



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education



## GRADUATE STUDIES IN THE UNITED STATES

### Pursuing Master's and Ph.D. degrees

#### U.S. Higher Education System

- Academic intakes: Fall Semester starts in mid-August to September; Spring Semester starts in January. The academic year generally runs from mid-August to the end of May.
- A **Master's degree** can vary from a typical 2-year program to an intensive 1-year one.
- A **Ph.D. degree** could take anywhere from 3 to 6 years and usually offers funding
- Professional degree programs that lead to licensure in specialized fields such as law or medicine are also available.
- Apply to accredited institutions - Accreditation is a system for recognizing educational institutions and professional programs, for a level of quality, performance, and integrity based on published criteria and standards.

#### Graduate Application Package

*Admission standards and selectivity vary from school to school. Check university websites for latest information.*

- Academic Record: Mark sheets and Transcripts of all previous education
- Standardized Tests: GRE, GRE Subject Tests, GMAT, LSAT, USMLE
- English Proficiency Tests: TOEFL/ IELTS/ PTE/ Duolingo English Test
- Application Essays: Statement of Purpose, Personal Statements, and so on
- Letters of Recommendation
- Résumé/Curriculum Vitae
- Application Form(s) and Application Fee

#### Admissions Process

Admissions processes and application deadlines vary according to the university. Some universities offer rolling admissions without a specific deadline.

Upon acceptance, students will receive an I-20 (certificate of eligibility). Students accepted to full time programs are eligible to apply for an F-1 (Student) visa.

The best college or university is the one that is best fit for your needs and meets your requirements for academics, finances, and personal goals.

#### Financial Assistance for International Students

Financial assistance offered by U.S. universities to international students is extremely competitive. The amount and type of assistance or scholarship or financial aid offered varies by college, university, department, the level of study and various policies. Financial aid is usually available to students in the form of a Teaching Assistantship (TA), Graduate Assistantship (GA), and/or Research Assistantships (RA). Doctoral candidates get priority for funding at all schools, and in all departments. Students can apply for external sources of funding; a list is available at [EducationUSA@USIEF](mailto:EducationUSA@USIEF) centers.

U.S. institutions consider a student's complete application package to identify candidates. Students will have a greater chance of obtaining financial aid if they:

- Show evidence of a high level of academic achievement and commitment and motivation in the intended field of study
- Achieve high standardized test scores
- Write a convincing and well justified Statement of Purpose
- Have outstanding letters of recommendation
- Have prior research or teaching experience

EducationUSA is a network of hundreds of advising centers in more than 170 countries, supported by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. EducationUSA Advising Centers actively promote U.S. higher education around the world by offering accurate, comprehensive, and current information about accredited educational institutions in the United States. To find an advising center, visit [EducationUSA.state.gov](http://EducationUSA.state.gov).





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## Useful Websites and Resources

### *Step 1: Research Your Options*

EducationUSA, Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education: [educationusa.state.gov](http://educationusa.state.gov)

University search and navigation: [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com) | [www.gradschools.com](http://www.gradschools.com) | [www.edupass.org](http://www.edupass.org) | [www.carnegieclassifications.iu.edu](http://www.carnegieclassifications.iu.edu) | [www.mup.mass.edu](http://www.mup.mass.edu) | [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov) | [www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator](http://www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator)

U.S. Department of Education (for national statistics): [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

**Verifying accreditation status of an institution or program:** <https://ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/home> (U.S. Department of Education) | <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/school-search> (Department of Homeland Security Database)

### *Step 2: Finance Your Studies*

Funding opportunities by U.S. universities: [educationusa.state.gov/find-financial-aid](http://educationusa.state.gov/find-financial-aid)

Fellowships and scholarships: [www.usief.org.in/Study-in-the-US/Scholarships.aspx](http://www.usief.org.in/Study-in-the-US/Scholarships.aspx)

Scholarship search: [www.fundingusstudy.org](http://www.fundingusstudy.org) | [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

Financial Aid data resources available at EducationUSA@USIEF

### *Step 3: Complete Your Application*

Standardized Tests: GRE and GRE Subject Tests: [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre) |

GMAT: [www.gmac.com](http://www.gmac.com) | LSAT: [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org) | USMLE: [www.usmle.org](http://www.usmle.org)

English Proficiency Tests: [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org) | [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org) | [pearsonpte.com/](http://pearsonpte.com/) | [englishtest.duolingo.com/](http://englishtest.duolingo.com/)

### *Step 4: Apply for Your Student Visa*

Visa Information: <https://in.usembassy.gov/> | [www.ustraveldocs.com](http://www.ustraveldocs.com)

### *Step 5: Prepare for Your Departure*

Pre-Departure Information: [educationusa.state.gov](http://educationusa.state.gov) | [www.usief.org.in](http://www.usief.org.in)

Pre-Departure Orientations/ Prepathon by EducationUSA@USIEF

## Connect with Us

- Join us for a free virtual Ask an Adviser session on Your 5 Steps to U.S. Study – for timings visit <https://bit.ly/EducationUSAIndiaCalendar>
- Individualized advising by highly trained educational advisers for USIEF student members. For memberships visit <http://bit.ly/USIEFStudentMembership>
- Explore our calendar of events and attend specialized sessions on the application components. For events visit <https://bit.ly/EducationUSAIndiaCalendar>
- Sign up to get weekly EducationUSA updates on events and scholarships <http://bit.ly/EdUSASignup>
- Call us on the National Toll-Free Line: 1800 103 1231, Monday to Friday, 10 am – 5 pm
- Get updates on Twitter @EdUSA\_India, Facebook and Instagram @EducationUSAIndia
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel @EducationUSA India for 24X7 advising videos on all application components

Use the QR Code to sign up for updates



## Contact Us

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Email: [educationusaindia@usief.org.in](mailto:educationusaindia@usief.org.in) | [www.usief.org.in](http://www.usief.org.in) | [educationusa.state.gov](http://educationusa.state.gov)

YouTube: EducationUSA India | Facebook: EducationUSA India | Twitter: @EdUSA\_India

Download the EducationUSA India Mobile App, available on Android and Apple

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