

# Do You Want to Study in the United States?

Answers to Common Questions

## I Want to Study in America! What Do I Need to Know?

Many Algerian students are interested in studying in the United States and EducationUSA at the U.S. Embassy in Algiers is here to help. This document can serve as an introduction to the American higher education system and addresses some of the most common questions we get about studying in the United States. Please be sure to reach out to our EducationUSA advisor by email at: [EducationUSA-Algiers@state.gov](mailto:EducationUSA-Algiers@state.gov) if you have more questions.

The first thing for Algerian students to understand is that the U.S. higher education system works very differently from the Algerian system. The biggest differences are in Choice, Cost, and the Application Process.

- **Choice:** There are over 6,000 Higher Education Institutions and it is up to the student to decide where to apply. Each school then decides whether to accept a student.
- **Cost:** Studying in the U.S. can be very expensive. One year of undergraduate university study can cost \$20,000 (USD) to \$60,000 (USD) and it can be difficult to get scholarships.
- **Application Process:** Applying to study in the U.S. is a long process that can take 9 to 16 months, depending on the degree program.

What school will I go to? Can I live in the United States once I graduate?

Unlike in Algeria, students apply to specific schools and programs. There are many choices and different types of programs. While the many options can be intimidating, this is one of the best things about the American education system. As a student, you can choose the best program that fits your needs! Education opportunities in the United States represent a great chance for Algerian students to bring back experience and knowledge to their home country. However, a student visa will not allow an individual to stay in the U.S. after their studies are complete. If you are interested in information on how to immigrate to the United States, please see [http://algiers.usembassy.gov/immigrant\\_visas2.html](http://algiers.usembassy.gov/immigrant_visas2.html) for information on immigrant visa options.

What type of school will I attend?

That depends on what program would be the best fit for you. Students can attend a community college and work towards a two year Associate Degree or a university for four year Bachelor degree – equivalent to the Algerian License. Universities also offer Masters Degrees and Doctorates. Finally, there are education institutions in the United States that can offer short-term programs to help students improve their English language skills.

I want to attend Harvard – will this be possible?

Some of the best known universities in the United States are often the most competitive. Though it is possible to attend an elite American school, applicants will need to have superior academic performance and test scores in order to be competitive. However, with thousands of colleges and universities there are options available for every student.

I want to study in the United States but I am worried that my English is not good enough?

Strong English skills are necessary to study in the United States and almost every institution will require prospective students to take a test, like the TOEFL iBT, to demonstrate English proficiency. However, short-term English language study is also an option for students who wish to improve their language skills. There are over 600 English as a Second Language (ESL) programs available in the United States. These programs range from intensive full time study to part time summer courses and specialized programs for professionals. While these programs do not grant a degree, they represent a good

### How much will it cost to study in the United States?

Costs are high to study in the United States and it largely depends on where and what you want to study. A full year of study for an undergraduate (license) or graduate (masters) degree can cost between \$20,000 (USD) and \$60,000 (USD) a year and includes tuition, room and board, travel, and personal expenses. Short term English language study can cost several thousand dollars depending on the length of study.

### Is it possible to get a scholarship? How will I pay for my studies?

The vast majority of students will need to pay for at least a portion of their studies themselves. The Algerian government does not currently offer any scholarships or financial assistance. University scholarships are rare for international students, vary from institution to institution, and often only provide partial funding. Most scholarships are awarded based on merit, meaning that students will need to have a strong academic background. Students need to investigate potential opportunities to help fund their study plan and EducationUSA can help you with exploring options.

Exchange Programs  
The U.S. Embassy in Algiers also offers a number of exchange programs that can allow Algerians to visit and study in the United States. These programs include opportunities for young Algerians, students, and professionals. Please see our Exchange Program webpage at: [http://algiers.usembassy.gov/academic\\_exchanges.html](http://algiers.usembassy.gov/academic_exchanges.html) for information on qualifications, deadlines, and available programs.

### How far in advance do I need to plan to study in the United States?

The application process can take a long time. The deadlines for students hoping to enroll in the Fall of 2015 are usually in Winter of 2014. Students should begin 12-16 months from the beginning of the expected date they hope to begin studying. Students should also prepare to take the TOEFL test and the SAT for undergraduate or GRE for graduate study.

### How can Education USA help me?

EducationUSA is here to help you. We offer weekly information sessions at the U.S. Embassy on different types of degree programs. Please check our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/AlgiersEducationUSA> for information on when and how to sign up. EducationUSA also has a number of resources available in our Information Resource Center (IRC) to help you research colleges and prepare for tests. For information on becoming a member of our IRC, please see their webpage at: <http://algiers.usembassy.gov/irc.html>. Also be sure to check our EducationUSA webpage on the U.S. Embassy website at [http://algiers.usembassy.gov/study\\_us2.html](http://algiers.usembassy.gov/study_us2.html) for additional resources and links that are helpful.

### What should my next steps be?

The first step any student should take is to educate themselves about the process of applying to and studying at schools in the United States. EducationUSA produces the following guidebooks which go into detail about this process. Review these guides; links to online copies in French and English are available below. Students should also begin to think about where, what, and most importantly why they want to study in the United States, and do online research on universities and programs.

<u>Guide</u>	<u>Links</u>
Undergraduate Study	English: <a href="http://www.educationusa.info/pdf/study/english1.pdf">http://www.educationusa.info/pdf/study/english1.pdf</a> French: <a href="http://www.educationusa.info/pdf/study/french1.pdf">http://www.educationusa.info/pdf/study/french1.pdf</a>
Graduate Study	English: <a href="http://www.educationusa.info/pdf/study/english2.pdf">http://www.educationusa.info/pdf/study/english2.pdf</a> French: <a href="http://www.educationusa.info/pdf/study/french2.pdf">http://www.educationusa.info/pdf/study/french2.pdf</a>
English as a Second Language	English: <a href="http://www.educationusa.info/pdf/study/english3.pdf">http://www.educationusa.info/pdf/study/english3.pdf</a> French: <a href="http://www.educationusa.info/pdf/study/french3.pdf">http://www.educationusa.info/pdf/study/french3.pdf</a>