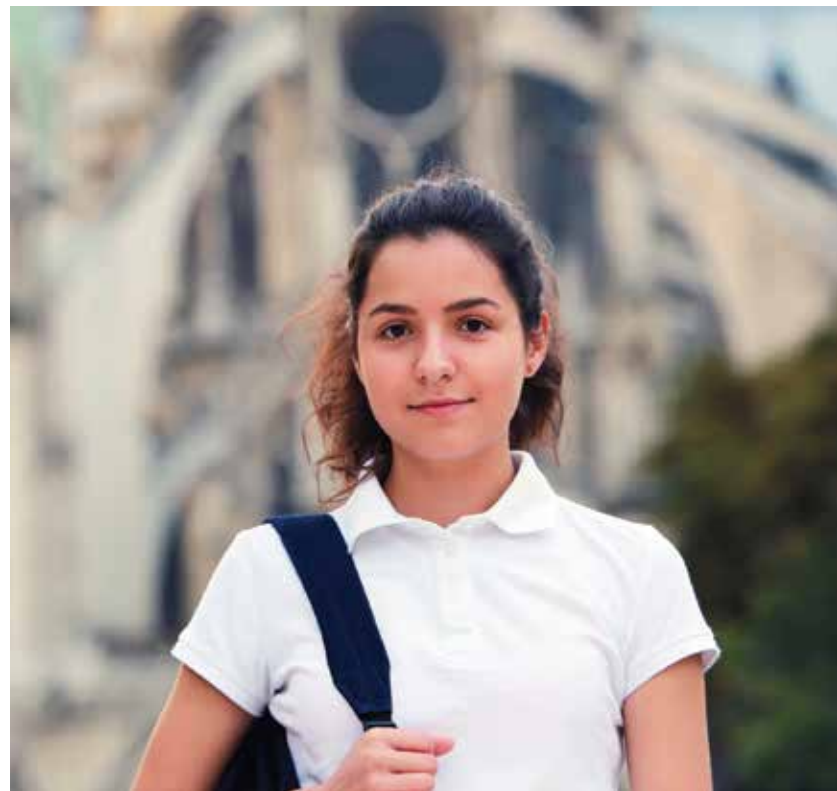
The French Baccalaureate has three subject streams: sciences, social sciences, and literary. As a result, French universities are used to seeing candidates “present as” one of these tracts. If a student knows early on that they want to apply to a French university, selecting courses aligned with one of these subject streams is advisable.

France

Many students choose to live in student dormitories. Dormitories for students enrolled in public universities are managed by regional student-service agencies known as CROUS (*Centre régional des œuvres universitaires et scolaires*). As CROUS dorms are the most affordable form of student housing, they are highly sought after. Rent varies from 120 euros to 350 euros per month.

There are also a number of privately-run dormitories that house students. These residences are also highly sought after and typically more expensive, their rent ranging between 300 and 700 euros per month depending on location.

International students are eligible for government assistance for housing expenses. Short-term accommodations, including homestays with host families, are another option.





**Visas and Other Permits:** International students who plan to study for more than 90 days in France must apply in person for a student visa through their assigned consulate in the United States. Students are advised to take into account possible processing delays when scheduling their consulate appointments. It may take up to three weeks after the consulate appointment to receive the student visa. The appointment must take place no more than 90 days before departure.

International undergraduates pursuing their first year of study are eligible for a long-stay visa with residency permit (VLS-TS – Visa Long Séjour Valant Titre de Séjour), which must be validated once they arrive in the country by the French Office of Immigration and Integration.

For information about visa fees, students and counselors should consult their assigned consulate’s website.

All students, regardless of their country of origin, are enrolled in France’s national student health care plan. The cost is an estimated 215 euros per year, and is added to the institution tuition fee. Health care is subsidized by the French government, and about 60 percent of health-related expenses are reimbursed. Students can elect to purchase a supplemental group health plan to obtain coverage for some or all of the expenses not covered by the basic national plan. Annual premium rates start at 200 euros.

International students have the right to work while studying in France as long as they are enrolled in an institution that participates in the national student health care plan. US students must also hold a valid residency permit. The law allows students to work 964 hours in a given year, which corresponds to 60 percent of full-time employment for the year.

**Advice from the Field:** Campus France is available to respond to follow-up questions from counselors regarding student applications, but French institutions will respond only to requests from students. US counselors may contact Campus France at [Washington@campusfrance.org](mailto:Washington@campusfrance.org). Include “NACAC counselors” in the subject line of the email.

[Campus France USA’s Facebook page](#) is another good source of information. [France Alumni](#), a digital bilingual platform, was created to unite, inform, and guide professionals who have completed part of all of their studies in the French education system, and may also be a useful resource for prospective students looking to begin their studies.

Student support services vary across institutions. Should a student reach out to an institution or Campus France with inquiries, they should make note of the person with whom they were in touch to facilitate future communications.

Study of economics, social and political history, and the hard sciences, is popular at French institutions. Furthermore, graduates of French universities in fields strongly associated with France and French culture—such as gastronomy, hospitality, and fashion—may have a competitive advantage in related job markets.

Students who have a strong command of the French language will have an easier time transitioning to life in France both on and off campus, regardless of whether their program is taught in English.

The **National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)** is the trusted source in college admission. NACAC represents a broad collection of enrollment management, admission, and counseling professionals who together support students seeking higher education.

If you'd like to collaborate with colleagues committed to the dignity, worth, and potential of every student, **join NACAC today!** Once you join, you'll find countless educational and advocacy tools, ways to connect online and in-person, and resources to advance your career.

**Visit [nacacnet.org](http://nacacnet.org) for details.**

A photograph of two women in conversation. One woman, with blonde hair and wearing a white blazer over a pink top and a long necklace, is smiling and gesturing with her hands. The other woman, with dark curly hair and wearing a yellow sleeveless top, is seen from the back. They appear to be in an office or meeting setting. The image is partially obscured by a blue diagonal overlay.

**NACAC**

National Association for  
College Admission Counseling

# GERMANY

**Brief Background:** In 2013, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) launched its Strategy 2020 campaign, which includes a goal of hosting at least 350,000 international students in Germany by 2020. Toward that end, Germany's public universities offer more than 1,900 degree programs taught in English, though most are at the graduate level. In 2017, Germany reached the goal set in Strategy 2020; it hosted 358,900 foreign students, 5,839 of whom were US students.

Germany is home to more than 427 state-accredited universities in 180 towns and cities countrywide, of which 120 are private institutions. There are three types of higher education institutions in Germany: universities,

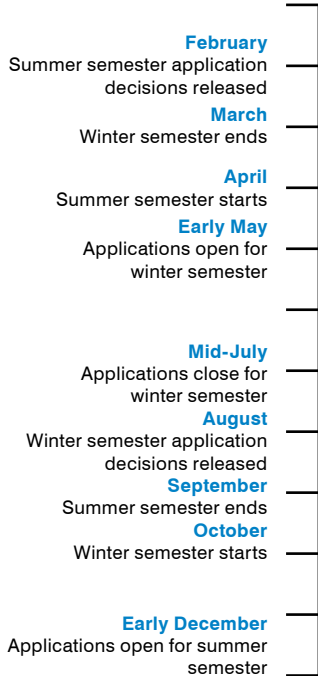
universities of applied sciences, and colleges of art, film, and music. Universities offer strong theoretical and academically-oriented degree programs in a broad range of disciplines. Instruction at universities of applied sciences is very practice-oriented, and internships are an integral part of the degree program. Colleges of art, film, and music are for students who want to develop their artistic talents, and instruction at most of these institutions is in German only.

Subjects popular among international students include economics and business administration, Germanic studies, electrical engineering, computer science, and music. In 2016, approximately one-third of all international students studied at the undergraduate level, though this increases to more than 60 percent at universities of applied sciences.

**Good to Know:** More than 90 percent of all university students in Germany, domestic and international, are enrolled in public universities, where they must choose and specialize in a specific course of study when they first apply. Students pursuing a bachelor's degree can complete their studies in six to eight semesters. Undergraduate programs in Germany are very structured in terms of course selection, when compared with programs at many American liberal arts colleges. Students are encouraged to study the German language even if they enroll in English-taught programs.

Private universities in Germany offer undergraduate and graduate programs. These institutions typically offer more of a US-style campus experience.





**Academic Calendar:** At German universities the academic year is divided into two terms: the winter semester (October to March) and summer semester (April to September).

Sometimes students sit for exams during breaks between semesters. They also use breaks to travel, work, or do internships.

**Search:** Several websites are designed to help international students find best-fit opportunities, including the DAAD-sponsored [Study in Germany website](#) where students can plan their studies by searching and viewing programs according to the language in which the course is offered.

**Apply:** Upon identifying their desired program of study, US students should check to see if the university offering it is a member of [Uni-Assist](#). Uni-Assist is an application service that evaluates international documents and credentials for roughly 180 member universities. If the university is part of the Uni-Assist network, international students must apply using the Uni-Assist application service. If the university is not a member of Uni-Assist, international students can apply directly to the institution. Applications from international students whose credentials are determined by Uni-Assist to meet the standards for admission to German university study programs are forwarded to the individual university. The university itself makes the final admission decision.

In most cases, students can apply to as many programs as they would like. For high demand subjects, including medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, and dentistry, the number of spaces available is restricted. These programs



Photo courtesy of Taylor

**“The hardest problem for me would be the cost of returning home. Since I started my degree I have only been able to fly home one time, whereas some of my friends can take a trip back home easily on the weekends or during breaks. I miss my family and friends, but going abroad has given me a new appreciation for the time that I do spend with them.”**

—Taylor Hafemeister, Wisconsin, Jacobs University

are designated *numerus clausus*, referencing the “closed number” of spaces. Students interested in these areas of study are advised to directly contact their universities of choice for details.

**Deadlines:** Applications for the winter semester can be submitted from late May through mid-July, though some universities have deadlines as early as the end of May. Applicants who will not receive their high school diploma until after the application deadline are advised to contact the specific university and program for guidance. Decision notifications generally begin in August. Summer semester submission season runs from early December to mid-January, with notification beginning in February.

**Application Fees:** Uni-Assist charges 75 euros for the first application, and 30 euros for each additional application submitted for the same semester. Other fees for translation services, notarized copies, and exams (see “Admission Requirements”) may also apply.

**Admission Requirements:** Many German universities require the equivalent of a German state-accredited Abitur qualification, a document issued to German secondary school students who have passed their final exams.

International students can typically meet this requirement in one of two ways: 1) via a US high school diploma with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and a SAT score of at least 1360, or an ACT composite score of at least 29; or 2) an IB diploma that fulfills Germany's IB requirements. Find more information about [IB recognition in Germany on their website](#).

Applicants who fulfill the requirements above qualify for direct general admission to a German higher education institution in the subject area they have chosen. The [DAAD website](#) provides more detailed information about admission requirements.

Applicants who do not fulfill direct admission requirements may qualify for general admission to a preparatory program, undertaken at a *Studienkolleg*, which offers foundational courses to prepare international students for university. Students are eligible for admission to *Studienkolleg* preparatory courses if they have either 1) an SAT score of 1220 to 1350 (math and critical reading); 2) an ACT composite score of 25-28 along with a GPA of 3.0; or 3) an IB diploma that does not include six mandated examination subjects. See the [Studienkolleg website](#) for more information.

For *numerus clausus* courses, admission is based on a calculated average grade, which takes into account applicants' high school grades and standardized test scores. Because admission is competitive, successful applicants usually have strong grades and test scores.

GEDs issued by individual states are not accepted by German universities. Moreover, students who were homeschooled for the entirety or part of their studies in grades 9-12 would not be considered eligible for admission to German universities.

With some exceptions, students who plan to enroll in programs taught in German must submit scores from either the German Language University Entrance Examination for Foreign Applicants (DSH) or the Test of German as a Foreign Language (TestDaF). Completion of certain *Studienkolleg* preparatory courses may also satisfy German *language* requirements. More information on language requirements can be found through [Study in Germany](#).

Students applying to English-taught programs generally do not have to demonstrate German proficiency.

Letters of recommendation are usually not necessary, though some programs may require them.



**Upon Acceptance:** Universities typically accept or deny students; conditional offers are uncommon. If accepted, the university will advise students on what paperwork they need to complete.

**Tuition and Fees:** Tuition, even for international students, is generally free at all German public universities, though students are required to pay fees each semester for public transportation, meals in the dining halls, use of athletic facilities, and cultural programming. The fees average about 250 euros per semester, but vary by university. Universities in the state of Baden-Württemberg, however, charge 1,500 euros for students from outside the European Union, with some exceptions for exchange students and researchers.

Private German universities charge tuition, some up to 20,000 euros per year. Some schools offer flexible financing options, such as allowing students to defer fee payment until after graduation when they have secured employment.

The [DAAD website](#) includes a database of merit-based scholarship opportunities for international students; see the "Information for Foreigners" section.

**Housing:** Students typically live in either a student residence hall or private accommodation. The [DAAD website](#) offers an online search tool based on a student's destination; see "Plan Your Stay." This search feature allows students to view options, locations and prices, the related application process, and deadlines for securing a spot.

Campus life at German institutions is typical of European universities. Many students live off campus in shared or single apartments. Dormitories with cafeterias and meal programs are not usually available at the larger public universities. Most offer only shared kitchen spaces.

**Visa and Other Permits:** Although US citizens are eligible to enter Germany without a visa, students can



apply for a student visa from a German embassy or consulate prior to departing for Germany. This will facilitate their application for a residence permit, which is required. Students must apply for a valid residence permit within their first three months in Germany.

To apply for this permit, students must first find accommodations and obtain a confirmation of registration (*Meldebestätigung*) document from the local Residents' Registration Office. Students will also need the following when applying for a residence permit: passport, letter of university acceptance, evidence they can cover the expected cost of their education and living expenses (approximately 7,908 euros per year), and proof of health insurance. Additional documents may also be required.

The residence permit is valid for two years and must be renewed before it expires. An extension of the residence permit will usually be granted provided the student shows proof from their university that their studies are proceeding properly. For more information on German visa regulations, visit the [German Federal Foreign Office website](#).

Fees for residence permits vary according to location but cost up to 75 euros. Additional guidance about specific locations can be obtained through the [German](#)

**Consulates General.** Non-European Union (EU) students can work 120 full days or 240 half-days per year—or more if a work permit is obtained—excluding research assistant work. Germany has recently eased its post-study work eligibility requirements for students. After graduation, international students can extend their residence permits by 18 months in order to find a job, beginning from the date their final exam results are issued. If they obtain a job in Germany, after two years of work they can apply for permanent residency status.

**Advice from the Field:** General queries can be directed to The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) via email at [daadny@daad.org](mailto:daadny@daad.org). DAAD also provides numerous resources about studying in Germany:

- A [pocket guide for international students](#)
- A [practical guide for international students](#).

Academic standards across German universities are high and generally consistent among institutions.

While some programs in Germany may be taught in English, the majority are not. To take full advantage of their experience, students are encouraged to learn some German either before or during their studies.



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# IRELAND

**Brief Background:** Ireland has a long history of welcoming international students, going back more than a thousand years to when it was known as the Land of Saints and Scholars. In 2015-16, more than 33,000 international students from 110 countries studied in Ireland's public higher education institutions, making up 16 percent of all higher education enrollments. The United States, China, and France are the top places of origin among full-time international students in Ireland, according to IIE's Project Atlas.

Recognizing the value that international students contribute to the education system, and to society in general, Ireland launched Irish Educated, Globally Connected—an international education strategy for 2016 through 2020. This strategy aims to support the development of global citizens through Ireland's high-quality education system by attracting talent from around the world to its educational institutions, and equipping students with the skills and experience they need to compete internationally.

Ireland's higher education offerings include seven universities, five public colleges, 14 institutes of technology, and

eight private colleges. Irish qualifications are internationally recognized and the full academic range of studies is available, including the arts and humanities, social sciences, medicine, business, and engineering. In the past 30 years, successive Irish governments have put enormous resources into education and research. As a result, the reputation of its higher education system has grown considerably, and its research is now making an international impact. In the 2018 QS World University Rankings, several individual institutions rank in the global top 50 for a diverse range of key subjects including English, politics, and veterinary science; and in the top 100 for history, pharmacy, and biology.

Ireland is also where some of the world's biggest and best companies have located key, strategic research facilities. These include nine of the world's top 10 information and communication technology (ICT) companies; nine of the world's top 10 pharmaceutical and life science companies; and half of the world's major financial services companies. Companies include Boston Scientific, Pfizer, Apple, Facebook, and Google. CEOs of these cutting edge global companies repeatedly point to the strengths of Irish-educated graduates as crucial to their decision to establish facilities in Ireland.

Education in Ireland's website addresses many questions about studying in Ireland, lists internationally recognized and approved programs, and provides links to the websites of Irish universities.

**Good to Know:** Most undergraduate degrees take four years to complete, though there are some programs that can be completed in three. Courses offered by the institutes of technology range in duration from two to four years.

## IRISH UNIVERSITIES

Dublin City University  
Maynooth University  
National University of Ireland, Galway  
Trinity College Dublin  
University College Cork  
University College Dublin  
University of Limerick

Course typically refers to an academic program of study. Undergraduates can directly enter professional programs in medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, and law.

Most Irish degree programs do not include general education requirements. However, several universities offer bachelors' degrees in liberal arts.

When applying, students are advised to consider choosing a general area of interest and refrain from being too specific. Business students, for instance, can begin to specialize in accounting or finance once at university. Students who want to change their major will likely need to start their coursework over.

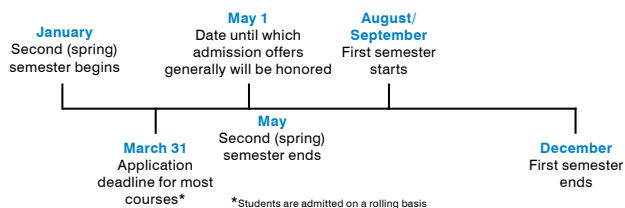
**Search:** Students can search by city, course, and university through the [Education in Ireland website](#). Each institution will have information about its courses on its website along with testimonials, interviews and, in some cases, videos.

**Apply:** Programs and application processes vary across Irish universities, but overall the application process is straightforward. Applications are made directly to each institution, and students apply directly to their intended course of study. Students can apply to more than one course at a particular university. Special subjects such as law, medicine, dentistry and veterinary can all be done at an undergraduate level in Ireland and applicants may apply directly to the institution.

**Atlantic Bridge** is an application system, similar to the Common App, which allows international students to apply for medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy, and pharmacy programs at six different Irish universities.

**Application Fees:** Application fees vary among different institutions, and average 50 euros.

**Academic Calendar:** Academic schedules in Ireland begin in late August or early September and end the following May. Specific dates will vary slightly, but generally universities operate on a semester schedule, with mid-term breaks in the fall and spring semesters, and winter and summer vacations.



Ireland

**“The best part of attending university in Ireland is the curriculum, the diversity on campus, the clubs/ societies, and events, as well as the opportunity to travel throughout Europe.”**

—Alyssa Rogers, New Jersey, University College Dublin

**Deadlines:** The initial deadline for applications varies by course and institution. Some are as early as Feb. 1, but most deadlines are around March 31. Students are admitted on a rolling basis beginning in October, and offers will generally be honored until May 1. The late application deadline stretches until July 1. In some cases, applications may be considered beyond this date.

**Admission Requirements:** Requirements vary by institution, but three types of credentials are generally accepted: IB Diploma, French Baccalaureate, or a combination of high school grades and standardized test scores. Some schools require additional written materials—personal essays, writing samples, and in some cases both. Depending on the institution, students may be required to submit up to two recommendation letters for each course to which they apply.

**Upon Acceptance:** Students interested in scholarship opportunities should research scholarship deadlines and begin submitting applications once they have received an offer of admission. More information on scholarships can be found on the [Education in Ireland website](#).

**Tuition and Fees:** Tuition for full-time undergraduate programs ranges from 10,000 to 22,000 euros per year, though tuition for medical and related fields is usually much higher.

**Housing:** On-campus housing is provided for all first-year international students at every university; the average cost is 6,000 euros per year. Following their first year, students are responsible for securing housing.

Estimated expenses beyond tuition range between 7,000 and 11,000 euros per year based on accommodations and personal lifestyle.

**Visa and Other Permits:** US citizens do not need a visa to study in Ireland. However, all students from outside the European Union must register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) within seven days of arriving in Ireland. To register, students must present a letter of acceptance from an Irish institution confirming their place in a recognized program, furnish evidence of having private health insurance, and show proof of sufficient funds (at least 3,000 euros) to cover accommodation and living expenses.

International students studying full-time in Ireland can work up to 20 hours a week or up to 40 hours during holiday breaks. International students who have graduated from an Irish institution can also work in Ireland for one year after graduation.

International students are required to have private health insurance. Students who purchase insurance from their home country must ensure that the insurance will be valid in Ireland and in any other country where the student might travel during their studies. If a student is part of a group insurance program operated by the university he or she will attend, a letter of enrollment mentioning this will be adequate proof for the GNIB authorities.

**Advice from the Field:** University specific inquiries can be sent to [educationinireland@enterprise-ireland.com](mailto:educationinireland@enterprise-ireland.com). Questions will then be directed to an international recruitment specialist at the university of interest.

Each university in Ireland has its own alumni networks. These have global representatives focused on supporting and organizing events for alumni around the world.





# ITALY

**Brief Background:** Art and culture play a very important role in a country where beauty, design, good taste, and fashion are an everyday imperative. Italy's charms—a diverse landscape, an immense cultural and historical legacy, iconic and historic sites, incomparable cuisine, an impressive history of inventions and discoveries—are attractive to tourists and international students. It boasts the greatest number of UNESCO world heritage sites of any country and is also home of the oldest European university—the University of Bologna, which was established in 1088. This, coupled with high quality university education, makes Italy an ideal place for living and studying.

The Italian education system is composed of 97 universities, 12 national research centers, and 137 higher education institutions in arts, dance, and music (referred to as *alta formazione artistica e musicale* or AFAM). The 2018 *Times Higher Education World University Rankings* ranked 30 Italian universities among the top 500 universities in the world. According to the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research, approximately 90,000 international students were pursuing degree programs in 2016-2017. Italy is the second leading destination country in the world for US students studying abroad, only after the UK, according to IIE's 2017 Open Doors Report. In 2015-16, 34,000 US students studied in Italy for academic credit.

Italian universities use the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), which is designed to facilitate international mobility within different educational systems. It is a central tool in the Bologna Process, which aims to make academic credits more easily transferable between different national education systems. Italy is also part of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), the result of collaborative efforts of 48 countries to reform

higher education on the basis of common key values. For participating countries, the main goal is to increase staff and students' mobility and to facilitate employability. International students enrolled in Italian universities benefit from these policies.

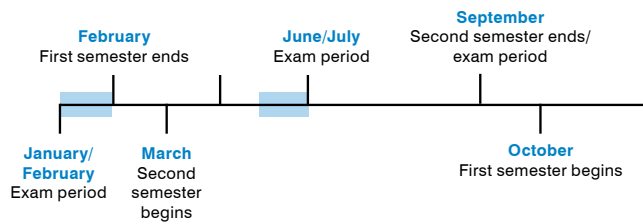
**Good to Know:** Bachelor's degrees are known as *laurea triennale*, or first cycle degrees, and last three years. A high school diploma is the common requirement for admission to a first cycle degree. Students who are interested in continuing their studies can pursue a master's degree or *laurea magistrale*, which may be required for work in certain fields. These programs typically last two years.

For some subjects (i.e., law, medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, pharmacy, chemistry, pharmaceutical technology, architecture, and building engineering) there is a common study path without division between bachelor's and master's degrees. Called a single cycle master's degree (*laurea magistrale a ciclo unico*), such programs can last from five to six years depending on the subject. To be admitted, students need to have a high school diploma and meet other subject-specific criteria. For example, applicants for medicine, veterinary science, and dentistry (which are *numerus clausus* programs—a process used to manage enrollment size), must pass a national exam that can be in Italian or English, and which takes place on the same day and time at all Italian universities. The results are valid at the national level.

Students interested in arts, music, dance, and theater can apply to AFAM institutions to acquire knowledge of artistic methods and techniques. As at universities, AFAM students spend three years to get a first level academic diploma and two years for a second level academic diploma.

Most courses are taught in Italian, but many courses are also offered in English. An international student can choose to apply to a course fully taught in English or fully taught in Italian. Applicants to English courses may be required to submit an English proficiency certificate. For courses taught in Italian, international students have to pass an Italian language exam to be admitted. Visit the [Lingua Italiana website](#) for additional information on language certification.

**Academic Calendar:** Depending on the institution and program, the academic year is generally divided into two semesters: the first one starts in October and ends in February (with a break for Christmas and New Year's), and the second one starts in March and ends in September (with a break in August for summer holidays). Each semester, a certain number of weeks are devoted to lessons and the other weeks are dedicated to exams. Students are required to take an exam at the end of each course, which may be written and/or oral. The length of exam sessions may vary among universities, but they are usually held in the months of January-February, June-July, and September.



**Search:** For more information about the availability of university courses taught fully in English, enrollment requirements, and visa information, please visit the following websites:

- [University](#) run by the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research
- [Study in Italy](#) run by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- [Uni-Italia](#), an association that promotes academic study in Italy

**Apply:** Applications are made directly to each institution. Deadlines, required documents, language certificates, etc., can vary across Italian institutions. Some may require students to participate in an interview using Skype or another online communication tools.

Medicine, veterinary science, architecture, health care professions, and primary education sciences are courses of study with restricted admission because the number of applicants is greater than the number of spots available in the course of study. Each year, the Italian Ministry of Education establishes a quota for the number of international students who can be admitted.

**Deadlines:** Each institution/program sets its own deadlines, so students should check each university's website.





**Application Fees:** It is common for higher education institutions to charge an application fee—typically several dozen euros. The amount varies by institution.

**Admission Requirements:** To be admitted to an Italian university, international students have to demonstrate academic eligibility for university study in their country of origin. Examples include a US high school diploma or an IB diploma. Students can apply before completing high school, but will need to submit the official, original documents once they are received.

Demonstration of Italian language skills is mandatory for enrolling in courses taught in Italian. If a course is entirely taught in English, students will be required to prove their command of the English language. Always check with Italian institutions as to whether a student's English studies are sufficient to meet this requirement. In these cases, an Italian language test is not required. [Lingua Italiana](#) provides additional information.

**Upon Acceptance:** Each higher education institution will provide admitted students with useful information about next steps, such as documents to translate or to have authenticated through Italian diplomatic representatives at their local consulate or embassy. Once students arrive in Italy, they need to bring all the documents released and sealed by the Italian representatives to their university to finalize enrollment.

Before enrolling in an Italian university, international students pursuing a bachelor's or master's degree must complete a pre-enrollment process through the Italian diplomatic representatives in the student's home country. This is different from having a letter of acceptance and enrolling at the university. This process must be completed before applying for a student visa. Usually this procedure starts in March and finishes in July. For more detailed information, US students can use the [embassy's website](#) to find out which Italian consulate serves their area.

**Tuition and Fees:** Regular tuition fees for EU and non-EU students depend on the student's family income and on the program. On average, public institutions charge 900 to 4,000 euros per year; private institutions charge 6,000 to 20,000 euros per year, not including living expenses and books. Students must pay the first installment before attending courses. The tuition fees may be covered by institutional merit-based scholarships offered annually to talented international students.

**Housing:** Students are encouraged to rent a place to live before leaving for Italy. Many higher education institutions have an office that can help international students find housing.

Renting a private room in an apartment with shared facilities (bathroom, kitchen, etc.) is a popular option for students because the price is more affordable compared to renting an individual apartment. The price for a private room in a shared apartment is around 300 to 600 euros;



Photo courtesy of Carly

Italy

**“There are three reasons I always give when people ask me [why I decided to pursue an undergraduate degree outside the United States]: it's more affordable, it's only three years, and it's Italy! Though my university is one of the more expensive in Italy, my entire three-year degree will cost less than one year of tuition at some of the US universities I was considering.”**

—Carly Cornell, Pennsylvania, Bocconi University

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the price for an entire apartment is more than 800 euros. Prices will vary depending on size, location, and city, as well as other factors, such as the apartment's proximity to public transportation and universities.

Depending on a student's financial status and academic merit, students may be eligible for university housing.

**Visa and Other Permits:** US citizens are eligible to enter Italy without a visa for study reasons and for a period of time shorter than 90 days. If students are applying for a study course that is more than 90 days, they need to apply for a student visa through the Italian embassy or consulate in the US prior to departing for Italy. The student visa, called National Visa Type D, is needed to apply for a student residence permit.

To get a student visa, several documents have to be submitted to the Italian diplomatic or consular representatives, which include evidence of the ability to cover living expenses in Italy (5,889 euros per year) plus the amount of money needed to rent a room/apartment.

Students must apply for a residence permit (which costs about 120 euros) within eight working days of their arrival in Italy. Before applying for a residence permit, which is valid for one year, students need to get a fiscal code (*codice fiscale*) at Italy's Revenue Agency (*Agenzia delle Entrate*) and obtain health insurance.

International students who apply for a residence permit may take out private health insurance with Ina-Assitalia, which is very limited and only covers urgent medical assistance. If students prefer to have wider coverage, they can sign up with the national health service (*servizio sanitario nazionale*). This guarantees full health care and ensures students receive the same treatment as Italian citizens. Registration lasts for a year (from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31), is not divisible, and costs about 150 euros. US students who already have private health insurance should check with the Italian diplomatic representatives at their local embassy or consulate as to whether it provides coverage in Italy.

Non-EU students who have a residence permit for study purposes can work part-time for a total of 20 hours a week. Work does not have to be related to students' academic program, but should students work in a related field, they are eligible to gain credits through the ECTS system.

**Advice from the Field:** Students can send questions to Uni-Italia, a nonprofit organization that supports internationalization of Italian higher education institutions, with offices located at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The Uni-Italia association—founded jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; the Ministry of Education, University and Research; and the Ministry of Interior—has the aim of promoting Italian higher to foreign students and researchers and encouraging academic cooperation between Italy and other foreign countries. Uni-Italia works closely with Italian diplomatic offices across the globe and cooperates with the Italian cultural institutes and the Italian consulates abroad.

Uni-Italia also assists students for the length of their stay. Their aim is to facilitate integration into the new social, academic, and cultural environment. Counselors can reach out to Uni-Italia using the following methods:

1. Email: [student@uni-italia.it](mailto:student@uni-italia.it)
2. Phone: (+39) 06 3691 2651
3. Facebook: Search for Uni-Italia Rome
4. Twitter: @Uni\_Italia
5. Website: [uni-italia.net](http://uni-italia.net)



Photo courtesy of Carly

**“Classes here are very theoretical. They may take some getting used to at first, but in the end, it is interesting to be exposed to a new approach to university education. Academics can be difficult at any of the world’s top universities, but if you attend university in Italy, at least you’ll be living the dolce vita in the process!”**

—Carly Cornell, Pennsylvania, Bocconi University

Though English is spoken widely at universities, Italian is the common language outside the campuses. To enjoy the Italian lifestyle, students are encouraged to learn some Italian before and during their studies.

Graduates of Italian higher education institutions in fields strongly associated with Italy and Italian culture—such as engineering, music, arts, medicine, design, architecture, fashion, economy, and gastronomy—may have an edge over other competitors in the job market.



# JAPAN

**Brief Background:** In 2008, the Japanese government announced plans to bring 300,000 international students to Japan by 2020. The Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) reports that international students in Japan numbered over 267,000 in 2017, with significant growth in postsecondary and vocational enrollments. According to JASSO's annual survey of international students, there were 2,516 American students enrolled in Japanese higher education institutions in 2017; a 9% increase from the previous year.

There are hundreds of local and national universities in Japan, varying in size, reputation, and institutional control. The University of Tokyo (known as Todai) and the Kyoto University (known as Kyodai) are considered Japan's top two universities. They are among the country's so-called Ivy League institutions, referred to as the National Seven Universities or the former Imperial Universities.

Though English-taught programs have existed at Japanese universities for decades, the Japanese government has selected 13 universities as members of its Global 30 initiative, which aims to increase the number of programs taught in English as a way to attract more international students to Japan's most prestigious institutions. No Japanese proficiency is required at the time of admission to these programs. Note that most of these universities offer only a small number of places in just a few academic areas.

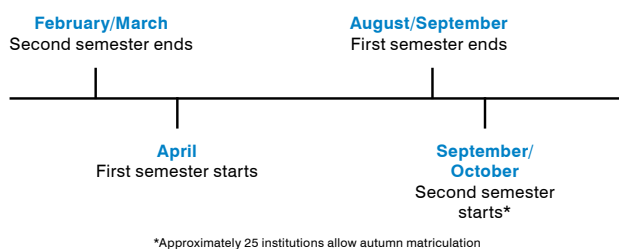
In 2014, the Japanese government announced special funding for 37 universities through its Top Global Universities Project, part of an effort to boost the presence of Japanese universities in global rankings. Most but not all of these universities offer courses taught in English; students should carefully check the departments at each university to determine whether English-taught programs are offered.

**Good to Know:** To earn a bachelor's degree, a student must study at a university for at least four years. There are no programs in medicine, dentistry, or veterinary science offered in English.

Despite the growth in English-taught programs, many students wishing to study in Japan enroll in a year-long Japanese language course before beginning their academic program. Some universities offer private language programs. Students also have the option of enrolling in separate language institutes. These programs typically educate students about Japanese language, society, and culture.

By law, Japanese universities cannot accept students who will be under age 18 on the first day of their freshman year. If the applicant will be under 18, it may be possible to apply to some universities as a non-traditional student.

**Academic Calendar:** Most educational institutions in Japan start their academic year in April. The long holiday seasons are usually in the summer (end of July to early September), winter (end of December to early January) and spring (February to March). There are approximately 25 universities in Japan at which students may matriculate in the autumn. Some institutions are moving to a quarter system to facilitate entry at various points throughout the year.



Students beginning programs in the fall who wish to work in Japan after graduation should be aware that companies typically hire new workers to begin in April. Considering this challenge, some programs offer a fast-track graduation plan, which means that students are able to start the academic year in September, graduate in March, 3½ years later, and then begin work in April.

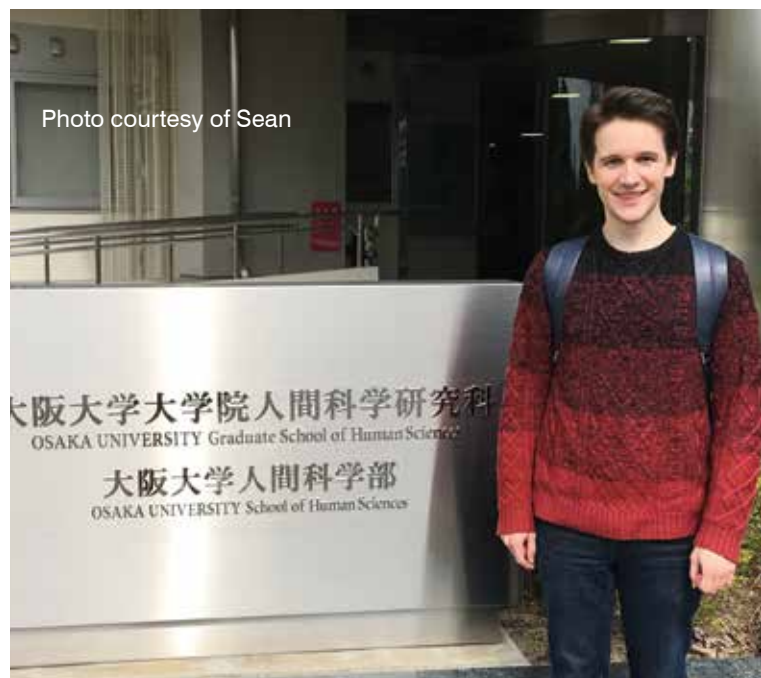
**Search:** Students can search for a degree program taught in English, with autumn matriculation, and with admission procedures and assessment standards similar to those in North America, through the [JASSO](#) or [Univ. In Japan](#).

Each faculty or department within a university typically has a profile or policy that details the requirements and demands of its program. These profiles may be useful in helping students evaluate their options.

**Apply:** Students must apply directly to a Japanese university and to the specific college or program within the university where they hope to enroll. Traditionally, the faculty of each program review and select applicants. However, some universities are beginning to adopt elements of a more holistic admission review process at the behest of Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Additionally,

### NATIONAL SEVEN UNIVERSITIES

- University of Tokyo
- Kyoto University
- Tohoku University
- Kyushu University
- Hokkaido University
- Osaka University
- Nagoya University



**“The reasons I decided to come to Osaka University were that I wanted to live outside the US, I had attained quite a high level of Japanese before coming, and it made more sense financially to come to Osaka University.”**

—Sean Zilka, Minnesota, Osaka University

applications to English-taught degree programs may be reviewed by an admission office dedicated specifically to international applicants, with input from faculty.

Many Global 30 schools require an interview component as part of the admission process, but this can be conducted virtually. Some universities also require additional tests; students should check with individual institutions for more details. The SAT or the ACT is accepted (and in many cases required) at almost all universities with English-taught programs.

Students within the Japanese secondary school system are selected based on their results on a competitive nationwide exam, but international students are exempt from this requirement. However, note that the English translations of admission procedures that appear on many university websites use the term examination to refer to all admission methods, which can be confusing.

International students can apply for admission to undergraduate professional degree programs, such as law or medicine, at Japanese universities. These programs are highly competitive and require a high level of Japanese proficiency prior to applying. These programs are not available at all institutions, students should contact universities directly for more information.

Students should be aware that application requirements vary depending upon the university and program. The requirements can be quite rigid, with the applicant having to follow a set format for completion of the forms or production of application essays. Failure to adhere to the published guidelines can result in an applicant being denied.

**Deadlines:** Deadlines vary greatly, and many universities have two or even three admission deadlines within the same academic year. If applying to multiple Japanese universities, students are advised to choose one application window and submit their materials to all institutions during that timeframe. Check with each institution to confirm its deadlines.

**Application Fees:** Application fees vary by institution, but the average fee is between 5,000 and 35,000 yen and is non-refundable. Additionally, if accepted, a student must pay an entrance/admission fee of between 200,000 and 300,000 yen, on average. The entrance/admission fee should be understood as a contribution to the university; it is not considered part of tuition fees.

**Admission Requirements:** By law, Japanese higher education institutions can only enroll students who have a high school diploma following 12 years of schooling. Many universities are familiar with the IB Diploma, but they will not accept exam scores for college credit. The same applies to AP exams. However, advanced classes and extracurricular involvement related to the desired program of study will strengthen a student's application.

Students applying to programs taught in Japanese will be required to pass an Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU). Administered by JASSO, it evaluates both Japanese language skills and other basic academic abilities.

**Upon Acceptance:** Students should follow the directions for accepting an admission offer provided by the university. Once accepted, there is a narrow range of dates within which a student must commit to entry, which includes paying a deposit equivalent to the entire tuition for the first semester. Once a student has committed, the university—most likely the international student office—will supply a Certificate of Eligibility to be used as part of the visa application process.

**Tuition and Fees:** Annual tuition at national and local public institutions typically ranges between 535,000 and 931,000 yen. Private university undergraduate tuition varies based on the course of study pursued, ranging anywhere between 1,108,000 and 4,189,000 yen. Tuition costs

for studies in medicine and other professional science fields are at the higher end of this scale. International students pay the same tuition and fees as domestic students.

International students can apply for scholarships from universities, private foundations, local governments, JASSO, and MEXT. It is important to note that students cannot receive a MEXT scholarship and a JASSO scholarship simultaneously. According to a 2016 JASSO Survey, 40.8 percent of international students receive scholarship funding to study in Japan.

In addition to scholarships, some universities also offer application fee waivers. Inquiries about these opportunities can be directed to individual universities.

**Housing:** While most international students choose to live in private apartments or homes, privately-run off-campus student dormitories tend to be a cheaper option—in part because most apartments are not furnished and in some cases appliances must also be purchased. A university's international student services office or admission representative can typically recommend housing options or connect students with area landlords or real estate agents. Some universities have on-campus dorms, however, only a limited number of students are able to live there.

According to the 2016 JASSO Survey, the average monthly rent paid by students is 31,000 yen, with the Tokyo metropolitan area being the most expensive with



rent upward of 35,000 yen. The average monthly cost of living for an international student in Japan, including rent, is approximately 141,000 yen.

Students staying in Japan for more than a year must register for national health insurance and pay yearly premiums of approximately 20,000 yen. Insurance covers 70 percent of medical bills with the remaining 30 percent the responsibility of the individual.

**Visa and Other Permits:** Students must apply for a visa before traveling to Japan and will need the Certificate of Eligibility issued by their institution to do so. Students planning to live and pursue university study in Japan for more than three months must obtain a residence card. They must carry their College Student Residence Status card with them at all times.

US citizens are exempt from paying all Japanese visa fees, including fees for student visas.

Students who want to work part-time while studying in Japan must submit an application to a regional immigration office. They may not begin part-time work until that application has been approved. Students may not work more than 28 hours a week (there is no maximum number of hours per day), but may work up to 40 hours a week (eight hours a day) during summer break or other vacation periods.

Following graduation, international students can work in Japan as long as they have a job related to their major and receive a salary equivalent to a Japanese national employee. Without satisfying both of these requirements, the student cannot change their status of residency (i.e., acquire a work visa). Students who do not secure a job immediately can remain in Japan for job-seeking activities for a maximum of one year following graduation.

Japanese universities pride themselves on their ability to help their graduates secure jobs in Japan, and much of a student's final undergraduate year is spent job-hunting, with comprehensive support provided by the university.

**Advice from the Field:** Since there are well-established and reputable universities offering September entry to English-taught programs, the start date should be an important criterion for students and counselors when selecting academic programs.

Japan is a relatively safe country with a low crime rate. However, prospective international students should be aware that drug laws are strict and equally applied to foreigners and Japanese citizens. Use or possession of even small amounts of a prohibited drug can result in a prison sentence of one to 10 years, as well as a fine. Individuals arrested in Japan may be held without bail for two to three months during a police investigation and legal proceedings.



**“Personally, the best part of being a university student in Japan for me was the way the credit schedules were structured. In Japanese universities, you finish most of your credits in the first two years of school, so later you have a lot more free time to focus on what you want to research in the second half of your time at your university.”**

—Sean Zilka, Minnesota, Osaka University

Japanese universities are looking to diversify, and American students are well sought after. Be aware, however, that English is not widely spoken in Japan, so basic knowledge of Japanese or a desire to learn the language is highly beneficial. The terms international or global appear frequently in some university course descriptions and publicity, but that is no guarantee that all students or professors are fluent in English. It is worth investigating how many professors have studied overseas or the percentage of students from outside Japan within a given university or program. Universities that include these statistics prominently on their websites have likely made a sincere effort to internationalize the education they provide.

Following graduation, international students can stay connected to their institution and fellow graduates by joining an alumni-initiated group in Japan, should they stay to continue their education or work in Japan, or an alumni-initiated group back in their home country or new country of residence. Some universities have designated offices operating in different countries. Students can contact these offices or the universities directly for more detailed information about available networks.



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2-8-12 Minami Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0047, Japan

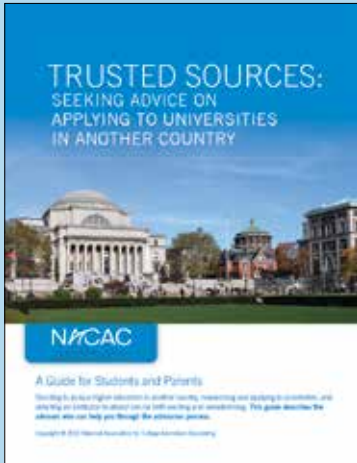
E-mail: [ac@tuj.temple.edu](mailto:ac@tuj.temple.edu) Tel: +81-3-5441-9800

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## FUNDAMENTALS OF RECRUITING AND COUNSELING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP

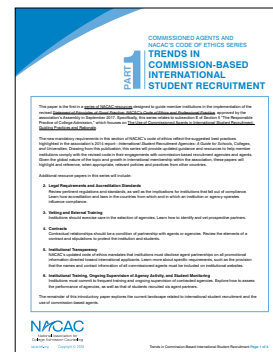
This professional development opportunity gives high school counselors, independent educational consultants, and US college and university admission officers the foundational skills and knowledge to more effectively counsel, advise, and recruit international students who wish to pursue undergraduate study in the United States—and enables them to enhance their professional network in support of these students.  
[nacacconference.org/IntnlPrecon](http://nacacconference.org/IntnlPrecon)

## INTERNATIONAL INFOGRAPHICS



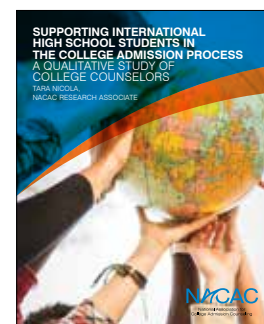
This free series of fact sheets highlights top international findings, including inbound international/outbound American students at US secondary schools; agent utilization by US institutions; and international student recruitment and admission at four-year institutions.  
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[nacacnet.org/SupportingInternationalStudents](http://nacacnet.org/SupportingInternationalStudents)





# NETHERLANDS

**Brief Background:** The Netherlands hosts more than 122,000 international students annually, and 1 in 5 new bachelor's students were international in 2017-2018. The Netherlands was the first country on the European continent to widely offer programs taught in English. A high level of English proficiency nationwide and hundreds of English-taught bachelor programs make the country an attractive destination for students. The Netherlands is also near some of Europe's most popular travel destinations and has a reputation as one of the safest countries in the world.

The Dutch are historically explorers, inventors, and entrepreneurs, and this legacy continues to be a driving force in Dutch academia. The Netherlands boasts strong science, architecture, economics, and engineering programs, as well as a thriving creative sector of designers, journalists, artists, and film producers.

Although small in size, the Netherlands is a strong academic force. Thirteen Dutch research universities rank among the top 200 universities in the world, according to the 2017–2018 *Times Higher Education World University Rankings*.

**Good to Know:** Higher education in the Netherlands is a binary system featuring research-oriented and profession-oriented institutions.

Research-oriented programs—*wetenschappelijk onderwijs* or WO—are available at 13 public research universities. Among these research universities, some are general comprehensive institutions and others specialize in technology, engineering, or agriculture. Academic programs focus on theoretical aspects of the field of study and prepare students to undertake independent research. Many programs offer internships and study abroad opportunities; minors are also possible. Students in these programs typically complete a bachelor's in three years. The vast majority of students continue on to complete a master's degree, a process which typically lasts an additional one to two years.

## RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

Research universities are a good fit for students who like asking “why” questions, students who enjoy abstract thinking, building analytical skills, and the theoretical. The emphasis is on learning to look analytically and critically at the way a certain field can be approached. Students learn to present convincing oral and written arguments and to draw conclusions from them. Students are expected to study of their own initiative, have self-discipline and independence.

Over the past several years, many of the large, traditional Dutch universities have created university colleges, or selective honors colleges, that follow a liberal arts and sciences curriculum. These programs are relatively small, with many requiring students to live on-campus to foster a tight-knit community of students within the larger university.

Profession-oriented education, or professional higher education—referred to as *hoger beroepsonderwijs* or HBO—is offered by more than 50 universities of applied sciences, called *hogescholen*. Universities of applied sciences are teaching-oriented, and offer programs specializing in a specific field of study. These programs prepare students for particular professions, tend to be practically oriented, and include internships and minors in the last two years of study. The programs lead to four-year bachelor’s degrees. Though less common than at research universities, students can continue on to master’s programs at universities of applied sciences. Graduates of these universities can also transfer into a research university to complete a graduate-level qualification, however this will likely require a bridge year in which research skills and specific preparatory requirements are taught.



Photo courtesy of Stefan

**“The individual application processes of the Dutch universities were relatively straightforward, had helpful details—all in English—and connected me to dedicated international coordinators who understood and promptly addressed any difficulties I encountered. The application process is nearly identical to that in the US, making it easy to understand and follow.”**

—Stefan Harrigan, Ohio, Leiden University

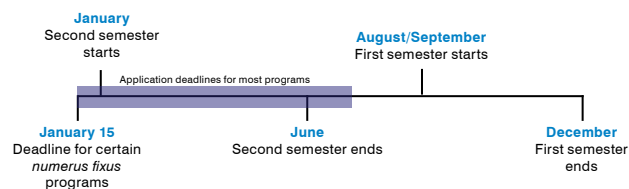
### UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Universities of applied sciences are a good fit for students who like to ask “how” questions, as they provide opportunities for concrete, practical learning. Students apply knowledge and work in a solutions-oriented way. The educational experience is directed toward the acquisition of competences. Programs at universities of applied sciences usually involve more contact hours as compared to research-oriented programs. More time is spent on each topic at a relatively relaxed teaching speed.

Dutch professors often encourage student participation and questions. The Dutch teaching style is often interactive and student-centered, focusing on teamwork and problem-based learning. Students learn not only to operate at an academic level, but also to work independently on real-world issues—just as they will later in their careers.

Under a code of conduct created in 2006, and renewed every five years, participating higher education institutions commit to provide reliable and easily accessible information for international students about their programs of study, accreditation status, admission process and requirements, and similar policies.

**Academic Calendar:** Universities in the Netherlands typically operate on a semester basis, however some have four blocks or periods. The academic year generally begins in late August or early September and ends in June or July, with a holiday break in December/January. The academic year is 42 weeks long.



**Search:** Study in Holland includes a course search, scholarship finder, and information about visas, housing, daily expenses, working while studying, learning Dutch, and more. Study in Holland is run by Nuffic, an independent, nonprofit organization based in The Hague that supports internationalization in higher education, research, and professional education. Students can also search study programs taught in English.

Studielink, a Dutch national enrollment system for degree-seeking university students, also provides a complete list of Dutch institutions.

**Apply:** Applying to a bachelor's program in the Netherlands generally involves applying to the program of choice and registering for free on Studielink.

**Step 1:** Decide on the program(s) and institution(s) of choice.

**Step 2:** Check the admission requirements of the university and entry requirements of the specific program. Requirements and application processes differ not only from institution to institution, but also from program to program within institutions. Also, check if any matching activities are required.

A matching process is used to determine if a program is a good fit for the student. This can take place via online skills testing, questionnaires, tests about the student's interests, an interview or meeting, a letter of motivation (see below), or other requirement. Taking part in the matching process may be mandatory, but the outcome is only advisory, not binding.

**Step 3:** Confirm the deadlines of the specific program.

**Step 4:** Check the program's application instructions. Every application process will include both an application to the specific program as well as registration in Studielink. The program instructions will tell you in what order to complete these two steps. Follow all instructions from both the institution and Studielink.

To submit an application to the program(s) of interest, you will need to do so through an online system. Supporting documents such as transcripts, copy of passport, letter of motivation, and letters of recommendation may be required.

Letters of motivation give students the opportunity to explain their interest in the program of study. University colleges typically use these letters as an official criterion of admission, whereas other institutions may use them only as part of the matching process.

To register with Studielink, create an account and register your applications. Students may register for up to four programs in Studielink, only two of which can be *numerus fixus* programs, though exceptions exist.

*Numerus fixus* programs are highly-selective programs, including medicine, physiotherapy, and some types of business, which have a capped number of seats available. (The programs listed are a few examples and do not represent the exhaustive list of programs available.)

**Deadlines:** Deadlines generally range from Jan. 1 through July 1 depending on the nationality of the student (for visa purposes) and the particular program. Some programs offer rolling admission. The deadline for all *numerus fixus* programs is Jan. 15. A single university may have a different deadline for each academic program, so students should check the deadline of the specific program to which they are applying.

**Application Fees:** Some institutions require application fees. Students should confirm whether application fees are required by their prospective program and/or institution.

Netherlands



**Admission Requirements:** The Dutch government equates certain diplomas around the world to its university preparatory diploma, called the Dutch VWO. Typically, a US high school diploma is deemed equivalent to a Dutch VWO when combined with a minimum number of AP courses (usually four) and sufficient performance on AP exam, typically scores of 3 or higher. IB diplomas are also recognized as equivalent.

Depending on the program, institutions in the Netherlands operate using one of three approaches to admission:

### General Admission

Students applying to general admission programs, which comprise the vast majority of programs offered at research universities and universities of applied science, must have a Dutch VWO Diploma or an equivalent certification. General admission programs use few admission criteria so that more students have an opportunity to try the program. The challenge, however, is that once enrolled, performance expectations are very high with students being expected to obtain a minimum amount of credits.

### Numerus Fixus

*Numerus fixus* programs have a capped number of places available. All *numerus fixus* programs have a minimum of two selection criteria. These criteria will be outlined per program on the program websites and can include grade achievement, standardized tests, international experience, letters of recommendation, and more.

Some programs at certain universities may be designated *numerus fixus* while not having that same status at others, and this can change from year to year.

### Special Status Programs

University college programs are generally selective and use a holistic admission process similar to universities and colleges in the United States. Each university college utilizes a process unique to the institution where it is based. University colleges tend to look for students who are highly engaged in their studies and who have contributed to the student community. Motivation, as demonstrated in a personal statement, is important, and so is academic achievement. Some university colleges require interviews as part of the admission process. These are conducted by faculty and explore students' academic motivation, commitment, and curiosity. When required, interviews can be conducted virtually.

Fine arts and performing arts programs also have special status and may require auditions, interviews, or the submission of a portfolio. These talent-driven programs also consider motivation and prior academic performance.

The ACT and SAT are not typically considered as part of the admission process but may be a factor in scholarship decisions. Additional entrance exams are not common, although a very small number of programs may require them.

There is little standardization of eligibility requirements, application processes, deadlines, or non-European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA) tuition fees in the Netherlands. When in doubt, students should contact an institution directly. The university's admission office ultimately makes all final decisions regarding applications.



**Upon Acceptance:** Each higher education institution will provide instructions on the acceptance of an admission offer and next steps. This will include practical information about how to arrange housing, visas, and residence permits, instructions for joining social/virtual communities of admitted students, welcome/orientation week schedules, and other pre-departure and arrival information.

**Tuition and Fees:** Tuition rates for non-EU/EEA citizens are set by each university and usually range from approximately 6,000 to 15,000 euros per year. Tuition fees for students with a passport from the EU, EEA, Switzerland, or Surinam are approximately 2,060 euros for the academic year. A select few programs, among them the university colleges, charge between 3,000-4,500 euros.

The Dutch government and some institutions offer scholarships or financial aid for students. These opportunities can be found on individual institutions' websites, or through [Study in Holland's scholarship search tool](#).

**Housing:** Generally, first-year student housing can be arranged through the housing office at most institutions. Students must apply for housing once accepted to their program and follow the instructions provided by the housing office. Students will ordinarily have their own private bedroom; rooms that two or more students share together are uncommon. Universities do not typically have a meal plan, although many provide some on-campus dining options.

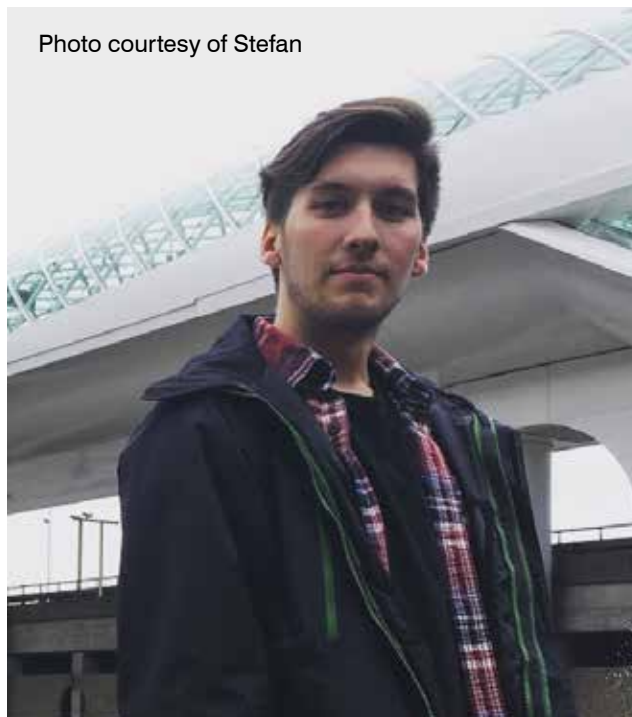
University colleges operate differently when it comes to student accommodations. Many university colleges in the Netherlands are residential, and require students to live on-campus for all or part of their studies. Single dwellings with many amenities are the most common.

**Visa and Other Permits:** American citizens do not need visas to enter the Netherlands, but students will need to apply for a residence permit, called an mvv. Students cannot apply on their own behalf; the Dutch government has mandated that higher education institutions are responsible for overseeing the visa/residence permit application process for each international student they admit. The institution will inform admitted students about the application procedure and documents needed.

As part of the residence permit application process, all institutions require students to submit documentation confirming that they have sufficient funds to support their living costs; in 2017 this amount was set at 900 euros a month, or approximately 11,000 euros a year. The application for a regular provisional residence permit (mvv) costs 321 euros. This fee is adjusted annually.

Residence permits are granted for the full duration of a student's study. They are only terminated when

Photo courtesy of Stefan



Netherlands

**“Perhaps the most challenging aspect for me has been navigating the bureaucratic processes. From registering at the municipality to paying taxes, the learning curve and language barrier can make it initially frustrating for students to settle in. Although these become routinely familiar acts in time, it is important to give yourself time and to familiarize yourself with what you need to do even before you arrive in the Netherlands.”**

—Stefan Harrigan, Ohio  
Leiden University

the university reports that the student has completed their studies or did not earn sufficient academic credits to continue.

US students can work a maximum of 16 hours per week while classes are in session and full-time during the summer months of June, July, and August. A student's prospective employer must apply for a work permit on his or her behalf. If a student is employed, they must also purchase Dutch health insurance, which is more expensive than student plans. Students do not need a work permit if they are participating in an internship that is required by their program of study.

Graduating students may opt to stay in the Netherlands for a job search and orientation year during which time they can look for employment. Students interested in this option, referred to as *zoekjaar*, must apply for a search year residence permit through the Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND). If the

student is subsequently offered a position that meets the requirements to work in the Netherlands, he or she will be authorized to do so. Students have up to three years after graduating to exercise this option. Therefore, if they wish, they can return to their home country or travel elsewhere before deciding to return to search for work. It is possible to apply for a *zoekjaar* both after a bachelor's program and then once again after a master's. More information can be found at the [Immigration and Naturalization Service's website](#).

**Advice from the Field:** The Dutch government aims to make international students feel welcome in the Netherlands. English is widely spoken and the Dutch welcome international students into their communities. Many universities also offer free Dutch courses, even for students studying in English-taught programs.

English-taught programs at Dutch universities attract students from all over the world. Dutch institutions have ample experience accommodating international students, and tend to offer a diverse array of related student support services, clubs, and activities.

University colleges focus on undergraduate study only, and the degree structure can be almost as flexible as a program of study at a US liberal arts college.

Early planning is important as some courses have strict prerequisites that students may not meet if they do not prepare early enough in high school. Many business and science programs in the Netherlands, for example, require an advanced level of math. For a student enrolled in the IB curriculum, this frequently means taking mathematics rather than the mathematical studies course. Students should check each program to confirm specific entry requirements.

Within the Dutch higher education system, transferring to the same type of program at a different institution is possible, though there may be limits on how many credits are accepted. Changing one's program of study is difficult, and would most likely require a student to start his or her studies anew.

Each institution will have an alumni office in some form, which offers resources to graduates. In addition, the Netherlands as a whole offers the [Holland Alumni Network](#) through Nuffic. Holland alumni are invited to join the network to: stay in touch with fellow Holland alumni; join existing communities or establish new ones; stay informed about upcoming alumni activities across the globe; find refresher courses as well as news & trends in an area of expertise; share experiences with prospective international students; find information about career opportunities in Holland; and browse internship and job vacancies.

Netherlands



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# NEW ZEALAND

**Brief Background:** Over 30,000 international students pursued studies at New Zealand universities in 2017, according to a provisional report. The report also showed that US student enrollment totaled 3,044 that year, with most American students participating in one-semester study abroad programs at the undergraduate level.

All eight of New Zealand's universities were ranked among the top 500 institutions in the *QS World University Rankings* for 2018, placing them among the top 2.5 percent of universities worldwide. New Zealand university programs also ranked among the world's top 50 in several subjects, including psychology, accounting and finance, civil and structural engineering, education, and law.

## NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITIES

Auckland University of Technology  
Lincoln University  
Massey University  
University of Auckland  
University of Canterbury  
University of Otago  
University of Waikato  
Victoria University of Wellington

In addition to its universities, New Zealand is home to 16 polytechnics and institutes of technology, which provide applied learning and qualifications ranging from undergraduate certificates to doctoral degrees.

The country is also home to about 600 private training institutions that award undergraduate and post-graduate qualifications.

Many students are drawn to New Zealand because of its emphasis on student safety. The country ranked second out of 163 countries in the 2017 Global Peace Index. Students and other visitors are also attracted to New Zealand for its magnificent outdoor recreation, mountains, coastlines, glaciers, and hiking trails.

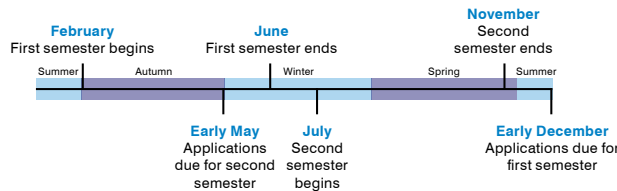
**Good to Know:** Higher education is known as tertiary education and majors or programs of study are typically referred to as courses.

New Zealand's primary and secondary education system is based on the 13-year British model. As such, undergraduate degrees are typically three years in length. A fourth year is an option if students want to pursue an *honours* degree.

When applying, students choose to study a broad area of interest known as a *programme* (i.e., Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts). Once at university, students can more narrowly focus on a specific major. Double degrees and double majors are possible.

New Zealand has established a Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students to ensure the fair treatment of international students in New Zealand. All New Zealand educational institutions hosting international students must comply with the code.

**Academic Calendar:** For most tertiary institutions the academic year starts in February (the end of New Zealand's summer) and finishes in November (late spring). Although the year is usually divided into two semesters with the second semester starting in July, a third term—known as a summer semester—is becoming more common. A summer semester will run from November to February.



## ENROLLMENT TIMING

The difference in academic calendars between the US and New Zealand has implications for the timing of a US student's transition to a New Zealand university. US students who want to begin in February for semester one, which is when most students enroll, might consider a gap experience after completing high school in May or June. Others may opt for a quick transition after graduation and begin during semester two, with orientation programs typically offered in mid-July.

**Application Fees:** Students are not usually charged an application fee to apply to a New Zealand institution.

**Admission Requirements:** All institutions require a high school diploma from a regionally-accredited high school confirming above-average grades. Test scores are also required, generally 1160 or higher on the SAT (out of 1600) and 24 or higher on the ACT. In some cases, alternative entry criteria are accepted. Students with a GED and sufficient SAT or ACT scores may be considered for admission, as may students who have successfully studied at the undergraduate level at a recognized institution. Other admission criteria may be required for certain programs. All institutions list their admission criteria and application process on their websites; students are advised to check with their preferred institutions for more details.

**Upon Acceptance:** Accepted students will receive an *offer of place* that confirms course and program details as well as start dates. An invoice for tuition fees covering tuition for the full academic year will also be included. Before receiving a visa to enter New Zealand, students must provide evidence that they have paid their tuition fees in full for their first year of study. Payments are made directly to the institution.

**Tuition and Fees:** Tuition and fees vary across universities and programs. Information is available on respective university websites and the [Universities New Zealand website](#). Generally, the cost of undergraduate tuition and fees for an international student is 23,000 to 33,000 New Zealand dollars per year.

US students are eligible to use direct loans from the US Federal Student Aid program at some postsecondary institutions in New Zealand.

**Search:** Students can explore specific programs and courses, including professional degrees, at the [Study in New Zealand website](#), the official government site for advice on studying abroad in New Zealand.

**Apply:** Students apply directly to universities. Application forms are available online but some documents, including certified copies of academic transcripts and a résumé, may need to be delivered by mail or international courier service. It is best to confirm individual requirements with preferred institutions.

Students who wish to begin in the second semester in July may be admitted conditionally, pending the submission of their high school diploma.

**Deadlines:** Deadlines vary considerably, so students should carefully check institutional websites for details. As a general rule of thumb for most programs, students should submit their applications approximately three months before the start of their intended first semester. Thus, students should apply by early December to enroll for *semester one* (late February start) and by early May to begin studies in *semester two* (July start).

**Housing:** *Residential colleges* are halls of residence provided by the university where students can lease a single-occupancy room for their academic year of study, somewhat similar to US dormitories. Residential colleges offer meal plans and other support services, such as academic tutorials for key first-year classes. Most international students live in a campus residential college during their first year but later on move to private or independent accommodations with other students (known in New Zealand as *flattening*). Some students choose to live in a residential college for two or even three years. Students may need to submit an essay and additional personal information to obtain a place in a residential college. Further information about accommodation options can be acquired from university websites.



Based on various university websites, estimates for housing costs (both flatting and halls of residence) range from NZ\$11,000 to NZ\$20,000 annually.

**Visa and Other Permits:** Students will need to apply for a visa to study full-time in New Zealand. Students need to pay the full cost of their courses and enroll with an approved education provider. Visit the [Immigration New Zealand website](#) for further information on requirements and the application process.

With this visa students can:

- Study full-time at the course stated on their visa.
- Work part-time up to 20 hours a week while studying or full-time during the holidays, depending on the visa conditions.
- Live alone, if they meet minimum age requirements.

Things to note:

Students must have enough money to pay tuition fees and living expenses while in New Zealand.

The student visa is normally for the same length of time as the program of study the student has paid for. For example, if a student pays for a year of study and demonstrates sufficient funds to cover living costs for a year, they will receive a visa for that year.

Health care for visitors on a student visa is charged on a pay-as-you-go basis; most accidents are covered by New Zealand's Accident Compensation Corporation, which helps to provide emergency treatment and services to anyone injured in New Zealand. International students must be able to show they have comprehensive international travel and health insurance. This is a legal requirement (per the *Code of Practice*), and the university's international admission office will confirm that students have current and appropriate coverage.

**Advice from the Field:** Counselors can contact New Zealand institutions directly to ask about entrance requirements, visa requirements, and more. Counselors are invited to direct general questions about studying in New Zealand to [northamerica@enz.govt.nz](mailto:northamerica@enz.govt.nz).

US students applying to New Zealand universities typically need to do thorough independent research about particular institutions and programs. Prospective students and applicants may not experience the same level of engagement and communication from a New Zealand institution as they would from a US college.

New Zealand is generally an easy and safe place to live—an attractive feature for many, as is its stunning natural beauty. New Zealand is also a diverse country. Auckland is the largest Polynesian city in the world, for example, and you will have people from all over the world in your classes.



**“Other than University of Auckland (UoA) the other colleges that I applied to were all in the US Northeast. The application experiences couldn’t be more different. Most applications to US colleges are quite involved, requiring personal essays and letters of recommendation and take several months to review. While there are definitely merits to this holistic system, the UoA application was a welcome change without essays, letters, or any fees; plus, I received my offer within a couple weeks of my application!”**

—Arman Bilge, Massachusetts,  
University of Auckland

Classes at New Zealand universities are often lecture-style and relatively large. This might be an important consideration if a student is looking for a more intimate academic experience.

There are a number of alumni networking opportunities available for New Zealand alumni. In addition to various “Study In New Zealand” social media alumni groups, each university has its own alumni association and regularly host events in the US. Additionally, Kiwi Expats Abroad (KEA) is an international organization which aims to connect Kiwi expats and alumni with one another to find global opportunities. Alumni are also encouraged to get in touch with a [local honorary consul, consulate-general, or embassy](#), to stay in the loop for New Zealand events.



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# SOUTH KOREA

**Brief Background:** South Korea, officially known as the Republic of Korea, has seen a rapid increase in international students in recent years. In 2017 there were nearly 124,000 international students enrolled in Korean institutions, a 19 percent increase from 2016. The Korean government is actively working to internationalize universities and develop international student support systems with the aim of increasing that number to 200,000 by 2023. In 2017, there were 2,767 American students in South Korea, making the US the fifth leading country of origin within Korea's international student population.

Higher education institutions in Korea are largely divided into junior colleges (two- to three-year programs), universities (four-year programs), and graduate schools. The majority of institutions are private, with only 58 public institutions out of 430 nationwide. The International Education Quality Assurance System (IEQAS)—a national structure—ensures Korean universities offer global competitiveness and desirable conditions for international students. Under the system, a joint delegation from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Justice monitor and assess universities' educational responsibilities to international students, with IEQAS certification awarded to those meeting the required standards. In 2017, the number of IEQAS-certified institutions in South Korea was 139, comprising 111 universities, 22 junior colleges, and six graduate schools.

**Good to Know:** South Korean university degrees generally take at least four years to complete, with some variation depending on the field of study. Most universities

offer English-taught programs, the number of which is steadily increasing.

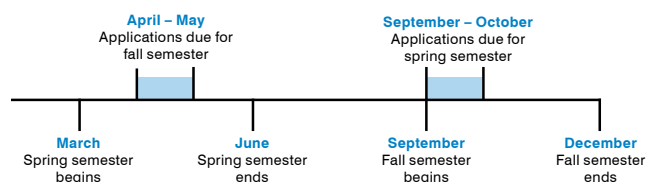
International students may pursue associate, bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees in diverse academic fields by enrolling at a Korean university or college as a full-time student. Classes are often conducted in Korean, but reading materials are generally in English and coursework can usually be written and submitted in English. There is also an increasing number of programs that are offered entirely in English.

Many South Korean universities have an affiliated Korean language center that provides intensive training to prospective international students and others interested in learning the language. Programs last from 10 to 12 weeks, but some universities also offer short-term programs of two to six weeks.

Universities generally require students to have achieved at least a level 3 on the Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) before enrolling in a degree-seeking program, with level 2 being permissible for science and engineering programs. Universities offer Korean language training courses to help enrolling students bring their language proficiency to the required standard, however this requirement can be waived for students applying to programs delivered entirely in English, or for certain programs with separate entry requirements for native English speakers.

Nonetheless, a basic command of the Korean language is recommended to get the most out of student life in South Korea. For more information visit the [TOPIK website](#).

**Academic Calendar:** An academic year in South Korea is split over two semesters. The first semester of the academic year is in spring (March through June) followed by one in fall (September through December).



The long vacations offer an ideal opportunity to make the most of the seasonal leisure. Ski trips in winter and beach holidays in summer are common activities for students studying in South Korea, which boasts an abundance of both mountains and coastline.

**Search:** More information on studying in South Korea can be found on the [Study in Korea website](#), run by the National Institute for International Education (NIIED), a division of the Ministry of Education.

The site contains detailed information about South Korean universities, international student admission, a list of IEQAS-certified universities, and a calendar of local Overseas Study in Korea Fairs, virtual fairs, as well as a guide to the Korean Government Scholarship Program (KGSP). Students can look up institutions based on

criteria such as university classification, courses, region of the country, and whether scholarship support, English lectures, and dormitories are offered.

**Apply:** Applications can be made directly through university websites. Alternatively, some universities also accept online applications through the [Study in Korea portal](#).

The academic year starts with the spring semester. It's more common for students to apply for admission in the spring semester, however many universities also allow students to first enroll in the fall.

Because the application requirements and selection process (including interviews and document submission) are different for each university, it is vital to confirm them prior to application, either via the university's website or by contacting its international admission department. In particular, the visa issuance requirements for international students are subject to the guidance and procedures of the university sponsoring the visa.

A professional degree can be obtained as part of an undergraduate program, but the number of universities offering them is limited. In the case of specialist programs (e.g., medicine), support for international students is not universal. Before applying, check with each university and program as to whether it can accommodate international students.



**Deadlines:** Applications to begin studying in the spring semester are accepted from September to October; fall semester applications are open from April to May.

As the deadline for admission is different for the spring and fall semesters, and there are differences in the admission schedules of each university, check the application deadlines with each university.

**Application Fees:** Though it varies from one university to another, application fees generally range from 100,000 to 200,000 won. Other minor administrative fees, such as those assessed when obtaining and submitting the required documents, may also apply.

**Admission Requirements:** Applications are open to international candidates who have graduated (or are expected to graduate) high school in their home country and whose parents are not Korean nationals. An applicant's TOPIK score must be level 3 or above (level 2 for science and engineering programs) to be eligible. However, requirements can vary by institution, so it is important to check before applying. In some cases, applicants without the required TOPIK score can take a Korean language course to bring them up to the required level before beginning their academic program. In the case of universities that have separate entry criteria for native English speakers and for programs delivered entirely in English, the Korean proficiency requirement can be waived.

As admission criteria may differ, check the specific requirements and other information provided on the website of each university to which you plan to apply.

**Upon Acceptance:** Once a student's acceptance is confirmed, the university will provide specific details and instructions for admission and visa applications. The institution will guide students in applying for a D-2 visa. Students will receive a Certificate of Admission that they will need to take, along with other relevant documents, to the Korean consulate in order to be issued the D-2 visa.

**Tuition and Fees:** Generally, the fees for private universities are 3 to 5 million won per semester, while those of national universities are 2 to 3 million won. Some private universities also charge a one-time admission fee of 800,000 won.

There is some variation depending on university and program, so it is important to check the university website or contact the institution's admission office before applying.

There is a range of excellent scholarship opportunities available for international students, including KGSP scholarships, which pay all tuition fees and provide a living allowance for the duration of study, including a year of fully-funded Korean language tuition. Visit [Study in Korea](#) for more details.



Photo courtesy of Alexis

South Korea

**“The best part of being a student in Korea, in my opinion at least, is the opportunity to develop a more globalized mindset and gain experiences that would be impossible to have while living in my home country. I have found that Korean students are very kind and open to foreigners and I have gained a number of sincere friendships during my time in university.”**

—Alexis Fox, Wisconsin, Hanyang University

**Housing:** According to a 2017 survey by NIIED, 58 percent of international students make use of the dormitory facilities available on university campuses.

Most universities have on-campus dormitories available for international students. The fees vary, but are generally between 200,000 and 500,000 won per month. Both dormitory fees and non-university housing prices vary from area to area, with downtown Seoul being notably more expensive for non-university housing.

Check directly with universities for information about dormitory fees and availability. Detailed information about the cost of living, and other aspects of life in South Korea, can be found through [Study in Korea](#).

Photo courtesy of Alexis



**“The most difficult thing I have experienced is fully understanding the requirements for graduation due to language barriers. There are times when notices are given in Korean without translation, or with a hurried translation that is a bit difficult to understand. The office staff at my university have been very kind and helpful in this regard and are always willing to answer questions.”**

—Alexis Fox, Wisconsin, Hanyang University

**Visa and Other Permits:** International students must obtain the relevant visa—D-2 for academic programs; D-4 for language training programs—before entering the country. Any non-Korean staying in the country for more than 90 days is issued an Alien Registration Card (ARC), which they must keep with them at all times.

International students are able to take part-time jobs working up to 20-25 hours per week (dependent on their course of study), provided they obtain prior approval from their university and make a formal application at the Immigration Office.

Due to the strictness of immigration law, it is advisable to check the proper procedures with the international student advisory department of the university in all visa-related matters, including part-time employment.

A range of programs offering career advice and support are available to international students after graduation.

**Advice from the Field:** South Korea is a very comfortable and convenient place to live, boasting very low crime rates; world-leading information and communications technology and internet speed; highly efficient and

affordable public transportation; and a host of public conveniences and facilities, not to mention internationally renowned pop culture.

One of the greatest advantages international students in South Korea enjoy is the financial manageability compared with studying in other developed countries. In recent years the government has invested heavily in developing policies to maximize both the safety and meaningfulness of the international student experience. Studying in South Korea offers students the chance to broaden their horizons, discovering simultaneously the mysteries of the East and the world of academia, living in a creative and dynamic culture blending 5,000 years of history with cutting-edge modern technology.

A guide to South Korean universities and international admission can be found on the [Study in Korea website](#). Refer to the [Guidebook for International Students](#) for detailed information about each university’s admission policies and procedures.

Korean universities have developed alumni networks locally and abroad. NIIED also runs KGSP Alumni associations in various countries.



# SPAIN

**Brief Background:** Higher education is an honored tradition in Spanish society. The first university, Universidad de Salamanca, was established in the 13th century. As such, many of Spain's institutions have developed strong programs that have earned them a solid international reputation. In fact, 24 Spanish universities are currently featured in the top 200 of various international university ranking lists for specific disciplines like the *Academic Ranking of World Universities of Shanghai* (ARWU), the *QS World University Rankings*, and *Times Higher Education World University Rankings*. Of those, 17 appear in the top 100 and another 8 in the top 50. There are currently 84 universities in Spain, of which 50 are public and 34 are private.

From 2009 to 2010, Spain immersed itself in a transformation of its higher education system. Its goal was to harmonize its academic qualification framework to fit into the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) to increase student mobility in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). In 2017 alone, nearly 95,000 international students enrolled in Spanish higher education institutions. American students accounted for 7 percent of the international student population.

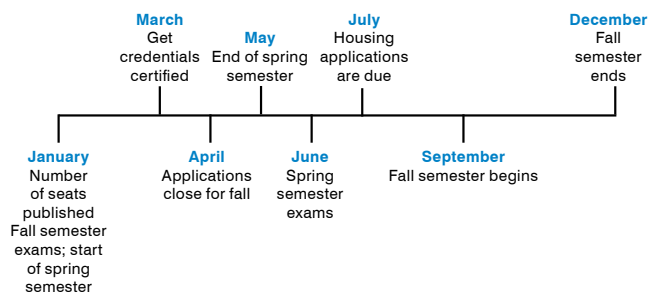
**Good to Know:** In Spain, an undergraduate degree is referred to as *grado*, and can fall into one of two categories: official, those that are government-regulated and recognized by the EHEA; and unofficial (*propio*),

which are independently established by an institution and generally not recognized by other institutions or education systems. A student pursues an official degree (*grado oficial*) as they would an undergraduate degree in the US. An unofficial degree (*grado propio*) is typically meant for students that have already completed an official degree and are looking to improve their technical knowledge in a specific field or subject. Length of study for an undergraduate degree varies by subject. While the majority can be completed in three to four years, more technical degrees, like engineering, medicine, and architecture, can take up to five years.

The [Study in Spain](#) website is a government-sponsored resource for English-language speakers. It features information on the cultural and academic value of studying in Spain and has a university search engine that filters by province and university type. It also provides information about administrative procedures; however, the entries often include links to the official resource in Spanish.

Most undergraduate degrees are taught in Spanish or in one of Spain's recognized regional languages, such as Basque or Catalan. However, there has been an increase in the number of programs taught completely in English or in a bilingual immersion format. In bilingual immersion programs, students begin their undergraduate careers in English-taught classes and are slowly transitioned into a full Spanish learning environment.

**Academic Calendar:** The school year in Spain generally starts in the fall and ends in late spring. The majority of Spanish universities operate on a two-semester system: the first from September/October to late December, and the second from January/February to May. Semester exams are usually scheduled the month after the semester ends (January and June, respectively). Other universities follow a trimester schedule.



**Search:** The official source of information for international students is the [Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education](#) (*Servicio Español para la Internacionalización de la Educación* or SEPIE). A government run initiative that aims to internationalize the Spanish education system. Among its resources it features the [Study in Spain website](#) providing general information about Spanish culture and education system, and a [list of tools](#) students can use to identify what and where to study, English taught or bilingual programs, as well as available grants and scholarships.

To search universities by program, region, or employability of graduates, use the [What to Study and Where too!](#) (*Qué Estudiar y Dónde en la Universidad* or QEDU) on the website of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports.

**Apply:** Spain does not have a centralized application system for university admission. Each university sets its own requirements and deadlines for applications and in some instances these can even vary by program within the university. Some universities or programs may require applicants to attend an interview, submit additional materials, or even take a subject or general knowledge exam. It is important that students familiarize themselves with the requirements for each university and program of interest.

Each year, universities assess the number of seats in each program that will be open for new applicants. For public universities, this number is determined by the regional governments and is based on projected labor market needs. Of this number, a specific percentage—determined by the universities—is reserved for international students. The number of seats open for general and international admission are typically published in January or February. Students are advised to apply soon after these numbers are published, as space is limited. However, students should also keep in mind the pre-application requirements established by the government explained below. Private institutions set their own enrollment goals and could provide more flexibility.

Students that apply for seats reserved for international applicants are not required to take the Spanish University Access Test (*Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad* or PAU), also known as *Selectividad*. If an international student applies to an international seat and is not accepted, he or she can reapply for a seat in the general admission pool. However, they will then be required to submit PAU scores.

Prior to applying to university, international students must submit their credentials to be certified for equivalency. Students from the US must submit their documents to the Spanish embassy or consulate in their country of residence to be reviewed by the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports prior to submitting their application. This process is known as *homologación* and can take three to six months. The Spanish Education Advising Office in the United States recommends that students begin this process as early as possible to assure they'll have all their documentation in time for enrollment. In the meantime, students can apply for a permit for conditional admission (*volante de inscripción condicional*) that would show they have initiated the credential equivalency certificate process, allowing them to be considered for admission to the university of their choice. While this is a responsibility of the student, some universities do provide assistance. Students should contact the admission office of their prospective school or program to verify which resources are available to them. For the most accurate and updated information about the credential equivalency certificate process and its requirements, students can contact the Spanish Education Advising Office via [email](#) or visit their [website](#).

**Deadlines:** Students typically begin their academic studies in the fall semester. Deadlines vary by university, but applications are generally due the first week of June.

**Admission Requirements:** International students are not required to take the Spanish university admission test, unless they apply for general admission (see Apply section). Admission is based on students' prior academic performance and high school GPA. However, some universities could also require international students to take one or more subject proficiency tests (*Pruebas de Competencias Específicas* or PCE). These tests are managed by UNEDasiss, a service from the distance learning institution UNED, and are administered in Spain and several other locations across the globe. It is important that students reach out to the university of their choice to determine which tests they will need to take, if any.

International students may also be required to take a language proficiency exam for Spanish or English depending on the program they are applying to and their country of origin. There are several testing platforms for language proficiency. The most widely recognized evaluations for Spanish are those given by the [Servicio Internacional de Evaluación de la Lengua Española](#) (SIELE) and the [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#) (ACTFL). For English, the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and The International English



Language Testing System (IELTS) are accepted. It is important for students to research whether their institution or program of choice requires them to take a language proficiency exam, which tests are accepted, and the minimum scores required for admission.



**Upon Acceptance:** The university will send a letter of acceptance, which is needed to apply for a student visa before coming to Spain.

**Tuition and Fees:** The cost of tuition at Spanish universities varies by the type of degree a student enrolls in (official or unofficial) and by the nature of the university (public or private). The cost of public universities is regulated by the General Assembly for University Policy (*Conferencia General de Política Universitaria*) and the regional governments where they reside. While the universities are not allowed to raise tuition for Spanish and EU students, legislation does allow them to increase the fees for international students. It is important to research each institution individually to assess the true cost of tuition for an international student. However, public university tuition for international students can still be considerably cheaper than the cost of attending a private university. In 2015–2016, the cost of tuition at a public Spanish university varied between 850 and 3,700 euros per academic year. Meanwhile, the cost of tuition at private universities ranged from 6,000 to 18,000 euros per academic year.

The Study in Spain website provides [guidance on how to obtain a grant or scholarship](#) to study in Spain. Including resources from the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sport.

**Housing:** The average cost of living for students in Spain is estimated between 900 and 1,100 euros per month, depending on the city or town of residence and the individual needs of each student. There are various housing options for students enrolled in Spanish universities:

- **Colegio Mayor:** Similar to American residence halls, these dormitories may be privately-funded or affiliated with a particular university or student organization. However, space is often limited and

students must submit a separate application, typically due by mid-July.

- **Apartment rentals or shared apartments:** Some universities provide a service for students and community members to promote alternative housing options.
- **Host families:** Students living with host families can immerse themselves in the Spanish language and culture. Students should contact their universities to confirm the availability of this option.
- **Intergenerational living:** Some universities have adopted programs that pair a student with an older person in their community who offers accommodation at a low rate in exchange for some help at home.

**Visa and Other Permits:** Students from countries outside of the European Union pursuing studies for longer than 90 days must apply for a student visa (*Autorización de Estancia por Estudios*) through the Spanish embassy or consulate in their country of origin or residence. This visa expires on a yearly basis, and must be renewed within the 60-day period prior to its expiration date. For the most reliable and up-to-date information, students should contact their local embassy or consulate or visit the [Ministry of Employment and Social Security's website](#).

Citizens of countries outside of the European Union, the European Economic Area, or citizens from countries that do not currently have a reciprocity agreement for social services with Spain must independently enroll in a private health insurance plan. This is a prerequisite for the student visa application. The selected health insurance plan must cover the cost of repatriation of remains and stay valid for the entirety of the student's time in Spain.

Upon arrival in Spain, students will have one month to register for the Foreigner Identity Card (*Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero* or TIE) at the local Foreigners Office or police station. This permit serves as an identification for the student. More information can be found through the [Ministry of Interior's website](#).

**Advice from the Field:** The internationalization of Spanish universities is still developing. While there is a growing number of undergraduate degrees offered in English, it is difficult to find English-language resources outlining admission procedures. Moreover, the higher education system and relevant authorities are currently in the process of adopting changes to make the admission process more amenable for international students. During this transition period, counselors are advised to reach out directly to universities, embassies, or consulates via e-mail or telephone for the most accurate and reliable information regarding the application process and requirements.

When deciding where in Spain to apply, students should keep in mind the remarkable differences in temperature and precipitation found in different regions of the country. Cities in the central region undergo major changes throughout the year, while coastal regions can be less stark.

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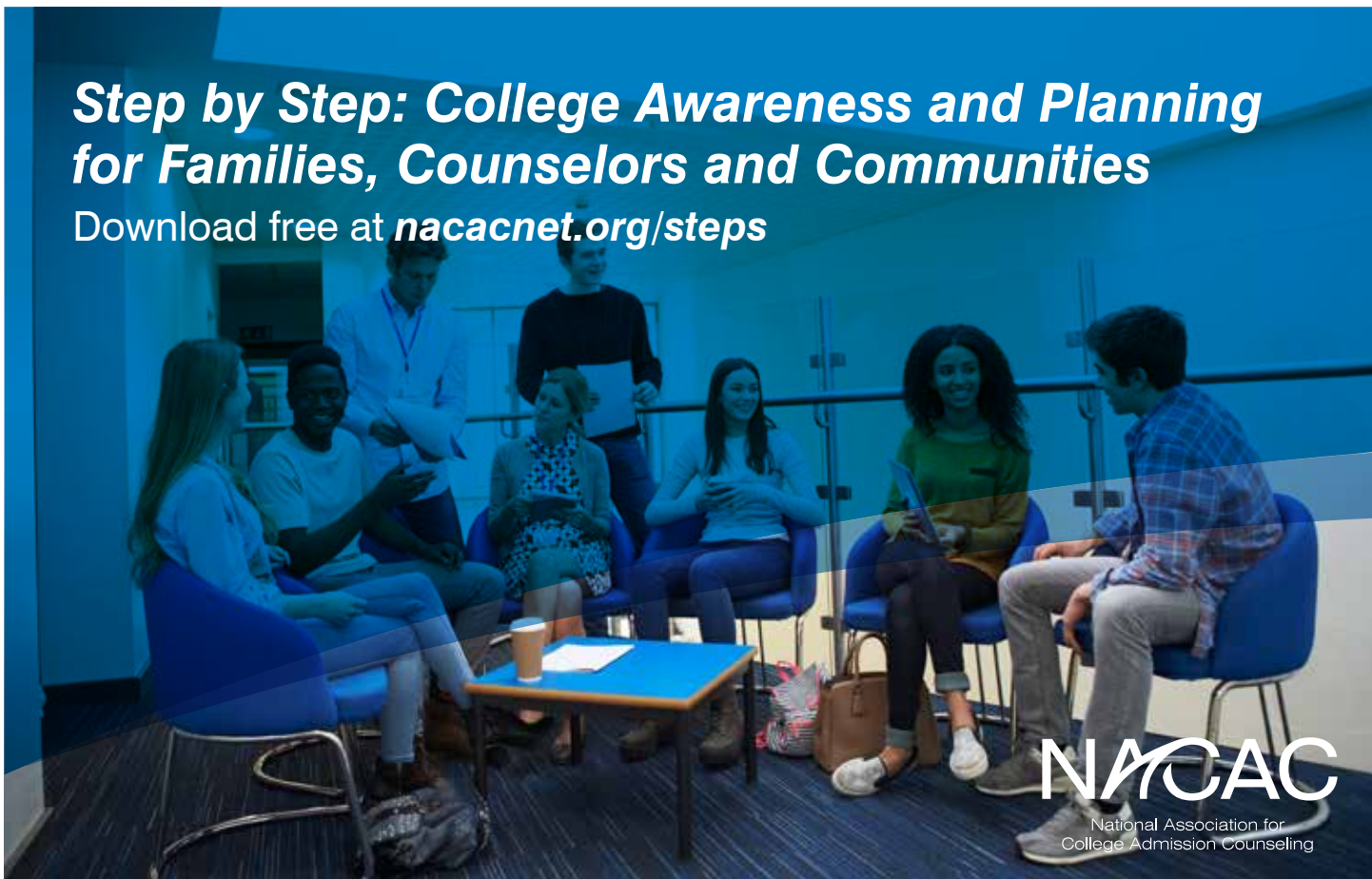
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# UNITED KINGDOM

**Brief Background:** The United Kingdom, which encompasses England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, is home to 162 higher education institutions offering postsecondary degree programs.

In 2016-17, the UK enrolled 442,375 international students. Of the more than 16,900 US students pursuing full degrees in the UK, about 5,800 were undergraduates. The most popular courses of study for American students include social studies, historical and philosophical studies, languages, business and administrative studies, and creative arts and design.

*Times Higher Education's World University Rankings 2017-18* listed four British institutions among the top 20 universities in the world: The University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, and University College London. These institutions are members of the distinguished [Russell Group](#), an organization representing 24 leading UK universities committed to outstanding research and teaching.

The [British Council](#), the UK's official education and cultural relations organization, notes that 93.3 percent of full-time undergraduates who received their degree in 2014-15 were either employed or pursuing further study in the UK and beyond within six months after graduation.

**Good to Know:** A bachelor's degree in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales can be completed in three years; in Scotland, four years is standard. The term course refers to what US institutions typically call a major or program of study and are declared during the application process. Degree programs are very focused. Students will be enrolled in classes, known as modules, aligned with their major right from the outset of their studies, instead of a more broad-based liberal arts curriculum. Most programs are honors courses, which typically require students to produce a dissertation or capstone project based on independent research in their final year.

Some UK universities have created courses that allow students more flexibility in their studies. Some of these courses are called liberal arts or arts and sciences on the institutions' websites. Students who are unsure of what they want to study might want to focus on Scottish universities, as these allow students to explore additional subjects during their first year. Students should weigh this additional flexibility against the cost of a four-year degree.

Professional degrees—such as law, medicine, veterinary science, and dentistry—are available at the undergraduate level and typically last between three to five years. It is important to note that entry requirements for these programs are more demanding than those for other majors. There might also be additional steps involved to practice with this degree in the US.

## Law

In the UK, students can study law straight after high school and the degree takes three years to complete. If a student decides at the end of their course that they want to become a legal professional, there are opportunities to pursue a Graduate Diploma in Law. After successful completion of this one-year course, students receive Qualifying Law Degree status, which is needed to practice law in the UK.

Students thinking of practicing law in the United States with a foreign law degree should keep in mind that each state has different requirements. The requirements for each are listed on the state-specific bar exam website and are summarized by the National Conference of Bar Examiners' Bar Admission Guide.

Law is also offered as an academic subject that can be combined with another discipline for students who are interested in law, but may not want to practice. For example, there are dual honors options such as BA (Hons) Business and Law, BSc (Hons) Law and Psychology, and BA (Hons) Law and International Relations.

**Special Entrance Requirements:** The National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT) is a two-part test that is used to help admission tutors assess aptitude for studying law. LNAT is required for most law courses at the universities of Bristol, Durham, Glasgow, Kings College London, Nottingham, Oxford, SOAS University of London, and University College London. Students should take the test prior to submitting their application via UCAS.

**Application Deadline:** The majority of institutions expect international students applying to law to apply by the Jan. 15 deadline.

## Medicine

There are 33 medical schools in the UK that offer an undergraduate medicine program. These programs provide students the opportunity to pursue a professional subject without a prior degree, and typically take five to six years. Although the cap on international students admitted to undergraduate medical programs has been lifted for 2018 entry and beyond, the application process for international students will remain extremely competitive due to capacity, the volume of applications, and high academic qualifications.

Applications must be made through UCAS. Students can submit four medical school choices plus a back-up. The back-up cannot be dentistry or veterinary science, and is recommended to be an allied health program or life science.

Entrance requirements typically include:

- The equivalent of 13 years of secondary school (although, in some cases, exceptional grades in 12-year schooling systems are accepted)
- Excellent grades in chemistry and/or biology
- Academic excellence in another science or math course (e.g., chemistry, biology, physics)
- Significant experience in a health care environment gained prior to the application submission. Experiences can be voluntary, paid work, or informal. Students are evaluated highly when they can demonstrate that they have exceeded expectations.
- Additional tests, such as the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) and Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT) are commonly used to assess aptitude. Applicants must find out whether additional tests are required and, if so, which tests are required by their university choice.

Interviews for medical courses normally take place in the UK between November and March. When a university receives a high volume of quality applications from a particular geographic region, interviews may be arranged at an alternative location.

The American Medical Association includes an informational page for graduates of foreign medical school programs if they wish to practice in the US.

**Application Deadline:** Oct. 15 in the year before the student wants to enroll.

## Veterinary Science

In the UK, students can pursue a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVMBVS), or Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVetMed). These degrees can be completed within four to six years.

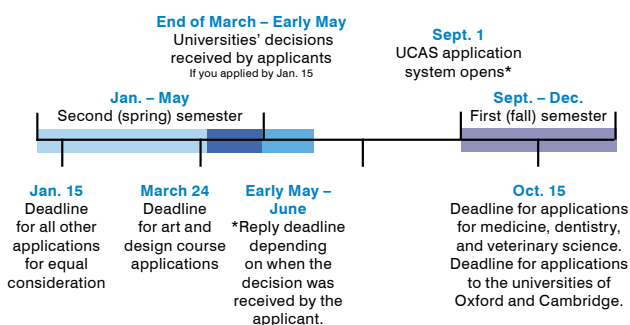
Some veterinary medicine courses in the UK are accredited by American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and/or the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), giving students the ability to practice throughout UK, Europe, North America, and Australasia.

Special Entrance Requirements: International academic entry requirements vary by institution for veterinary medicine courses, and in some cases, may be more rigorous than for BA or BSc courses. Applicants are typically expected to have relevant practical experience with handling animals. UKCAT, BMAT, or an institution's own test may be required. This will be stated on the entry requirements page of the institution's website. Interviews are required for most veterinary medicine courses.

Application Deadline: Oct. 15 in the year before the student wants to enroll.

As part of their degree programs, many UK universities offer work placements, sometimes referred to as a sandwich year. Sandwich years are typically undertaken between the second and final year of the degree, and allow a student the opportunity to put their knowledge into practice, network with companies in their field, and earn money. This experience does not usually require an additional visa, as it is closely tied to a student's academic course. The sandwich year might also be used to study abroad.

**Academic Calendar:** UK academic years run from September to May, with breaks in mid-December to early January and in March to mid- to late-April. Major exam periods are usually in January and May.



\*Students are recommended to apply as early as possible at [www.ucas.com/apply](http://www.ucas.com/apply).

**Search:** The [British Council's website](#) gives students information about selecting a course and institution. Students can search for courses and institutions through the [Universities and Colleges Admissions Service \(UCAS\)](#). The nonprofit organization offers a UK-specific online application system comparable to The Common Application. UCAS also provides tips and other guidance to potential students and families. Another useful website

is [Unistats](#), which allows students to compare three courses alongside one another.

UK media outlets publish university and subject league tables, which are similar to rankings. Because the UK university system is geared toward a student's course of study, subject league tables may provide useful perspective or serve as a starting point for students looking to study a particular major. However, methodologies vary; students are urged to read the fine print, such as the number of people surveyed and the year the information was gathered.

Examples include:

- [The Guardian's University Guide](#)
- [The Complete University Guide](#)
- [Times Higher Education World University Rankings](#)

**Apply:** Most students, domestic and international, apply to British universities through UCAS. Twenty-seven British universities also participate in The Common Application. Some universities also accept applications made directly to their institution; the individual institution's preference should be indicated on its website. If a student is applying to more than one course in the UK, they should use UCAS.

Students can apply to a maximum of five courses in the UK, regardless of application method. The British Council recommends students apply to three target and two safety courses. Target courses are those for which a student is likely to meet the entry requirements, and safety courses are those that may require grades slightly below the student's expected results. A student can apply to more than one course at the same institution. Admission officials at the universities where a student has applied cannot see where else the student has submitted an application.

or dental sciences, can apply to only four courses of that nature. Their fifth choice must be a course outside that professional science category.

Students considering Oxford or Cambridge can apply to only one of the two institutions. For more on the Oxbridge application process, see page 73.

Students will be expected to enter their complete academic course history in the UCAS section on modules, that is, what US students typically call classes. In addition to completing the UCAS application form, students will submit one personal statement and a letter of recommendation from an advisor, teacher, or similar academic professional. Final grades and an academically oriented personal statement are important parts of the application.

Personal statements should show “a student’s passion and motivation for applying and why they are suitable for the course,” according to UCAS. Applicants have 4,000 characters to write one statement, which is sent to all the universities where they have applied. The statement should straightforwardly reflect why the student wants to study their chosen course. Topics such as extracurricular interests or hardships overcome are inappropriate unless students can draw a clear link to a particular course.

If a university requires additional application documents, the student will be asked to upload the documents in a Supplementary Application Questionnaire that is sent to them electronically after they have submitted their UCAS application. Counselors are sometimes required to submit supplementary documents upon request by the university.

### APPLICATION ADVICE

Advise students to apply to courses which are very similar. A personal statement that tries to weave together too many different courses will not be read favorably. For example, a student should not apply for engineering at one university and business at another.

**References:** Letters of reference should focus on the applicant’s suitability for studying the intended course. Application readers—admission officers or professors who teach the course—want to know whether the student is knowledgeable about the subject and has demonstrated an interest in various ways, to gauge whether they can successfully study it in depth. The letter of reference should also include a link to the school profile—particularly the curriculum—and cite any extenuating circumstances.



Photo courtesy of Imogen

**“Logistically, I suppose, I had to think about buying adaptors for my appliances and buying bedding in the English sizes. But none of the solutions involved rocket science, surprisingly. Don’t let any sort of logistical challenges discourage you from at least applying to go to school abroad.”**

—Imogen Evans, Georgia, King’s College London

The teacher or counselor who serves as the applicant’s academic referee will also be asked to predict final year grades or exam results. Such predictions are based on professional judgment, the student’s past performance, current progress, and the school’s historical performance. Referees are encouraged to work with department heads and other officials to provide predictions, however UCAS is aware that this is an imperfect science. Although some universities require predicted grades for the application to be considered complete, others will accept applications without them. Check with the university’s International Office to find out how critical the predicted grades are to the application. Because most offers of admission are conditional on achieving the predicted grades or scores, counselors and teachers should do their best to make fair and accurate predictions. Inflating a student’s predicted grades may result in a student missing out on a conditional offer. See the Upon Acceptance section below for more details.

**Deadlines:** The application season opens on Sept. 1. The deadline for applying is Oct. 15 for Oxford and Cambridge, as well as medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science courses. Jan. 15 is the equal consideration deadline for all other UK universities, which students are encouraged to meet. Some



institutions, however, may accept applications after the equal consideration deadline, and up to as late as six weeks before the course starts.

Some art and design courses have March deadlines so that applicants have adequate time to prepare a portfolio.

**Application Fees:** UCAS charges applicants 13 pounds for one course, or a total of 24 pounds for multiple courses, up to five.

**Admission Requirements:** Entry requirements for UK institutions are generally transparent and straightforward, and can be found on university websites or by contacting individual admission offices. A counselor can easily confirm the minimum GPA, test scores, and other requirements for admission.

Requirements typically include a combination of advanced coursework such as AP courses and test results; IB or college credits; SAT, ACT and SAT Subject test scores; as well as a high school diploma.

Typically, students apply through UCAS without submitting a high school transcript. The high school transcript, one of the most important elements of the application process in the US, is not usually considered for US applicants to the UK, though some universities may ask for it. Rather, on the UCAS application students will indicate qualifications they have already received. Examples include results on exams and standardized tests taken from ninth through 11th grade, and qualifications that are pending, such as AP and IB exams that will be taken in May of senior year.

**Upon Acceptance:** UK universities are usually able to offer admission electronically within two months of an application's submission. Students may be admitted unconditionally or conditionally.

An unconditional offer means that the student has no conditions to meet and has a place at the institution if they choose to accept it.

A conditional offer is the most common offer made to both UK and international students. If a student has a conditional offer this means there are certain

requirements outlined by the institution that the student must meet to secure their spot, such as obtaining a certain final exam score (AP exams; IB scores; ACT, SAT or SAT Subject tests scores) or certain GPA. These offers are legally binding on the part of the university and cannot be rescinded.

Students who applied to five universities and received no offers of admission may have the option of adding an extra choice. UCAS Extra is a free service that allows these students to apply to one course at a time from late February up until early July. A final option, called clearing, is the period during which universities are allowed to fill any places they still have available. Clearing runs from July to September each year.

Once a student is notified of decisions, UCAS enables a student to hold two offers from institutions in the UK. The first is a firm choice, or the student's first choice, and the second is an insurance choice, which provides the student with a safety net should they not obtain the results required by their firm choice.

**Tuition and Fees:** Each university sets its own fees. Annual tuition fees for international students range from about 10,000 to 21,000 pounds per year, with the exception of medical courses which can be up to 38,000 pounds per year.

US students are eligible to use direct loans from the US Federal Student Aid program at most UK universities. Some scholarships are available for international students. The [British Council website](#) can provide more details.

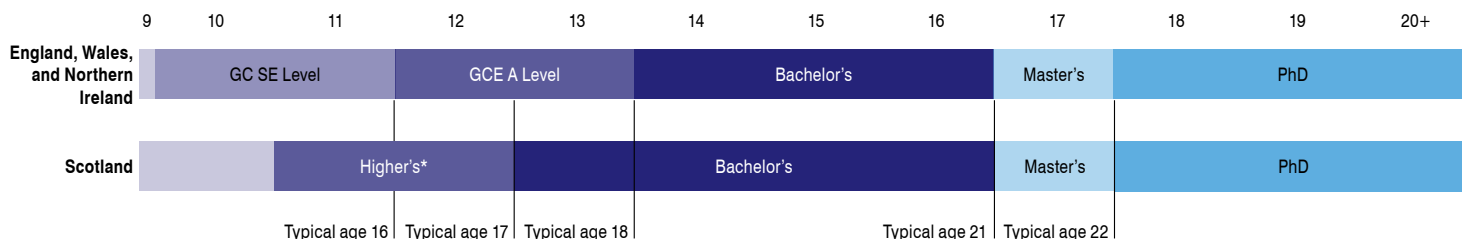
**Housing:** Many universities guarantee on-campus housing—typically single-occupancy—for first-year international students. International students are usually integrated into first-year housing with domestic students. Many student residences are self-catered, meaning students prepare and cook their own meals. In cities, for-profit, privately run residence halls are common. Many students elect to live in these private dorms or other private rental accommodations after their first year.

Minimum monthly costs for housing and other living expenses in 2017 were estimated at 1,015 pounds outside London and 1,265 pounds in London.

United Kingdom

### Years in Formal Education: Comparing England, Wales, and Northern Ireland to Scotland

Chart courtesy of the British Council



\*Some universities require advanced highers, which is an additional 1-year course. If advanced highers have been taken, a student would not complete their bachelor's degree until the age of 22.

**Visa and Other Permits:** Universities typically advise admitted students on how to apply for a student visa. Visas are issued by [UK Visas and Immigration](#) (UKVI).

Students are advised to apply for a visa as soon as their offer of admission becomes unconditional. Students must receive a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from the institution they plan to attend to complete the visa application. Most US students meet the requirements for what is called the Tier 4 student visa, which is good for the duration of an undergraduate degree program, for up to five years. To obtain a visa, students must demonstrate they have sufficient funds for living costs. However, US citizens applying from within the USA do not need to show evidence of funds.

The visa application cost is 335 pounds. See the UKVI website for more information.

Though US students do not need to prove they have private health insurance, they will be asked to pay an annual health care surcharge upfront as part of the visa application process. Students must pay the per year fee (150 pounds in 2018) for the duration of the visa.

International students are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week while courses are in session, and full-time during university breaks.

**Advice from the Field:** The British Council provides numerous resources for counselors advising students on higher education in the UK, including a [College and University Guidance Counsellor Handbook](#).

Additionally, [UCAS has a guide for counselors](#) that explains the application process and how advisers can monitor a student's progress. Counselors can fill out a practice UCAS application, allowing them to see what students will encounter when formally applying.

Counselors who have specific questions pertinent to an individual university are advised to contact the institution's international admission officer. In most cases contact information is accessible by inserting the institution's name into the [Universities UK website](#).

Counselors should be aware that applicants have the right to request access to their recommendations under UK law. This law applies to all UK schools and their applicants, regardless of whether students have waived their FERPA rights on The Common Application.

A note on admission to medical programs: The majority of seats will go to UK applicants. Furthermore, there are additional requirements to practice medicine in the US with a UK degree. These are outlined by the [British Medical Association](#) (BMA).

Many UK universities, particularly those in London, are known as city universities. Students should be advised that these do not have campuses in the traditional American sense. This can be daunting to students who are adapting to both college life and overseas living. Some American students prefer the familiar nature of campus universities, which look and feel more like many American institutions.

The [UK Council for International Student Affairs](#) (UKCISA) provides student visa advice as well as a wealth of information about other aspects of living and studying in the UK.

Many US cities are home to local chapters of UK university alumni associations which regularly host social, professional development, and volunteer events. Alumni can also stay connected with their university through newsletters and online networks. Similar to US universities, UK universities' career services will continue to offer their alumni support to help them progress and develop their career. Some alumni may also choose to become involved in connecting with prospective students and sharing their experience at student recruitment events.

In some major US cities, there are general UK alumni clubs or associations which are open to any alumni who have studied at a university in the UK. For example, the Study UK Alumni Network creates opportunities for UK universities to collaborate on alumni events in New York City. Alumni can [check if their university is a member of the British Council Alumni Network](#).

The British Council Alumni Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of alumni and showcase the impact and value of a UK higher education. Award winners and finalists are leaders in their fields who have used their experience of studying at a UK university to make a positive contribution to their communities, professions, and countries. You can find out more about past winners and how to apply or nominate someone through the [British Council website](#).



## OXBRIDGE APPLICATION PROCESS

The University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge—often referred to together as Oxbridge—are two of the most prestigious destinations for postsecondary study in the United Kingdom. Both universities are rated at the top of international rankings for quality of teaching and research. Students entering either Cambridge or Oxford can expect a challenging curriculum. Admission decisions at each university are based solely on academic indicators of a student's ability and potential, according to stated selection criteria for each course, and, importantly, the application process for Cambridge and Oxford differs from that of most other British universities.

Only a small number of courses are available for study (48 at Oxford and 30 at Cambridge), and programs of study are traditional and rigorous. The hallmark of an Oxbridge education is the focus on small-group instruction led by academic experts. At Oxford, these sessions are called tutorials; at Cambridge they are supervisions. Both systems allow students to debate and argue ideas with some of the best minds in the world.

An important caveat: Students are allowed to apply to either Cambridge or Oxford, but not to both. Both schools have the same UCAS application deadline: Oct. 15 at 6 p.m. local time.

Students who want to attend either university should familiarize themselves with entrance requirements early in their high school years, since both universities require specific qualifications and have early deadlines.

### The College System

Oxford and Cambridge are collegiate universities, meaning that a successful applicant gains a place at the university and will be a member of a college for the entirety of their undergraduate course. A college is an academic community, and is the center of undergraduate life, including sporting, musical and dramatic pursuits, and socializing.

Each college at Oxford and Cambridge differs in a number of ways, including size, location, atmosphere, and facilities. Students should research colleges of interest prior to application.

Individual colleges are responsible for admitting their own students, although they do this on behalf of the university as a whole. Students either apply to a specific college or make an open application, meaning they will be assigned to a college based on space availability. Both universities also operate a pooling system—reallocating applicants from the most over-subscribed colleges to level out an uneven application field. Somewhere between 30 percent to 40 percent of undergraduates, depending on the subject, end up at a different college than the one to which they applied.

### Oxford or Cambridge?

Bright and motivated students who have an academic passion for a particular subject may find it difficult to decide between Oxford and Cambridge. Students must choose their course when applying, rather than declaring a major while at university. When deciding between Oxford and Cambridge, students should look first at the degrees offered by each institution, as these vary considerably. Oxford offers more joint-honors courses (e.g. philosophy, politics, and economics; or computer science and philosophy), whereas Cambridge tends to offer more single-subject honors courses, though it has recently introduced joint programs in history and politics, as well as history and modern languages.

For subjects such as history or law that are offered by both universities, students are advised to research the content of the degree course before making a final decision. Note the compulsory and optional modules, opportunities for studying abroad, and teaching and assessment methods.

**Apply:** International student application requirements are online.

- [University of Oxford](#)
- [University of Cambridge](#)

## University of Oxford

Qualifications:

**IB Diploma:** Depending on the program of study, students are expected to have a total of 38, 39, or 40 points, including the core points. Specific minimum scores in certain courses may be required; students should check online for course-specific requirements. See the [course listing](#) and [international qualifications](#) webpage for details.

**SAT:** Oxford will accept the SAT. Students taking the SAT will need to achieve a total score of at least 1,470 out of 1,600. Oxford does not require the optional essay.

**ACT:** A minimum score of 32 out of 36 is required.

**AP/SAT Subject Tests:** SAT and ACT scores should be supplemented by at least three or more AP tests in appropriate subjects with scores of 5, or three SAT Subject Tests in appropriate subjects with scores of 700 or better.

**Other Tests:** Most programs also require students to take additional, subject-specific tests. Students seeking a bachelor's in law must take the National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT), for example, and math applicants must take the Mathematics Admissions Test (MAT). Results help to determine which candidates will be invited to interview. Some tests need to be completed before the application deadline, while others are completed after application, but before the interview. Students must check course websites to learn what tests are required and should schedule them early in the process. Most tests are administered in early November or late October. Students should check the details of which test(s) they need to take no later than early September to allow time to find and register at the nearest test center. Students are not expected to come to Oxford for their test(s), but their nearest test center may not be local. Schools and colleges may be able to register as a test center, if they haven't already. Further details can be found through [Oxford's website](#).



**Writing Sample:** Many courses require a [writing sample](#) that demonstrates the student's analytical, reasoning, and writing skills.

Students must submit their work by the deadline. The college that is considering their application may have particular format requirements (e.g., in PDF form), so it is important that students ensure their submissions meet these requirements.

**Interviews:** Course faculty, known as tutors, typically create a short list of candidates by late November or early December and then invite selected students for an interview. Applicants may receive very short notice of an interview date. Note that any travel costs incurred are at the student's expense. The college considering the application may choose to interview the student via telephone or Skype, but this is not guaranteed. Interviews for specific subjects take place within a designated time frame, and applicants must make sure that they are available on the dates required for their subject, although remote interviews may need to be scheduled outside of this time period, subject to the availability of the professors.

Interviewees should be well-read and knowledgeable about the subject matter of the course to which they are applying. They should also thoroughly review the selection criteria for their course, be fully familiar with what they wrote in their personal statement, be cognizant of relevant arguments, and be prepared to discuss their own views.

**Offers:** Students can expect a decision by the end of January of the year in which they plan to matriculate. An offer may come directly from the college to which a student applied, or it may come from another college within the university. For students who have not yet completed high school, the offer will likely be conditional on final results.

### Resources:

- [US and Canada-specific information](#)
- [Interview Arrangements for International Students](#)

## University of Cambridge

### Qualifications:

**IB Diploma:** Students should have a total of between 40 and 42 points, with 7/7/6 in IB Higher Level subjects. Applicants may be required to achieve a 7 in a particular subject, depending on individual circumstances.

**SAT:** Cambridge accepts minimum SAT scores of 730 in the reading and writing section and 730 on the mathematics section are required.

**ACT:** A minimum score of 32 out of 36 is required.

**AP/SAT Subject Tests:** Applicants must submit a minimum of five AP tests (with scores of 5) in appropriate subjects. Note that SAT Subject Tests are not normally viewed as being equivalent to A Level/IB Higher Level/Advanced Placement (AP) Tests.

**COPA:** The Cambridge Online Preliminary Application (COPA) is required of all applicants outside the European Union. A student's application will be considered invalid unless the COPA is received by Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. GMT. The application fee is 30 pounds. The applicant must ensure the college of choice (see The College System section) on a student's COPA matches the college indicated on the UCAS application. If a student does not have a college preference, the UCAS and COPA applications should reflect the open application option. Cambridge will match open applications with a college.

**Transcripts:** Transcripts must be submitted or the application will not be eligible for review. More information about transcript submission deadlines can be found on the [University of Cambridge's website](#).

**SAQ:** After students have submitted their UCAS application, they will receive a SAQ—an online form that collects additional information not found in the UCAS application. The SAQ is an opportunity for students to write about issues specific to Cambridge that are not addressed in their UCAS application. Students are advised to pay close attention to the deadline for the SAQ. The 2018 deadline for most students will be 6 p.m. GMT on Oct. 22. Students for whom a different deadline applies will be notified by their college. Also, be aware a student must include their COPA code, received after submitting the COPA, in the SAQ.

**Other Tests:** Other tests may be required, depending on the course of study. For example, applicants to mathematics and related courses must complete the Sixth Term Examination Paper (STEP). Students are urged to check the specific course website for details about any required tests; some exams may need to be completed prior to the application deadline, while others are completed after application.

**Interviews:** Admission decisions at the University of Cambridge are based solely on academic criteria and all applications are reviewed by academic staff members within the college that the student has applied to or been allocated. Applicants with a realistic chance of being offered a place are invited to attend an interview—usually around 75 percent of applicants each year. Cambridge interviews vary from subject to subject and from college to college, but the main focus of interviews is to explore the candidates' academic potential, motivation, and suitability for the chosen course of study. Interviews are similar in many ways to supervisions and help selectors gauge how candidates would respond to the teaching methods used at Cambridge.

**Offers:** Students can expect a decision by the end of January of the year they plan to matriculate. An offer may come directly from the college to which the student applied or it may come from another college, through the pooling system. For students who have not yet completed high school, the offer will likely be conditional on final results.

### Resources:

- [US-Specific Information](#)
- [COPA Cambridge](#)
- [SAQ Cambridge](#)





UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



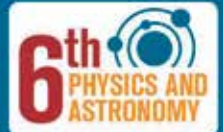
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\*MSN Travel Survey 2009, 2010, 2011, What Uni Student Choice Awards 2014 and Which? University Survey 2016, 2017



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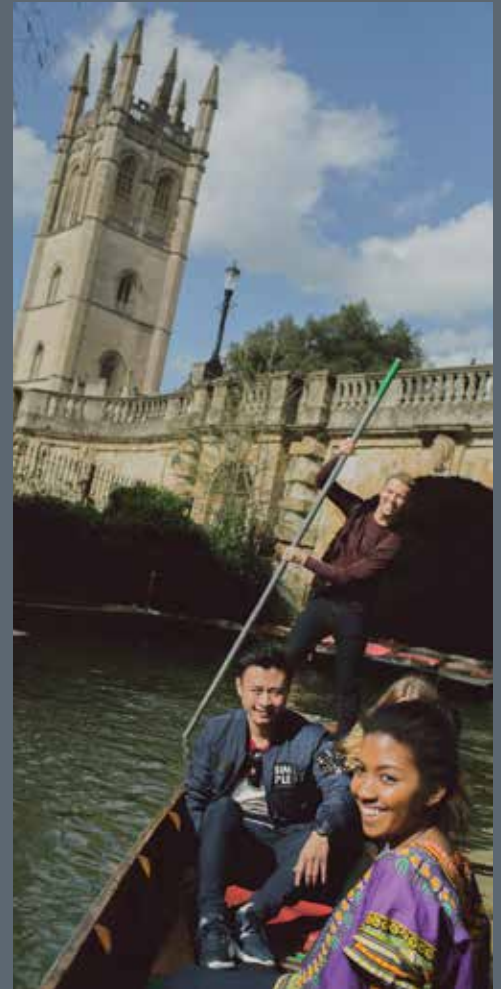
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Rebecca Peterson, Kirkwood, MO,  
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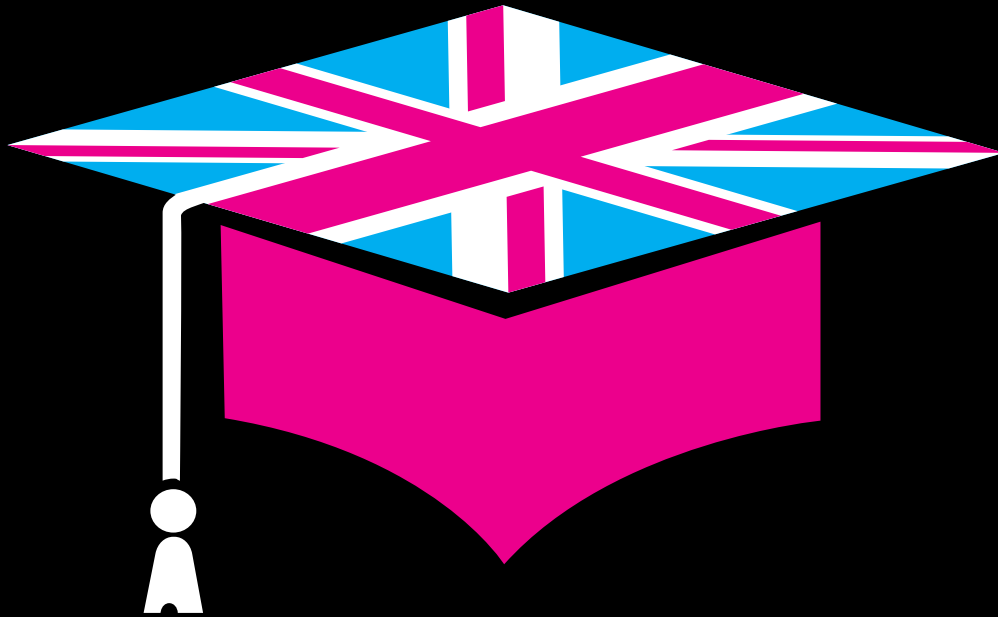
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- Counselor briefings
- Attendance at annual NACAC Conference and some regional conferences
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*"Participating in Explore England's 'Degree in a Week' counselor program is a special experience, which provides a synergistic understanding of higher education in the UK, while highlighting unique features of each university. Not only did spending a week discovering what each school had to offer deepen my understanding of the nuances between programs and demonstrate the benefits of a UK education, but also makes me pleased to host Explore England for presentations at my school, giving me a chance to learn of new features and introduce opportunities to my families."*

Lorie Komlyn, Director of College Counseling (far right of photograph)  
International School of Boston, MA

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Picture: Samuel Alexander Building, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, named after the renowned Professor of Philosophy who worked at The University of Manchester 1893 to 1925.

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Members of the National Association for College Admission Counseling come together for one reason—to better serve students in the transition to higher education. Members are committed to the fair and ethical treatment of all students and represent the association’s commitment to the dignity, worth, and potential of every student, to one another, and to our communities.

NACAC membership is open to enrollment management, admission and counseling professionals and others from institutions and organizations who assist students in their educational pursuits beyond high school.

“NACAC is committed to the best interests of students, families, and the dedicated professionals who serve them in the college transition process.” —Joyce Smith, NACAC CEO

## Core Values

### Education

We believe in and are committed to educating students, their families, the public, fellow education professionals, and ourselves about the transition to and within postsecondary education.

### Fairness and Equity

We believe our members have a responsibility to treat one another and students in a fundamentally fair and equitable manner. Our institutional and individual members strive to eliminate from the education system bias based on race, ethnicity, creed, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, age, political affiliation, national origin, or disability. We view this as fundamental to our responsibility as educators.

### Professionalism

We believe that ethical behavior is the foundation of the counseling, admission, and enrollment management profession. We are responsible for the integrity of our actions and, insofar as we can affect them, the actions of our member institutions, organizations, and individuals.

### Civility

We believe members should conduct dialogue with respect and openness to differences, listening to various perspectives from a place of support and understanding. Members should strive to disagree without being disrespectful, abusive, or demeaning.

### Collaboration

We believe the effectiveness of our profession—college counseling, admission, and enrollment management—is enhanced when we work together to advocate for students and their best interests.

### Trust

We believe our profession is based upon trust, mutual respect, and honesty with one another and with students.

### Social Responsibility

Connect with colleagues, bolster your recruitment efforts, and engage in a professional community dedicated to service and the highest ethical standards.

### Education, Networking, and Programming

- Professional Development
- National College Fairs
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### Resources and Information

- NACAC *Bulletin*
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# DIVERSE AND UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS ABROAD

An international educational experience offers students many long-term benefits, including self-confidence, a broadened world view, and expanded career path. Yet traditionally underserved populations remain underrepresented in education abroad. Given the benefits gained, non-participants may be at a competitive disadvantage. Building awareness of the barriers these populations face in pursuing international opportunities—and how to better support them—plays a critical role in addressing this disparity.

In 2016 the [National Center for Education Statistics](#) reported that 46 percent of all undergraduate students identified as people of color, a 27 percent increase since 1980. Yet while diversity in higher education continues to increase, representation in other areas of the undergraduate collegiate experience have not followed suit. This is particularly true of international experiences. In 2016, 72 percent of US study abroad students were white; 10 percent were Hispanic or Latino; 9 percent were Asian, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander; 5 percent were black or African-American; and less than 1 percent identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native, according to IIE's [Open Doors data](#). These numbers are an improvement over previous years, but there is still room for further growth.

It is also important to think of representation in terms beyond race and ethnicity, including all groups that have not traditionally participated in global programs. In addition to racial and ethnic minorities, [Diversity Abroad](#)—an international organization that connects diverse students with meaningful international experiences—identifies the following groups: economically disadvantaged students,

students with disabilities, LGBTQI+ students, and first-generation students.

Gender is another important consideration. Though women make up the majority of American study abroad participants, they are included in diversity discussions as a result of sensitivities around gender inequality in host countries. Men, on the other hand, have in fact been underrepresented in international programs. IIE's data for the past decade show the female-to-male participation rate for students studying abroad has consistently been two-to-one.

The factors influencing participation from these groups are varied and complex. However, by identifying the issues deterring international study and recognizing factors that encourage participation, counselors can better serve their students. Table 1 offers a breakdown of these obstacles as well as practices proven to mitigate these challenges.

Making the decision to pursue an international educational experience takes time and energy, but above all it requires students to be aware it's even a possibility. There are several organizations currently working to provide services and information for underrepresented populations in international education. Some of these organizations cater specifically to certain groups, and most of them focus on short-term educational opportunities. However, their content can also be applicable as students consider the viability of pursuing other international experiences, such as three-year full degrees abroad and community college-to-international university pathways. A list of organizations and resources can be found in Table 2.

Table 1: Challenges and Strategies for Diverse and Underrepresented Student Representation in International Education

Population	Challenges/Concerns	Strategies
Racial and Ethnic Minorities	Financial barriers, lack of information, social capital, fear of discrimination, lack of support, institutional and academic barriers	Inclusive messaging, broader understanding of why it is important
Economically Disadvantaged Students	Financial barriers, loss of income (job) while abroad, family obligations, heavily structured majors	Exposure to program options, presenting the cost of lost opportunities, early planning and budgeting, institutional and external scholarships, cost savings of pursuing full degree abroad, peer support
Students with Disabilities	Insufficient knowledge of available programs, lack of assistive devices and services, financial barriers, challenges to requesting accommodation, concerns about perception abroad, family support	Awareness of available opportunities, support from peers and study abroad alumnae, equal access to advising
Women	Social norms in the destination country as well as the US	Research on safety abroad, social norms of the host country, adaptability, advice from peers, support from program organizers
Men	Peer influence, perceived incompatibility with field of study (particularly STEM), perceived as a female-dominated activity, home obligations	Link reasons for going directly to major or career, provide support from professionals in the field or major faculty
LGBTQI+ Students	Privacy, fear of discrimination by host culture and program organizers	Inclusive messaging, research on safety abroad, social norms of the host country, adaptability, advice from peers, support from program organizers
First-Generation Students	Financial barriers, loss of income (job) while abroad, family obligations, heavily structured majors	Exposure to program options, presenting the cost of lost opportunities, early planning and budgeting, institutional and external scholarships, peer support
Undocumented Students	Legal status, academic success, reduced social and cultural capital, financial barriers	Advance parole, legal counsel from a board-certified attorney with access to US Citizenship and Immigration Services or representative from a Board of Immigration Appeals, participation in local global programs

Table 2: Resources by Student Demographic

Population	Strategies
Racial and Ethnic Minorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Diversity Abroad</a></li> </ul>
Students with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Diversity Abroad</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mobility International USA</a></li> </ul>
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Diversity Abroad</a></li> </ul>
LGBTQI+ Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Diversity Abroad</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Association</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">NAFSA Rainbow SIG</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">NAFSA LGBTQI+ Student Advising Guide for Education Abroad Professionals</a></li> </ul>
First-Generation Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Diversity Abroad</a></li> </ul>
Undocumented Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">NAFSA</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Traveling Abroad with Advance Parole: A Guide for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Beneficiaries</a></li> </ul>

Diverse Students

# AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES ABROAD

**Brief Background:** American Universities Abroad (AUA), formerly American Colleges Overseas (ACO), is a group of private American universities located outside of the US that offer English-taught degree programs modeled on American curricula and quality oversight practices. AUA universities meet the following criteria:

- Have US regional accreditation
- Are nonprofit
- Operate on the US academic credit system
- Participate in US federal financial aid

AUA universities are located in different regions of the world, and encourage international perspectives and cross-cultural education within the context of their degree programs. Each AUA university enrolls a significant number of international applicants, leading to a diverse and multinational population of students on campus. American students make up the largest percentage of students at most AUA universities, but there is typically less than 50 percent of any one nationality.

**Good to Know:** Many AUA institutions specialize in the humanities. AUA universities offer a liberal arts style

of education, including general education as well as major requirements, and grant US degrees. Some AUA universities also offer a nationally recognized degree from the local host country.

For institutions that have a US-based campus and a campus abroad—such as Webster University or Saint Louis University—degrees can be completed in their entirety at the campus abroad, or students can spend time completing academic requirements in both countries. Some AUA universities, such as John Cabot University, have direct exchange partnerships with US universities, allowing students to complete part of their undergraduate experience in the United States.

Fundamental to the student experience in AUA programs is engagement with global issues, experiential learning, travel and cross-cultural exchange, and an emphasis on global citizenship. AUA universities instill a cosmopolitan outlook and teach students how to adapt to change. Students have the opportunity to experience not only a US-style education, but are also uniquely situated to immerse themselves in the culture of the university's host country as well.



**Academic Calendar:** AUA universities follow a traditional American academic calendar, generally beginning in August or September and continuing until May, with summer course options.

**Search:** Many AUA universities are members of The Common Application and can be found using the Common App search function. Many AUA university admission representatives are also active in events and fairs in the United States throughout the fall and spring, and some AUA institutions have admission representatives based in the United States.

**Apply:** AUA universities follow a traditional US timeline, with applications accepted beginning in the late summer or fall. Institutions that are members of The Common Application require students to use the portal to apply, sometimes asking applicants to complete a supplementary essay. As in the US, other requirements vary, and sometimes include an interview, meeting, or phone conversation in addition to the application. Those schools not on The Common Application use a similar approach to admission, but requirements differ among institutions.

**Deadlines:** AUA admission decisions are often rolling, though there are deadlines for confirmation of acceptance. For US students the May 1 deadline is generally observed.

**Application Fee:** Fees vary by institution, even those that accept The Common Application.

**Academic Requirements:** Most AUA institutions opt to review applications holistically. Counselors and students should check with each school for the required minimum GPA, as they vary by institution. The universities award academic credit demonstrated by AP test scores, IB diplomas, and A-level exams. While test scores are not always required, the institutions will accept and may assess them as a part of the application review when submitted.

**Upon Acceptance:** US students should confirm enrollment by May 1.

There are associated deposit fees for confirmation and in some cases for housing. AUA universities generally have an extensive pre-arrival process. Admission counselors and student life officials help students with each step they need to complete to arrive promptly and safely—including visa acquisition, as well as travel, housing, and banking arrangements. Some AUA universities direct students to websites that offer discounted student airfare.

**Tuition and Fees:** Tuition varies among institutions. Counselors and students should check each school for estimates regarding tuition and living costs.

## How do I know if a university abroad has US regional accreditation?

US regional accreditation is one way to assess institutional quality. In the US there are seven regional accrediting bodies that oversee postsecondary education at public and private institutions. While national accreditation seems like it would be more important, regional accreditation is older and generally more prestigious. American accrediting agencies are increasingly evaluating foreign institutions as they believe they have a role to play in promoting the mobility of students and faculty.

The following agencies keep an updated directory of accredited institutions, including non-US institutions:

- [Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges](#)
- [Mid-Atlantic Region Commission on Higher Education, Middle States Commission on Higher Education](#)
- [Higher Learning Commission, formerly part of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools](#)
- [Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities](#)
- [Western Association of Schools and Colleges](#)
- [New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education](#)
- [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission](#)

Some AUA universities bill tuition in the currency of the country where they are located. Some schools list the dates when the exchange rate will be set—typically early July for the fall semester, and early November for the spring semester—so students and families can better understand what they will pay in US dollars, and budget accordingly.

Financial aid, both institutional and federal, is available at all AUA institutions. Institutional financial aid is determined by each university. US citizens can also access federal student loan opportunities by filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Note that current US government legislation prohibits US citizens enrolled in colleges or universities outside the United States from receiving Pell Grants, SEOG, Perkins Loans, or Federal Work Study funds, even though they may be eligible for such assistance. Additionally, all AUA universities offer merit-based scholarships. Some award need-based scholarships and have programs similar to American work study.



**Housing:** Each university strives to provide affordable housing options for their students. Accommodations vary among institutions and can include on-campus housing (some with residential advisors) and off-campus accommodations, such as apartment-style living, host families, or residence halls managed by local universities. Meal plan options also exist at many AUA universities. Most AUA institutions have a housing department and/or housing partner that will help students secure housing for their first year and beyond. Some AUA universities require that students use university-approved housing—on-campus or provided by a partner—during their first year of studies.

**Visas and Other Permits:** In most cases students will need a student visa to study in their AUA host country. The visa acquisition process varies in length, but students begin it once they have confirmed their attendance. Fees to obtain the student visa vary depending on the destination country. AUA institutions offer admitted students help with the required paperwork and process. However, students must follow the host country's policies for visa application.

Students may be able to work part-time with their student visa while studying at an AUA institution, however, availability varies by country. For the most part, students are not guaranteed any type of visa or permit to remain in-country after they complete their education, unless sponsored by another organization or employer.

**Advice from the Field:** Communications and the assistance provided by an AUA university are similar to that of US-based institutions. One possible difference is that many of the AUA universities are smaller in size compared to many universities in the US, so the support that students and counselors receive tends to be very personalized. Students can expect one-on-one attention starting with the admission process and extending on to academic advising and on through graduation.

Because student visas are required in most cases, it is important that counselors encourage students to be in constant contact with their admission representative for help with each step of the process.

# US BRANCH CAMPUSES

A branch campus is one that operates in one country, but is owned and operated (at least in part) by a university that is based in a different country, according to the SUNY Albany-based Cross-Border Education Research Team (C-Bert). C-Bert [maintains a list of institutions](#) that meet its definition of an international branch campus (along with links to branch campus websites). Note that this website is not specifically focused on admission procedures. Some college guidebooks, including Fiske Guides, also identify several branch campuses that draw a diverse student body, including US students.

More than 50 US colleges and universities operate one or more branch campuses in another country, offering additional opportunities for students to earn a US college degree outside of the United States. Most US branch campuses operate very similarly to their main campuses in the United States, with courses typically taught in English. However, a branch campus is usually smaller in size than its home campus and boasts an extremely diverse student body.

There are various models associated with the branch campus concept. Many branch campuses are organized as part of a hub, in which several branch campuses—for example from the United States or other countries—are operating alongside one another. Major hubs can be found in Qatar, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, and China. Education City in Qatar, for example, includes six American universities, one British university, and one French university, each offering a degree program in a field for which the institution is well-known. Alternatively, Yale-NUS College in Singapore is sometimes viewed as a branch campus by virtue of its affiliation with Yale, however it does not award a Yale degree. Rather, it awards a Yale-NUS degree. New York University offers another model, where its campuses in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai form a global network with its main campus in New York and 11 international academic centers.

Enrollment at branch campuses is open to local nationals who meet admission criteria and other students coming from around the world. Many US universities that operate branch campuses welcome US students to these locations for short-term educational experiences,

and some actively recruit US students for full degree programs. The following represent examples of US student enrollment at branch campuses:

- At New York University (NYU) Shanghai, a degree-granting campus in NYU's global network, 51 percent of each entering class is made up of Chinese nationals, while the remaining 49 percent come from around the rest of the world, including the United States.
- Many students at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia study abroad at Mason Korea, just outside of Seoul. The branch campus also enrolls several US citizens in full undergraduate degree programs.
- The Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus enrolls 750 students with around 300 coming from St. Louis for semester programs.

The number of majors available at any one university's branch campus tends to be fewer than what the home campus offers. Marist Italy, a branch campus of Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, offers four-year degrees at its Florence campus in majors such as studio art, art history, conservation studies, digital media, fashion design, interior design, and Italian language.

It is important to note that some governments place restrictions on teaching and research, potentially influencing the types of programs offered. This also raises concerns about academic freedom.

Many branch campuses follow an academic calendar that is similar to that of the home campus. In some cases, the application process, fees, and other admission-related policies and procedures are similar for US students at both the home and branch campus. However, because admission representatives at branch campuses review applications from a very diverse applicant pool, standard US admission requirements—for example the SAT or ACT—may or may not be factored into admission or scholarship decisions. Exceptions tend to be context-specific. For admission to NYU Shanghai, for example, Chinese nationals must take the gaokao as part of the university's agreement with the Ministry of Education in China.

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# INTERNATIONAL PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

Community colleges are an integral facet of the US higher education sector. More than 1,460 community colleges across the United States serve an estimated 10 million students each year, offering a wide variety of vocational courses as well as academically oriented associate degree programs. For many students, community colleges provide a cost-effective path toward attaining a bachelor's degree via established transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities.

Historically, community colleges have developed these “2+2” progression programs with local and regional institutions. Increasingly, however, there is a growing interest among community colleges to also partner with international institutions. These international partnerships not only strengthen a college's global outlook, but also provide students with more options for completing their undergraduate degrees.

A number of community colleges across the country have already established progression agreements with universities from the United Kingdom, France, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, and South Korea, among other countries.

**Benefits of International Transfer:** Research has shown that community college students are the least likely to consider studying abroad. However, transferring to an international university may be a particularly attractive option for these students because of the cost-saving benefits. Since foreign institutions tend to charge substantially lower tuition than their American counterparts, enrolling in an international university may be cheaper than attending a local public or private college.

In addition, because of how the progression agreements are structured, students may only need to study for one year abroad to attain their bachelor's degree. In contrast, a four-year American institution typically requires transfer students to complete two additional years of coursework. The “2+1” programs offered by some international universities can therefore save students a year's worth of tuition and living expenses.

**Transfer Agreement Structure:** International collaborations tend to take a few forms. Some institutions establish guaranteed admission agreements that ensure students' entrance to a partner institution when certain academic requirements are met. Others create articulation agreements that define the way specific courses and programs of study will transfer between partner institutions. Guaranteed admission and articulation agreements are not mutually exclusive.



Note that sometimes these agreements encompass only certain degree programs. For example, Brookdale Community College (NJ) has an articulation agreement with Aberystwyth University (UK) applicable only for students with associate degrees in business administration, English literature, creative writing, media communication, and fine art.

**Application Process:** The process of applying to a partner institution abroad varies. Whereas some universities require students to complete an online application and furnish a copy of their transcript, others have a more involved application process. For instance, Green River College (WA) has specific conditions for admission to its University Transfer Pathway Program with University College Roosevelt in the Netherlands. In addition to completing 60 college-level credits and earning at least a 3.5 GPA, interested students must submit a letter of recommendation and sit for an admission interview with university faculty and staff.

## Sample of US Community Colleges and International Universities with Progression Agreements

US Community Colleges	
Brookdale Community College	NJ
College of Marin	CA
De Anza College	CA
Diablo Valley College	CA
Foothill College	CA
Green River College	WA
Hawaii Tokai International College	HI
Kapi'olani Community College	HI
Kirkwood Community College	IA
Leeward Community College	HI
Los Angeles City College	CA
Mercer County Community College	NJ
Mira Costa College	CA
Moraine Valley Community College	IL
Northeast Community College	NE
Northeast Wisconsin Technical College	WI
Northern Essex Community College	MA
Northern Virginia Community College	VA
Northwestern Michigan College	MI
Orange Coast College	CA
Raritan Valley Community College	NJ
Santa Barbara City College	CA
International Universities	
Abertay University	United Kingdom
Aberystwyth University	United Kingdom
Bath Spa University	United Kingdom
George Mason University Korea	South Korea
Institute of Technology, Tralee	Ireland
Josai International University	Japan
Kansai Gaidai University	Japan
Tokai University	Japan
Keele University	United Kingdom
University of Lincoln	United Kingdom
Open University	United Kingdom
Robert Gordon University	United Kingdom
Temple University – Japan	Japan
The American University of Paris	France
University College Roosevelt	Netherlands
University of Greenwich	United Kingdom
University of Wales – Trinity Saint David	United Kingdom
University of West England Bristol	United Kingdom
University of West London	United Kingdom

# INTERNATIONAL DUAL AND JOINT PROGRAMS

International dual and joint degrees are programs in which two or more institutions from different countries form partnerships to design and deliver an academic program. In many of these programs, institutions in non-English speaking countries are paired with US institutions. According to research conducted by the American Council on Education (ACE), the top five partner countries for international joint and dual degree programs are China, France, Turkey, Germany, and South Korea.

ACE defines two types of programs:

In dual degree programs, a student receives a qualification from each of the partner institutions. These programs are also known as double degrees.

In joint degree programs, a student receives a single qualification endorsed by both institutions.

Dual degree programs tend to be more complex and variable. In some programs, students might receive a degree from each university in the same program of study, while at others they may receive a degree from each institution for distinctly different majors. Some offer two degrees, but at different levels, such as awarding a bachelor's from one institution and a master's degree

from another. Students are advised to make sure they understand program policies before enrolling.

Many joint and dual degree programs require students to study at the partner institution overseas for one to two years or during the summer. One such example, the program between the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, offers undergraduate students the option to pursue a joint degree in economics, English, history, or international relations. Depending on where they enroll their first year, students will then spend their second year at the other university, and consult with their advisors on how to split their third and fourth years between the two locations.

International joint and dual degree programs also help US institutions diversify their campuses. ACE's data show that 63 percent of joint or dual degree programs enroll non-US students only; 34 percent enroll a mix of US and non-US students; and only 4 percent enroll just American students. US universities express eagerness to expand the numbers of US students engaged in such programs, but thus far they have proven more popular among international students hoping to study in the United States.

# INTERNATIONAL GAP YEAR OPTIONS

**Brief Background:** A gap year, sometimes called a bridge year, is an option for students who want to spend a semester or year away from a traditional academic environment and immerse themselves in an experiential learning environment, either before starting their first year of college or at some point during their early undergraduate years.

**The Gap Year Association (GYA)**, a nonprofit accreditation and federally-recognized standards-setting member organization, estimates that about 80 percent of gap year participants travel internationally for some portion of their gap year time, and 71 percent report studying abroad later in college.

A gap year is distinguished from a study abroad in its timing and focus, being spent mostly deepening practical, professional, and personal awareness generally, as opposed to focusing on a particular area of study

Examples of gap year experiences that involve an international component include working for two months with baboons in South Africa, interning with a mobile cinema in rural Argentina, studying solar panels in an international community in Northern India, participating in AmeriCorps CityYear program, or learning from a local artist in Mexico.

**Good to Know:** Gap year students are sometimes called *gappers*. GYA, defines a successful gap year as one that: primarily employs experiential learning methods; lasts a minimum of 2-months; includes some amount of service or volunteering; helps participants explore possible career paths; and challenges students to step outside their comfort zone. Participants should approach their gap year as an experience in its own right; not as a strategy to get into a better school or get more financial aid.

**General Structure:** Think about a gap year as multiple, independent activities superimposed onto an academic calendar—trimesters or semesters.

The majority of students who participate in gap year experiences spend most of their year unaffiliated to a formal program, stitching together a mix of internships, work, adventure, and travel. However, GYA recommends launching the gap year with a structured introductory experience, with the remaining half to three-quarters of a student's year spent more independently. This ensures gappers have ample opportunity to get trained on cultural issues, life-safety issues, global political situations, etc.



### Benefits:

- 90 percent of gap year graduates enter a four-year college within a year of their gap year experience.
- Gappers over-perform in college, often achieving GPAs 0.15 to 0.45 points higher than average—benefits that are sustained throughout their college career.
- The median time for gappers to graduate with a bachelor's degree is 3.75 years.
- 86 percent of gap year students report being satisfied or very satisfied with their careers post-degree.

Source: Hoe, Nina, *Institute for Survey Research, Temple University, 2015 National Gap Year Alumni Survey*

**Search:** The GYA accredits programs based on pedagogy and safety. A list of accredited programs can be found on the [GYA website](#).

NACAC's National College Fairs provide students with an opportunity to meet with [eligible gap year programs](#). USA Gap Year Fairs is another helpful resource. This is an annual series of nationwide fairs that typically take place in January and February, and include a wide-range of program providers and speakers.

Other resources offer more general listings of gap year programs, for example [Go Overseas](#) and [TeenLife](#). While these programs are not formally vetted they are peer-reviewed, and can provide a greater variety for students to consider. There are also a number of [professional gap year consultants](#) who work with families to maximize the gap year. The GYA also manages a process for [accrediting Professional Gap Year Consultants](#).

**Apply:** Gap year programs beginning in fall typically fill up by early summer and most gappers begin researching options some time in their junior year of high school. However, some students might not begin considering a gap year until the spring of their senior year once they have received decisions from the colleges they applied to.

**Typical Cost:** Although some students can spend as little as US\$5,000 during a gap year, it is more common for a year to run between US\$15,000 and US\$25,000. GYA-accredited programs gave away US\$4 million in need-based financial aid in 2016.

An increasing number of programs can be financed by US federal loans and grants, which students access by filing the FAFSA. Contact the program directly to determine if this is a possibility. Additionally, several Department of State scholarship opportunities are available that could fund the entire year or defray a portion of the expenses. Note that in order to be eligible for US federal loans and scholarships, students have to be earning college credit (see below). The [GYA website](#) can provide more information.



### Can a student get college credit from participating in a gap year?

Some gap year programs offer college credit. In these cases, it is typically applied as general education credit or on par with AP credit. Shortening the overall cost of college, by coming in with a semester of credit for instance, is how some students and families justify participation in a gap year. Students are strongly encouraged to check with individual institutions about the potential financial aid implications of entering college as a first-year student with some credit already earned. In some cases, they may be treated as a transfer student even if they have deferred admission.

The method for assigning credit for a gap year experience varies depending on the partnership between the gap year program and partner university. Typically, organizations work to ensure the experiential learning pedagogies of the gap year program are not sacrificed, instead requiring papers, journals, and/or presentations after completion of the program.

Some institutions run their own gap year programs, such as Tufts University (MA), Princeton University (NJ), Savannah College of Art and Design (GA), Florida State University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to name a few. Each operates with a particular focus. Tufts, for instance, focuses on service as the central theme. Find out more about universities with favorable deferral policies through [GYA's Official Gap Year Colleges listing](#).

**Advice from the Field:** A good litmus test to determine whether a gap year would be appropriate for a student is to ask what excites them about college. If they genuinely light up at the academic prospects of an institution of higher learning, then they should strongly consider matriculating. If, however, they struggle for an answer or fail to show excitement about the prospect of direct enrollment into a university, then a gap year should be actively discussed. Counselors are encouraged to initiate a conversation as most students do not know that gap years are an option or may have misperceptions about its outcomes. In an informal survey by the IECA, 50% of students who were offered a gap year option on their college list chose to become a gapper. In every case, however, make sure the student leads the way and their parents don't take on the lion's share of the work and exploration.

Gap years are best-suited to students without active therapeutic needs, although gap year students needing medications are not uncommon. However, more “pre-gap programs,” like *Pacia Life*, work with students needing more therapeutic oversight.

In helping students identify gap year options, ask them to spend an hour writing down the various elements—countries, languages, activities, housing situations, physical/emotional/academic challenges, personal goals—that they think would be most interesting. Keep in mind that as a student's research broadens and self-awareness grows, options will often change.

Many students who do a gap year have already applied and gained admission to a university; it is easier to gather materials and fill out college applications while still in high school. These students then defer their admission for a year. If a student intends to pursue an undergraduate degree following their gap year, encourage them to share their gap year plans with admission officers at their deferred or prospective institutions. Increasingly, colleges and universities are developing formal policies for students choosing to defer so they can take part in a gap year. As well, some schools are recruiting gap year graduates with higher merit-aid awards knowing that, on average, they will significantly contribute to the college reputation and campus community.

Roughly 12 percent of gap year students change their college plans as a result of the personal growth they experience during their gap year. Some students apply to other schools during the gap year and some reapply to schools where they were not originally accepted in hopes that the gap year will improve their chances of being accepted. Again, this experience should not be encouraged as a means to an end.

Several gap year programs provide participants with college application resources and supports. Nonetheless, students should work through the high school counselor who originally helped them with college applications, and who has access to their transcripts and other academic records. These should include letters of recommendation requested by the student and written by teachers and the counselor during the student's final year of high school.



# SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD

## US GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

**Brief Background:** Study abroad is one of the best ways students can acquire the global skills and experiences that colleges are looking for in their applicants and that employers are increasingly looking for in their workers. By studying abroad, students experience new perspectives, learn how to work with diverse peers, and can immerse themselves in learning other languages.

Each year more than a quarter million American students pursue short-term study abroad while enrolled as undergraduates at a US postsecondary institution. The programs they participate in take many forms—including studying, interning, or volunteering abroad—and range from a week to a full academic year. Studying abroad for a shorter term during college or high school can be a good option for students who show an interest in studying internationally, but who are not certain they want to commit to a full undergraduate degree program outside the US.

The US government recognizes the need for more American students to have meaningful study abroad experiences, to better prepare them for 21st century jobs and global challenges. The US Study Abroad Office, a US State Department-supported initiative, was launched in 2015 with a goal of increasing and diversifying student participation in study abroad. The office manages the

Benjamin Gilman and Critical Language Scholarship Programs, helps build institutional supports through the administration of capacity-building grants and workshops, and advocates for study abroad. The [government-supported website](#) provides information on US and foreign government resources in support of study abroad.

**Good to Know:** In 2015–16, study abroad for academic credit increased by 4 percent from the prior academic year. Moreover, the racial and ethnic diversity of students studying abroad has increased over the past decade. The top 10 destinations for US students studying abroad are: United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, France, Germany, China, Ireland, Australia, Costa Rica, and Japan.

**Search:** The Department of State, the Department of Education, and the Department of Defense fund a number of programs that enable K-12 and university students to conduct research, work, or study abroad. A list of these programs can be found through [State Department's US Study Abroad website](#).

**Apply:** Given the great and growing diversity of study abroad programs, application and visa deadlines vary. Students should be familiar with the requirements of the program to which they are applying as some require specific applications, supporting documents, testing, and/or essays.

**Cost:** Efforts are underway to make study abroad more accessible and affordable for anyone wanting to take advantage of this important educational experience. Many of the US government study abroad programs are fully or partially funded. Students can also use federal financial aid to fund their studies abroad. Find out more about how federal student aid can help students pay for their international study experience through [US Study Abroad's website](#).

**Advice from the Field:** Encouraging exchange students at your school to share their culture and their experiences as international students can make the thought of studying abroad less daunting and more appealing for American students.

[Country and Regional Profiles](#) from the US Study Abroad Office provide an overview of the academic systems in each country and resources available for students interested in studying in those countries.

Encourage students to inquire about undergraduate study abroad options when college and university representatives visit your school. At many institutions, offices are dedicated to helping students pursue study abroad options, including government-supported programs.

Generation Study Abroad is an initiative of the Institute of International Education (IIE), a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing access to education worldwide. The aim is to have 600,000 US students studying abroad annually by 2019 (roughly double the number today) and to diversify participation among students and destinations.

NACAC is one of more than 800 partners that have joined Generation Study Abroad to promote these ambitious goals.

Learn more and join the conversation on the [IIE website](#).



Short-Term

# FEDERAL AID OUTSIDE THE US

Students may be able to use US federal student loans to finance studies outside the United States for a semester or an entire degree. The type of aid a student can obtain and the process for applying depends on the type of program they intend to enter.

**Types of Aid:** Hundreds of universities around the world participate in the [US William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program](#). Students planning to attend one of these schools may be eligible to use either a Direct Subsidized Loan or Direct Unsubsidized Loan to finance their undergraduate education.

## SEEK AID EARLY

State and local financial assistance programs, including private scholarships, may be available to help with study abroad and overseas study. Students should take the time to check carefully, calling or emailing the funding agency and asking specific questions well in advance of committing to a course of study outside the United States.

Parents also might be able to borrow on a student's behalf, via the Direct PLUS Loan program for parents. International universities do not participate in the US Department of Education's grant programs, so US students may not use Pell Grants to finance studies at an international university.

Some institutions accept GI Bill funding. The US Department of Veterans Affairs provides guidance for military veterans who wish to attend schools outside the United States and a search function to find participating foreign institutions by country.

Students should contact the student financial aid office at any international institution they are interested in attending to confirm its participation in the federal aid program and to learn about application policies and procedures.

**Amount of Aid:** The annual limit for Direct Subsidized Loans plus Direct Unsubsidized Loans for undergraduate students varies from \$5,500 to \$12,500, depending on a variety of factors, such as year in school, and whether a student receives financial support from his or her family. Check annual and aggregate limits for subsidized and unsubsidized loans on the [Federal Student Loan website](#)

## WHO TO CONTACT

If a student is interested in pursuing a study abroad program for a semester or a year during their undergraduate program, they should contact the financial aid office at the US colleges or universities they are considering. Note that the US institution must participate in the federal student aid program for a student to be eligible to use federal aid for their study abroad program.

**Steps:** The application process to obtain student loan funding for undergraduate studies at an international university is similar to that used for US schools. Generally, the student must take the following steps:

### 1. Complete the FAFSA

Students select the international university they plan to attend in the question about Federal School Codes. The FAFSA site includes a search tool to help locate the appropriate institution and its code. Select “Foreign Country” in the required “State” field. The international institution will gain access to a student’s FAFSA information electronically once it is submitted.

Note: The award year and the academic year at the international institution can differ depending on the country; questions about timing and process should be directed to the institution’s financial aid office.

### 2. Complete Entrance Counseling

Students borrowing federal funds for the first time must complete entrance counseling to learn about

their loan responsibilities. This must be done before funds are released. Depending upon the school, entrance counseling might occur electronically before a student leaves the United States. It could also be administered once the student arrives in the host country electronically or by the host institution’s financial aid office or admission staff. Students should be prepared to advocate for themselves and proactively seek out the information they need once abroad. A good deal of perseverance may be needed to connect with the right person and/or office at an international university.

### 3. Submit a Master Promissory Note

The Master Promissory Note (MPN) is a legal document that obligates students to repay their loan(s), plus the accrued interest and fees, to the US Department of Education. Students complete the [MPN online](#).

Note: One MPN must be completed per loan. Thus, separate MPNs must be submitted for student borrowers whose parents are also taking a PLUS loan.

### 4. Contact the University, Complete the Loan Application

Once steps 1 through 3 have been completed, the student should notify the university to confirm and inquire about next steps. This will typically entail the completion of a loan application form by email or via the institution’s online portal.

### 5. Receive Financial Aid Award Letter from University

The university will calculate the student’s estimated cost of attendance. Students deemed eligible for loan funding will receive an award letter indicating the maximum amount they may borrow.



## 6. Accept the Loan

Following instructions accompanying the award letter, students can opt to formally accept loan funding, specifying the total amount they wish to borrow. The institution will then originate the loan, and in most cases the money will be electronically applied to the student's university account to pay for tuition and fees. The remainder will be available to the student.

Note: Funds are likely to be rendered in the local currency. And, depending upon timing, funds might not be disbursed before a student departs the United States. This means travel and initial expenses will need to be self-financed.

With the exception of entrance counseling, this process must be completed each year a student accepts loan funding. Entrance counseling is only required before the first year.

**Advice from the Field:** Assessing the cost and value of pursuing a full degree program at an institution outside of the United States should be part of the financial aid discussion counselors have with students. For students interested in institutions outside of the United States, travel may represent a significant expense. So can renting an apartment, as not all universities offer dormitories or student housing. If not bundled with the tuition, families should also be aware of fees for visas and international health insurance costs.



Students should be mindful of school breaks. Not all students receiving financial aid can afford to come home for long holiday breaks and perhaps not even the summer.

Currency fluctuations are another consideration. The value of most foreign currencies relative to the US dollar is in continual flux. While short-term changes are unlikely to be significant, costs can increase or decrease considerably over a period of years. Students and families should budget with this in mind.

Any school that participates in federal student aid programs is required to provide information on its cost of attendance and to offer a net price calculator on its website, although this requirement is still being phased in at some institutions.

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To search NACAC member institutions, visit [nacacnet.org/membership/member-directory](http://nacacnet.org/membership/member-directory).

\*As of June 2018

<b>Griffith University</b>	Australia	<a href="http://www2.griffith.edu.au">www2.griffith.edu.au</a>
<b>Macquarie University, Sydney</b>	Australia	<a href="http://mq.edu.au/">mq.edu.au/</a>
<b>Monash University</b>	Australia	<a href="http://monash.edu.au/north-america-info">monash.edu.au/north-america-info</a>
<b>Queensland University of Technology</b>	Australia	<a href="http://qut.edu.au">qut.edu.au</a>
<b>The University of New South Wales</b>	Australia	<a href="http://unsw.edu.au">unsw.edu.au</a>
<b>The University of Sydney</b>	Australia	<a href="http://sydney.edu.au">sydney.edu.au</a>
<b>The University of Western Australia</b>	Australia	<a href="http://uwa.edu.au">uwa.edu.au</a>
<b>Athabasca University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://athabascau.ca">athabascau.ca</a>
<b>Bishop's University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://ubishops.ca">ubishops.ca</a>
<b>Brock University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://experience.brocku.ca">experience.brocku.ca</a>
<b>Cape Breton University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://cbu.ca">cbu.ca</a>
<b>Capilano University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://capilano.ca">capilano.ca</a>
<b>Carleton University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://admissions.carleton.ca">admissions.carleton.ca</a>
<b>Concordia University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://concordia.ca">concordia.ca</a>
<b>Corpus Christi College</b>	Canada	<a href="http://corpuschristi.ca">corpuschristi.ca</a>
<b>Dalhousie University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://dal.ca">dal.ca</a>
<b>Emily Carr University of Art And Design</b>	Canada	<a href="http://ecuad.ca">ecuad.ca</a>
<b>Humber College Institute of Technology &amp; Advanced Learning</b>	Canada	<a href="http://humber.ca">humber.ca</a>
<b>McGill University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://mcgill.ca">mcgill.ca</a>
<b>McMaster University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://mcmaster.ca">mcmaster.ca</a>
<b>New Brunswick Community College</b>	Canada	<a href="http://nbcc.ca">nbcc.ca</a>
<b>OCAD University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://ocadu.ca">ocadu.ca</a>
<b>Queen's University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://queensu.ca">queensu.ca</a>
<b>Quest University Canada</b>	Canada	<a href="http://questu.ca">questu.ca</a>
<b>Ryerson University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://ryerson.ca">ryerson.ca</a>
<b>Simon Fraser University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://yourstory.sfu.ca">yourstory.sfu.ca</a>
<b>St. Francis Xavier University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://stfx.ca">stfx.ca</a>
<b>St. Thomas University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://stu.ca">stu.ca</a>
<b>The University of British Columbia</b>	Canada	<a href="http://you.ubc.ca">you.ubc.ca</a>
<b>Thompson Rivers University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://truworld.ca">truworld.ca</a>
<b>Trinity Western University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://twu.ca">twu.ca</a>
<b>Tyndale University College &amp; Seminary</b>	Canada	<a href="http://tyndale.ca">tyndale.ca</a>
<b>University of Alberta</b>	Canada	<a href="http://ualberta.ca/prospective-students">ualberta.ca/prospective-students</a>
<b>University of Calgary</b>	Canada	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca">ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>University of Guelph</b>	Canada	<a href="http://uoguelph.ca">uoguelph.ca</a>
<b>University of King's College</b>	Canada	<a href="http://ukings.ca">ukings.ca</a>
<b>University of Manitoba</b>	Canada	<a href="http://umanitoba.ca">umanitoba.ca</a>
<b>University of New Brunswick</b>	Canada	<a href="http://unb.cainternational">unb.cainternational</a>
<b>University of Ontario Institute of Technology</b>	Canada	<a href="http://uoit.ca">uoit.ca</a>
<b>University of Saskatchewan</b>	Canada	<a href="http://explore.usask.ca">explore.usask.ca</a>
<b>University of Toronto</b>	Canada	<a href="http://utoronto.ca">utoronto.ca</a>
<b>University of Victoria</b>	Canada	<a href="http://uvic.ca">uvic.ca</a>
<b>University of Waterloo</b>	Canada	<a href="http://international.uwaterloo.ca">international.uwaterloo.ca</a>
<b>University of Windsor</b>	Canada	<a href="http://uwindsor.ca">uwindsor.ca</a>
<b>University of Winnipeg</b>	Canada	<a href="http://winnipeg.ca">winnipeg.ca</a>
<b>Vancouver Island University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://viu.ca">viu.ca</a>
<b>York University</b>	Canada	<a href="http://yorku.ca">yorku.ca</a>
<b>Duke Kunshan University</b>	China	<a href="http://dukekunshan.edu.cn/en">dukekunshan.edu.cn/en</a>
<b>New York University Shanghai</b>	China	<a href="http://shanghai.nyu.educn">shanghai.nyu.educn</a>
<b>The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen</b>	China	<a href="http://cuhk.edu.cn/">cuhk.edu.cn/</a>
<b>Rennes School of Business</b>	France	<a href="http://rennes-sb.com">rennes-sb.com</a>
<b>SciencesPO</b>	France	<a href="http://sciencespo.fr">sciencespo.fr</a>
<b>The American University of Paris</b>	France	<a href="http://aup.edu">aup.edu</a>
<b>The New School-Parsons Paris</b>	France	<a href="http://newschool.eduparsons-paris">newschool.eduparsons-paris</a>



## NACAC Member Universities — International\* (continued)

\*As of June 2018

<b>Bard College Berlin, A Liberal Arts University</b>	Germany	<i>berlin.bard.edu</i>
<b>Jacobs University Bremen</b>	Germany	<i>jacobs-university.de</i>
<b>KIT Carl Benz School of Engineering</b>	Germany	<i>carlbenzschool.kit.edu</i>
<b>University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt</b>	Germany	<i>mba.fhws.de/home.html</i>
<b>American College Dublin</b>	Ireland	<i>amcd.ie</i>
<b>Dublin City University</b>	Ireland	<i>dcu.ie</i>
<b>Mary Immaculate College</b>	Ireland	<i>mic.ul.ie</i>
<b>Queens University Belfast</b>	Ireland	<i>qub.ac.uk</i>
<b>Royal College of Surgeons Ireland</b>	Ireland	<i>rCSI.ie/</i>
<b>Trinity College Dublin</b>	Ireland	<i>tcd.ie</i>
<b>University College Dublin</b>	Ireland	<i>ucd.ie</i>
<b>University of Limerick</b>	Ireland	<i>ul.ie/international</i>
<b>Bocconi University</b>	Italy	<i>unibocconi.eu/wps/wcm/connect/SitoPubblico_EN/Navigation+Tree/Home</i>
<b>John Cabot University</b>	Italy	<i>johncabot.edu</i>
<b>The American University of Rome</b>	Italy	<i>aur.edu</i>
<b>Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore</b>	Italy	<i>ucscinternational.it</i>
<b>International College of Liberal Arts (iCLA), Yamanashi Gakuin University</b>	Japan	<i>icla.ygu.ac.jp/en</i>
<b>Nagoya University</b>	Japan	<i>admissions.g30.nagoya-u.ac.jp</i>
<b>Osaka University</b>	Japan	<i>osaka-u.ac.jp/en</i>
<b>Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University</b>	Japan	<i>admissions.apu.ac.jp</i>
<b>Temple University - Japan Campus</b>	Japan	<i>tuj.temple.edu</i>
<b>The State University of New York, Korea</b>	Korea, Republic of	<i>sunykorea.ac.kr/</i>
<b>RTU Riga Business School</b>	Latvia	<i>rbs.lv</i>
<b>Instituto Tecnológico Y De Estudios Superiores De Monterrey</b>	Mexico	<i>itesm.edu</i>
<b>Leiden University</b>	Netherlands	<i>universiteitleiden.nl</i>
<b>Massey University</b>	New Zealand	<i>massey.ac.nz</i>
<b>Texas A &amp; M University at Qatar</b>	Qatar	<i>qatar.tamu.edu</i>
<b>Singapore Management University</b>	Singapore	<i>smu.edu.sg/</i>
<b>Yale NUS College</b>	Singapore	<i>yale-nus.edu.sg</i>
<b>IE University</b>	Spain	<i>ie.eduuniversity</i>
<b>Saint Louis University-Madrid</b>	Spain	<i>span.slu.edu</i>
<b>Universidad de Navarra</b>	Spain	<i>unav.es</i>
<b>University Carlos III of Madrid</b>	Spain	<i>uc3m.es/ss/Satellite/C3/S/en/PortadaMiniSite/1371220461783/Carlos_III_International_School</i>
<b>Ecole hoteliere de Lausanne</b>	Switzerland	<i>ehl.ch</i>
<b>Franklin University Switzerland</b>	Switzerland	<i>fus.edu</i>
<b>Abertay University</b>	United Kingdom	<i>abertay.ac.uk</i>
<b>Aberystwyth University</b>	United Kingdom	<i>aber.ac.uk</i>
<b>Anglia Ruskin University</b>	United Kingdom	<i>anglia.ac.uk</i>
<b>Bath Spa University</b>	United Kingdom	<i>bathspa.ac.uk</i>
<b>Cardiff University</b>	United Kingdom	<i>cardiff.ac.uk</i>
<b>City University London</b>	United Kingdom	<i>city.ac.uk</i>
<b>Durham University</b>	United Kingdom	<i>durham.ac.uk</i>
<b>Edge Hill University</b>	United Kingdom	<i>edgehill.ac.ukinternational</i>
<b>Edinburgh Napier University</b>	United Kingdom	<i>napier.ac.uk</i>
<b>ESCP Europe Business School</b>	United Kingdom	<i>escpeurope.eu</i>
<b>Goldsmiths, University of London</b>	United Kingdom	<i>goldsmiths.ac.uk</i>
<b>Heriot-Watt University</b>	United Kingdom	<i>hw.ac.uk</i>
<b>Imperial College London</b>	United Kingdom	<i>imperial.ac.uk</i>
<b>Keele University</b>	United Kingdom	<i>keele.ac.uk</i>
<b>King's College London</b>	United Kingdom	<i>kcl.ac.uk</i>
<b>Kingston University London</b>	United Kingdom	<i>kingston.ac.uknorthamerica</i>
<b>Lancaster University</b>	United Kingdom	<i>lancs.ac.uk</i>
<b>Leeds Arts University</b>	United Kingdom	<i>leeds-art.ac.uk</i>
<b>Leeds Beckett University</b>	United Kingdom	<i>leedsbeckett.ac.ukinternational</i>

## NACAC Member Universities — International\* (continued)

\*As of June 2018

Liverpool John Moores University	United Kingdom	<i>ljmu.ac.uk</i>
London Studio Centre	United Kingdom	<i>londonstudiocentre.org</i>
Loughborough University	United Kingdom	<i>lboro.ac.uk</i>
Manchester Metropolitan University	United Kingdom	<i>mmu.ac.uk</i>
Newcastle University	United Kingdom	<i>ncl.ac.uk</i>
Northumbria University	United Kingdom	<i>northumbria.ac.uk</i>
Norwich University of the Arts	United Kingdom	<i>nuca.ac.uk</i>
Oxford Brookes University	United Kingdom	<i>brookes.ac.uk</i>
Queen Mary University of London	United Kingdom	<i>qmul.ac.uk</i>
Ravensbourne	United Kingdom	<i>ravensbourne.ac.uk</i>
Regent's University London	United Kingdom	<i>regents.ac.uk</i>
Royal Holloway, University of London	United Kingdom	<i>rhul.ac.uk</i>
St. Mary's University Twickenham London	United Kingdom	<i>smuc.ac.uk</i>
Staffordshire University	United Kingdom	<i>staffs.ac.uk</i>
The Glasgow School of Art	United Kingdom	<i>gsa.ac.uk</i>
The Royal Veterinary College	United Kingdom	<i>rvc.ac.uk</i>
The University of Buckingham	United Kingdom	<i>buckingham.ac.uk</i>
The University of Greenwich, London	United Kingdom	<i>gre.ac.ukusa</i>
The University of Liverpool	United Kingdom	<i>liverpool.ac.uk</i>
The University of Manchester	United Kingdom	<i>manchester.ac.uk</i>
The University of York	United Kingdom	<i>york.ac.uk</i>
UCL, University College London	United Kingdom	<i>ucl.ac.ukprospective-students/international</i>
Ulster University	United Kingdom	<i>ulster.ac.ukinternational</i>
University for the Creative Arts	United Kingdom	<i>ucreative.ac.uk</i>
University of Aberdeen	United Kingdom	<i>abdn.ac.uk</i>
University of Birmingham	United Kingdom	<i>birmingham.ac.ukindex.aspx</i>
University of Bradford	United Kingdom	<i>bradford.ac.uk</i>
University of Bristol	United Kingdom	<i>bristol.ac.uk</i>
University of Central Lancashire	United Kingdom	<i>uclan.ac.uk</i>
University of Chester	United Kingdom	<i>www1.chester.ac.uk</i>
University of Chichester	United Kingdom	<i>chi.ac.uk</i>
University of Derby	United Kingdom	<i>derby.ac.ukinternational</i>
University of Dundee - Scotland	United Kingdom	<i>dundee.ac.uk</i>
University of East Anglia	United Kingdom	<i>uea.ac.ukinternational</i>
University of East London	United Kingdom	<i>uel.ac.uk</i>
University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom	<i>ed.ac.uk</i>
University of Exeter	United Kingdom	<i>exeter.ac.uk</i>
University of Glasgow	United Kingdom	<i>gla.ac.ukinternational</i>
University of Kent	United Kingdom	<i>kent.ac.uk</i>
University of Leeds	United Kingdom	<i>leeds.ac.uk</i>
University of Northampton	United Kingdom	<i>northampton.ac.uk</i>
University of Nottingham	United Kingdom	<i>nottingham.ac.ukinternational</i>
University of Plymouth	United Kingdom	<i>plymouth.ac.uk</i>
University of Reading	United Kingdom	<i>reading.ac.uk</i>
University of Roehampton	United Kingdom	<i>roehampton.ac.uk</i>
University of Southampton	United Kingdom	<i>southampton.ac.ukinternational</i>
University of St. Andrews	United Kingdom	<i>st-and.ac.uk</i>
University of Stirling	United Kingdom	<i>stir.ac.uk</i>
University of Strathclyde	United Kingdom	<i>strath.ac.uk</i>
University of Surrey	United Kingdom	<i>surrey.ac.uk</i>
University of the West of England, Bristol	United Kingdom	<i>uwe.ac.uk</i>
University of the West of Scotland	United Kingdom	<i>uws.ac.uk</i>
University of Warwick	United Kingdom	<i>warwick.ac.uk</i>
University of West London	United Kingdom	<i>uwl.ac.uk</i>
University of Westminster-United Kingdom	United Kingdom	<i>westminster.ac.uk</i>
Waseda University	United States	<i>waseda.jp/top/en</i>

Key Information: Applying to International Universities (see chapters for more detailed information)

Country	Australia	Canada	Finland	France**	Germany	Ireland
<b>Degree Type</b>	Bachelor's	Bachelor's	Bachelor's	Licence	Bachelor's	Bachelor's
<b>Typical Duration</b>	3 years	4 years	3.5-4.5 (universities of applied sciences) 3 (universities)	3 years	3 years	3-4 years
<b>Major</b>	Declared at admission	Declared during study	Declared at admission	Declared at admission	Declared at admission	Declared at admission
<b>Typical Application Method</b>	Through institution	Through institution or centralized province application	Joint application	CampusFrance	Uni-Assist	Through institution
<b>Application Fee*</b>	Varies by institution	Varies by institution	No fee	US\$180 for three choices via CampusFrance	75 euros for first application, 30 euros for all additional applications via Uni-Assist	Varies by institution
<b>Application Deadline</b>	Late Oct. or late April, depending on whether a student intends to start in the first or second semester	Varies by institution. Students planning to enroll in fall semester should generally apply in fall or winter of previous year	Early Jan. for fall admission. Sept. for spring admission	Mid-Jan.	Applications for the winter semester are due from late May through mid-July. Summer semester deadline is mid-January	Between Feb. 1 and March 31
<b>Visa Requirements</b>	Higher Education Visa (Subclass 500) required	American citizens can apply for a study permit at a Canadian port of entry	Residence permit required	The VLS-TS visa and study permit is required	Visa not required, but recommended	No visa required. Must register with Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) upon arrival
<b>Annual Tuition Cost*</b>	AU\$15,000–\$33,000	CA\$6,000–\$50,000	4,000–11,000 euros	Public: 184 euros. Private: 3,000–10,000 euros	Tuition is generally free at public unis, students are required to pay fees for housing, transport, and extracurriculars. However, unis in some provinces charge additional fees to international students. Fees range from 250-1,500 euros. Private unis charge up to 20,000 euros	10,000–22,000 euros Degree in Medicine: 37,000–52,000 euros

\* The costs reflected in this chart are current as of publication. However, costs can change annually and students and counselors should verify with institutions.

\*\*Due to proposed education reforms, the university admission process will likely change for students applying for the 2019-2020 academic year. Check with Campus France or individual institutions for updates.

Key Information: Applying to International Universities (*continued*)

Country	Italy	Japan	Netherlands	New Zealand	South Korea	Spain	UK
<b>Degree Type</b>	Laurea Triennale	Bachelor's	Bachelor's	Bachelor's	Bachelor's	Grado	Bachelor's
<b>Typical Duration</b>	3 years	4 years	3 years (research unis), 4 years (universities of applied sciences)	3–4 years	4 years	4 years	3 years (England, Wales, and Northern Ireland); 4 year (Scotland)
<b>Major</b>	Through institution	Declared at admission	Declared at admission	Declared at admission	Declared at admission	Declared at admission	Declared at admission
<b>Typical Application Method</b>	Varies by institution	Varies by institution	Through institution and Studielink	Through institution	Through institution, but can also apply through Study in Korea	Through institution	UCAS
<b>Application Fee*</b>	Varies by institution	Varies by institution, average fee between 5,000–35,000 yen	Varies by institution	Varies by institution	Varies by institution, average fee between 100,000 to 200,000 won	Varies by institution	"UCAS 5 Choice Application: 24 pounds CAS 1 Choice Application: 13 pounds
<b>Application Deadline</b>	A student visa is required for programs longer than 90 days.	Varies by institution	Jan. 1 to July 1, depending on the program	Varies by institution. Generally apply three months before the start of the intended first semester	October for spring semester, May for fall semester	April	Oct. 15: Oxbridge degree programmes as well as medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science courses. Other course deadlines range from Jan. 15 through mid-September
<b>Visa Requirements</b>	Public: 900–4,000 euros Private: 6,000–20,000 euros	Visa required for entry. US citizens are exempt from paying all visa fees	Residence permit required	Student visa required	Must obtain relevant visa: D-2 for academic programs; D-4 for language training programs	Student visa is required. Must register for a foreigner identity card within one month of arrival.	Tier-4 student visa required
<b>Annual Tuition Cost*</b>		Public universities: 535,000–931,000 yen. Private universities: 1,108,000–4,189,000 yen	6,000–15,000 euros	NZ\$23,000–\$30,000	Public: 2–3 million won per semester Private: 3–5 million won per semester	Public: 850–3,700 euros Private: 6,000–18,000 euros	10,000–38,000 pounds

\* The costs reflected in this chart are current as of publication. However, costs can change annually and students and counselors should verify with institutions.

## Key Information: Working While Studying Abroad

Country	Can you work while a student?	Can you work in the country following graduation?
<b>Australia</b>	Yes. Up to 40 hours a week over a two-week period while classes are in session. Unlimited hours outside of term.	Yes. You must apply for a new visa. The length of the visa is dependent on the level and type of degree previously achieved. You can then apply for permanent residency.
<b>Canada</b>	Yes. Up to 20 hours a week during term and up to 40 hours during scheduled academic breaks.	Yes. If you graduated from a Canadian university participating in the Post-Graduation Work Permit Program, you can stay for three years and then apply for permanent residency.
<b>Finland</b>	Yes. Under 25 hours a week, or if the work is practical training required by the degree.	Yes. However, you will need to apply for an extended residence permit before your current permit expires to allow you to search for work for up to a year following graduation. If you find a job, you can then apply for a new residence permit based on your employment.
<b>France</b>	Yes. Up to 964 hours annually with a valid residency permit.	Yes. Students with at least a master's degree can apply for a one-year, non-renewable residence permit allowing you to work for 60% of the normal week. Students with a job related to their academic program that pays 1.5 times the minimum wage can then enter full-time employment.
<b>Germany</b>	Yes. Up to 120 full days or 240 half-days per year, excluding research assistant work. An additional work permit is required if you want to work more than 120 days/240 half-days.	Yes. You can extend your student residence permit by 18 months. As soon as you receive a job offer you can apply for a new residence permit and then for permanent residency.
<b>Ireland</b>	Yes. Up to 20 hours a week during term and up to 40 hours during scheduled academic breaks.	Yes. Graduates from Irish universities can remain in the country for one year under the Third Level Graduate Scheme to seek employment and work. After 12 months, student may be eligible to apply for a green card or work permit.
<b>Italy</b>	Yes. Up to 20 hours a week with a residence permit. Work does not have to be related to students' academic program.	Yes. However, you will need to apply for a work permit.
<b>Japan</b>	Yes. Up to 28 hours a week during term and up to 40 hours a week during scheduled academic breaks. Work permit required. There is no limitation on work hours for research assistants.	Yes. After graduating you have one year to find full-time employment. After finding a job you must then change your status of residence.
<b>Netherlands</b>	Yes. Up to 10 hours a week during term or up to 40 hours a week during scheduled academic breaks. Work permit required.	Graduates who have yet to find employment can apply for a one-year residence permit. Employers must submit an application on behalf of a highly skilled migrant as their recognized sponsor in order for the graduate to obtain a residence permit.
<b>New Zealand</b>	Yes. Up to 20 hours a week during term and up to 40 hours during scheduled academic breaks.	Yes. Per a new policy to come into effect on November 26, 2018, students engaged in degree studies at the undergraduate level or higher will receive a three-year open work visa.
<b>South Korea</b>	Yes. Up to 20–25 hours a week, depending on the course of study. Students must obtain prior approval from their university and make a formal application at the Immigration Office.	Yes. However, students must change their visa status. There are several options, including one for job seekers (D-10). The career section of the Study in Korea website can provide more details.
<b>Spain</b>	Yes. Up to 20 hours a week, so long as the work is related to their field of study or research.	Yes. However, you will have to apply for a resident work permit. This process requires the students to have completed at least 3 years of study in Spain, to not have received any scholarships or grants from their country of origin, and to have been offered a job with at least a one year contract.
<b>UK</b>	Yes. Up to 20 hours a week during term and up to 40 hours during scheduled academic breaks.	Yes. However, you will need to apply for a new visa. The amount of time you can live and work in the UK and whether you must be sponsored/employed prior to the visa application, varies depending on the visa.



National Association for  
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