

## Frequently Asked Questions

# What You Need to Know About Studying in the United States

Application Process

Cost to Apply

Standardized Tests

TOEFL Test

GRE

Three-year College Degree

Practical Training

GMAT SAT

Employment opportunities for Indian Students

### **When should a student start the application process?**

At least 18 months in advance of your intended date of enrollment at a U.S. university. For example, if you wish to enroll in August/September 2011, you should start the process around April 2010. Be sure of the deadlines of the programs.

### **How much does it cost to apply to U.S. universities?**

Approximately Rs. 50,000 would have to be spent for applying to an average of seven universities. This includes standardized admission test fees, application fees, telephone, faxing and mailing expenses.

### **What is the average cost per year for study in America?**

The cost of tuition and living expenses could range from \$25,000 to \$50,000 a year.

### **Is a three-year college degree from an Indian university accepted by graduate schools in the United States?**

The Indian three-year degree, patterned on the British model, is intensive and subject specific. Unfortunately, for those who aspire to study in the United States, this degree is not considered to be the equivalent of the U.S. bachelor's degree at most schools, although the number of U.S. schools that now accept a three-year degree from India is on the rise. The United States has no single answer on the recourse for students with a three-year degree. Schools vary widely on what they consider as suitable remedial measures for the one-year shortfall. Students with a three-year degree and additional credentials may want to have their credentials evaluated by professional evaluating organizations and strengthen their applications with a professional report.

### **Why am I asked to take the TOEFL test in spite of having studied in English medium schools in India?**

English language ability is important for a student to succeed in U.S. classrooms. Indian students educated in English medium schools may have varying reading, writing, speaking and listening comprehension abilities. A standardized test such as TOEFL is a fair measure of these aspects of language.

The TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) measures the ability of non-native speakers of English to use and understand English as it is spoken, written and heard in U.S. colleges and universities.

### **What standardized tests do I have to take to apply?**

The most common standardized tests to be

### For more information:

United States-India Educational Foundation

[www.usief.org.in](http://www.usief.org.in)

America's Best Colleges

<http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/college>

taken are the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test of reasoning ability) for undergraduate studies and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and Graduate Management Aptitude Test (GMAT) for graduate studies. The standardized test requirement varies, based on the class level and major that you want to pursue. For example, if you wish to take up undergraduate studies in America, you will be required to write the SAT test. Similarly, for graduate studies in sciences, humanities and engineering, you may have to take the GRE test. Some schools may want a more specialized GRE test to be taken for a masters or Ph.D. program called the GRE Subject Test. For students interested in pursuing a master's degree in business, GMAT would be a more appropriate test to take. Some of the other standardized tests for professional fields of study are the Dental Admission Test (DAT), the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) and the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). For more information on testing, visit [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org); [www.gmac.org](http://www.gmac.org); [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org); [www.usmle.org](http://www.usmle.org) and [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org)

### What weight should Indian students give to rankings while making a selection of a college or university in the United States?

Many organizations and magazines in America publish rankings of U.S. universities. Students should be aware that many universities do not participate in the surveys conducted for the ranking reports. Students must also read the methodology of the rankings carefully.

Students need to choose the university that is the right fit. This university should meet their needs in the quality of programs, profiles of faculty, program content, class profile, admission requirements, financial aid availability, campus diversity, internship and practical training options. Students should make their own ranking list on the basis of their requirements.

Students should select the university not on the basis of it being the most well known or most famous but on the basis of it being appropriate. The university should meet all that the student needs and wants, academically, socially and financially.

### What are the employment opportunities for Indian students in America?

Employment opportunities for international students are limited. One should not plan on earning substantial money from a part-time job to help pay for your studies.

### On campus:

Though international students are allowed to work on campus, these jobs are often difficult to obtain and do not provide sufficient funds to sustain education costs. On-campus jobs may not necessarily be related to the field of study one is pursuing. Students can work for 20 hours per week on campus.

### Practical training:

There may be opportunities for practical training which entail a period of authorized employment, designed to allow foreign students to have professional work experience related to their fields of study. For specific details, one should contact the foreign student adviser at the university, after you are enrolled.

There are various on-campus as well as off-campus internship opportunities available at U.S. institutions that are normally listed on the Web site of the school. The student should consult an adviser at the institution's career center to ensure that the internship position meets eligibility and legal requirements.

### Optional practical training:

Recently, the United States extended the period of Optional Practical Training by certain employers from 12 to 29 months after completion of degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This training provides qualified students substantial hands-on experience in a professional environment.



Compiled by *Shevanti Narayan*, country coordinator, Educational Advising Services, United States-India Educational Foundation.

EducationUSA  
Events in India:

September-November



CALENDAR

### Northern Region

#### September 18

Session on "Higher Education in the U.S." at Hi-Tech Institute of Engineering & Technology, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

#### September 22

Session with John F. Eriksen from Bryant University, Rhode Island on "Higher education opportunities in the United States" at 2:30 p.m. at USIEF, New Delhi.

#### September 23

Session on "Roadmap for successful application to U.S. universities" at 4 p.m. at American Center, New Delhi.

#### October 8

U.S. University Fair at USIEF, New Delhi.

#### November 6-7

FICCI Higher Education Summit, New Delhi. Students may attend the exhibition.

#### November 16-20

International Education Week, USIEF, New Delhi.

### Eastern Region

#### September 15-17

Presentations on "Fulbright-Nehru & other Fellowship Programs" and "Higher Education in the USA" at Lady Keane College and Shankar Dev College in Shillong, Meghalaya.

#### September 16-18

International Education Week—Study America Festival at American Center, Kolkata.

#### November 17-18 & 20

Program in commemoration of International Education Week, at American Center, Kolkata.

### Southern Region

#### September 14-16

America Days road show at Tirunelveli and presentations on "Fulbright-Nehru

Fellowship Opportunities."

#### September 14-16

America days road show at Mysore and presentations on "Higher Education in the United States."

#### September 22

Presentation on "Opportunities for Study and Fellowships at the East-West Center" by representatives from the East-West Center, Hawaii at USIEF, Chennai.

#### September 23

Linden U.S. University Fair at Hotel Taj Coromandel, Chennai. Twenty-five U.S. universities are participating.

#### October 6

U.S. University Fair, Chennai.

#### November 16-20

International Education Week, Chennai.

### Western Region

#### September 15

Linden U.S. University Fair, Mumbai.

#### September 16

Linden U.S. University Fair, Pune.

#### September 22

Video screening of "Inside Graduate Admissions" at USIEF, Mumbai, 11 a.m.

#### September 26

The MBA Tour, Mumbai.

#### September 29

Presentation on "Advising University of California International Applicants" at USIEF, Mumbai, 11 a.m.

#### October 7

Session on "Admission process in U.S. colleges and how best to create a successful application" by Amin Abdul-Malik from Yale University at 2:30 p.m. at USIEF, Mumbai.

#### November 16-20

International Education Week, Mumbai.