



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



Finances and financial aid

Evaluating your finances is important when looking into studying in the U.S. International students can receive significant amounts of financial assistance for their studies; however, it rarely covers the full cost. The U.S. is a large country and the cost of living varies greatly from place to place. You need to assess your finances and establish what you are able to contribute towards your education and living expenses.

A good place to start is our [Finance your studies page](#).

Other helpful websites:

[EducationUSA financial aid](#)

[International students seeking to study in the U.S.](#)

[Funding for U.S. study](#)

[Schools awarding financial aid](#)

[CollegeBoard - paying for college](#)

College Scholarship Search Service (CSS Profile)

International students are often required to fill out financial documentation to receive scholarships or financial aid. Most colleges will request that you complete a [CSS Profile](#); however, some may use their own application forms.

The CSS Profile is an application from the [College Board](#) used by [many colleges](#) to gather financial information from international students for scholarship and financial aid applications. It is available from October 1 in each application cycle. It's important to check the CSS Profile deadlines, especially if you're applying early.

Creating your CSS Profile is a detailed process that requires family financial information—but it's often a necessary step for you to be reviewed or merit or needs-based scholarships.

Who should apply

In reviewing your finances, if you could not pay for some or all of your college expenses, you should consider applying for financial aid.

Note: You should **always** confirm finance-related information and deadlines on each institution's website—often this will be on the college's 'Financial Aid' page.