



***U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT ANNOUNCES***

# Top Universities for International Students



**U.S. News  
Global Education**

WORLD TRADE CENTER EAST / TWO SEAPORT LANE, SUITE 500 / BOSTON, MA 02210  
877.388.9699 / [INFO@USNEWSGLOBALEDUCATION.COM](mailto:INFO@USNEWSGLOBALEDUCATION.COM) / [USNEWSGLOBALEDUCATION.COM](http://USNEWSGLOBALEDUCATION.COM)



Families around the world rely on university lists as objective standards for measuring the quality of institutions in the U.S.

Many organizations provide rankings of colleges and universities in the U.S., using a myriad of quantifiable data sets and qualitative impressions to put together top 100, 200 and 500 lists. *U.S. News & World Report* has long stood out among them, particularly in attracting an international audience.

For more than 30 years, the U.S. News Best Colleges rankings have evaluated academic quality at 1,800 U.S.-based colleges and universities. Designed primarily for a domestic audience, the rankings do not factor in the academic, language and social-support resources that international students and their families consider when evaluating higher education options.

For this reason, U.S. News released a new list, the Top Universities for International Students, to highlight schools that best support their international student body through graduation. Families around the world rely on university lists as objective standards for measuring the quality of institutions in the U.S. It is the goal of U.S. News Global Education, through its partnership with *U.S. News & World Report*, to help international students and families make informed decisions about their higher education options.

### **WHY HAVE A SEPARATE LIST FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?**

International students **contributed as much as \$36.9 billion** to the U.S. economy in the 2016-2017 academic year, according to NAFSA: Association of International Educators. The number of international students studying in the U.S. has **nearly doubled between 2001 and 2017, based on data from the Institute of International Education.**



---

When institutions have tools and services that distinguish themselves as being dedicated to enhancing international student performance, they position themselves for success.

---

Despite this strong track record, political pressures within the U.S. and abroad emphasize the need for U.S. colleges and universities to reassure their international students that their campuses remain welcoming to them. For example, the success of the [#YouAreWelcomeHere campaign](#) in focusing schools' attention on their commitment to both current and future international students on campus has strengthened the resolve of many institutions.

These campaigns are vital as U.S. universities face an increasingly competitive landscape in attracting international students – up from 2.1 million higher education students who study abroad in 2001 to more than 4.6 million in 2017, [according to IIE](#). While the number of international students studying in the U.S. has increased, the U.S. market share of internationally mobile students has shrunk from 28 percent in 2001 to 24 percent in 2017, [per IIE data](#).

The remarkable growth that the U.S. has seen in the past 15 years has been halted, with several indicators, such as the latest report from the U.S. government's [Student and Exchange Visitor Program](#), pointing to current or short-term declines in numbers.

In the past, many colleges and universities believed that their main competition for students was from other like-minded institutions from neighboring cities or states. Now, many other countries have entered the landscape, with significant governmental support to attract international students.

With the realization that international students' success on their campuses is critical to their ability to continue to draw overseas students, where can these schools start? When institutions have tools and services that distinguish themselves as being dedicated to enhancing international student performance, they position themselves for success.

Additionally, as schools think about enrolling more international students, it is important to note that this group of students generally experience different challenges than their domestic peers when studying in the U.S. For example, unlike their domestic counterparts

---

---

U.S. News advises students and their families to focus on graduation and retention rates as ways to evaluate whether a school is supporting its students up until graduation.

—nearly 40 percent of whom enroll in an institution within 50 miles from home, according to the [Higher Education Research Institute](#) at the University of California—Los Angeles – most international students (68 percent) choose a major or course of study before committing to a destination country, according to the [QS 2018 International Student Survey](#).

U.S. News advises students and their families to focus on graduation and retention rates as ways to evaluate whether a school is supporting its students up until graduation. International students should also research the availability of additional resources, such as whether a school offers English as a Second Language programs or grant aid to international students. This is where the Top Universities for International Students list comes into play.

### **METHODOLOGY**

With the mission of providing both schools and students with the resources to make better higher education decisions, U.S. News developed the methodology to create the Top Universities for International Students list with input from U.S. News Global Education.





---

To compile the list, U.S. News began with the [National Universities](#) in its annual Best Colleges rankings and then evaluated those that best support the needs of international students. Nineteen initial indicators were combined, in some cases, to create the six final indicators used in the analysis. These include graduation and retention rates for international students, availability of English as a Second Language programs and grant aid to international students.

This is the first time that these criteria have been used together, with the goal of understanding international students' needs.

## **CRITERIA**

- » Six-year graduation rate for international undergraduate students.
- » Retention rate (first year to sophomore year) for international students.
- » ESL program and/or ESL classes.
- » International student organizations.
- » Institutional need-based or merit aid for international students.
- » English lab.
- » International student center.
- » Special counselors/advisers.
- » Host family program.
- » Housing offered during all school holidays.
- » Dining hall services during all school holidays.
- » Special orientation (1–6 days, 1–2 weeks, 2+ weeks).
- » Help with setting up local services (e.g., bank accounts, cellphones, etc.).
- » Translations of portions of the school's undergraduate admissions website into other languages.
- » TOEFL and/or IELTS can be substituted in place of the SAT or ACT.
- » Conditional admission available to international applicants.

## **WHY THESE CRITERIA MATTER**

Families considering sending their children abroad for undergraduate studies typically recognize that they will be making a tremendous financial investment to fulfill those dreams. It is important to strongly consider metrics such as first-year retention rate and international student graduation rate as key outcomes. Both measures reflect how well an institution is prepared to meet the needs of its international students.



The families of international students play an integral role in the decision-making process. As parents research institutions along with their children, they will be eager to find content in their native languages, especially related to costs, aid and admissions criteria.

After considering the academic subjects offered, the next factors that affect an institution's opportunity to attract international students are cost and admissions requirements.

- » The U.S. higher education system, while of generally high quality, is also the most expensive in the world for undergraduate students. The families of international students play an integral role in the decision-making process. As parents research institutions along with their children, they will be eager to find content in their native languages, especially related to costs, aid and admissions criteria.
- » When it comes to testing options, international students are at a distinct disadvantage. The two standardized college admissions exams (ACT and SAT) used by most U.S. institutions are not designed with international students in mind, and access to these exams is not universal. Consequently, **[schools with test-flexible or test-optional requirements](#)** are of great value to international students.
- » International students can face a variety of social and academic challenges at U.S. institutions, including their English-language ability and academic preparedness for college life. This is why it is important for institutions to offer ESL or related services that support international students.

Campus housing options are another significant challenge for many international undergraduate students. While many universities have on-campus housing for international students, at times even requiring first-year and second-year students to live on campus, housing challenges arise during break periods and holidays when

---

International students are even more likely to struggle with mental health issues than their American peers.

school is not in session. International students may not be able to return home until the summer or even graduation, which is why these students need on-campus housing and food services that last year-round.

Often, the social adjustments can be as daunting as the academic challenges that international students face. A 2012 City University of New York [survey](#) found that nearly 40 percent of international students said they had no strong American friendships, with East Asian students having the most difficult time. Perhaps unsurprisingly, nearly half of these students attribute their lack of friends to shyness or limited language proficiency. This is why it is important for institutions to offer clubs and student organizations that are geared toward international students.

International students are even more likely to struggle with mental health issues than their American peers. An [EAB study](#) on this issue states that adjusting to a new culture, confronting a potentially significant language barrier and living away from their network of family and friends elevates their risks of anxiety and depression. EAB notes that institutions need to address two challenges: making students aware that help exists on campus and helping them overcome the cultural stigma that mental health problems have in many countries. International student counselors and advisers who can provide dedicated support are key to addressing concerns.



---

## TOP UNIVERSITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Taking into account factors important to international students interested in studying in the U.S., the Top Universities for International Students list features 181 schools that provide services such as international student body organizations, ESL programs, year-round housing and more. Prospective students can access more information about the Top Universities for International Students and access data for all National Universities at [usnews.com/colleges](https://www.usnews.com/colleges).

American University	Drexel University	Miami University–Oxford
Andrews University	Duke University	Michigan State University
Arizona State University–Tempe	Duquesne University	Michigan Technological University
Ashland University	East Carolina University	Mississippi State University
Ball State University	Emory University	Missouri University of Science and Technology
Baylor University	Florida A&M University	Montclair State University
Benedictine University	Florida Institute of Technology	New Jersey Institute of Technology
Binghamton University–SUNY	George Mason University	New School
Biola University	Georgetown University	New York University
Boston College	George Washington University	North Carolina State University–Raleigh
Boston University	Georgia Institute of Technology	North Dakota State University
Bowling Green State University	Georgia State University	Northwestern University
Brandeis University	Hofstra University	Ohio State University–Columbus
Brigham Young University–Provo	Howard University	Ohio University
Brown University	Illinois Institute of Technology	Pace University
California Institute of Technology	Illinois State University	Pennsylvania State University–University Park
California State University–Fresno	Indiana University–Bloomington	Pepperdine University
California State University–Fullerton	Indiana University–Purdue University–Indianapolis	Princeton University
Case Western Reserve University	Iowa State University	Purdue University–West Lafayette
Clark University	Johns Hopkins University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Clarkson University	Kent State University	Rice University
Clemson University	Lehigh University	Robert Morris University
College of William & Mary	Lipscomb University	Rochester Institute of Technology
Colorado School of Mines	Louisiana State University–Baton Rouge	Rutgers University–Newark
Colorado State University	Loyola University Chicago	Rutgers University–New Brunswick
Columbia University	Marquette University	Saint Louis University
Cornell University	Maryville University of St. Louis	San Diego State University
Dallas Baptist University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Seton Hall University
Dartmouth College	Mercer University	
DePaul University		

---

Shenandoah University	University of Connecticut	University of Oklahoma
Southern Illinois University–Carbondale	University of Dayton	University of Oregon
Southern Methodist University	University of Delaware	University of Pennsylvania
St. John’s University	University of Denver	University of Pittsburgh
Stanford University	University of Florida	University of Rhode Island
Stevens Institute of Technology	University of Hartford	University of Rochester
Stony Brook University–SUNY	University of Idaho	University of San Diego
Suffolk University	University of Illinois–Chicago	University of San Francisco
Syracuse University	University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign	University of South Carolina
Temple University	University of Iowa	University of Southern California
Texas A&M University–College Station	University of Kansas	University of St. Thomas
Texas Christian University	University of Kentucky	University of Tennessee
Texas Tech University	University of Louisville	University of Texas–Austin
Tufts University	University of Maine	University of Texas–Dallas
Tulane University	University of Maryland–Baltimore County	University of Tulsa
Union University	University of Maryland–College Park	University of Utah
University at Buffalo–SUNY	University of Massachusetts–Amherst	University of Vermont
University of Alabama	University of Massachusetts–Lowell	University of Virginia
University of Alabama–Birmingham	University of Miami	University of Washington
University of Alabama–Huntsville	University of Michigan–Ann Arbor	University of Wisconsin–Madison
University of Alaska–Fairbanks	University of Minnesota–Twin Cities	University of Wyoming
University of Arizona	University of Mississippi	Vanderbilt University
University of Arkansas	University of Missouri	Villanova University
University of California–Davis	University of Montana	Virginia Commonwealth University
University of California–Irvine	University of Nebraska–Lincoln	Virginia Tech
University of California–Los Angeles	University of New Hampshire	Washington State University
University of California–Riverside	University of New Mexico	Washington University in St. Louis
University of California–San Diego	University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill	Wayne State University
University of California–Santa Barbara	University of North Dakota	Western Michigan University
University of Cincinnati	University of Notre Dame	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
University of Colorado–Boulder		Yale University
University of Colorado–Denver		Yeshiva University

U.S. News Global Education is an affiliate of Shorelight Education. While some universities that partner with Shorelight Education appear on this list, *U.S. News & World Report* relied exclusively upon their own proprietary research and data in applying the methodology.