



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**



Creating your spreadsheet

Choosing U.S. colleges

As you go about researching colleges, you should be continually refining a list of where you want to apply. A good way to stay organized during this process is to build your own spreadsheet where you can store and compare all the information you are gathering in one place. When the time comes, your spreadsheet will also make it easier to weigh up your college offers.

Applications to many U.S. colleges are extremely competitive. The big name schools you've already heard of—like the Ivy League, including Princeton, UPenn and Yale, and other selective schools like Stanford, MIT and NYU—can receive up to 80,000 applications each year, and they only accept a very small proportion of these applicants. So it's important to keep your dream schools on your list—but also consider other colleges that would be a good fit!

Suggested spreadsheet categories

- Admission dates—for all decision types (i.e. Early Decision, Early Action and Regular Decision)
- Standardized tests—which test(s) are required; what are the minimum score(s)
- Costs—both tuition and accommodation
- Scholarships—include deadlines and application links
- Application type—which application is used (e.g. CommonApp)
- Application requirements—e.g. profile statement; letter to roommate; five adjectives that best describe you, etc.
- International admissions department—record a contact person/email address for any queries
- Financial aid deadlines

Student-athletes:

- Coach—name and contact information
- Team roster information

Building a shortlist

Using your spreadsheet, we recommend you narrow your list down to a mixture of 5–7 colleges you want apply to, comprising:

- 1-2 dream colleges
- 2-4 competitive colleges
- 2 safe colleges

