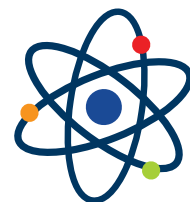




Global Indian
International
School



Diploma
Programme



Destination US: University Application Guide

The US education landscape is dynamic and consists of many schools with changing institutional priorities. As a result, students who would like to apply to a university or college in the United States must be prepared for diverse requirements and competitive school admissions.

At GIIS, we support students through career counselling, education fairs and more. By doing this, we help our students increase their chances of admission to a university that matches their academic capability and area of interest.



IBDP & CBSE

US University Degree Overview

There are two types of universities in the US: public and private universities. If you're seeking an undergraduate degree in the US, expect to attend four years of school. Some of the most popular degrees are in science, technology and business. However, if you plan to study law or medicine, you'll complete a four-year undergraduate degree and then apply to medical school or law school for further study.



The Ivy League Schools

Known to be the top colleges in the US, these schools are:



Harvard University
(Massachusetts)



Yale University
(Connecticut)



Princeton University
(New Jersey)



Columbia University
(New York)



Brown University
(Rhode Island)



Dartmouth College
(New Hampshire)



University of
Pennsylvania
(Pennsylvania)



Cornell University
(New York)



While there are no secret steps to getting into an Ivy League college, these are the clear areas of focus for students:



Excellent academic records and test scores



A wide range of extracurricular and co-curricular activities



Strong recommendations

Who Gets Into the Ivy League?

Ivy League schools are most interested in recruiting well-rounded individuals who can share their knowledge and add value to overall university life. They care about the diversity of their students, varied interests of students, their countries of origin, their socio-economic background, etc., among other things.

Students aiming for Ivy league schools need to start working hard on their academic and non-academic pursuits well ahead of time. Ivy League schools also expect students to submit strong essays along with their applications, demonstrating their ability to think critically.

Some Dos & Don'ts

When Selecting a University



Look for courses that interest you.

Look for a school that ranks highly in the subjects you're considering. Choose those which best fits you in terms of location, finances, college culture, size etc.



Worry less about the overall university rankings.

Overall, university rankings are important, but they aren't as crucial as the rankings for the subject matter that interests you. For example, Harvard is ranked one of the top universities in the United States, but MIT is ranked higher if you're interested in engineering.



Avoid the temptation to 'check all the boxes' for the sake of it.

Admission counsellors recommend that students focus on the suitability of the college based on their area of interest. Don't select a university simply because of its prestige - it should rank highly in the subject area you want to pursue for higher studies.





Key Components of a College Application



Application Form

Application forms are typically electronic and can be found on university websites at the start of the recruiting season.



College Essay

The best essays are personal and tell a story. They are an excellent opportunity to mention anything notable that is not found elsewhere on the application form.



Personal Statement

Like the essay, this is also a great opportunity to mention other notable activities that will give you an edge.



Secondary School Record

This information is typically sent by your school directly.



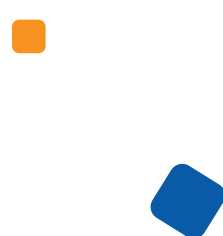
Standardised Test Scores

University requirements for standardised test scores vary — learn the criteria before applying.



Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are a good opportunity to highlight your intangible qualities, and you should plan the content. You can always request recommenders to include information not shared elsewhere in your application if needed.





How Colleges Review Applications

Every application is reviewed by multiple admissions officers.
When reviewing the applications, they look for:



Intellectual Curiosity

Colleges/universities want to admit students who genuinely want to learn and who will contribute to the academic/intellectual environment they're trying to create.



Academic Interests

Universities look for students with academic interests that align with their course offerings.



Engagement with Topics Outside the Classroom

Colleges look for students who are engaged in their communities and pursue interests outside the classroom.



Personal Context

Universities consider the life that students have outside school. This personal context includes family and work responsibilities, if any, and student perspectives and opinions.



When are admission decisions made?

Early decision deadlines are between November 1 and November 15, and the decisions are made shortly after. The process for regular decisions begins on January 1.



10 Tips

to improve your chances of getting into the college of your dreams

1

Communicate how you have been engaged in the classroom, including activities and extracurricular programmes that occupied your time while in school.

2

Discuss topics that fascinate you and why. This reveals your passion, personality and what you can contribute to the school that admits you.

3

Describe how you apply your knowledge in real-world scenarios and what you've done to impact the world outside the classroom.

4

Discuss the personal qualities and beliefs that allow you to contribute to the community.

5

Present your authentic self in your application instead of presenting the information you think admissions counsellors are looking for.



6

Provide evidence of your claims. Don't assume that the admissions officers know anything about your national school system. Instead, communicate your circumstances effectively by providing the evidence required to back up your story.

7

Be thorough — every detail counts! Never leave a question asked by a college blank.

8

Share something more than what is covered in the application form. Find ways to incorporate important details about yourself, even if it's not asked in the application. You can do this through the essay and the personal statement, or you can ask your references to include specific details in the letters.

9

Clean up your social media accounts. Present yourself as a professional.

10

Start early on essays and think about your topics. Then, accept help when needed, but don't take too much help with the actual essay writing.

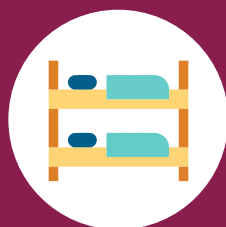


Approximate Costs

The cost of education is a significant aspect to be considered when applying for US universities. A key thing would be to look at the overall cost of taking admission in a particular university, which would typically include:



Tuition fee



On-campus or off-campus accommodation



Cost of living in that particular location



Books and supplies



Medical cost

You should probably budget for approximately USD 60,000 to USD 100,000 annually, including living expenses. Note that there are students who do not pay the stated price for tuition on account of receiving financial aid. However, not all applicants receive aid and you should be prepared for the same.

Some of the most expensive and prestigious universities tend to offer the most generous financial aid packages. Check the university website, and look for information on financial aid. Do your research.

How GIIS Helps Students Apply to Top Universities

Students attending GIIS are often advised by career counsellors that they should make three bucket lists to cast a wide net:



Dream universities,
where competition
is stiff



Universities where
admission is
more likely



Schools where
admission is almost
a guarantee



GIIS students made it to top universities
in these countries in the last 3 years:

	2021	2020	2019
Total Students	184	182	173
● Singapore	69	53	51
● US	17	12	10
● UK	21	30	29
● Canada	9	22	10
● Australia	6	10	5
● India	15	7	26
● Other Countries	21	28	18

Other countries include: China, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Ireland, other countries in Europe



List of US universities

where GLIS students have been placed recently:



Boston University



Boston Conservatory at Berklee



Brown University



Carnegie Mellon University



Columbia University



Cornell University



University of Pennsylvania



Georgia Institute of Technology



Illinois Institute of Technology



Indiana University, Bloomington



Michigan State University



New York University



Ohio State University



Penn State University



Purdue University



Rochester Institute of Technology



University of California Berkeley



University of California, Davis



University of California, Irvine



University of California, LA



University of California, Riverside



University of California, San Diego



University of Georgetown



University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign



University of Michigan at Ann Arbor



University of Pittsburgh



University of Texas, A & M



University of Texas, Austin



University of Washington



University of Wisconsin Madison



Our career counsellors advise students to apply to approximately 10 universities on average. To help students get into the school that is the best fit for them, GIIS offers the following support services:

Education and Career Guidance Programme (ECG)

This programme at GIIS helps students understand how they can best begin the career of their choice. Our full-time counsellors help students make an informed decision as they prepare to meet the requirements for university education.

One-on-one Counselling

Counselling is provided to help students craft their college essays, personal statements, resumes and make the most of their applications. In addition, GIIS students are also coached on their interviewing skills as they get ready for university.

Other university guidance services we offer include:



Webinars and information sessions



Podcasts



Education fairs



Our alumni connections also help students, as many GIIS graduates have graduated from the best universities in the world.

Want to learn more about GIIS?

Contact us today to **Book a tour** of our campus.

Contact Us to Know More

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