
4.4 United States

The United States ranks as the number one destination for international students around the world. In 1992, there were approximately 420 000 international students studying in the United States, with more than 50 percent of these coming from Asia Pacific countries.

In addition to having information on colleges and universities available at most U.S. embassies, the United States has about 100 offices worldwide dedicated to promoting study in the United States. There are many guides to U.S. education available on a commercial basis, and many institutions handle much of their own marketing and recruitment activities.

The following programs, associations and agencies are very involved in the international education process in the United States: the United States Information Agency, the Fulbright-Hays program, the Institute for International Education, the Council for International Education Exchange, and the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers.

In 1992, over 60 percent of the international students in the United States were self-funded, almost 20 percent were on institutional scholarships and fewer than 2 percent were studying on U.S. government funding.

The United States declared an income of over US\$5 billion from international education in 1991.

Student Visas

Individuals applying for a student visa to the United States must show proof of financial competence to pay for their tuition and must provide the required documentation. While no medical requirements are needed to acquire a visa, applicants are generally required by their host institution to acquire comprehensive health insurance. (Visa processing time required is generally one day, if all documents are in order.)