



1 Research your options

2 Finance your studies

3 Complete your application

4 Apply for your Student Visa

5 Prepare for your departure

**Your 5 Steps
to U.S. Study**



College research - Key questions to ask

Don't be afraid to ask questions

- It is a big decision, one of the more important you'll ever make.
- You will need to ask many questions when making a college choice. May this list be helpful as you research and find the college that will be your best fit.

Campus Environment

- What do students like about this campus?
- What services are available to help new students adjust?
- What do students do on the weekends?
- What do students do for fun?
- What types of public transportation are available on campus or in the area?
- What is the surrounding area (town/city) like?
- What is student housing like?
- Where do students eat? Are there flexible meal plans?

Academics

- How much time do students spend on homework each week?
- What types of assignments are given (papers, exams, problem sets, rehearsals, research projects, etc.)?
- How much writing is expected?
- How much reading is assigned per class?
- What are exams like?
- What types of tutoring resources exist on campus?
- What types of honor courses, learning communities, weekend or night programs, or other unique academic programs are offered?

Active Learning

- How and when are majors selected, and can they be self-designed?
- How do students receive help selecting classes?
- Who do students talk to about career plans? Is there guidance available with this?
- What types of internships are available, and are they required to graduate?
- How frequently do students make class presentations?
- How is technology incorporated into the curriculum?

Student-Faculty Interaction

- Are classes taught by professors or teaching assistants?
- What is the average class size freshman year?
- Do undergraduate students have the opportunity to research with faculty?
- How often do faculty meet with students outside of class?
- What does the school do to promote student-faculty contact?
- What kind and how often do students get feedback/grades on coursework?
- In what ways do students, faculty, and staff work together on campus committees?
- How long does it take professors to reply to emails?

Identifying U.S. Colleges that you will apply to



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Out-of-Class Experience

- What activities are available to help students apply classroom learning to real life?
- What opportunities are available for spiritual expression and growth?
- What types of support services (academic and non-academic are available)?
- What kind of community service opportunities are available?
- What kinds of special projects, seminars, or other experiences are offered or required of first-year students or seniors?
- What types of athletic and intramural activities are available?
- What kinds of musical, performing, and fine arts events are available for students to participate in?
- What kinds of musical, performing, and fine arts events come to campus?
- What types of summer classes or summer internship programs are available?
- What types of study abroad programs are available?

Choosing the right college

To get a sense of how much you are likely to learn, grow, and develop at a given institution, these are some of the important questions to ask. Talk to admissions representatives, tour guides, faculty, and students if possible.

In addition, consider:

- taking a campus tour,
- attending a class or two,
- eating a meal on campus,
- looking through recent issues of the student newspaper

Diversity

- In what ways are students exposed to multiple cultures or diverse perspectives?
- Where are students from, and how many are from other countries?
- What types of support services are there for students from other countries?
- Do Third Culture Kids (Global Nomads) have similar support?

Other

- What are the major courses of study for which your school is known?
- What types of financial aid or scholarships are available?
- What percentage of students work on or off campus?
- Is financial aid available for students from other countries?
- How extensive are the library services, such as books, magazines, reference materials, computers, and other on-line resources?
- What safety services are available for students?
- What types of health and counseling services are available on campus?
- What would you change about the school?