



Five Steps to U.S. Study

Graduate Admissions

12 to 24 MONTHS PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT

Step 0: Prepare to Apply

- Commit to extracurriculars, research, and work that 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
- Prioritize academic achievement
- Prepare for and complete standardized testing, if needed (see box)
 - Register for an upcoming test date
 - Create a study plan
- (Non-native English speakers) Take [TOEFL](#), [IELTS](#), [Duolingo](#), or [Pearson](#)
- Schedule a free advising session with an EducationUSA adviser

Contact your adviser

Eastern Canada:
ottawa@educationusa.org
Western Canada:
vancouver@educationusa.org

Follow EducationUSA

EducationUSACanada.ca
Instagram: @edusa_canada
X and Facebook: @edusacanada
YouTube: @EducationUSACanada

Step 1: Narrow your Search

- Talk to your academic advisor about your goal to attend grad school in the U.S.
- For fields governed by a professional organization, search for programs that meet provincial qualifications
- Choose a professor to help mentor you
- Use graduate school search engines (see box)
- Attend [education fairs](#), information sessions, and webinars
- [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)

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](#)

Step 2: Finance your Studies

- Review the EducationUSA website and "[Finance your studies](#)" document
- [Create a budget](#) to understand your financial contribution
- When contacting universities, ask about scholarships, fellowships, and teaching or research [assistantships](#)
- Consider the [Fulbright](#) Scholarship (Due Nov. 15th)
- Consider Government of Canada [loans](#) and [scholarships](#)
- Consider Canadian [provincial loans and scholarships](#)

Search Tools

[petersons.com](#)
[usnews.com](#)
[internationalstudent.com](#)
Law: [Isac.org](#)
Med school: [aamc.org](#)
Business: [mba.com](#)

ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

Step 3: Complete your Applications

Spring-Summer (at least one year prior to enrollment)

- Study for and take admissions tests
- Reach out to potential faculty supervisors (thesis programs)

August-September

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

Fall-Early Winter

- Check admissions deadlines, 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 and place deposit
- Begin working directly with your school, department, or supervisor

July

- Secure off-campus housing, sign lease

Application Requirements (varies by institution)

Application
Application fee
Post-secondary transcripts
Standardized test scores
Personal statement/essays
Writing sample
Letter(s) of recommendation
Curriculum vitae (C.V.)
Credit evaluation
Translations for non-English documents
Interview
Art/design portfolio
Financial Affidavit

PREPARE FOR YOUR DEPARTURE

Step 4: Apply for a Visa?

- Receive I-20 from your university and pay [SEVIS fee](#) online
- Request I-20s for your [dependents](#)
- [Canadian citizens](#) do not need to apply for a student visa
- Non-Canadian citizens, [apply for an F1 visa](#)

Step 5: Prepare to Depart

- [Watch](#) or attend an [EducationUSA Pre-Departure orientation](#)
- Know your [work options](#)

International students can work up to 20 hours per week on-campus

[Optional Practical Training](#) available for 12 months or 36 months (STEM fields)

Crossing the Border

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