

Everything about USA education

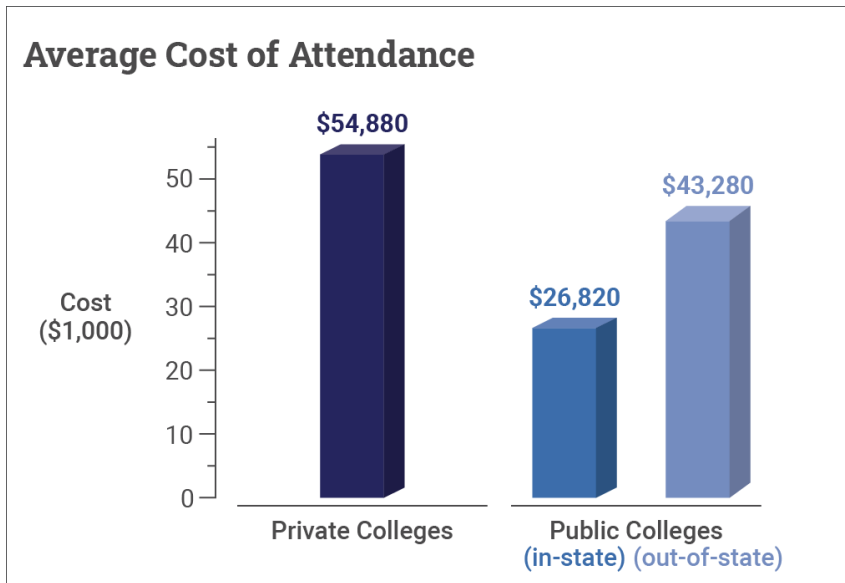
University Wala

USA universities, education, internships, visas, student life, saving tips, networking, etc. Share with your friends!

General Information

Average cost of attendance

- \$120k-150k for 4 years, can be lower or higher. 30-40k per year.
- Average job after will get you \$60k-150k, more or less depending on the major/job/position
- Savings through jobs, housing, internships, early graduation. But keep a buffer of 1 cr if coming from India (4 years)
- [Average Cost of College in America](#)



Applying process

- SAT for undergrad, GRE for masters, Phd
- College admission mainly depends on profile, essays, SOPs, personal statement, etc
- Apply online through college board + specific university pages
- <https://www.studyusa.com/en/a/34/applying-for-admission-to-a-u-s-program>
- <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/college-application-process>
- <https://www.universitiesintheusa.com/admissions/how-to-apply>
- <https://www.mastersportal.com/articles/1650/how-to-apply-to-an-international-university-in-the-us-in-2021.html>
- https://www.internationalstudent.com/study_usa/application-process/
- <https://www.usuniversity.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/>

Scholarships

- Most are finance based, the rest are merit based. For eg: UMass gives \$5-7k every semester (financial aid)
- Not all universities give scholarships, you have to find the ones that give
- Merit based are university specific and given to limited with more achievements
- [Scholarships in USA for International Students | 2021-2022 Scholarships](#)
- <https://scholarshipamerica.org/>
- USA
 - <https://www.scholarships.com/>
 - <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/financialaffairs/scholarships/>
 - <https://www.scholarshipportal.com/scholarships/united-states>

Highly populated College areas

- New york, California, Texas
- NJ, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, Charlotte, Philly, Denver, Orlando
- [America's Biggest College Towns.](#)

Top universities for international students

- NYU, USC, Purdue, Boston U, UT Dallas, Michigan state, UMass, Penn state, UCs
- [2021 Most International Students - National Universities | US News Rankings](#)
- [25 US universities with the most international students](#)
- <https://www.topuniversities.com/blog/10-us-universities-most-international-students>
- <https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/top-colleges-for-international-students/>
- [The Top 50 Schools For International Students 2019: Foreign Enrollment Is Slowing.](#)

Student loans

- Usually international people aren't allowed to get loans from big banks, but some startups and working on it
- You can have someone in the USA (your relatives) co sign a loan for you.
- [MPOWER Financing: Student Loans For International Students](#)
- [Eligibility for Non-US Citizens](#)
- US only
 - <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans>
 - <https://loans.usnews.com/student-loans>
 - <https://www.ed.gov/category/keyword/federal-student-loans>

Most famous majors

- Business, Analytics, Computer science, Maths, Finance
- [What Are the Most Popular Majors for International Students in the US?](#)
- [The 10 Most Popular College Majors](#)
- <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/most-popular-college-majors/>
- <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/12/15/the-6-most-popular-college-majors.html>
- <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/most-popular-majors>
- Highest paying
 - <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/slideshows/10-college-major-s-with-the-highest-starting-salaries>

- <https://fortune.com/2021/09/01/highest-paying-college-majors-starting-salaries/>

Finding your university

- Find the right **location** first (alumni), then money, then professors + classes
- Location determines a lot of things - jobs, people, weather etc. Most tech companies are in California so it's obvious that more opportunities will follow. There's a recent shift to other places so choose wisely.
- Professors go from one college to another (non-research) so it doesn't matter a lot
- Classes are same across the USA - focus more on money + alumni + location
- Compare: <https://www.niche.com/colleges/compare/>
- CS: <http://csrankings.org/>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-find-your-college-fit>
- <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/slideshows/10-steps-to-picking-the-right-school>
- <https://www.universityguideonline.org/en/InternationalPathways/find-the-right-university>
- <https://uwaterloo.ca/beyond-ideas/stories/tips-advice/things-consider-when-choosing-university>

What to bring with you before

- Local food, snacks, medications, big bags,
- You can find most things in the USA for a decent price. Clothes, food, furniture, bags, stationery, etc
- <https://www.wemakescholars.com/blog/study-in-usa-101-complete-travel-checklist-for-indian-students>
- Documents
 - Passport Xerox(5 copies)
 - VISA Xerox (5 copies)
 - I-20(5 copies)

- Air Ticket(2 copies)
- Original mark sheets + Degree Certificate (previous degree)
- Attested mark sheets + Degree Certificate (3 copies)
- Original transcripts + Degree Certificate (3 copies)
- Immunization form(specific to university)
- University-specific letters like admit, aid, forms.
- SEVIS fee receipt(3 copies)
- GRE Original + Xerox copies(5 copies)
- TOEFL Original + Xerox copies(5 copies)
- Final Year Project Report
- Syllabus Copies
- Recommendation letters
- <https://collegesofdistinction.com/advice/college-move-in-day-a-college-packing-list-of-essentials-for-your-dorm-room/>
- <https://collegeinfo geek.com/college-packing-list/>
- <https://getschooled.com/article/3931-college-students-packing-for-freshman-year-of-college/>
- <https://blog.ocm.com/posts/college-packing-checklist-what-to-bring-to-your-dorm-room>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/making-a-decision/off-to-college-checklist>
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Food at universities

- Expensive at most universities, you can live off campus, cook yourself, and save some money (rent and food)
- Most of them have a buffet system - with rotating things every week. Specials (kosher, veg) are taken care of.
- Limited options for vegetarians. Cooking at home is often better.
- [What to Expect from College Meal Plans](#)
- [Top 5 most commonly eaten foods on college campuses](#)
- [College Meal Plans 101](#)

- Be careful with your food options - mention it whenever you're ordering/asking
- <https://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/student-nutrition/>
- <https://www.purdueglobal.edu/blog/student-life/healthy-food-options-college-students/>
- <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/healthy-eating-plate/>

Banks

- Get a debit card and open a bank account as soon as you come here.
- Simply go to the bank with all your paperwork, talk to them
- [International Student Bank Account Step-By-Step Guide](#)
- <https://www.discover.com/>
- <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/guide-student-bank-accounts-us>
- <https://www.compareremit.com/money-transfer-guide/best-bank-accounts-for-international-students-in-the-usa/>
- <https://www.topuniversities.com/where-to-study/north-america/united-states/best-student-bank-accounts-us>

Credit card

- Credit cards are important - not immediately but someday!
- Best if you get it as soon as possible. Use discover student plans.
- <https://www.nerdwallet.com/best/credit-cards/college-student>
- <https://www.discover.com/>

Mental Health

- Most universities have a clinic/center for mental health related things, you can go there anytime. Professional help.
- Homesickness: Talk to people around, make friends, take help, ask your seniors - more of a generic advice, but helps initially!
- <https://www.eaie.org/blog/5-mental-health-stressors-international-students.html>

- <https://shorelight.com/student-stories/mental-health-advice-for-international-students/>
 - <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2019-04-08/how-to-look-after-mental-health-as-an-international-student-in-the-us>
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University things: After joining

Dorm rooms, on campus housing

- You get 1-3 roommates usually, furnished with bed, desk, and closet
- Meetings, other events for floors/groups of dorms regularly. Nice way to socialize
- Most of the floors and dorms are co-ed, separate bathrooms & rooms
- Average cost: \$700-1500 per month (3-4 months) - \$3k-6k per semester
- [Living on Campus: A Guide to College Housing | Best Colleges | US News](#)
- [RateMyDorm | Student Reviews of University & College Dorms](#)
- <https://shorelight.com/student-stories/what-will-my-dormitory-be-like-at-a-us-university/>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-life/students-speak-what-life-in-the-dorms-is-really-like>
- <https://www.unigo.com/in-college/campus-life/what-i-wish-id-known-about-college-dorm-life>
- <https://collegestats.org/articles/dorm-life/>

Off campus housing

- Not applicable for undergrads, only for grads (first year). Undergrads can move out after their 1st year usually
- Facebook groups, ask your seniors/friends/classmates

- Usually there are realtors around the area, call them and ask about the availability.
Usually unfurnished, but can vary
- Lease length: 12 months usually. Avg cost: \$500-1200 per month: \$6k - \$12k per year.
You can sublease the 3-4 months you're not living there during the summer to save \$.
- [Off campus housing expectations: ucla - Los Angeles](#)
- <https://www.forrentuniversity.com/>
- <https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/college-resource-center/off-campus-housing/>
- <https://www.sandiego.edu/off-campus-housing/housing-resources/off-campus-housing-resources.php>
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First week and orientation

- Time to meet new people and learn more about the university/major
- Ask around for any questions you have, talk with your seniors and build a network
- Introduction about classes, major, dorm rooms, etc.
- [Ask These Questions During Your College Orientation | Best Colleges | US News](#)
- [College Orientation, What to Expect](#)
- [Student orientation](#)
- [Why You Should Attend College Orientation](#)
- <https://www.topuniversities.com/blog/what-expect-your-first-day-university>
- <https://www.uopeople.edu/blog/what-to-expect-on-your-first-day-of-college/>
- <https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/student-life/blog/10-things-do-you-r-first-week-college/>
- <https://rabbitfood.sdstate.edu/free-time/emotions-every-freshman-feels-during-the-first-week>
- <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/your-first-week-on-campus/>
- <https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/student-life/blog/my-first-week-college-freshman/>

Classes

- Talk to advisors and seniors about classes. Professors do matter when choosing a section. Can also look for easier ones if you have side projects
- Computer science and most of other majors require you to have projects from the outside world, keep exploring
- Grades do matter generally, but not a lot in the USA. A minimum GPA of 3-3.3 (usually) will allow you to interview at any company
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/academic-life/8-tips-for-choosing-college-classes>
- <https://www.wayup.com/guide/choosing-college-classes/>
- Undergrad freshmen
 - <https://www.quora.com/What-classes-should-I-take-as-a-freshman-in-college>
 - <https://www.theclassroom.com/good-classes-freshman-year-college-1103.html>
 - <https://www.mic.com/articles/55285/class-of-2017-8-classes-every-college-freshman-should-take>
 - <https://education.seattlepi.com/good-classes-freshman-year-college-1139.html>
 - <https://www.bachelorsportal.com/articles/1792/what-to-expect-from-undergraduate-classes-in-the-us-in-2021.html>

Campus activities

- Multiple trekking, walking, and other clubs to socialize on campus. Message/email them or find their stalls on campus.
- Gym/recreation center/libraries has tons of activities
- Students have random stalls around the campus, roam around and find those.
- Occasional larger university events - use that to join clubs.
- Tons of hackathons (coding events for 2-3 days) for computer science students
- <https://www.event-29.com/college-event-ideas/>
- <https://www.merritt.edu/student-life/>
- <https://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/1855/College-Extracurricular-Activities.html>

- <https://foothill.edu/studentaffairs/studentactivities.html>

Sports, Clubs

- Every university has multiple sport teams, you can join if you're really good
- Go to the centers, ask how to join, and give trials. Everything is extremely professional.
- There are casual games in the gym every day - you can also join those clubs!
- <https://www.cappex.com/articles/college-life/college-club-vs-intramural-sports>
- <https://www.american.edu/recfit/club-sports/>
- <https://collegesportsusa.com.au/>
- <https://www.usacollegesport.com/en/>
- <https://www.ncaa.org/>
- <https://www.collegesportsamerica.com/>
- Sports centric univs:
 - <https://www.bestcollegereviews.org/features/most-successful-college-athletics-programs/>
 - <https://www.topuniversities.com/where-to-study/north-america/united-states/best-us-universities-sports-lovers>
 - <https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/best-college-athletics/>
 - <https://www.studyusa.com/en/field-of-study/470/sports>
 - <https://ussa.edu/>

On campus jobs

- Every college has a website for on campus jobs, keep yourself updated from there
- Talk to professors about research position if interested
- Talk to department for RA (research assistant), TA(teaching assistant), Grader, and other positions
- Look out for clubs which actively do stuff
- Common places like gyms, dining halls, libraries always have positions
- Can work max of 20 hours every week
- <https://www.stilt.com/blog/2018/01/get-campus-job-usa-international-student/>

- <https://studyabroad.shiksha.com/10-popular-part-time-campus-jobs-for-students-in-the-us-articlepage-54>
- <https://redbus2us.com/how-to-get-part-time-job-on-campus-in-us-universities/>
- <https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/students/campus-employment>
- https://www.internationalstudent.com/study_usa/way-of-life/working-in-the-usa/

Off campus jobs

- International students on F1 aren't allowed to work off campus.

Internships and other opportunities

- Finding internships is crucial, gives you experience, money, and a solid profile improvement. Easier to convert into a full time job after that!
- Ask your department, seniors in your major, and google "internships in" your major
- You can do one every summer/winter, utilize that time. Need a CPT for internship (international)
- [Searching for Internships in the USA · Career Training USA · InterExchange](#)
- [Internship USA - Internship placement programs across the USA](#)
- 30dayscoding.com for coding needs
- Tech internship process: <https://www.30dayscoding.com/process>
- Network with people who have internships and ask them about it
- Talk to recruiters and managers with your skills to get a step ahead. More here: <https://www.30dayscoding.com/blogs>
- Career fairs
 - <https://www.csustan.edu/career/career-fairs>
 - <https://careers.usc.edu/students/find-a-job/career-fairs-for-students/career-fair-for-students/>

Money saving tips

- On/off campus Jobs, living off campus, cooking your own food, RA, TA, fellowship, scholarships

- <https://www.fastweb.com/personal-finance/articles/the-31-money-saving-tricks-for-students>
 - <https://www.happyschools.com/100-personal-finance-and-money-savings-tips-for-students/>
 - <https://realwealth.com/money-saving-tips-kids-teens-college-students/>
 - <https://www.greatvaluecolleges.net/cost-saving-tips-for-college-students/>
 - <https://www.chartercollege.edu/news-hub/7-money-saving-tips-students>
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Visa - international

F1 Visa

- Student visa for studying. Apply after getting admission into certain colleges
 - Have to go to an embassy (delhi, mumbai, etc) to get approved after an interview
 - [My US Visa Experience in detail | US Consulate Mumbai | Student F1 Visa | Visa Approved | Fall 2021](#)
 - [Student Visa: US Department of State](#)
 - [How to Apply for an F1 Visa - F1 Student Visa](#)
- If visa rejected
- [F1 visa rejected. What are my options?](#)
 - [What to Do If Your Student Visa Is Denied](#)

CPT

- Need for internships and co-ops in the USA (for international students)
- Colleges help with this and usually have an international office which assists you
- [What is Curricular Practical Training \(CPT\)?](#)
- [International Students and Scholars | Curricular Practical Training \(CPT\)](#)

- <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/sevis-help-hub/student-records/fm-student-employment/f-1-curricular-practical-training-cpt>
- <https://www.studyusa.com/en/a/1238/what-is-the-difference-between-opt-and-cpt>
- <https://international.uiowa.edu/issc/current/employment/cpt>

OPT

- Full time job, apply <3 months before graduation
- 1 year initially, which extends to 2 more years
- [Optional Practical Training \(OPT\) for F-1 Students](#)
- [Initial 12 Month OPT Application | International Programs Office](#)
- [The Facts about Optional Practical Training \(OPT\) for Foreign Students](#)
- <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2018-07-02/what-to-know-about-optional-practical-training-work-authorization>
- <https://www.fwd.us/news/what-is-opt/>

Enjoy the time, you're only going to get it once. Meet a lot of people, learn from them, collaborate to make something cool, find internships, have a good time, and make memories!