

# Everything about USA education

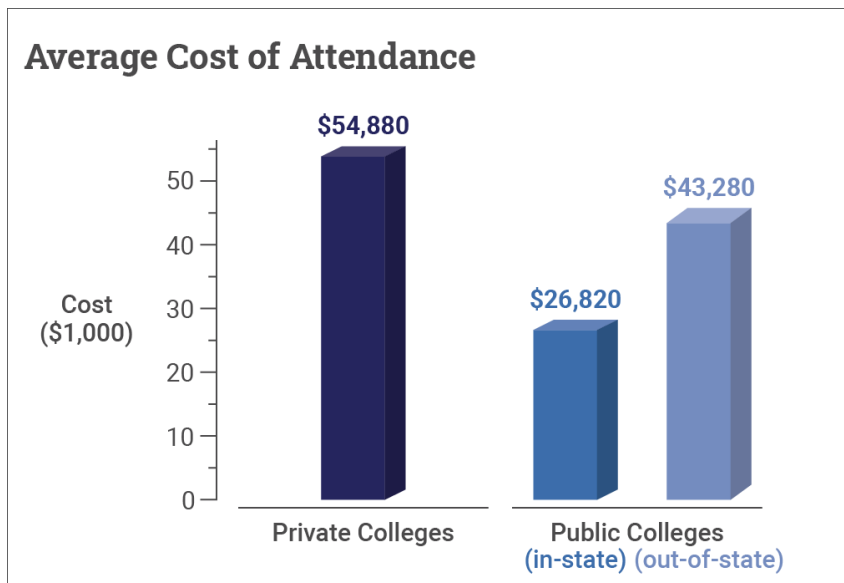
## University Wala

USA universities, education, internships, visas, student life, saving tips, networking, etc. Share with your friends!

### General Information

#### Average cost of attendance

- \$120k-150k for 4 years, can be lower or higher. 30-40k per year.
- Average job after will get you \$60k-150k, more or less depending on the major/job/position
- Savings through jobs, housing, internships, early graduation. But keep a buffer of 1 cr if coming from India (4 years)
- [Average Cost of College in America](#)



## Applying process

- SAT for undergrad, GRE for masters, Phd
- College admission mainly depends on profile, essays, SOPs, personal statement, etc
- Apply online through college board + specific university pages
- <https://www.studyusa.com/en/a/34/applying-for-admission-to-a-u-s-program>
- <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/college-application-process>
- <https://www.universitiesintheusa.com/admissions/how-to-apply>
- <https://www.mastersportal.com/articles/1650/how-to-apply-to-an-international-university-in-the-us-in-2021.html>
- [https://www.internationalstudent.com/study\\_usa/application-process/](https://www.internationalstudent.com/study_usa/application-process/)
- <https://www.usuniversity.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/>

## Scholarships

- Most are finance based, the rest are merit based. For eg: UMass gives \$5-7k every semester (financial aid)
- Not all universities give scholarships, you have to find the ones that give
- Merit based are university specific and given to limited with more achievements
- [Scholarships in USA for International Students | 2021-2022 Scholarships](#)
- <https://scholarshipamerica.org/>
- USA
  - <https://www.scholarships.com/>
  - <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/financialaffairs/scholarships/>
  - <https://www.scholarshipportal.com/scholarships/united-states>

## Highly populated College areas

- New york, California, Texas
- NJ, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, Charlotte, Philly, Denver, Orlando
- [America's Biggest College Towns.](#)

## Top universities for international students

- NYU, USC, Purdue, Boston U, UT Dallas, Michigan state, UMass, Penn state, UCs
- [2021 Most International Students - National Universities | US News Rankings](#)
- [25 US universities with the most international students](#)
- <https://www.topuniversities.com/blog/10-us-universities-most-international-students>
- <https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/top-colleges-for-international-students/>
- [The Top 50 Schools For International Students 2019: Foreign Enrollment Is Slowing.](#)

## Student loans

- Usually international people aren't allowed to get loans from big banks, but some startups and working on it
- You can have someone in the USA (your relatives) co sign a loan for you.
- [MPOWER Financing: Student Loans For International Students](#)
- [Eligibility for Non-US Citizens](#)
- US only
  - <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans>
  - <https://loans.usnews.com/student-loans>
  - <https://www.ed.gov/category/keyword/federal-student-loans>

## Most famous majors

- Business, Analytics, Computer science, Maths, Finance
- [What Are the Most Popular Majors for International Students in the US?](#)
- [The 10 Most Popular College Majors](#)
- <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/most-popular-college-majors/>
- <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/12/15/the-6-most-popular-college-majors.html>
- <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/most-popular-majors>
- Highest paying
  - <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/slideshows/10-college-major-s-with-the-highest-starting-salaries>

- <https://fortune.com/2021/09/01/highest-paying-college-majors-starting-salaries/>

## Finding your university

- Find the right **location** first (alumni), then money, then professors + classes
- Location determines a lot of things - jobs, people, weather etc. Most tech companies are in California so it's obvious that more opportunities will follow. There's a recent shift to other places so choose wisely.
- Professors go from one college to another (non-research) so it doesn't matter a lot
- Classes are same across the USA - focus more on money + alumni + location
- Compare: <https://www.niche.com/colleges/compare/>
- CS: <http://csrankings.org/>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-find-your-college-fit>
- <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/slideshows/10-steps-to-picking-the-right-school>
- <https://www.universityguideonline.org/en/InternationalPathways/find-the-right-university>
- <https://uwaterloo.ca/beyond-ideas/stories/tips-advice/things-consider-when-choosing-university>

## What to bring with you before

- Local food, snacks, medications, big bags,
- You can find most things in the USA for a decent price. Clothes, food, furniture, bags, stationery, etc
- <https://www.wemakescholars.com/blog/study-in-usa-101-complete-travel-checklist-for-indian-students>
- Documents
  - Passport Xerox(5 copies)
  - VISA Xerox (5 copies)
  - I-20(5 copies)

- Air Ticket(2 copies)
- Original mark sheets + Degree Certificate (previous degree)
- Attested mark sheets + Degree Certificate (3 copies)
- Original transcripts + Degree Certificate (3 copies)
- Immunization form(specific to university)
- University-specific letters like admit, aid, forms.
- SEVIS fee receipt(3 copies)
- GRE Original + Xerox copies(5 copies)
- TOEFL Original + Xerox copies(5 copies)
- Final Year Project Report
- Syllabus Copies
- Recommendation letters
- <https://collegesofdistinction.com/advice/college-move-in-day-a-college-packing-list-of-essentials-for-your-dorm-room/>
- <https://collegeinfo geek.com/college-packing-list/>
- <https://getschooled.com/article/3931-college-students-packing-for-freshman-year-of-college/>
- <https://blog.ocm.com/posts/college-packing-checklist-what-to-bring-to-your-dorm-room>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/making-a-decision/off-to-college-checklist>
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## Food at universities

- Expensive at most universities, you can live off campus, cook yourself, and save some money (rent and food)
- Most of them have a buffet system - with rotating things every week. Specials (kosher, veg) are taken care of.
- Limited options for vegetarians. Cooking at home is often better.
- [What to Expect from College Meal Plans](#)
- [Top 5 most commonly eaten foods on college campuses](#)
- [College Meal Plans 101](#)

- Be careful with your food options - mention it whenever you're ordering/asking
- <https://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/student-nutrition/>
- <https://www.purdueglobal.edu/blog/student-life/healthy-food-options-college-students/>
- <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/healthy-eating-plate/>

## Banks

- Get a debit card and open a bank account as soon as you come here.
- Simply go to the bank with all your paperwork, talk to them
- [International Student Bank Account Step-By-Step Guide](#)
- <https://www.discover.com/>
- <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/guide-student-bank-accounts-us>
- <https://www.compareremit.com/money-transfer-guide/best-bank-accounts-for-international-students-in-the-usa/>
- <https://www.topuniversities.com/where-to-study/north-america/united-states/best-student-bank-accounts-us>

## Credit card

- Credit cards are important - not immediately but someday!
- Best if you get it as soon as possible. Use discover student plans.
- <https://www.nerdwallet.com/best/credit-cards/college-student>
- <https://www.discover.com/>

## Mental Health

- Most universities have a clinic/center for mental health related things, you can go there anytime. Professional help.
- Homesickness: Talk to people around, make friends, take help, ask your seniors - more of a generic advice, but helps initially!
- <https://www.eaie.org/blog/5-mental-health-stressors-international-students.html>

- <https://shorelight.com/student-stories/mental-health-advice-for-international-students/>
  - <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2019-04-08/how-to-look-after-mental-health-as-an-international-student-in-the-us>
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## University things: After joining

### Dorm rooms, on campus housing

- You get 1-3 roommates usually, furnished with bed, desk, and closet
- Meetings, other events for floors/groups of dorms regularly. Nice way to socialize
- Most of the floors and dorms are co-ed, separate bathrooms & rooms
- Average cost: \$700-1500 per month (3-4 months) - \$3k-6k per semester
- [Living on Campus: A Guide to College Housing | Best Colleges | US News](#)
- [RateMyDorm | Student Reviews of University & College Dorms](#)
- <https://shorelight.com/student-stories/what-will-my-dormitory-be-like-at-a-us-university/>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-life/students-speak-what-life-in-the-dorms-is-really-like>
- <https://www.unigo.com/in-college/campus-life/what-i-wish-id-known-about-college-dorm-life>
- <https://collegestats.org/articles/dorm-life/>

### Off campus housing

- Not applicable for undergrads, only for grads (first year). Undergrads can move out after their 1st year usually
- Facebook groups, ask your seniors/friends/classmates

- Usually there are realtors around the area, call them and ask about the availability.  
Usually unfurnished, but can vary
- Lease length: 12 months usually. Avg cost: \$500-1200 per month: \$6k - \$12k per year.  
You can sublease the 3-4 months you're not living there during the summer to save \$.
- [Off campus housing expectations: ucla - Los Angeles](#)
- <https://www.forrentuniversity.com/>
- <https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/college-resource-center/off-campus-housing/>
- <https://www.sandiego.edu/off-campus-housing/housing-resources/off-campus-housing-resources.php>
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## First week and orientation

- Time to meet new people and learn more about the university/major
- Ask around for any questions you have, talk with your seniors and build a network
- Introduction about classes, major, dorm rooms, etc.
- [Ask These Questions During Your College Orientation | Best Colleges | US News](#)
- [College Orientation, What to Expect](#)
- [Student orientation](#)
- [Why You Should Attend College Orientation](#)
- <https://www.topuniversities.com/blog/what-expect-your-first-day-university>
- <https://www.uopeople.edu/blog/what-to-expect-on-your-first-day-of-college/>
- <https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/student-life/blog/10-things-do-you-r-first-week-college/>
- <https://rabbitfood.sdstate.edu/free-time/emotions-every-freshman-feels-during-the-first-week>
- <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/your-first-week-on-campus/>
- <https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/student-life/blog/my-first-week-college-freshman/>



## Classes

- Talk to advisors and seniors about classes. Professors do matter when choosing a section. Can also look for easier ones if you have side projects
- Computer science and most of other majors require you to have projects from the outside world, keep exploring
- Grades do matter generally, but not a lot in the USA. A minimum GPA of 3-3.3 (usually) will allow you to interview at any company
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/academic-life/8-tips-for-choosing-college-classes>
- <https://www.wayup.com/guide/choosing-college-classes/>
- Undergrad freshmen
  - <https://www.quora.com/What-classes-should-I-take-as-a-freshman-in-college>
  - <https://www.theclassroom.com/good-classes-freshman-year-college-1103.html>
  - <https://www.mic.com/articles/55285/class-of-2017-8-classes-every-college-freshman-should-take>
  - <https://education.seattlepi.com/good-classes-freshman-year-college-1139.html>
  - <https://www.bachelorsportal.com/articles/1792/what-to-expect-from-undergraduate-classes-in-the-us-in-2021.html>

## Campus activities

- Multiple trekking, walking, and other clubs to socialize on campus. Message/email them or find their stalls on campus.
- Gym/recreation center/libraries has tons of activities
- Students have random stalls around the campus, roam around and find those.
- Occasional larger university events - use that to join clubs.
- Tons of hackathons (coding events for 2-3 days) for computer science students
- <https://www.event-29.com/college-event-ideas/>
- <https://www.merritt.edu/student-life/>
- <https://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/1855/College-Extracurricular-Activities.html>

- <https://foothill.edu/studentaffairs/studentactivities.html>

## Sports, Clubs

- Every university has multiple sport teams, you can join if you're really good
- Go to the centers, ask how to join, and give trials. Everything is extremely professional.
- There are casual games in the gym every day - you can also join those clubs!
- <https://www.cappex.com/articles/college-life/college-club-vs-intramural-sports>
- <https://www.american.edu/recfit/club-sports/>
- <https://collegesportsusa.com.au/>
- <https://www.usacollegesport.com/en/>
- <https://www.ncaa.org/>
- <https://www.collegesportsamerica.com/>
- Sports centric univs:
  - <https://www.bestcollegereviews.org/features/most-successful-college-athletics-programs/>
  - <https://www.topuniversities.com/where-to-study/north-america/united-states/best-us-universities-sports-lovers>
  - <https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/best-college-athletics/>
  - <https://www.studyusa.com/en/field-of-study/470/sports>
  - <https://ussa.edu/>

## On campus jobs

- Every college has a website for on campus jobs, keep yourself updated from there
- Talk to professors about research position if interested
- Talk to department for RA (research assistant), TA(teaching assistant), Grader, and other positions
- Look out for clubs which actively do stuff
- Common places like gyms, dining halls, libraries always have positions
- Can work max of 20 hours every week
- <https://www.stilt.com/blog/2018/01/get-campus-job-usa-international-student/>

- <https://studyabroad.shiksha.com/10-popular-part-time-campus-jobs-for-students-in-the-us-articlepage-54>
- <https://redbus2us.com/how-to-get-part-time-job-on-campus-in-us-universities/>
- <https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/campus-employment>
- [https://www.internationalstudent.com/study\\_usa/way-of-life/working-in-the-usa/](https://www.internationalstudent.com/study_usa/way-of-life/working-in-the-usa/)

## Off campus jobs

- International students on F1 aren't allowed to work off campus.

## Internships and other opportunities

- Finding internships is crucial, gives you experience, money, and a solid profile improvement. Easier to convert into a full time job after that!
- Ask your department, seniors in your major, and google "internships in" your major
- You can do one every summer/winter, utilize that time. Need a CPT for internship (international)
- [Searching for Internships in the USA · Career Training USA · InterExchange](#)
- [Internship USA - Internship placement programs across the USA](#)
- [30dayscoding.com](https://30dayscoding.com) for coding needs
- Tech internship process: <https://www.30dayscoding.com/process>
- Network with people who have internships and ask them about it
- Talk to recruiters and managers with your skills to get a step ahead. More here: <https://www.30dayscoding.com/blogs>
- Career fairs
  - <https://www.csustan.edu/career/career-fairs>
  - <https://careers.usc.edu/students/find-a-job/career-fairs-for-students/career-fair-for-students/>

## Money saving tips

- On/off campus Jobs, living off campus, cooking your own food, RA, TA, fellowship, scholarships

- <https://www.fastweb.com/personal-finance/articles/the-31-money-saving-tricks-for-students>
  - <https://www.happyschools.com/100-personal-finance-and-money-savings-tips-for-students/>
  - <https://realwealth.com/money-saving-tips-kids-teens-college-students/>
  - <https://www.greatvaluecolleges.net/cost-saving-tips-for-college-students/>
  - <https://www.chartercollege.edu/news-hub/7-money-saving-tips-students>
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## Visa - international

### F1 Visa

- Student visa for studying. Apply after getting admission into certain colleges
  - Have to go to an embassy (delhi, mumbai, etc) to get approved after an interview
  - [My US Visa Experience in detail | US Consulate Mumbai | Student F1 Visa | Visa Approved | Fall 2021](#)
  - [Student Visa: US Department of State](#)
  - [How to Apply for an F1 Visa - F1 Student Visa](#)
- If visa rejected
- [F1 visa rejected. What are my options?](#)
  - [What to Do If Your Student Visa Is Denied](#)

### CPT

- Need for internships and co-ops in the USA (for international students)
- Colleges help with this and usually have an international office which assists you
- [What is Curricular Practical Training \(CPT\)?](#)
- [International Students and Scholars | Curricular Practical Training \(CPT\)](#)

- <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/sevis-help-hub/student-records/fm-student-employment/f-1-curricular-practical-training-cpt>
- <https://www.studyusa.com/en/a/1238/what-is-the-difference-between-opt-and-cpt>
- <https://international.uiowa.edu/issc/current/employment/cpt>

## OPT

- Full time job, apply <3 months before graduation
- 1 year initially, which extends to 2 more years
- [Optional Practical Training \(OPT\) for F-1 Students](#)
- [Initial 12 Month OPT Application | International Programs Office](#)
- [The Facts about Optional Practical Training \(OPT\) for Foreign Students](#)
- <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2018-07-02/what-to-know-about-optional-practical-training-work-authorization>
- <https://www.fwd.us/news/what-is-opt/>

Enjoy the time, you're only going to get it once. Meet a lot of people, learn from them, collaborate to make something cool, find internships, have a good time, and make memories!



# USA education



[Visa information](#)

Top universities

Tests & exams

Subjects and majors

Scholarships

Housing

Student FAQs

## **Pros of USA Education:**

1. **Quality of Education:** The United States has some of the best universities in the world, renowned for their academic rigor and research opportunities.
2. **Wide Range of Programs:** There are a wide variety of programs and majors available at universities in the USA, allowing students to choose a field of study that suits their interests and career goals.
3. **Diversity:** The United States is a melting pot of cultures, and universities in the USA attract students from all over the world. This creates a diverse and multicultural learning environment.
4. **Career Opportunities:** Many universities in the USA have strong connections with industries and employers, providing students with opportunities for internships and job placements after graduation.
5. **Extracurricular Activities:** Universities in the USA offer a wide range of extracurricular activities, from sports and music to student organizations and volunteer work, allowing students to pursue their passions and interests outside of the classroom.

## **Cons of USA Education:**

1. **Cost:** The cost of education in the USA can be very high, particularly for international students who may not be eligible for financial aid or scholarships.
2. **Competitive Admission:** Admission to top universities in the USA can be very competitive, with high academic standards and requirements for standardized test

scores.

3. **Large Class Sizes:** Some universities in the USA may have large class sizes, making it difficult for students to get personalized attention from professors.
4. **Cultural Adjustment:** International students may experience culture shock and have difficulty adjusting to a new environment, particularly if they are unfamiliar with the American education system and teaching methods.
5. **Workload:** The academic workload at universities in the USA can be very demanding, with high expectations for independent study and research. This can be challenging for some students, particularly those who are not used to this type of learning environment.

<b>University</b>	<b>Undergraduate Program</b>	<b>Masters Program</b>	<b>Undergraduate Tuition Fee (2022-2023)</b>	<b>Master's Program Tuition Fee (2022-2023)</b>
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	Computer Science and Engineering	Master of Science in Computer Science	\$55,430 per year	\$54,720 per year
Stanford University	Computer Science	Master of Science in Computer Science	\$59,496 per year	\$56,169 per year
Carnegie Mellon University	Computer Science	Master of Science in Computer Science	\$59,556 per year	\$57,642 per year
University of California-- Berkeley	Computer Science	Master of Science in Computer Science	\$14,312 for California residents, \$44,066 for non-residents per year	\$14,312 for California residents, \$26,416 for non-residents per year
California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	Computer Science	Master of Science in Computer Science	\$56,862 per year	\$54,600 per year



University of Illinois--Urbana-Champaign	Computer Science	Master of Computer Science	\$17,624 for Illinois residents, \$34,010 for non-residents per year	\$18,034 for Illinois residents, \$29,500 for non-residents per year
Georgia Institute of Technology	Computer Science	Master of Science in Computer Science	\$13,950 for Georgia residents, \$33,794 for non-residents per year	\$17,710 for Georgia residents, \$32,404 for non-residents per year
University of Washington	Computer Science and Engineering	Master of Science in Computer Science & Engineering	\$12,753 for Washington residents, \$39,114 for non-residents per year	\$19,293 for Washington residents, \$34,773 for non-residents per year
University of Texas--Austin	Computer Science	Master of Science in Computer Science	\$11,742 for Texas residents, \$40,824 for non-residents per year	\$11,742 for Texas residents, \$22,564 for non-residents per year
University of Southern California (USC)	Computer Science	Master of Science in Computer Science	\$60,275 per year	\$56,225 per year

## Blogs

[America vs Canada universities](#)

[Study abroad](#)

[Rejection](#)

[Don't settle in USA](#)

[Study abroad is hard](#)

[Hard classes](#)

[Amazon internship](#)

## USA education I

[How I Graduated from an Undergrad in the USA Debt-Free](#)

[How Working Multiple On-Campus Jobs During My Undergrad Paid Off](#)

[Understanding Rent Prices Across States in the USA](#)

[Tips for Finding Food in the USA](#)

[Exploring Food Options in the USA](#)

## **USA education II**

[Tips for Finding Affordable Housing in the USA](#)

[Applying to Undergraduate Programs in the USA: A Guide](#)

[Understanding Student Visas: A Brief Overview](#)

[The Importance of Credit Scores: Learn from My Mistakes](#)

[How to Select the Right College: A Guide to Making the Best Decision](#)

[Top Mistakes to Avoid When Choosing College Classes](#)