



**Education
USA**

Let's Get Started...
Applying for Graduate Study

12 to 24 MONTHS PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT

- ☐ Obtain a valid [passport](#)
- ☐ Contact EducationUSA
 - ☐ Use the [EducationUSA website](#) to begin your search
 - ☐ Complete an EducationUSA [Pre-Advising Survey](#)
 - ☐ Schedule a free advising session with an EducationUSA Advisor
 - ☐ [Create a budget](#) to understand your financial contribution
 - ☐ Use EducationUSA Canada resources and follow on social media
 - ☐ Attend EducationUSA [events](#) online and in your area
 - ☐ Follow EducationUSA on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)
 - ☐ Subscribe to our [e-newsletter](#)
 - ☐ Read the [Study South of the Border](#) blog
- ☐ Research and narrow your choices
 - ☐ Talk to your academic advisor about your goal to attend grad school in the U.S.
 - ☐ For fields governed by a professional organization, ensure the program meets provincial qualifications
 - ☐ Choose a professor to help mentor you while you are narrowing your options
 - ☐ Use graduate school search engines (see box)
 - ☐ Attend an [education fair](#) near you
 - ☐ [Organize your search](#) with a spreadsheet
 - ☐ Use bibliographies from your courses to determine which professors/universities are in your specialty
 - ☐ Explore college websites and take virtual campus tours
 - ☐ Find 10-20 programs that match your degree preference, area of expertise, and desired location
 - ☐ [Contact Alumni and Current Students](#)
 - ☐ Schedule a campus visit with the department you are applying to (when possible)
- ☐ Prepare for and complete standardized testing
 - ☐ Take [TOEFL](#), [IELTS](#), [Duolingo](#), or [Pearson](#) - if English is not your first language
 - ☐ Determine what standardized test is required for your degree (box);
 - ☐ Refer to [List of test-optional schools](#)
 - ☐ Register for an upcoming test date
 - ☐ Create a study plan
- ☐ Commit to extracurriculars you care about
 - ☐ Take on leadership roles in clubs that support your career goals
 - ☐ Work, intern, and/or volunteer
 - ☐ Find opportunities for experiential learning (co-op) and publishing
- ☐ [Finance your studies](#)
 - ☐ Be aware that most graduate level funding comes from university scholarships, fellowships, or [assistantships](#)
 - ☐ Consider the [Fulbright](#) Scholarship (Due Nov. 15th)
 - ☐ Consider the Government of Canada [loans](#) and [scholarships](#)
 - ☐ Consider Canadian [provincial loans and scholarships](#)

**Contact your local
EducationUSA Adviser at
educationusacanada.ca**

Search Tools
petersons.com
gradschools.com
internationalstudent.com
Law: lsac.org
Med school: aamc.org
Business: mba.com

Standardized Tests
MA/MS: [GRE](#) or [MAT](#)
Business: [GRE](#) or [GMAT](#)
Dentistry: [DAT](#)
Law: [LSAT](#)
Medicine: [MCAT](#)
Optometry: [OAT](#)
Pharmacy: [PCAT](#)
Veterinary: [GRE](#) or [MCAT](#)



**Education
USA**

Let's Get Started...
Applying for Graduate Study

ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

Spring-Summer (one year prior to enrollment)

- ☐ Study for and take admissions tests
- ☐ Reach out to faculty who you want to be your supervisor (MA/MS programs)

August-September

- ☐ Finalize your list of universities
- ☐ Open and work on applications
- ☐ Work closely with a mentor and EducationUSA Advisor
- ☐ Ask recommenders to write letters
- ☐ Write and rewrite your essays/statements/writing sample
- ☐ Take or retake admissions tests

Fall-Early Winter

- ☐ Check Admissions deadlines as they vary widely by program and university
- ☐ Apply for all university-based financial aid opportunities

February-May

- ☐ Receive admissions decisions with financial aid offered

April-June

- ☐ Select your university
 - ☐ Consider best fit for the department, professor you will be working with, campus, and location
 - ☐ Evaluate financial package offered
- ☐ Begin working directly with your school or department
- ☐ Connect with your supervisor (MA/MS programs)

Application Requirements (varies by institution)

Application
Application fee
Post-secondary transcripts
Personal statement/essays
Writing sample
Letter(s) of recommendation
Curriculum vitae (C.V.)
Financial Affidavit

Funding your Studies

fulbright.ca
fundingusstudy.org
petersons.com
scholarships-bourses.gc.ca
yconic.com
scholarshipscanada.com

PREPARE FOR YOUR DEPARTURE

- ☐ Watch or attend an [EducationUSA Pre-Departure orientation](#)
- ☐ Be aware that [Canadian citizens](#) do not need to apply for a student visa
 - ☐ Receive I-20 from your university
 - ☐ Pay [SEVIS fee](#) online
 - ☐ Non-Canadian citizens, [apply for an F1 visa](#)
 - ☐ Do you plan to bring [dependents](#)?
- ☐ Work options
 - ☐ Work up to 20 hours per week on campus as an international student
 - ☐ Apply for [Optional Practical Training](#) - 12 months or 36 months ([STEM fields](#))
 - ☐ Pay [U.S. taxes](#)
- ☐ Housing
 - ☐ Be aware that there is unlikely to be on-campus housing for graduate students
 - ☐ Contact the international office to ask about neighborhoods, search engines, and roommates

Crossing the Border

Passport
I-20 or DS-2019
Proof of SEVIS payment
Driver's license
University contact info
Your new address