



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

CHALLENGE
ACCEPTED

American University, Washington, DC

Tips for U.S. High School Counselors with

Students on F, J, & Diplomatic Visas

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Fall 2021 Update

How AU Identifies & Supports Int'l Applications from inside the U.S.

- **Analyze data trends:** Identify domestic high schools with int'l applications
- Schedule **meetings** with domestic colleagues to review data & talking points
- **Increase outreach:** Domestic admissions identifies opportunities to reach out to int'l students, school and independent counselors within their territories i.e. visit ESL centers, HS ISSS or ELI staff.
- **Train** domestic team on int'l admissions 101: TOEFL/IELTS/Duolingo, SAT/ACT/Test Optional, China credentials, overview of F/J visa regulations
- Create **virtual resource corner** for counselors inside and outside the U.S.
<https://www.american.edu/admissions/international/counselor-resources.cfm>

Indicators that Predict Academic Success for American University, Washington, DC

- **Number of years** at the U.S. high school
- **Which year** student transitioned to U.S. (9th/10th/11th?) & transition ease
- **Rigor** of current and previous secondary school system/s
- Transcript grades on **English subjects** (ESL taken or not)
- English proficiency **sub-score consistency**
- **Email/phone communications** with admissions officer
- Leadership, community service, **involvement** at U.S. high school

Our Student Body

- Undergraduates: **8,297**
- Graduate and Law: **6,024**
- Total: **Over 14,000**
- Over **1,800** international and U.S. citizen “Global Nomad” students from **120+** countries call AU their home.

AU Graduation Outcomes (Class of 2020 Census)

- 90% of graduates participated in at least one internship before graduation
- 91% of graduates were employed, enrolled in graduate school, or both, within six months of graduation
- 88% of graduates who are working hold jobs related to their degree

<https://www.american.edu/weknowsuccess>

Application Options

Early Decision I:

- Deadline: **November 15**
- Notification: **by December 31**

Early Decision II:

- Deadline: **January 15**
- Notification: **by February 15**

Regular Decision:

- Deadline: **January 15**
- Notification: **by April 1**

Fall 2022 Application Checklist

A complete application packet for F-1 & J-1 students applying from high schools inside the U.S. must include:

- Common Application OR Coalition Application
- \$75 application fee (no fee waivers)
- Secondary School Report
- Academic Records for grades 9-12 (including original transcripts from all previous secondary schools)
- Secondary School Counselor Recommendation Letter
- Teacher Recommendation Letter
- SAT or ACT (*unless student chooses to go 'test optional' – more details coming up!*)
- Demonstrated English Proficiency (TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, Duolingo, Cambridge Assessment English) *
- Bank letter showing US\$70,464 or equivalent *
- AU Certification of Finances showing US\$70,464 or equivalent *
- Copy of passport information page *

**** Required for students who will need an F-1 or J-1 visa to study in the United States***

Who does not need to show proof of finances ?

- Any non F-1 or J-1 international student (A-1, A-2, H-2, H-4, G-4, L-2, F-2, etc)
- U.S. Permanent Resident (PR) or “Green Card” holder
- U.S. Pending Permanent Resident (PPR)
- Undocumented Students
- Deferred Action (**DACA**)
- Political Asylee, Pending Asylee, Refugee Status

English Proficiency for Fall 2022 Applicants

Required for all F-1 & J-1 students by Dept of Homeland Security to receive AU I-20 or DS-2019

<https://www.american.edu/admissions/international/instructions.cfm#proficiency>

Via testing (one of the following):

- TOEFL iBT minimum total 85 (90 iBT preferred) with each sub-score >20
- TOEFL paper-based minimum sub-score 20 or higher (taken after May 31, 2017)
- IELTS composite score 6.5 or above, with each sub-score 6.0 or higher
- PTE score 60 minimum
- SAT READ sub-score 30 minimum
- ACT English score 25 or above
- Duolingo English Test (DET) 115 minimum, with each sub-score 105 or above
- (NEW) Cambridge Assessment English 176 minimum with each sub-score 169 or above

Or....

English Proficiency for Fall 2022 Applicants (con't)

Required for all F-1 & J-1 students by Dept of Homeland Security to receive AU I-20 or DS-2019

<https://www.american.edu/admissions/international/instructions.cfm#proficiency>

Via Curriculum:

Four years of study (grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 or equivalent) in U.S. regionally-accredited or IB, CXC or UK curricula (inside or outside the U.S.), where English is the only medium of instruction AND no ESL courses have been taken;

Four years of study (grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 or equivalent) in selected English-speaking countries or in the educational systems of these countries (regardless of location) where English is the only medium of instruction AND no ESL courses have been taken.

English speaking countries include: U.S., UK and Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Australia, New Zealand, Canada (except Quebec), Singapore, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and these countries in the Caribbean (Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Helena, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands)

SAT/ACT or Test Optional for AU?

It depends!

- The SAT/ACT is required of all applicants, including int'l students, who are graduating high school inside the U.S. **unless** the student chooses to go **“Test Optional”** for standardized testing.
- **“Test Optional”** does **not** refer to proof of English proficiency.
- F-1 & J-1 students **must** still prove English proficiency through TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, DET, etc.
- **“Test Optional”** does **not** put students at a disadvantage for admissions' consideration when other components are strong.

When to consider “Test Optional” for your international student?

- Less than 4 years in an all-English curriculum
- Very recent transition to English-language curriculum
- Completed several ESL classes at a U.S. high school
- TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, DET, etc results are at the low end of AU's minimum requirements.

Advanced Credit for AP, IB, A level & Other Exams

- American University is committed to ensuring that AP, A-level, and IB students receive the appropriate AU credit they have earned as outlined in the AP, A-level, IB charts for Academic Years 20-21 and 21-22.
- View www.American.edu/admissions/exam-credit.cfm for details and policies.

AU's Response to COVID-19

Update re Pass/Fail Grade Policy on Transcripts

What will be accepted on the final year transcript? How will this impact future applicants?

- Given 2021's continued unusual circumstances, we will be as flexible and accommodating to students as possible. We understand that some seniors may be awarded Pass/Fail grades for this semester. The use of Pass/Fail grades will not negatively impact their AU admission. Final transcripts should reflect proof of successful graduation and include a graduation date.
- For future applicants, we will grant the same understanding for a Pass/Fail grading structure for this or future semesters.
- We encourage counselors to include a statement on your school profile or respond to the additional question on the Common app school profile to indicate the reason for the Pass/Fail grades for this or future semesters.

AU Transition Programs

International students who do not meet the AU English proficiency or GPA requirements for direct entry may be recommended for IAP or American Collegiate in their denial letter. This is only available for students who meet IAP or American Collegiate minimum requirements:

International Accelerator Program at American University (IAP) is a demanding one-year transition program that combines intensive English-language instruction with coursework and supplemental resources that help fully integrate students into the university and their campus community. IAP provides a pathway program that is designed to prepare students for degree-seeking status at AU.

American Collegiate Program at AU (ACDC) This non-degree program is intended for first-year students who seek the academic, cultural, and English-language support to succeed at very competitive U.S. universities. Based at American University, students pursue a program that includes two to three semesters of credit-bearing course work, along with English language and other support. Additionally, these students receive counseling to facilitate a seamless transfer to any university, including AU.

Visit <http://www.auaccelerator.com> to learn more about the International Accelerator Program at American University.

Undergraduate Cost Guide

Academic year 2021-2022, based on 9 months, subject to increase

Tuition: \$50,542

Fees: \$520

Average Room: \$10,096

Average Board: \$5,054

Books: \$800

Health Insurance: \$1,952

Personal: \$1,500

TOTAL: US\$70,464

Undergraduate Scholarships for International Students

- Limited and competitive
- Merit (not need) based
- Partial \$8,000 - \$20,000 per academic year (estimated)
- No separate application process is required
- Students must demonstrate full minimum amount of US\$70,464 on bank letter by application deadline **even if they hope to receive partial merit-based scholarships**

AU Emerging Global Leader Scholarship (AU EGLS)

- Covers all billable AU expenses (approximately \$66,500/year) for **ONE** outstanding international first-year student who is committed to positive civic and social change. Student must provide bank letter proving minimum of US\$4,000 per year during application process. Deadline: December 15, 2021.
- <https://www.american.edu/admissions/international/au-egls-apply.cfm>

AU Resources for Financial Planning

Includes information for F & J international students

- Tips, strategies, & guidance for prospective students and families
www.american.edu/admissions/international/prospective-finance.cfm
- Ideas & resources for admitted students www.american.edu/admissions/international/admitted-finance.cfm
- U.S. State Department webinar re fiscal planning for U.S. university study
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSvYoJG8HUM&list=UUjCJxQ9CNnoSwWP1-ZHbEiw>

Resources for You! (part 1)

www.nafsa.org

- State, regional and annual conferences
- Member Interest Group (MIG) for secondary school counselors who work with international students

www.nafsa.org/secondaryschool

www.iie.org/research-and-publications

Charting new pathways to Higher Education: International Secondary Students in the U.S.

www.nacacnet.org

- Engage with affiliate ACACs
- International Student Programming at NACAC fairs/conferences
- International Counselor Toolkit:
- www.nacacnet.org/Knowledge-center/international/CounselorToolkit/

Resources for You! (part 2)

- www.internationalacac.org: International Association for College Admission Counseling
- www.ecis.org: Council of International Schools
- www.wes.org, www.ece.org: Credentials & Evaluations organizations (sample list)
- www.tabs.org: The Association of Boarding Schools
- www.educationusa.state.gov: U.S. Dept of State site with objective information & resources on all aspects of U.S. higher education for international audiences.
- www.american.edu/admissions/international/counselor-resources.cfm: AU comprehensive virtual resource corner for school counselors

Thank you and Good Luck!

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- [Why Choose AU](#)
- [#YouAreWelcomeHere](#)
- [Meet our AU Diplomats!](#)
- [AU Diplomats Instagram](#)
- [Experiential Learning at AU-International Edition](#)
- www.american.edu/admissions/international



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