

Why study in the USA?

There are currently around 11,500 UK students currently studying in the US. Here are some of the top reasons why students decide to take the leap across the pond.

Reputation and variety

There are over 4,500 US universities offering undergraduate degrees.

With such a wide range of universities and degrees on offer, you are bound to find an institution that fits your academic and personal needs.

The US boasts some of the top universities in the world. Billions are invested in higher education every year, with universities focused on delivering quality teaching and engaging and diverse classroom environments.

Academic flexibility

Undergraduate degrees in the USA are more flexible than in the UK.

You do not need to know which subject you want to 'major' in before you apply. A lot of students apply 'undecided' and figure out their majors along the way.

US universities follow an educational idea of the liberal arts curriculum, with a focus that students earn a *well-rounded* education. Under the liberal arts philosophy, you are allowed to explore your academic interests by taking classes from a variety of subjects before focusing on your major. This is one reason why bachelor's degree take four years in the US.

Funding opportunities

Believe it or not, a top reason why many UK students study in the US is because of the many funding opportunities available.

Many students are able to fund their studies through scholarships or financial aid from US universities and external funding bodies. For more information on how to find funding, see our financial aid handout or the funding section on our website.

Campus life and activities

US universities are known for their vibrant campus life.

There are many extracurricular opportunities available such as varsity and intramural sports, Greek life, student government, journalism, and more.

Following the liberal arts idea, US universities aim to graduate well-rounded students, who can engage with the world in an interdisciplinary manner and with a broad skill set. So universities encourage students to be involved outside of the classroom, so you wouldn't need to expect four years spent just in the classroom or library.

Employment

Employers are increasingly looking for graduates with international experience and broad skill sets.

On a student visa, you can work up to 20 hours during term time and 40 hours during holidays. There are many student work opportunities on campus and you can gain further work experience by completing internships during the holidays, sometimes for academic credit.

After graduating, you can apply for an Optional Practical Training (OPT) work permit. This allows you to work in the USA for up to one year after your US degree, or up to three years for STEM graduates.

Experiencing a new culture

Study abroad is a transformative experience.

By studying in the US, you have the opportunity to learn more about the US and its culture. The US spans six time zones and has a great diversity in geography and cultures, and long summer opportunities means you will have time to explore.

Living on campus and the generally open, friendly nature of Americans also helps students learn more about US culture. For those willing to take the leap, studying in the US provides an amazing opportunity to experience a new culture, gaining confidence and independence along the way!

For more information related to US study, visit the US-UK Fulbright Commission website at www.fulbright.org.uk for a step-by-step guide to US applications including advice on choosing, funding and applying to US university or contact us at advising@fulbright.org.uk.