



Education
USA

Let's Get Started...
Applying for Graduate Study

12 to 24 MONTHS PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT

- Obtain a valid [passport](#)
- Determine your top priorities
 - Use the [EducationUSA website](#) to begin your search
 - Complete an [EducationUSA Pre-Advising Survey](#)
 - Schedule 1:1 appointment with EducationUSA Advisor
 - [Create a budget](#) to understand your financial contribution
 - Follow EducationUSA Canada on social media
 - Attend EducationUSA [Webinars](#)
 - Follow EducationUSA on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#)
 - Subscribe to our [newsletter](#)
 - Read the [Study South of the Border](#) blog
 - Research and narrow your choices
 - Talk to your Guidance Counselor about your goal to attend grad school in the U.S.
 - For fields governed by a professional organization, ensure the program meets provincial qualifications
 - Choose a professor to help mentor you while you are narrowing your options
 - Use graduate specific search engines (see orange box)
 - Attend an [education fair](#) near you
 - [Organize your search](#) with a spreadsheet
 - Use bibliographies from your courses to determine which professors/universities are in your specialty
 - Explore college websites and take virtual campus tours
 - Find 10-20 programs that match your degree preference, area of expertise, and desired location
 - [Contact Alumni and Current Students](#)
 - Schedule a campus visit with the department you are applying to (when possible)
- Prepare for standardized testing
 - [TOEFL](#) or [IELTS](#) - if English is not your first language
 - For most graduate degrees, you will need to take the [GRE](#) or [MAT](#)
 - Most professional degrees have their own specific standardized exam
 - Business - GRE or [GMAT](#)
 - Dentistry - [DAT](#)
 - Law - [LSAT](#)
 - Medical doctor - [MCAT](#)
 - Optometry - [OAT](#)
 - Pharmacy - [PCAT](#)
 - Veterinary - GRE or MCAT
 - Determine how you will study (ex. books, course, tutor)
 - Register for an upcoming test date

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College Search Tools
petersons.com
gradschools.com
internationalstudent.com
Law: lsac.org
Med school: aamc.org
Business: searchmba.com



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- Perfect your resume
 - Take challenging, but achievable, coursework (consider Honors courses or thesis track)
 - Build relationships with professors and supervisors who can write letters of recommendation
 - Take on leadership roles in clubs that support your career goals
 - Work, intern, and/or volunteer
 - Find opportunities for experiential learning and publishing
- Finance your studies
 - Most graduate level funding comes from university scholarships, fellowships, or assistantships
 - Consider the Fulbright Scholarship (Due Nov. 15th)
 - Government of Canada loans and scholarships
 - Provincial loans and scholarships

6 to 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT

- Complete your Application
 - Standard application
 - Transcripts
 - Standardized test scores
 - Personal Statement
 - Writing sample
 - Letter(s) of Recommendation
 - Curriculum vitae (C.V.)/resume/portfolio
 - Financial affidavit

Funding your Studies

fulbright.ca
fundingusstudy.org
petersons.com
scholarships-bourses.gc.ca
yconic.com
scholarshipscanada.com

LESS THAN 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT

- Receive acceptance letters and make your choice
 - Consider best fit for the department, professor you will be working with, campus, and location
 - Evaluate financial package offered
- Understand your student status
 - Canadian citizens do not need to apply for a student visa
 - Bringing dependents?
 - Work restrictions
 - Pay U.S. taxes
- Prepare for your departure
 - Utilize university contacts to help locate affordable housing
 - Watch or attend an EducationUSA Pre-Departure orientation
 - Secure health insurance
 - Reach out to your bank to see if they have a cross-border banking program
 - Consider cell phone plans or an international SIM card

Crossing the Border

Passport
I-20 or DS-2019
Proof of SEVIS payment
Driver's license
University contact info
Your new address