



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



Application types

It's important to plan your workload, so read through each of your college applications carefully and make sure you know how many and what sort of essay/personal statement you'll be required to write.

Application types:

1. The Coalition

The [Coalition](#) is used by 130 universities. This option was formally known as the Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success

2. Universal College Application

[Universal College Application](#) is used by over 75 institutions.

3. Individual college or state application

Specific instructions will be explained

4. The Common Application

The Common Application is known as the [CommonApp](#) and is used by 800 colleges. Essay prompts for the next year's intake reset on August 1 each year.

To learn about the CommonApp check out this [EducationUSA Australia video](#)



The importance of your essay/personal statement

Your transcript is the 'who', 'what' and 'where' of the application, whereas your essay(s) and letters of recommendation form the 'why' and 'how'. Think of each essay as an opportunity to share highlights and lessons learned from your life.

Remember that admissions staff have read many essays in their career, so having a completely unique thought is unlikely. However, your application can always stand out through an engaging and compelling essay that is clearly focused, well-written and demonstrates your personality and maturity.

Do not let the relatively short word count minimize the importance of this task—or the quality that is expected. The U.S. students you're competing against spend in excess of 6 months in preparing their essays. Don't be daunted by this task! Instead enjoy the challenge of your essay being the way to share your story.