

Information for International Students

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) includes, as members, over 400 colleges and universities in the United States of America. We helped our members develop web pages for international students who want to study in the U.S.A. These pages will provide you with answers to many of your questions about studying in America. It will also give you contact information so you can talk or write to appropriate persons on campus. AASCU member institutions are all accredited by recognized accreditation agencies. The colleges and universities of AASCU are small, medium or large in the size of their student population. They are located in urban, suburban or rural areas of the United States. AASCU schools are comprehensive in their coverage of the various academic disciplines and offer baccalaureate and masters degrees. Some AASCU institutions offer Associate degrees and others offer doctoral degrees. AASCU member schools can offer you the program of study you want in the kind of setting best for you and at a price that is very affordable.

All colleges and universities in the United States are interested in having international students on their campus. The presence of international students contributes to global awareness and the value of cultural diversity for all students. The institutions you will find linked to this web site have worked with AASCU to provide an easy to use guide for international students. Our mutual objective is to help you find a supportive, friendly, and safe environment for study in the United States.

AASCU encourages prospective international students to use the services of United States Education Advisors, who are located around the world. You can find the U.S. Advising Center nearest you by checking at the EducationUSA (<http://educationusa.state.gov/>) website. Those advisors can then use this web page to help you consider whether an AASCU college or university is right for you.

Click on the blue map of the United States on the left side of this page to help you explore the offerings that AASCU International Friendly campuses have for you in a part of the America you would like to study.

Where to Begin

We have identified some helpful web sites that can assist prospective students by helping them to identify colleges and universities that have the kind of academic program of interest to those students. These sites can help you find:

- A United States Overseas Advisor in your country
- Information about an appropriate program of study for you, and
- Visa information for entry into the United States

Where to begin with a knowledgeable person to help you

Education USA - the official United States Department of State website for International Students. This website can help you find an advisor in your part of the world who can help you select a school as well as advise you about student visas and entry requirements.

<http://educationusa.state.gov/>

Help finding the right program

College Board - works to connect students to college success and opportunity. Their site has an extensive search engine to help find the kind of program of study of interest to international students at undergraduate and graduate levels
<http://www.collegeboard.com/>

Hobson's - works to empower students all over the world to make the right course and career choices. It can help bring students together with the universities and companies that want them.
<http://www.hobsons.com/>

Study in the USA - publishes admissions magazines and a website for students, their parents and advisors seeking information about U.S. education.
<http://www.studyusa.com/>

Peterson's - a reliable and extensive source of information about American colleges and programs of study at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
<http://www.petersons.com/>

Official government information about all international student visa categories

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
<http://uscis.gov/graphics/services/tempbenefits/studvisas.htm>

Destination USA
<http://www.unitedstatesvisas.gov/>

United States Department of State Travel and Living Abroad
<http://www.state.gov/travel/>

English Language Proficiency Tests

Many institutions have established specific test scores as a means of checking English language proficiency. You will need to check the admission criteria to identify the exam used to check English language proficiency at the institution of your choice. The following links take you to web pages of English language testing services commonly used at American colleges and universities.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
<http://www.ets.org/>

International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS)
<http://www.ielts.org/>

Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)
<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/eli/melab.htm>

Credential Evaluation Services

It may be necessary to have your academic credentials translated and evaluated as part of the admission process. Credential evaluation services evaluate and convert educational credentials from any country in the world into their U.S. equivalents by describing each certificate, diploma or degree you have earned and stating its academic equivalency in the United States. A number of American institutions of higher education will require you to submit an evaluation of your credentials before admitting you to study. Check the requirement at the institution of your choice to determine which evaluation service to use. There is a fee for the service of evaluating your credentials. Visit the following sites for details.

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) Foreign Education Credential Service
<http://www.aacrao.org/credential/index.htm>

World Education Services
<http://www.wes.org/>

Admissions Information

Admissions

Undergraduate and graduate admission requirements are different. Please follow the instructions or process for the academic level of study for which you are applying.

International Undergraduate

- International undergraduate applicants usually, but not always, have a single office on a campus to help them, regardless of the program of interest (e.g. Mathematics, Business, History).
- Private scholarships or grants are the primary forms of financial aid for international undergraduate students.
- English language proficiency requirements vary at each college or university. Many institutions have established specific test scores as a means of checking English language proficiency. Click here for information about English Language Proficiency Test (http://www.aascu.org/international_friendly/where_to_begin/) services. You will need to check the English language requirements at the institution of your choice.
- It may be necessary to have your academic credentials translated and evaluated as part of the admission process. Credential evaluation services evaluate and convert educational credentials from any country in the world into their U.S. equivalents by describing each certificate, diploma or degree you have earned and stating its academic equivalency in the United States. A number of American institutions of higher education will require you to submit an evaluation of your credentials before admitting you to study. Check the requirement at the institution of your choice. Click here for information about credential evaluation services (http://www.aascu.org/international_friendly/where_to_begin/).

International Graduate

- International graduate applicants usually, but not always, need to work with the academic department that offers the specific program of interest (e.g. Biophysics).
- Financial assistance most often is available in the form of research assistant or teaching assistant positions or as private scholarships.
- English language proficiency requirements are often higher for participation in graduate level programs. Click here for information about English Language Proficiency Test (http://www.aascu.org/international_friendly/where_to_begin/) services. You will need to check the English language requirements at the institution of your choice. Please be aware that in graduate programs, each program may have different requirements so you also need to check with the specific program for your interest.
- It may be necessary to have your academic credentials translated and evaluated as part of the admission process. Click here for information about credential evaluation services (http://www.aascu.org/international_friendly/where_to_begin/).
- The standardized test scores required for admission depend on the program. Although many programs require test scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), programs in law schools usually require the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) and business programs often require scores from the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT).

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

<http://www.ets.org/>

Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)

<http://www.lsac.org/>

Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)

<http://www.mba.com/mba/TaketheGMAT>

Financial Information

Financial Aid Availability

Private scholarships are administered by various organizations in the United States. Colleges or universities administer some of these funds. A number of these scholarships are open to students from other countries. Ask the financial aid office at the institution that you are interested in attending to help you identify scholarships that accept applications from international students.

Always remember to:

- check for eligibility requirements,
- ask for application materials and
- check for application deadlines.

Federal grants and loans are very important to citizens of the United States but are generally not available to international students in the United States in a non-immigrant status.

State grants and scholarships are important to American students living in a particular state (example: Texas) but are not generally available to students from other U.S.A. states or international students in a non-immigrant status.