STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES

A Guide for Students Living in the Kingdom of Bahrain
The EducationUSA Office at the U.S. Embassy in Manama promotes U.S. higher education around the world by offering free, comprehensive, objective, and timely information about educational opportunities in the United States and guidance to qualified individuals on how to best access those opportunities. The Education Advising Office does not endorse or rank any college or university, nor do they endorse services provided by companies or organizations in the areas of test preparation, admissions, placement, language training, or visa procurement.

Basic services available from the Education Advising Offices include:

- College counseling and guidance
- Standardized test information (i.e. TOEFL iBT, SAT, etc.)
- Bulletins, handouts and education-related publications
- Study in the USA presentations
- Pre-departure orientations

This booklet provides preliminary information on study in the United States. For more information about Education Advising Offices affiliated with the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, please see [http://educationusa.info](http://educationusa.info) and [http://exchanges.state.gov](http://exchanges.state.gov).

**Bahrain**

Tel: +973-1724-2700 Ext. 2767  
E-mail: ManamaPAO@state.gov  
Website: [https://bh.usembassy.gov/education-culture/study-usa/](https://bh.usembassy.gov/education-culture/study-usa/)  
Hours: Sunday – Thursday, 8:00am-5:00pm  
No walk-in services provided. Services provided by appointment only.
Resources for Study in the USA

The following resources are available in Arabic and English. To download, go to the education page of the U.S. Embassy-Bahrain website. https://bh.usembassy.gov/education-culture/study-usa/

IF YOU WANT TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES SERIES
Study in the United States
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the structure of U.S. higher education?
Higher education in the United States is comprised of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Undergraduate programs generally grant associate’s degrees (two years) and bachelor’s degrees (four years). Master’s degrees and doctoral degrees are conferred at the graduate level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Year in School</th>
<th>U.S. Degree</th>
<th>Bahraini Equivalent</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>Grade 9 - Freshman</td>
<td>High School Diploma</td>
<td>General Secondary Examinations Certificate</td>
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<td>Grade 10 - Sophomore</td>
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<td>Grade 11 - Junior</td>
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<td>Grade 12 - Senior</td>
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<td>Under-Graduate</td>
<td>1st Year - Freshman</td>
<td>Associate’s Degree</td>
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<td>2nd Year - Sophomore</td>
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<td>3rd Year - Junior</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
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<td>4th Year - Senior</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>1st Year</td>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2nd Year</td>
<td>Ph.D</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3-8 Years</td>
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2. Are “colleges” and “institutes” in the United States as good as “universities”?
Degree-granting institutions, accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-approved accrediting organization, can be referred to by any of these terms. Colleges and institutes are not inferior to universities. As a general rule, colleges tend to be smaller than universities and may only offer undergraduate degrees, while universities offer graduate degrees. Institutes often specialize in certain fields such as business, engineering and art.

3. What is a community college?
Community colleges provide two-year associate’s degree programs as well as technical and vocational programs. They can be public or private institutions and are sometimes called junior colleges or two-year colleges. Tuition costs are often lower at two-year institutions, and many have articulation/twinning agreements to allow students in transfer programs to move easily into the third year of a bachelor’s degree program at a university. A growing number of international students choose to study at community colleges.
4. I am a scholarship recipient. Where do I go for information and assistance?
Please refer to the Bahrain Ministry of Education for up-to-date information about the rules and regulations for specific scholarship programs.

5. When do I begin my search for universities in the States?
It is recommended that you begin your search 12-18 months before your intended departure date. For example if you plan to start study in the United States in September 2019, you should begin your search in June/July of 2018 or earlier.

6. How do I begin my search?
Ask yourself a few questions:
- What do I want to study?
- Does my secondary school coursework prepare me for the demands of this major?
- Can I meet admission requirements?
- What kind of environment do I want to live in? (large city, small town, cold climate, close to family, etc.)
- Do I want to go to a small (Under 5,000), medium (10,000+) or large (20,000+) school?
- What is my budget and how much can my family afford?
- Do I want to go to a private or public institution?
- Do I want to attend a university that has services for international students?

7. Can you give me a list of the top schools in business?
Many ranking lists are created by magazines and other publications. No list has official status or is endorsed by the U.S. government. Rankings are likely to be subjective and are generally based on a wide range of criteria that do not necessarily include academic standards. The more established rankings may give you a starting point for your decision; however, the “best” college or university for you will be based on many other factors, including how you feel about a program’s potential to meet your needs.

8. How many universities should I apply to?
If you have conducted thorough research, you will probably only need to apply to 6-12 institutions.

9. What documents must I submit for admission to U.S. colleges and universities?
Individual institutions set their own admission requirements and application procedures. Check college/university websites and/or printed application materials for details. You may be required to submit the following items before universities evaluate your application:
- Completed application form
- Application fee (No cash! Most schools prefer a certified check or international money order, or through a credit card.)
Official copy of your academic transcripts stamped by the Ministry of Education. If the transcript is not in English, then it needs to be translated by a Ministry of Education-approved translator and then stamped by the Ministry of Education.

- Personal statement
- Two or three letters of recommendation
- Financial documents proving you have adequate funds, or a scholarship, to study in the United States.
- Official standardized test scores sent directly to the university from the testing company (TOEFL iBT/SAT/GMAT/GRE, etc.)

All items must be submitted according to application deadlines set by the college. Deadlines can range anywhere from 3 to 9 months before classes start.

10. Which standardized tests will I be required to take?
Generally speaking, the TOEFL iBT is required of all international applicants, regardless of the intended field or level of study. Undergraduate students are often required to take the SAT Reasoning Test. Some competitive institutions require scores from the SAT Subject Tests. With the exception of the GMAT for MBA programs, graduate students are almost always required to take the GRE General Test. A few graduate programs will require scores from the GRE Subject Tests in addition to the GRE General Test. You need a strong command of both spoken and written English. If an applicant cannot speak English, then that individual would need to enroll in an Intensive English or English as a Second Language (ESL) program and achieve a designated level of proficiency prior to enrollment. Always check university websites for specific details on standardized test requirements.

11. I would like to take a preparation course for a standardized test (TOEFL iBT, SAT, GRE, etc). Do you offer these classes at the Embassy?
The U.S. Embassy does not provide classes for the public. There may be some language schools or institutes in your area that offer preparation courses. Most students preparing for a standardized test purchase study guides at local bookstores. There are also online preparation courses and practice tests. For more information contact the Education Advising Office at the Embassy.

12. The university to which I am applying asked that my transcripts be reviewed by a credential evaluator. What does this mean?
Universities might evaluate your grades and documents themselves, or they might require international applicants to pay an outside company, called a credential evaluator, to evaluate them. Follow application directions provided on the institution’s website. Some universities will indicate what credential evaluation company they want you to use. For a list of evaluators, go to the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services website at http://www.naces.org/members.htm
13. **When are the university application deadlines?**

For students interested in starting programs in August/September, deadlines may be as early as November of the previous year. Since every university has its own deadlines, it is best to locate these dates on each university’s website. There are also universities that have rolling admissions where applications can be submitted throughout the year and decisions made on a monthly basis.

14. **How much does it cost to study in the United States?**

The cost of study in the United States varies widely among universities and the cost of living from one location to the next. Comprehensive costs can range from US$16,000 per year to over US$60,000 per year. The figures listed below are designed to provide some indication of how much students can expect to pay for 12 months of study in the United States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finances Per Year</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>$8,000-$40,000</th>
<th>Room–board</th>
<th>$4,000-$15,000</th>
<th>Book-Supplies</th>
<th>$500-$1,500</th>
<th>Health Insurance</th>
<th>$500-$1,000</th>
<th>Personal Expenses</th>
<th>$1,200-$3,000</th>
<th>Travel to USA</th>
<th>$1,500-$2,000</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>$16,000-$63,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

15. **How do I find out if a college/university is accredited by a U.S. Department of Education (USDOE)-approved accrediting organization?**

The U.S. Department of Education has an online database which provides the names of postsecondary institutions and programs accredited by a USDOE-approved accrediting organization. The database has multiple search functions, allowing search options by name, location, type of institution, accrediting association, etc. If you have difficulty navigating these websites, contact the Education Advising Office at the U.S. Embassy in Manama.

- U.S. Department of Education Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions & Programs: [https://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/](https://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/)

- The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is another website that lists postsecondary institutions and programs that are accredited by USDOE-approved accrediting organizations. Council for Higher Education Accreditation [http://www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org)

16. **Will my degree be recognized/equalized in Bahrain?**

If you are a Bahraini citizen, check with Bahrain’s Ministry of Education to make sure it recognizes the colleges/universities to which you apply. The Ministry of Education has a list of approved schools by major and degree type. This is important if you wish to have your degree recognized by the Ministry of Education when you return.

17. **I went to university in the United States and I need to have my documents authenticated/attested. How do I do this?**

The Bahraini Embassy in the United States provides degree verification services. The Education Advising Office at the U.S. Embassy DOES NOT authenticate/attest educational documents.
18. I want to earn my degree online because I am unable to leave Bahrain to study. How do I begin to search for a U.S. Department of Education-approved college/university?
Distance education is a popular way to study and you will want to make sure that the college/university you enroll in is accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-approved accrediting organization. There are MANY online colleges and universities that are not recognized. If in doubt, contact the Education Advising Office for assistance when selecting programs. If you hope to have the Bahrain Ministry of Education recognize your online degree, check with the Ministry prior to enrollment.
What Students Should Know
Before Enrolling in Distance Education

Where Are You Thinking of Enrolling?
- By whom is this institution accredited?
  - Is the accrediting association recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)?

What Program Are You Thinking of Enrolling in?
- Are there any residency requirements?
- What other institutions offer similar programs and do they grant the same credentials for similar work?
- How does the variety of courses offered compare with similar on-site programs?
- How are course materials made available to students?
- What arrangements have been made for me to complete any required laboratory requirements?

Who Designs, Delivers and Monitors the Program?
- Who designs and delivers the program (and if they are different, how is the delivery controlled)?
- Where can the qualifications and current professional activities of the faculty be found in writing?
- What arrangements are made to ensure faculty-student and student-student interaction?

Other Expectations of the Institution and Available Student Services
- What academic, linguistic, and technical skills does the institution require for students enrolling in this program?
- What equipment must I have access to and how will the institution help me in any problems that arise concerning the interface between my equipment and their offerings?
- What counseling, career, financial aid, or other non-classroom services are provided for distance education students?
- Is there a student handbook for distance education students? If not, where are these issues addressed?
- What is the process for filing complaints?
- What is the institution’s refund policy if I should have to withdraw from this program?

Final Check on the Integrity of the Degree
- How can I assure outsiders that the degree represents an assessment of my work rather than that of someone else?
- Where is there official representation of faculty qualifications, the program’s course sequence and requirements, the nature of student/faculty interaction and assumptions about technical skills?

© Dr. Amy Kirle Lezberg,
Consultant in Higher Education and Accreditation
U.S. Mission Bahrain
Consular Section

Applying for a Student Visa to Travel to the United States

The United States welcomes thousands of bright and enthusiastic students from around the world each year. They are drawn to the cultural and academic diversity that exists in our colleges and universities, and they benefit from the challenging and innovative programs available at a range of schools.

The United States continues to be the first choice for many Bahraini students looking to study abroad and we want to make the visa process as smooth as possible. We know that the visa application process can sometimes seem overwhelming, especially when you are also applying to schools, for scholarships, and preparing to travel and live far from home.

It is very important to carefully plan and manage your visa application process to ensure you are prepared for your interview and have enough time before the start date of your studies. For your convenience, the DS-160 visa application is available online in English and Arabic. Please ensure you answer every question yourself, as incorrect and incomplete forms may not be accepted at the time of appointment. If you choose to hire a service to complete this form, we strongly recommend you review each line for accuracy before arriving at your visa interview to avoid unnecessary delay.

The following guidelines are intended to help you better understand and prepare for the visa application process so it goes as smoothly as possible. All of this information is also available on the Embassy’s website: https://bh.usembassy.gov/visas.html. Be sure to review the website information thoroughly and often.

There are multiple steps to getting a student visa. Details on these steps can be found online at http://www.ustraveldocs.com/bh.

1. Obtain form I-20 after admission to your program of study
2. Pay the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee at https://fmjfee.com
3. Visit https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/ to complete the online DS-160 application form
4. Pay the Machine Readable Visa (MRV) fee. You can pay your fee at any Citibank location using local currency.
5. Get a visa photo (taken within the last 6 months; 2 by 2 inches; white background; with the hairline visible, no glasses are allowed, without modification).
6. Schedule an appointment for your visa interview using the same login credentials you used to pay your visa fee
7. Visit the U.S. Embassy on the date and time of your visa interview. Be sure to check the Schedule My Appointment page for the necessary documentation needed for your appointment
8. If your visa is approved, the visa will be available for pick up at the U.S. Embassy
Student Visa Application Tips

1. **Schedule an interview at least three months or more before you plan to depart.**
   In some cases, it can take several months to receive a visa. That’s why we recommend you apply early. The Consular Section recommends that you apply between 3 and 4 months before you plan on studying in the United States.

2. **Come prepared for the interview.** Many visas are delayed when students do not bring the proper required documentation. To avoid this, make sure you bring the necessary documents:
   - Application Package:
     - Passport valid for at least 6 months
     - Confirmation page from the DS-160
     - Form I-20, issued by the institute/college/university in the United States
     - 2x2 inch photo (recent photo, white background, showing hairline, no glasses, not altered in any way)

   In order to qualify for the visa, student applicants must also show evidence that they have enough readily available funds to meet all expenses for the first year of study, as listed on the I-20 form. We therefore recommend you bring any relevant financial documents to your interview, for example scholarship letters or bank documents for the last three months.

3. **Don’t stress about the interview**
   During the interview, the consular officer will likely ask you about your background, why you want to travel to the United States, what school you will attend, how you will pay for your education, and your general academic and professional goals. An Arabic-speaking translator will be available if you need one during the interview.

4. **Expect delays**
   Some visas require additional administrative processing, which results in longer processing times. It is not uncommon for visas to take up to three months or longer to process. While the embassy will work to process your visa as quickly as possible, some delays cannot be avoided. If you need your passport for travel, the officer will gladly return your passport after the interview. This will not affect your visa processing, and the U.S. Embassy will contact you on a later date to request you return your passport so the visa may be printed. **Student visas cannot be expedited, so the only way to make sure the visa comes on time is to apply well in advance.**
Application Timeline for Undergraduate Study in the USA

Junior Year – Grade 11

September
- Begin research on accredited colleges/universities by using the Internet, software, and reference books. Visit or call your School Counselor or Education Adviser.
- Take online career assessments, interest inventories, and/or study skills courses.
- Talk with your School Counselor about your career assessment results.
- Take challenging coursework and focus on producing good results.
- Go to the TOEFL iBT website and take a practice test: http://www.ets.org/toefl

October
- Read online student newspapers from colleges/universities to acquire a different perspective on the institutions.
- Ask your School Counselor if individual representatives from colleges/universities will be visiting the Kingdom.
- Get the dates for possible College Fairs. Attend with your mother or father and ask questions.

November
- To enhance your perspective, pursue discussion with your School Counselor and with people you know who have studied in the United States.
- Continue your online research, considering factors such as: field of study, quality of institution, ease of admission, location, size, cost, availability of financial aid, housing and international student services.
- Many schools of architecture, film, and the arts will require a portfolio of your work. If this is your area of interest, discover what needs to be in the portfolio that you will send. Begin your preparation.
- E-mail colleges/universities to request information/applications. Most applications are available online. Use the passport spelling of your name and use this spelling throughout the search/application process.
- Create a special e-mail account so that you can keep university correspondence organized. When creating your e-mail address, try to use your name as it appears in your passport.

December
- Get SAT Reasoning Test information from the website http://sat.collegeboard.com and review format and questions.
- Take an online SAT Reasoning Test to build your test-taking skills.
- Continue your virtual visits, becoming more and more knowledgeable about application requirements, procedures, and costs. Learn what colleges/universities are looking for in a candidate. List the institutions that interest you most and why.
January
- Review all the college/university materials you have been collecting and begin to narrow your list from the top 25 to the top 10.
- Discuss this list with your family and your School Counselor. Consider the cost of application fees as you decide on your top 5-10 choices.
- Consider at least one “safe” choice which is a school you are sure you will be admitted to, particularly if you are applying to highly selective colleges/universities.
- Consider applying to summer programs and begin discussion with your family about possible summer visits to university campuses.

February
- Decide which one of the SAT Reasoning Test dates best fits your schedule. (If you are planning to apply to colleges/universities that also require the SAT Subject Tests, then you'll need to take the May SAT Reasoning Test and, at the latest, the December SAT Subject Tests.)
- Discuss with your family, how you will pay for the transportation, living expenses, and tuition/fees.
- Attend College Fairs and ask questions.
- If applicable, go online to research college/university sources of financial aid for international students and, with the help of your School Counselor or Education Adviser, discover if there are sources of financial aid available. Then, download the appropriate financial aid form/applications/materials.
- If you have been enrolled in more than one Secondary School, request that your previous school records be sent to your current School Counselor.

March
- Register online for the May SAT Reasoning Test. Inform your School Counselor of your plan.
- Register online for TOEFL iBT.
- Continue virtual visits to your top choice colleges/universities and, if you intend to apply for financial aid, be sure to download their financial aid applications for international students.

April
- Continue practice sessions for the SAT Reasoning Test.
- Continue discussion with your School Counselor/Education Adviser about your college/university choices.

May
- Take the SAT Reasoning Test.
- Begin to think about whom you wish to ask for the confidential letters of recommendation that will be sent to colleges/universities.

June
- Look for opportunities to improve your English language skills and/or visit U.S. campuses over the summer.
Senior Year – Grade 12

September

- Carefully review your college application instructions and establish a timetable for the deadlines you will have to meet for each application.
- Make certain you are aware of policy/procedures for sending applications.
- Review your SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests, and TOEFL iBT results with your School Counselor to determine if you'll need to retake any of these examinations.
- If you need to retake a test, register online for the October SAT Reasoning Test, the TOEFL iBT, or register online for the SAT Subject Tests. If an essay is required for your application, begin your first draft.
- If you need to have confidential recommendations, give the appropriate forms to your School Counselor (Secondary School Report) and Teachers (Teacher Evaluation).

October

- If a portfolio is required for the major you have chosen, select/organize samples of your work.
- Complete the essay for your applications. Make copies.
- Complete the applications using copies of the original forms and ask your School Counselor to look at them. Then, transfer the data to the original and be sure to make copies of the finished product. This includes online applications. Be sure to give your School Counselor your online application number. Make sure any writing is legible.
- If you intend to apply for aid, complete financial aid applications with your family. If you don’t intend to apply for aid, ask your parents for their bank official to complete the International Student Certification of Finances Form, which guarantees that adequate funds are available for your educational needs, and include it with your application. Make copies of all documents.
- Make sure that your School Counselor has several copies of your official transcript from previously attended high schools. If English translations are necessary, get them done.
- Get dates for College Fairs/representatives traveling the region.

November

- Submit your applications with fees (and portfolios if required) to the School Counseling Office by the end of November. Do not wait for the published university deadlines. Do NOT send cash.
- Be sure to request that your scores (TOEFL iBT, SAT Reasoning Test and, if applicable, SAT Subject Tests) are sent to all colleges and universities on your list.
- Check that confidential teacher recommendations have been sent to the School Counselor and college.
- Check to be certain that your high school has sent your official supporting documents to all the colleges/universities on your list.

December

- If applicable, give your School Counselor the Mid-Year Report Form and request that it be sent at the end of the first semester/term.
- Be prepared to reply immediately to any requests for additional information from colleges/universities.
January
• Keep up a good standard of work in class since the final transcript will be sent at the end of the academic year.
• If there are any additional financial aid forms that have been left incomplete, be certain to finish and send them now. Make copies.
• Some institutions require interviews, so a representative might contact you in January or February.

February
• Continue discussions with your family about the financial plan for your study.
• Initiate the visa application process at: https://bh.usembassy.gov/visas.html

March
• If you applied to colleges/universities with rolling and/or open admissions, you might be asked to send a deposit soon.

April
• Plan to attend all U.S. university fairs in Bahrain.
• Many colleges/universities inform students this month as to whether or not they have been accepted.
• If more than one college accepts you, select your first choice with the help of your family and School Counselor and then notify the other universities that you do not plan to attend.
• Send your reply and deposit by the stated deadline.
• Keep your School Counselor aware of decisions and developments.
• If you have not done so already, you must begin the visa process now.

May
• If you haven’t heard from a university, ask your School Counselor to make contact with the office of admissions.
• If you have incomplete materials regarding acceptance and/or financial aid status, make contact with the office of admissions.
• Review Pre-departure procedures as provided by the Education Adviser at the U.S. Embassy.
• Confirm housing at your first choice college/university.

June
• Continue visa application process at the Embassy.
• Remind your secondary school that you wish to have your final transcript sent to your college/university and be certain to give the correct address.
• Once you have your visa, make travel arrangements so that you arrive on time for new student orientation. Do not arrive late.
# College Worksheet

Use the following worksheet to help organize your college search.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>College One</th>
<th>College Two</th>
<th>College Three</th>
<th>College Four</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type of Institution</td>
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<td>Housing</td>
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<td>TOEFL iBT/IELTS</td>
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<td>SAT/ACT</td>
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<td>Cost</td>
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<td>MOE-approved</td>
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<td>ESL Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline</td>
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Where Will You Study in the United States?

LOCATION IS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION

- Climate
- Cost of Living
- Urban vs. Rural
- Facilities and Services in the Area

Every region of the United States offers both urban and rural settings. City-based campuses offer a variety of eating, entertainment, cultural and shopping facilities. A rural university may mean a quieter, more college-centered environment. Climate is another consideration. From the four seasons in the Northeast to the desert in Arizona and a sub-tropical climate in Florida, the variety is almost endless. Also keep in mind accessibility to local facilities and services that could be useful to you in your studies. For example, if you wish to major in art history, does the school offer programs that involve students with nearby museums and art galleries?
The Government of the United States sponsors a number of programs to assist Bahraini scholars who wish to study and conduct research in the United States as well as scholars from the United States who wish to study or conduct research in Bahrain. These exchange programs are open to Bahraini citizens (must not have dual U.S. citizenship) living in Bahrain. For more information about Educational Exchange Programs eligibility, application, deadlines and programs, please contact the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy-Bahrain at:

Tel: +973-1724-2700  Fax: +973-1727-0574  
E-mail: ManamaPAO@state.gov  
Website: https://bh.usembassy.gov/educational_exchange/exchange-programs3.html

Listed below is a brief description of some of the exchange programs offered through the U.S. Embassy in Bahrain.

The **Fulbright Graduate Scholarship Program** provides one to two years of fully-funded master's level study in the United States at a diverse network of accredited U.S. Universities in any academic field except medicine.

The **Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program** participants teach their native language to American students at colleges and universities all over the United States. The Program provides a unique opportunity for young, international teachers of English to refine their teaching skills, increase their English language proficiency and extend their knowledge of the cultures and customs of the United States while engaging in nine-month non-degree studies.

The **Fulbright Scholar Program** sends scholars and professionals to lecture, conduct research, or pursue a combination of both at an American college or university in the United States.

The **Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program** provides mid-career professionals with an opportunity to enhance their professional skills though graduate level coursework and professional affiliations at institutions throughout the United States.

The **Study of the United States for Secondary School Educators Program** is a five-week post-graduate level seminars in the U.S. designed for multinational groups of foreign university faculty, scholars, secondary school teachers, educators and ministry officials.

The **Study of the United States Institutes for Scholars Program** is a post-graduate level academic programs with integrated study tours whose purpose is to provide foreign university faculty and other scholars the opportunity to deepen their understanding of American society, culture, and institutions.

The **Tomorrow’s Leaders Scholarship Program** provides highly motivated high school students a four-year university scholarships and internship opportunities at select institutions of higher learning in the Middle East.

The **Global Undergraduate Program** awards grants to outstanding students for one semester of undergraduate, non-degree studies at a diverse network of accredited four-year institutions of higher learning in the United States.
The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study (YES) Program offers secondary school students the opportunity to spend one academic year in the United States. Students live with host families, attend U.S. high schools, and participate in special enrichment activities that include community service, youth leadership training, a civics education program, and other activities that help them develop a comprehensive understanding of American culture and develop leadership skills.
Useful Websites

Search a variety of online databases to find colleges and universities that match your interests and visit their home pages to get more detailed information. Please note that not all colleges and universities found in online databases are accredited by one of the regional or national accrediting organizations recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. To verify if a school is accredited by a recognized accrediting body, go to either the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) database.

**COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SEARCH**

- The CollegeBoard: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- Peterson’s: [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)
- Princeton Review: [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)
- Colleges That Change Lives: [www.ctcl.com](http://www.ctcl.com)
- Gradschools.Com: [www.gradschools.com](http://www.gradschools.com)
- National Center for Education Statistics: [nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator](http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator)
- Get Educated (Distance Learning): [www.geteducated.com](http://www.geteducated.com)
- Online College Database: [onlinecollegesdatabase.org](http://onlinecollegesdatabase.org)

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

- Intensive English USA -Institute of International Education: [www.intensiveenglishusa.org](http://www.intensiveenglishusa.org)
- University & College Intensive English Programs: [www.uiep.org](http://www.uiep.org)
- Voice of America – Learning English: [learningenglish.voanews.com](http://learningenglish.voanews.com)
- American English – U.S. Department of State: [americanenglish.state.gov](http://americanenglish.state.gov)

**SUMMER CAMPS**

- Education Guide for international students: [www.boardingschoolsusa.com](http://www.boardingschoolsusa.com)
- Kids and Teen Summer Camps: [www.mysummercamps.com](http://www.mysummercamps.com)
- Summer Camp Directory and Guide: [www.summercamps.com](http://www.summercamps.com)
- Summer Session: [summersession.com](http://summersession.com)
- Peterson’s Summer Camps and Programs: [www.petersons.com/college-search/summer-programs-camps-search.aspx](http://www.petersons.com/college-search/summer-programs-camps-search.aspx)
BOARDING SCHOOLS
The Association of Boarding Schools
http://www.schools.com

Education guide for international students of secondary school
http://www.boardingschoolsusa.com

Boarding School Review
http://www.boardingschoolreview.com

STANDARDIZED TESTS
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT) http://www.ets.org/toefl
International English Language Testing System (IELTS) http://www.ielts.org
ACT http://www.act.org
SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests (SAT) http://www.collegeboard.com
Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) http://www.gre.org
General Management Admission Council (GMAT) http://www.mba.com
Certified Public Accountant (CPA) http://www.aicpa.org
Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) http://www.ecfmg.org
United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) http://www.usmle.org
Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) http://www.aamc.org
Dental Admission Testing Program (DAT) http://www.ada.org
United States Licensure for International Dentists http://www.ada.org
Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee (FPGEC) http://www.nabp.net
Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) http://www.cgfns.org
Law School Admission Test (LSAT) http://www.lsac.org

NOTES
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FINANCES, FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

You will need a minimum of $16,000 per-year to cover the cost of tuition, room and board, books, and personal expenses. Some universities cost over $60,000. The following are websites that assist with financial aid process and preparing finances for education.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid  http://www.fafsa.ed.gov
Mapping Your Future  http://www.mapping-your-future.org
Salliemae  http://www.salliemae.com

ACCREDITATION

Explanation of Accreditation in the USA  http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html

MINISTRIES

If you are a Bahraini Citizen, you will want to verify in advance that the Ministry of Education in Bahrain recognizes the colleges/universities to which you apply. Contact the Ministry of Education for a list of approved schools by major.

Bahraini students who wish to study in the United States on Bahrain Government Scholarships should work directly with the Bahrain Ministry of Education.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook – American Embassy Manama  https://www.facebook.com/AmericanEmbassyManama
Instagram – USEmbassybahrain  https://www.instagram.com/usembassybahrain
Twitter – USEmbassyManama  https://twitter.com/usembassymanama
Did You Study in the USA?

The Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy maintains an alumni database of graduates of U.S. institutions and participants of U.S. government sponsored exchange programs. Participants are advised of opportunities to connect with other U.S. alumni, and invited to future alumni events and activity.

If you studied in the United States and would like to be added, please email the following information to ManamaPAO@state.gov.

1. Name
2. Nationality
3. U.S. college/university where you earned your degree
4. Year of Graduation
5. Degree earned (BA/BS/MA/MS/PhD)
6. Major
7. Are you willing to be contacted in the future? (Yes/No)
8. E-mail
9. Mobile Phone Number
10. City of Residence
Glossary of Terms

Academic Adviser: A member of the faculty who helps and advises students on academic matters.

Academic Year: The period of formal instruction, usually September to May; may be divided into terms of varying lengths – semesters, trimesters, or quarters.

Accreditation: This is a voluntary process by which educational institutions meet standards established by an accrediting body. The U.S. Department of Education maintains a database of approval colleges and universities who earned accreditation from national, regional, or professional and specialized accrediting organizations.

Associate’s Degree: The degree awarded after a two-year period of study towards a specific program; it can either be terminal or, in certain cases transferable (the first two years of a bachelor’s degree).

Bachelor’s Degree: Degree awarded upon completion of approximately four years of full-time study in liberal arts and sciences or professional subjects.

College: A postsecondary institution that provides an undergraduate education and, in some cases, master’s level degrees. College, in a separate sense, is also a division of a university; for example, College of Business.

Conditional Acceptance: Tentative acceptance into a degree-seeking program, pending successful completion of stated requirements/conditions.

Core Requirements: Required courses for completion of degree program.

Course: Regularly scheduled class session of one to five hours (or more) per week during the term. A degree program is made up of a specified number of required and elective courses and varies from institution to institution.

Electives: Courses that students may choose to take for credit towards their intended degree, as opposed to courses that are core requirements of the degree program.

Grade Point Average (GPA): A system of recording achievement based on a numerical average of the grades attained in each course.

International Student Adviser: The person associated with a university who is in charge of providing information and guidance to international students in the areas of government regulations, visas, academic regulations, language, housing, travel plans, insurance and legal matters. This person usually works in the International Student Office and might also be referred to as the Designated School Official (DSO).

Major: The principal subject area for a higher degree program.

Minor: A lesser subject area that is secondary to the major but significant because of the credit hours earned by the student.
**Non-resident Student:** A student who does not meet residency requirements of the state while attending a public (state) university. Tuition fees and admissions policies may differ for residents and non-residents. International students are usually classified as non-residents.

**Notarization:** The certification of a document (or a statement or a signature) as authentic and true by a public official, known in the United States as a notary public, or by a lawyer who is also a commissioner of oaths. Sometimes schools of medicine will require an applicant’s signature to be notarized.

**Prerequisite:** Program or course that a student is required to complete before being permitted to enroll in a more advanced program or course.

**Quarter:** Period of study, approximately 10-12 weeks duration or one-quarter of the academic year.

**Registration:** Process in which students select courses to be taken during a quarter, semester or trimester.

**Semester:** Period of study approximately 15-16 weeks or one-half the academic year.

**SEVIS:** Student and Exchange Visitor Information System is a networked computer system set up in the United States to track information on non-immigrant international students and scholars attending school in the United States.

**Trimester:** Period of study consisting of approximately three equal terms of 16 weeks each during the academic year.

**Transfer:** The process of moving from one college or university to another to complete a degree.

**Tuition:** The money an institution charges for instruction and training (does not include the cost of books, housing, etc).

**University:** A large postsecondary institution that offers both undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

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Portions of Glossary and the location section is taken from
*If You Want to Study in the United States, Book 1: Undergraduate Study,*
a publication of the U.S. Department of State

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