

› North America Education Guide 2025





Studying in the United States and Canada

The United States and Canada are leading international study destinations, known for academic excellence, innovative research, and a student-friendly environment. Both offer Indian students outstanding opportunities to pursue higher education and build a successful future.

The US suits students seeking flexibility, with many universities offering interdisciplinary study options. Canada offers more affordable tuition, bilingual programmes, and student-friendly cities with excellent healthcare. Both also provide strong post-study work options, through Canada's Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) and the US's Optional Practical Training (OPT) visa.

Whichever path you choose, studying in the US or Canada can be a life-changing journey, unlocking world-class education, global careers, and a bright future.

Succeed with the world's most trusted higher education specialist

Since 2006, StudyIn has helped over 1.3 million students apply to the world's leading universities. As global higher education experts, we offer professional support at every stage of the application journey, helping you secure offers from top institutions in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Dubai, Ireland and New Zealand.

Trusted by more than 250 of the world's best universities, our experienced advisors are here to make your study abroad goals a reality, wherever you aspire to go. So whether you're just beginning your research or ready to submit your application, we're here to support you at every step. You're in good hands.

Why Choose StudyIn?

1 Strong University Partnerships

StudyIn works with over 250 of the world's leading universities, including top institutions across the United States and Canada. Our long-standing relationships give students exclusive access to scholarships, priority application processing, and insider guidance on admissions. You'll also have the opportunity to meet university representatives at our events, gaining a valuable advantage when securing your place.

2 Unmatched Experience and Expertise

Since 2006, we've been guiding students towards academic and professional success. In 2024 alone, we supported over 95,000 students from 80 countries, facilitating more than 250,000 university applications. Our proven track record speaks for itself, helping students turn ambition into achievement on a global scale.

3 Personalised Support

At StudyIn, your goals shape our approach. Whether you're choosing a course, refining your application, applying for a visa, or arranging accommodation, our expert team is with you at every step. We deliver tailored support to ensure your journey is seamless, stress-free, and successful.

How We Can Help You Apply

Studying abroad is an exciting journey, one filled with new opportunities, experiences, and possibilities. While navigating universities, applications, and visas can feel overwhelming, we make it effortless. With expert guidance and dedicated support at every step, we handle the challenges so you can focus on your future.

1 Free Consultation

Speak with our expert consultants about your study and career goals—we'll help you take the first step with confidence.

2 Choose the Right Universities

Get personalised recommendations tailored to your academic background and ambitions, ensuring the best fit for your future.

3 Strengthen Your Application

Expert guidance on your personal statement, reference letters, and forms will make your application stand out and give you the best chance of success.

4 Support Beyond Submission

From navigating offers to making the right decision, we're by your side throughout the process, ensuring a smooth journey to university.



Comprehensive Support You Can Count On

With dedicated one-to-one support, our application services can help you secure an offer from the best-fit university and course for your goals. Let us help you take the first step.

1 Free Support

Our free service supports students with applications, eligibility, and guidance on required documents and deadlines.

2 Premium

Reduce application stress with our Premium Service. We'll complete your application, refine your personal statement, and guarantee an offer from at least one university.

3 Top Universities

Specialising in applications for leading universities and colleges in the US and Canada, this service prepares you for the rigorous application process, including interview practice, to maximise your chances of success.

4 Art and Design

Get expert guidance on applying for a creative programme, including portfolio creation advice from a practising art academic.

5 Medicine

Strengthen your application for medicine, dentistry, or veterinary courses with interview practice and expert advice from a doctor on a medical school admissions panel.

6 PhD

Our PhD Service guides you through crafting a strong proposal and connecting with the right supervisor, ensuring your application stands out.



United States

The US is home to the largest number of top-ranked universities in the world, offering academic flexibility, diverse research opportunities, and strong career prospects. With a wide range of study options, industry partnerships, and work experience programmes, the US remains a leading choice for international students.

- **Capital:** Washington, D.C.
- **Popular Student Cities:** New York, Boston, Los Angeles
- **Currency:** US Dollar (USD)
- **Main Intakes:** August/September, January
- **Number of Universities:** 4,000+
- **How To Apply:** Common App, Coalition App, or direct to universities
- **Flight Time from India:** 14 – 18 hours

Why Choose the United States?

1 Home to the World's Best Universities

The US has the largest number of top-100 globally ranked universities, including Ivy League schools, public research institutions, and private colleges.

2 Flexibility and Customised Degrees

Choose from majors, minors, and interdisciplinary studies with the ability to switch fields or explore multiple subjects.

3 Innovative Research Opportunities

Gain access to modern, state-of-the-art labs, faculty mentorships, and fully-funded research programmes.

4 Strong Career Prospects

Build industry connections before graduation with internships and work placements.

5 Post-Graduation Work Options

Work in the US for up to 36 months after graduating through the OPT (Optional Practical Training) programme.

6 Exciting Student Life and Cultural Diversity

Experience diverse cultures with students from over 180 countries, and enrich your student experience with university clubs, sports, social events, and networking groups.

United States Education System

The US higher education system is known for its flexibility, diversity, and career-focused learning. Students can tailor their education based on their interests and professional goals.



Types of Institutions

The US is home to multiple community colleges, liberal arts colleges, and research universities that offer a variety of associate degrees, broad-based education in humanities, sciences, and social sciences, and extensive research opportunities.



University Options

The US is home to the largest number of top 100-ranked universities in the world, with universities like Harvard, MIT, Stanford, University of California, and Princeton offering some of the highest-regarded law, business, and medical programmes available.



Research Funding Opportunities

The Fulbright Commission offers several funding schemes for international students to complete their research degrees in the United States. Top US universities like Harvard, MIT, and others also offer fully-funded PhDs and Graduate Teaching (TAs) and Research (RA) Assistantships. Federal grants such as the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) offer more opportunities with additional funding.



Learning and Credit System

Most US universities follow a semester system, but some use quarter or trimester models to give students more flexibility. Students also don't need to declare a major in the first year, allowing them to explore different disciplines.



Postgraduate and PhD Programmes

Master's degrees in the US offer options for coursework-based or research-focused programmes, while PhD programmes focus on original research, teaching opportunities, and dissertation work. Additionally, internships, research assistantships, and industry partnerships provide hands-on experience.



Intakes and Deadlines

The main intake with the widest range of courses for US universities is in August/September (Fall). The January (Spring) intake offers fewer course options for select programmes.



Working During Study

International students on an F-1 Student Visa can work up to 20 hours per week on campus during term time and full-time during holidays. Off-campus work is only available through the CPT or OPT programmes.

Cost of Studying in the United States

Cost	Undergraduate Degree	Postgraduate Degree
Tuition fees (minimum)/year	12 lakhs	15 lakhs
Living expenses (minimum)/year	15 lakhs	15 lakhs
Minimum budget for the full course	180 lakhs (four years)	60 lakhs



Canada

Canada is a highly sought-after destination for Indian students, offering world-class universities, excellent career prospects, and a high quality of life. With a reputation for more affordable tuition compared to the US and UK, strong post-graduate work opportunities, and multicultural cities, Canada provides an ideal environment for students looking to build a successful future.

- **Capital:** Ottawa
- **Popular Student Cities:** Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal
- **Currency:** Canadian Dollar (CAD)
- **Main Intakes:** September, January, May
- **Number of Universities:** 100+
- **How To Apply:** Direct to universities or via provincial application systems
- **Flight Time from India:** 14 – 17 hours

Why Choose Canada?

1 Globally Respected and Affordable Education

Canada is home to high-quality universities with lower tuition costs compared to the US.

2 Post-Graduation Work Opportunities

Canada's Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) allows students to work for up to three years after graduation.

3 Pathway to Permanent Residency

Canada offers student-friendly immigration policies, with multiple options to apply for permanent residency.

4 Multicultural Student Environment and High Quality of Life

Canada is one of the most diverse and immigrant-friendly countries, offering a welcoming atmosphere for international students.

5 Co-Op Programmes and Industry Ties

Many universities provide co-op work opportunities, helping students gain paid work experience while studying.

Canada Education System

Canada's higher education system is recognised for its academic excellence, inclusivity, and global outlook. With a strong emphasis on research, innovation, and practical skills, Canadian institutions offer internationally respected qualifications in a welcoming, multicultural environment.



Types of Institutions

Canada offers a selection of public universities, private universities and colleges, and vocational schools offering research-driven education, industry-aligned programmes, and applied learning and career-based training opportunities.

College and vocational school graduates typically receive a certificate or a diploma, while university graduates receive bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees.



Semesters and Programme Structure

Most universities in Canada follow a semester system with three terms per year, Autumn (end of August/start of September to December/January), Winter (January to April), and Summer (April/May to July).

Undergraduate programmes in Canada typically take three years to complete. Master's degrees usually take one to two years, while PhD programmes take at least three years, depending on the field and research involved.



Research and Funding

Canadian universities are known for their focus on research, surpassing the G7 average in terms of impact in fields such as clinical medicine, information and communication technologies, and business. The Government of Canada, its provinces and territories, and many educational institutions also offer funding for international students to complete their research degrees.



Public vs Private Institutions

The majority of the higher educational institutions in Canada are publicly funded universities, and they tend to offer research-driven programmes in various fields. Private universities are typically specialised institutions with industry-aligned programmes such as BBAs and MBAs.



University Options

Canada is home to globally recognised universities such as the University of Toronto, the University of British Columbia, and McGill University, offering distinguished degrees in law, business, and engineering, among others.



Intakes and Deadlines

The main intake with the widest range of courses and scholarships for Canadian universities is in September (Fall). Other intakes are in January (Winter) and May (Spring), with fewer courses available.



Working During Study

International students in Canada can work up to 24 hours per week during term time and full-time during scheduled breaks such as the summer and winter holidays. Students have the option to pursue both on-campus and off-campus jobs available without a separate work permit.

Cost of Studying in Canada

Cost	Undergraduate Degree	Postgraduate Degree
Tuition fees (minimum)/year	13 lakhs	15 lakhs
Living expenses (minimum)/year	13 lakhs	13 lakhs
Minimum budget for the full course	100 lakhs (four years)	28 lakhs

US and Canada Visa Requirements

Understanding the visa process is key for international students planning to study in the United States or Canada. Each country has specific requirements, application steps, and work policies, both during and after graduation.

United States

The **F-1 Student Visa** is required for international students enrolling in full-time academic programmes at accredited US institutions.

Application Process

- **SEVIS Registration:** Pay the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS I-901) fee before applying
- **DS-160 Form Submission:** Complete and submit the Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application DS-160)
- **Visa Interview:** Schedule an appointment at a US Embassy or Consulate in your home country
- **Fees:** Pay the non-refundable visa application fee of \$185. You may be required to pay it before your interview

Once you receive your F-1 Student Visa, you can enter the US 30 days before the start date of your programme.

Canada

International students must obtain a **Study Permit** to enrol in a Canadian university or college.

Application Process

- **Gather the Required Documents:** Letter of acceptance from the designated learning institution (DLI) you'll be attending, a provincial attestation letter (PAL) or territorial attestation letter (TAL), IRCC forms, receipt of processing fees, passport, proof of financial support, and medical exam
- **Complete the Application:** Fill out and submit the application for Study Permit Made Outside of Canada (IMM 1294) and the Family Information (IMM 5707) form
- **Pay the Fees:** Fees include the application fee of \$CAN 150 and the biometrics fee of \$CAN 85
- **Submit the Application:** If you're applying for a Study Permit you must apply online, whether you're outside of Canada or already in Canada

Once you have submitted your application, it will be reviewed by an officer to determine if an interview is necessary. If an interview is required, you will receive a letter specifying the date, time and place for the interview.

Once you receive the Study Permit, there is no set time frame for you to arrive in Canada before beginning your studies.

Visa Interview Tips

- Dress formally (dress shirts, ties, suits, pantsuits, and jackets) to highlight your professionalism and seriousness.
- Be prepared to explain your study plans, university choice, academic capability, financial situation, and post-graduation plans during the interview.
- Always provide truthful and concise answers. Visa officers appreciate candidates who are honest and transparent about their plans and intentions.
- Organise and bring all the required documents to your interview (e.g., passport, visa application form, financial documents, university admission letter). Make sure your documents are complete and accurate.
- Have a clear understanding of how your chosen course aligns with your long-term career aspirations. This will demonstrate your seriousness about your studies.

StudyIn Fairs and Events

Join our exclusive events and get direct access to top-ranked universities from the United States and Canada. Explore your options, receive expert advice, and secure admission offers on the spot to your preferred university.

Connect with StudyIn

With StudyIn, you have multiple ways to connect with universities and ensure you get the right information at the right time.





Global University Fairs

Held across India, our Global University Fairs provide direct access to top universities from the US and Canada, along with institutions from the UK, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and Dubai.

Open Days

Join in-person or online Open Days, tailored to specific study areas, universities, and upcoming application deadlines. Meet university representatives and get personalised admissions advice.

Application Workshops

Attend interactive workshops where university admissions teams and StudyIn's experts guide you through personal statements, recommendation letters, and application strategies.

Social Media Live Sessions

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for live Q&A sessions with university representatives and StudyIn's consultants. Get answers to your questions in real time and gain valuable insights into studying abroad.

Educational Webinars

Join university-hosted webinars to get detailed insights into courses, campus facilities, and admissions requirements. These virtual sessions ensure you have all the information needed to make confident decisions about your study-abroad journey.



Global University Fairs 2025–26

What to expect at a StudyIn Global University Fair:

- Discover a wide range of **academic courses and specialisations** that align with your career goals
- **Meet representatives from top-ranked universities** and get direct insights into admissions
- **Get on-the-spot offers and real-time admission decisions** from participating universities
- Receive expert **personalised guidance on scholarships, student loans, and visa requirements**
- Attend exclusive sessions and discover **application tips, study visas, and post-graduation career pathways**

Check gostudyin.com/events for our full schedule of upcoming fairs and events.

Document Preparation Checklist

Preparing the right documents is vital to make sure your study abroad application goes smoothly. You can use the following checklist to organise your documents and avoid delays.

Undergraduate

- ☐ Copy of Passport
- ☐ High School Transcript (original and translated certified)
- ☐ High School Graduation Certificate/ Predicted Grades Sheet (original and translated certified)
- ☐ Certificate of English Proficiency (IELTS, TOEFL, PTE)
- ☐ Personal Statement (if required)
- ☐ One Academic Reference Letter (if required)
- ☐ Financial proof for visa application

Postgraduate

- ☐ Copy of Passport
- ☐ Undergraduate Degree Transcript (original and translated certified)
- ☐ Undergraduate Degree Graduation Certificate (original and translated certified)
- ☐ Certificate of English Proficiency (IELTS, TOEFL, PTE)
- ☐ Personal Statement (if required)
- ☐ Two Reference Letters (if required)
- ☐ Financial proof for visa application
- ☐ Resume
- ☐ Standardised Test Scores (GRE/GMAT)
- ☐ Research proposal (for PhD applicants)

Contact Information

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Start Your Study Abroad Journey

Book a free counselling for expert guidance on universities, courses, and scholarships and start planning your future in the United States or Canada.

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