

Applying to the USA, Canada and Australia!



US Admissions - do you know what part of the application is most highly ranked?

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Rank? 1-9</u>
Counsellor Recommendation	
Teacher Recommendation	
Admission Test Score (SAT)	
Curriculum strength	
Grades in ALL courses	
Grades in College Prep Courses (i.e. A levels)	
Extra-curricular activities	
Demonstrated interest	
Essays	

Students will be asked for

All

An application form

Past educational record

Proof of language competency

Predicted grades

Recommendation

USA / Canada

Personal essay (optional Aus)

Australia only

Language tests (IELTS / TOEFL)

USA only

Multiple essays (upto 4/5)

Additional recommendations (up
3)

Standardised tests (SAT / ACT)

All possibly require:

A portfolio / audition

An interview (Skype / film / face-
to-face)

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the United States flag. The top-left corner shows the blue canton with white stars, while the rest of the image is dominated by the red and white stripes. The flag appears to be waving, creating a sense of movement. The text "Study in the USA..." is centered over the stripes.

Study in the USA...

NACAC data: factors in admissions decisions (International Students)

Factor	% saying Considerable or Moderate importance
Grades in College Prep Courses (i.e. A levels)	93%
Grades in ALL courses	94%
Curriculum strength	85%
Admission Test Score (SAT)	73%
Essays	69%
Counsellor Recommendation	55%
Teacher Recommendation	50%
Demonstrated interest	40%
Extra-curricular activities	31%

How do HeadStart provide this?

- College prep courses: A Levels ✓
- Grades: transcript covering IGCSE / AS / A level (predicted grades) ✓
- English proficiency: English IGCSE / waiver letters ✓
- Curriculum strength: IGCSE / A level ✓
- Extra curricular: service / DofE / ASPs ✓
- Recommendations ✓
- Individual support e.g. essay writing / application completion ✓

Standardised Testing

SAT

- HeadStart is in the process of registering with College Board who run SAT
- Students can register to sit SAT / ACT independently on the island / Bangkok

Test Optional / Flexible

- Growing number of colleges do not require SAT
- 950+ 'test optional' institutions
- [Fair Test](#)
- [Niche](#)

Summer of Year 12

10-15 choices:



Insurance /
Foundation



Comfortable /
Mid range



Reach

How to apply

Centralised

- [Common App](#)
- 700 universities
- 1 Application
- (with supplements)
- [Coalition](#)
- 90 schools
- [California](#)
- Central system

Individual applications

- Look on individual college websites
- Be prepared - some are not fully online

Different types of application

- Regular decision (most common) – deadline around January
- Rolling admissions – on-going submissions and decisions (recommended you still apply early)
- Early Action (non-binding)
- Restrictive Early Action (non-binding: Harvard / Princeton / Yale / Stanford etc.)
- Early Decision (binding)

Deadlines

- **Early Decision and Early Action Deadlines: mid October- November 1st – mid November**
- **Last SAT date: October / November**
- **Decision: December 15th**
- **Regular applications: January 1st – March**
- **Last SAT date: December**
- **Decision: April 1st**
- Rolling admissions – on-going submissions and decisions (usually summer-spring) but recommend still apply early
- *Scholarship / funding applications done simultaneously*

Canada?



The good news?

The good news!

A levels and AS welcome (no SAT required)

Generous offers (BBB / CCC)

Relatively simple application

Work allowed as undergraduate

Automatic scholarships

Less good...

Individual applications

Range of timelines (deadlines from January to May)

Growing complexity - increasingly "US" style e.g. personal essays

Time sensitive admissions activities e.g. videos / express essays

Basics

90+ institutions of Higher Education

Under provincial control

Very uniform (high) quality

Comparatively low cost- especially for Canadian citizens

Diverse and flexible

Bachelor's degrees in 3 or 4 years (3 years = Bachelors / 4 years = Honors – must do Honours to continue for graduate degrees)

How to...

- Study Canada - www.studycanada.ca (find out about the different provinces in Canada)
- School Finder - www.schoolfinder.com
- Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada (AUCC) - www.aucc.ca
- Rankings - Macleans rankings - <http://oncampus.macleans.ca/education/rankings/>

Important note

USA / Canada will admit on past and predicted grades - “Unconditionally”

BUT - big difference between predicted and real results will mean admission is denied!

Australia

Very simple:

Apply after A Levels (September) for January / February start

Complete application form with each university

<https://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/>

<https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/>

Online applications - just add personal details and academic record

No need to worry about ATAR (ranking)

Generous requirements for A levels - Bs and Cs

You **MUST** have an English qualification (A Level / IELTS / TOEFL)





Next Week!

Help your child choose a university

How to have useful conversations and share priorities...