

Define Your Priorities

When searching for an ESL program in the United States, it is important to first decide what is most important to you. This will help guide you through each of ***Your 5 Steps to U.S. Study***. Please answer the following questions with as much information as possible.

Why do you want to study in the United States?

Every student is different, and it is important to think about your own primary reasons to English in the United States. These reasons may change over time, but they will help guide your ESL program search.

As you begin to search for an ESL program in the United States, you should think about:

Your Short-term Goals

- What is the purpose of your English language study? Select all that apply.

☐ **Academic**

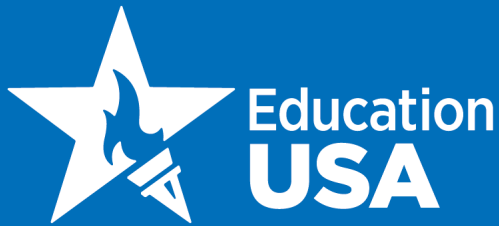
Are you planning to transfer to a U.S. academic program after your English study? Do you need to improve your scores on any English language tests?
Please explain.

☐ **Professional**

Do you need to study English for your current job or future employment?
Please explain.

☐ **Personal**

Are you interested in English language for personal reasons, such as a general interest, cultural experience, or other personal goals?
Please explain.



- How long do you plan to study English in the United States?

- ☐ **Less than 1 month**
☐ **1–6 months**
☐ **6 months–1 year**
☐ **Over 1 year**

Your Past Experience

- Have you studied English in your home country or abroad?

☐ **Yes**

Please Explain.

☐ **No**

Graduate study in the United States will require the completion of at least a bachelor's degree or its equivalent.

How will you pay for your studies in the United States?

Tuition, fees, and living costs vary greatly between U.S. institutions, making English language study affordable to many international students each year.

As you begin to find your own funding sources, you should think about:

Your Financial Contribution

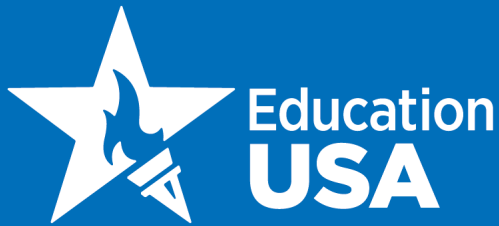
- In total U.S. dollars, how much money will you and/or your family be able to pay for an ESL program?
☐ **Less than \$1,000**
☐ **\$1,000–\$5,000**
☐ **\$5,000–10,000**
☐ **More than \$10,000**

Which kind of ESL program is best for you?

The type, level, and size of ESL programs vary in the United States.

As you begin to narrow down your choices, you should think about:

Program Type



When choosing a program type, think about your reasons to study English. The program should help you reach your goals.

- Which program type would be a good match for you?

☐ **U.S. College or University**

Offered by a U.S. college or university and can be on-campus or off-campus. A private English language provider may also offer programs at a U.S. college or university.

☐ **Independent Language School**

Offered by a private English language school. If your goals are academic, ask if you can transfer to a U.S. college or university program after the English language program.

Program Level

ESL programs range from beginning to advanced levels, and they should help improve your English reading, writing, listening, and/or speaking skills.

- Which program type would be a good match for you?

☐ **Beginning**

Offered by a U.S. college or university and can be on-campus or off-campus. A private English language provider may also offer programs at a U.S. college or university.

☐ **Intermediate**

Understanding of the English language in conversation and academics, but often requires assistance.

☐ **Advanced**

Understanding of the English language in conversation and academics, with little to no need for assistance.

Program Size

The size of a college or university campus can impact many things, such as the number of students in a classroom, which courses or subjects are offered, the ease of meeting new friends, and the overall environment. Imagine yourself going to a small, medium, or large campus.

- Which of the following would be best for you?

☐ **Small (less than 100 students)**

☐ **Medium (100–500 students)**

☐ **Large (more than 500 students)**

☐ **No Preference**



How easily will you adjust to your new community and environment?

The United States is a very diverse country, offering a variety of climates, cultural heritage, and landscapes from coast to coast. Imagine yourself studying in the United States and think about the environment you want.

As you imagine the environment you want, you should think about:

Region

The United States is often divided into four distinct regions. Refer to the map below to see the different regions.

- Which region would be best for you?

☐ **West**

The largest region of the United States covering more than half its land area, making it the most geographically diverse area. It is known for mild and damp climates to very dry and hot ones, with greater access to mountain ranges, desert areas, forests, and the Pacific coastline.

☐ **Midwest**

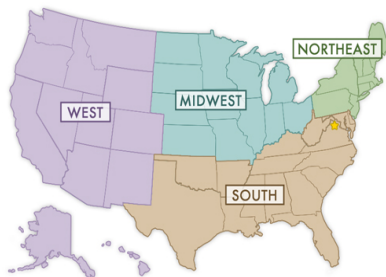
Also called “Middle America,” it is known for low-lying plains, small hills, and access to large freshwater lakes bordering Canada. Seasonal climate change, ranging from mild summers to cold winters with heavy snowfall, is also common in the Midwestern states.

☐ **South**

A region known for its sub-tropical climate with humid summers and mild winters. Southern states have diverse landscapes, including mountains, wetlands, arid deserts, and the Gulf of Mexico coastline.

☐ **Northeast**

Comprised of the New England and Middle Atlantic states, this region is known for its forested interior and rocky Atlantic coastline. Seasonal climate change, ranging from mild summers to cold winters with heavy snowfall, is also common in the Northeastern states.





Setting

Virtually every U.S. state includes a setting that can range from an urban city, suburban residential area, or a rural countryside. U.S. colleges and universities may be located in any one of these settings.

- Which setting would be best for you?

☐ **Urban**

Cities with larger populations providing convenient access to banking, stores, the arts, entertainment, public transportation, and international airports. Urban areas may have higher average living costs.

☐ **Suburban**

Residential areas close or farther from cities, with moderate populations and more spread-out restaurants and shopping areas. Suburban areas may have more moderate average living costs.

☐ **Rural**

Countryside areas with smaller towns of fewer people and areas of land used for mining and agriculture. Rural areas may have lower average living costs.

Housing

The type of housing you choose will depend on your personal needs and the options available.

- Which housing option is best for you?

☐ **On-campus Housing**

The largest region of the United States covering more than half its land area, making it the most geographically diverse area. It is known for mild and damp climates to very dry and hot ones, with greater access to mountain ranges, desert areas, forests, and the Pacific coastline.

- Furnished with basic needs such as a bed, closet, desk, and chair. Rooms are usually shared with other students and can be a great place to meet new friends quickly.
- Some dormitories may be for men only or women only, and some may allow both men and women in the same dormitory residence.
- Married Student Housing.
 - Demand for housing for married couples is usually high, so you should ask about this as early as possible.

☐ **Off-campus Housing**

Apartments

- The student finds his/her own apartment and typically pays a deposit, monthly rent, and utility fees.
- 'Co-op' Housing



- Co-ops are usually large houses where a group of students live together, sharing the costs and taking turns to do the cooking and cleaning.
- American Host Family
 - Living with an American family can be an enriching experience and can be less expensive than other off-campus housing options.
 - Host family options may not be available at all colleges or universities, so it is important to check with the campus adviser if you are interested.

Campus Life

Activities available in the local area may also be an important part of your U.S. experience. Will you be in a location that offers activities that interest you?

- Which activities will you want to be able to access?

☐ **Sports**

Which ones?

☐ **Arts**

Which ones?

☐ **Clubs and Organizations**

Which ones?



Education
USA

☐ **Hobbies**

Which ones?

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☐ **Other**

Which ones?

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