



# Let's Get Started!

*Applying for Undergraduate Study  
in the U.S*

## ADMISSIONS TIMELINE: 18-24 MONTHS PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT

- Obtain a valid passport
- Contact [EducationUSA in Cyprus](#)
  - Attend a free, comprehensive information session
  - Watch [this video](#) for a comprehensive picture of U.S. higher education!
- Research and narrow your options
  - Determine your **top priorities** →
  - Explore your [5 steps to U.S. study](#)
  - Create a list of 8-10 schools by searching college websites
  - Use college search engines like [Big Future](#), [Funding U.S. study](#), and [Peterson's](#)
- How much can you afford? Finance your studies
  - Create a budget using a [college cost calculator](#), and research [actual costs](#)
  - Find schools that offer financial aid for international students
  - Find schools that have [special opportunities](#) and other financial aid
  - Consider other options for saving money, [such as community colleges/ 2+2](#)
- Prepare for a standardized test
  - What tests do schools on your list require, including to qualify for financial aid?
  - Decide what tests to take ([SAT](#), [SAT subject tests](#), [ACT](#), [TOEFL](#), or [IELTS](#))
  - Decide how to study
    - Take *free* practice tests, for [TOEFL](#), [SAT](#), and [ACT](#) exams
    - Purchase a test prep book
    - Sign up for free online resources (like [Khan Academy](#))
    - Enroll in a class or hire a private tutor
    - Register for an upcoming test

### What is most important to you?

Financial Aid?      Majors offered?  
Cost?      Size of school?  
Location?      Sports offered?      Research?

Contact the  
EducationUSA  
advisers in Cyprus:  
StudyUSA  
info@studyusa.co  
m.cy  
22-669757  
22-71800



Education  
USA

<https://educationusa.state.gov/>

## 9-18 MONTHS PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT

- Perfect your resume
  - Work closely with your school guidance counselor and EducationUSA office
  - Build relationships with teachers and mentors who can write letters of reference
  - Take on leadership roles in clubs or sports and develop work or volunteer experience
- Narrow your list of schools to ensure a good balance, including 1-2 schools you are likely to get into, 3-4 moderately difficult, and a few "reach schools!"
  - Track application deadlines. *Note that scholarship deadlines may be earlier!*
- Take or retake standardized tests
- Write and rewrite your essays. Share drafts with peers, teachers, and other adults

## LESS THAN 9 MONTHS PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT

- Complete your applications
  - November-December
    - Early Action and Early Decision applications due (optional)
    - Some Regular Admissions due--check each school's deadlines
  - January-February
    - Most Regular Admissions due (January 1)
    - CSS profile and other scholarship/need-based financial aid due
    - FAFSA applications for U.S. citizens due
  - March-April
    - Receive admissions decisions from the schools you applied to
- May 1
  - Select your university! A deposit is required to secure your spot