



The Five Steps to U.S. Study: Undergraduate admissions

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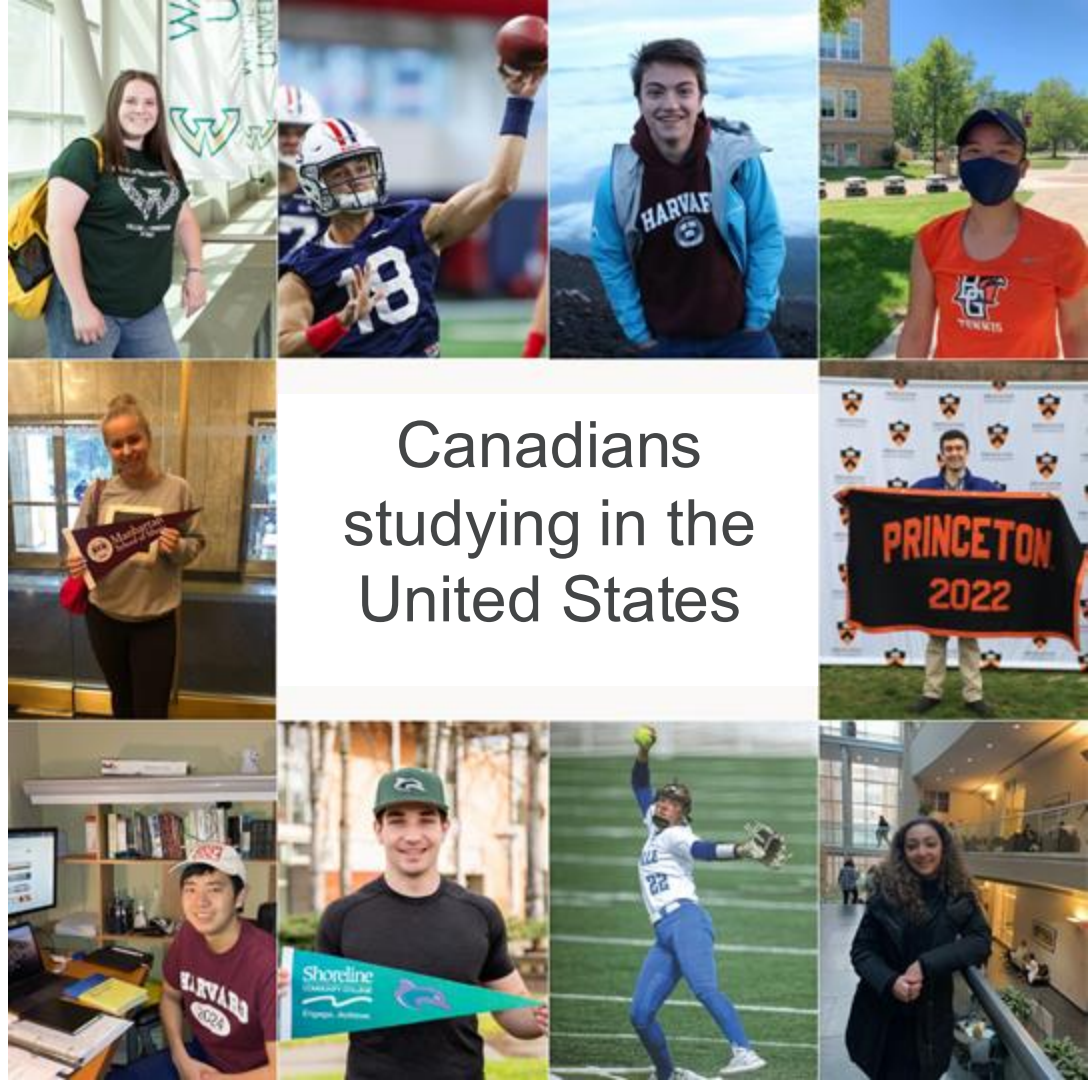


A U.S. Department of State Network

EducationUSA

EducationUSA is a U.S. Department of State network of over 400 international student advising centers in more than 170 countries. The network promotes U.S. higher education to students around the world by offering accurate, comprehensive, and current information about opportunities to study at accredited post-secondary institutions in the United States.

[Educationusa.state.gov](https://educationusa.state.gov)



Canadians
studying in the
United States

EducationUSA in Canada

- Free resources
 - 1:1 advising, including essay review
- In-person and virtual fairs and webinars
- Updates on social media
 - FB/Twitter: @edusacanada
 - Instagram: @edusa_canada
 - Youtube: EducationUSACanada
- Contact
 - Vancouver@educationusa.org Rachel Liu
 - [Educationusacanada.ca](https://www.educationusacanada.ca)



EducationUSA Ottawa Fair 2025

Five Steps to U.S. Study

1. Narrow your Search
2. Finance your Studies
3. Complete your Application
4. Apply for a Visa?
5. Prepare to Depart



The background is a solid dark blue. Overlaid on this is a large, lighter blue star. Within the lower right portion of the star, there is a silhouette of a torch with a flame.

Step 1: Research your options

Types of Institution

- Public Vs. Private
- Focus:
 - a. Research university
 - b. Regional university
 - c. Liberal Arts College
 - d. Technical or Arts Institute
 - e. Special-focus
 - f. Community college / junior college (2 year)
- Religious Affiliated
- Single-gender
- Minority serving institutions
 - a. Historically black colleges and universities (HBCU)
 - b. Hispanic serving institutions (HIS)
 - c. Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI)
 - d. Tribal colleges and universities

How to narrow your search – consider these factors

- Your academic profile (grades, test scores)
- Major/study options
- Location
- Size of campus
- Type of institution
- Financial aid available (if needed)
- Campus life and nearby activities



Kaia, Vancouver
EducationUSA student and mentor
Chapman University, Class of
2025

How to narrow your search

- Collegeboard.org (Big Future search)
- College Navigator
- Consult Guidance Counsellor
- Consult EducationUSA
- Review university websites/social media
- Sign up on university “prospective lists” and attend their virtual or in-person events – “demonstrated interest”



Sunni, Toronto
EducationUSA mentor
University of Pennsylvania Wharton, Class of
2023



8-10 total



Step 2: Finance your Studies

Undergraduate tuition at U.S. universities

- **Public Universities:**

In-state tuition

\$5,000-\$23,000 USD

Out-of-state or international tuition

\$8,000-\$58,000 USD

- **Private Universities:**

Same tuition for all students:

\$10,000 - \$70,000 USD

- **Cost of living (example, real total will vary)**

Room (on or off campus)

Meals (meal plan or not)

Books

Health insurance

Other (transportation or personal expenses)

- **Total: \$10,000 - \$30,000/year**

Funding options

- University financial aid
 - Merit scholarships – based on grades, test scores, and/or holistic application review
 - Need-based grants – based on your family's income and other financial measures; 50+ U.S. universities meet full demonstrated need for international students
 - Work-study – may be part of a needs-based aid package
 - Athletic scholarships
 - Performing and fine arts scholarships
- Provincial Government loans and scholarships
- Personal and family finances, including Canadian bank loans



Guillaume, Quebec City
EducationUSA student and
mentor
Harvard University, Class of 2023

Merit Scholarship

- Available at any study level
- Could be based on:
 - Grade average (GPA)
 - Standardized test scores
 - Leadership qualities
 - Community service
 - Overall strength of holistic applications
- Often your application serves as the scholarship application

Needs-based Financial Aid

- For undergraduates at select private universities
 - 50+ meet full demonstrated needs
 - Might include work-study
- Based on
 - Family's income
 - Other financial measures
- Americans
 - Complete the FAFSA
 - Can use government needs-based grants at any U.S. institutions

Scholarship Resources:

- EducationUSA database
- [Educationusa.state.gov](https://educationusa.state.gov)
- Florida-Canada Linkage Institute
- <https://global.ucf.edu/linkages/fcli/>
- #YouAreWelcomeHere Scholarships
- (undergrad only)
- <https://www.youarewelcomehereusa.org/>
- Blog Post (The Scholarships Available for Canadians at the 145 Most Selective U.S. Universities)
- <https://educationusacanada.blogspot.com/2024/01/the-scholarships-available-for.html>



- University Fair at WPGA Vancouver 2024/10

Athletic Leagues with scholarships

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) – Division 1 and 2:

[ncaa.org](https://www.ncaa.org)

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA):

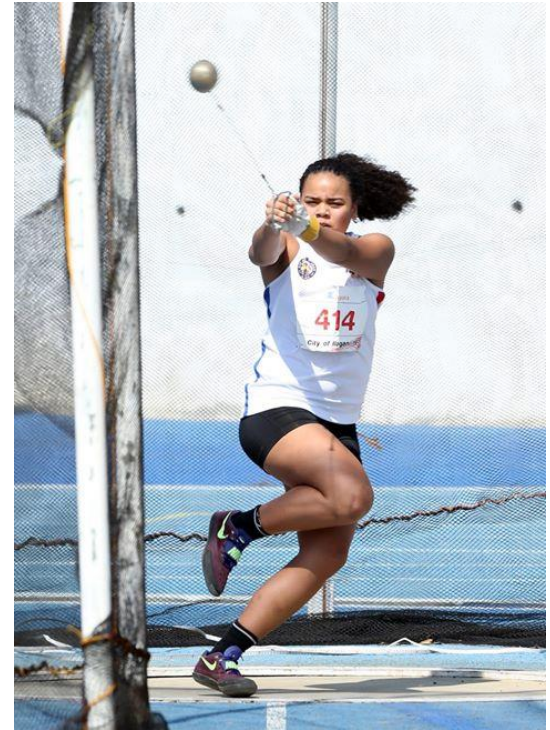
[playnaia.org](https://www.playnaia.org)

National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA): [njcaa.org](https://www.njcaa.org)

Athletic Leagues without scholarships

NCAA Division 3

Club sports (like ACHA hockey)



Shiloh, Vancouver
University of California, Riverside, class of 2023

NCAA information

Register for the Eligibility Center – ncaa.org

Complete your 16 Core Courses

- 4 English (or first language French)
- 3 Math
- 2 Science
- 1 English, Math, or Science
- 2 Social Science
- 4 Additional courses (includes foreign language)

Maintain a 2.3 Grade Point Average (GPA)

Reach out to university coaches to be recruited

Maintain your amateur status



Teagan, Ottawa
EducationUSA student, triathlon
University of South Dakota, class of 2023

Performing and Fine Arts Scholarships

- For students pursuing a Bachelor's of Fine Arts (BFA), Master's of Fine Arts (MFA), or other professional arts programs (such as Bachelor's of Music)
- Requires an audition or portfolio
 - Requirements outlined in detail on the university's website
- Deadlines are typically earlier and may include a pre-screening



Skye Yu. Victoria, BC
NYU Film 2025



Step 3: Complete your Application

Application Requirements

- Application and fee

- Common App – commonapp.org (1000+ schools)
- UCs, MIT, Georgetown, ApplyTexas, and many others have their own applications
- Application fees: ~\$30-100 USD

- Official transcripts from Grade 9 until the time you apply

- Original document and English translation (if needed), uploaded by current counselor

- Standardized Tests

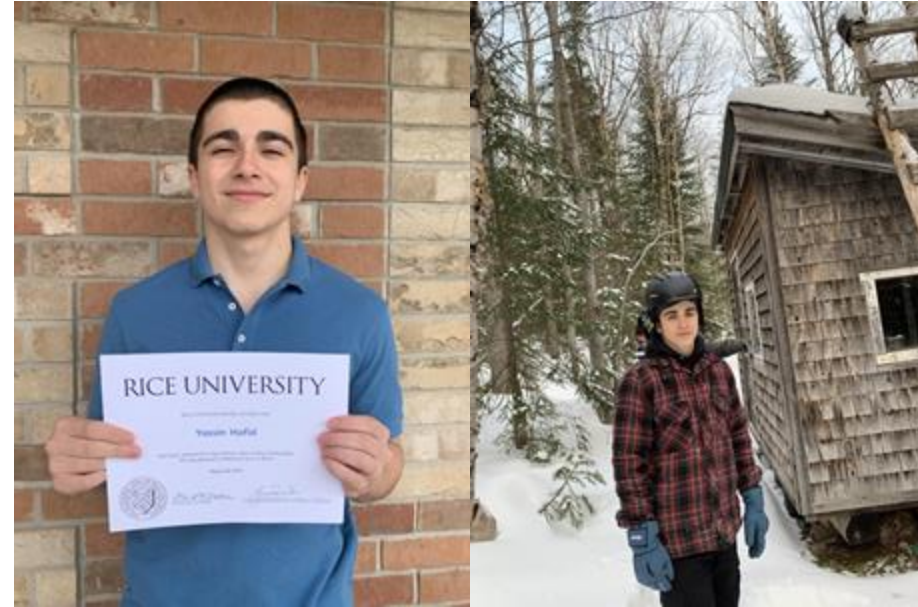
- SAT/ACT – (~2/3 of universities are test-optional)
- TOEFL/IELTS/Duolingo (non-native English speakers)
 - If you took high school in English, likely exempt



Azeezat, Ottawa
EducationUSA student and
mentor
American University, Class of
2023

Holistic review – other requirements you may expect

- Activities list – extracurricular profile
- Recommendation Letters - up to 3 required
 - 1 guidance counselor
 - 1-2 teachers
 - Up to 3 “other” letters – electives teacher, coach, supervisor, religious leader, etc.
- Essays and writing supplements
 - Personal essay (up to 650 words)
 - University-specific supplements
- Possible optional/required items
 - Interview
 - Research abstract/maker profile
 - Arts students: audition/portfolio
 - Graded paper



Yassin, Ottawa
EducationUSA student and
mentor
Rice University, Class of 2025

Application Timeline (Grade 12)

- August: Applications open
- Oct-Nov: Early application deadlines
- Dec: Early decisions released
- Nov-Feb: Regular application deadlines
- Mar-Apr: Regular decisions released
- May 1: Decisions due



Application Types

- Restrictive Early Action (REA)

- ❖ Non-binding
- ❖ Restrictions are specified to the institution
- ❖ Decisions in Dec – Feb

- Early Decisions (ED,ED1,ED2)

- ❖ Binding contract
- ❖ Only 1 US school
- ❖ ED1 decision in Dec
- ❖ ED2 decision in Feb

- Early Action (EA)

- ❖ Non-binding
- ❖ Can apply to multiple schools
- ❖ Decisions by April 1st

- Regular Decision (RD)

- ❖ non-binding
- ❖ Can apply to multiple schools
- ❖ Decisions by April 1st

- Rolling Admission

- ❖ Non-binding
- ❖ Ongoing review
- ❖ Decisions can be received within days/weeks



Step 4:
Apply for a visa?

Do Canadian citizens
need to apply for a visa
to study in the United
States?

No!



Tawsif, Toronto
EducationUSA student and mentor
Georgia Institute of Technology, Class of
2025

Step 5: Prepare to Depart

(Pre-departure orientation
presentation available on
EducationUSACanada Youtube Channel)

Questions?

Contact Us

Website educationusacanada.ca

Email vancouver@educationusa.org

Instagram @edusa_Canada

Facebook EdusaCanada

Twitter @edusacanada

Youtube EducationUSACanada



Pre-Departure Reception Vancouver 2025.8