

Study in the United States.

The greatest variety of campus formats in this set and the widest spread of prices and aid. A sensible search starts with academic, personal and financial fit together, then tests each college's actual requirements.

Study language	English for most programmes; evidence varies
Main route	College-specific applications and deadlines
Institution types	Public, private and community-college pathways
Budget pressure	Total cost after aid, health insurance and travel
Good first question	Can the family fund every year of the actual offer?

For students coming from Spain or Italy, this guide brings the degree, admissions, economy, budget and everyday life into one decision. The examples are a starting point; always verify the exact programme and entry year.

THREE QUESTIONS TO SETTLE FIRST

Before the shortlist becomes a decision

1. Fit beyond the name

Read the academic structure, support and campus setting. Ask whether the student wants the degree's flexibility and could picture ordinary life there.

2. The net price

Compare the full cost of attendance with the aid the student can actually apply for or has been offered. Include housing, health cover and travel.

3. The work behind each application

Track essays, recommendations, records, tests if required and aid deadlines for every institution. Give the student enough time to do their own writing.

01 / THE UNIVERSITY OFFER

What can the student actually study?

Students may explore liberal-arts colleges, large research universities, specialist institutions and community-college transfer pathways. Degree structures often allow broader early study before a major, but rules differ. Compare graduation requirements, class sizes, advising, safety and support for international students.

Do not choose solely by a famous name. A balanced list includes academic reach, likely admission fit and financially workable choices. Check whether a subject is directly admitted, whether changing majors is possible, and whether a specific profession requires later postgraduate training.

02 / ADMISSIONS AND LANGUAGE

The route from Spain or Italy

EducationUSA describes an institution-specific process: school records, essays, recommendations and English evidence can all be involved. Testing rules and document evaluations differ. International applicants should check each college's website and financial-aid application deadlines, which may differ from admissions dates.

For a Bachillerato or maturità applicant, ask how transcripts and predicted/final results are submitted and whether translations are required. Build a calendar with teachers and referees early. Some colleges use the Common Application, while others use their own process; the institution's instructions are decisive.

03 / FEES AND THE REAL BUDGET

What a family should price

Published price

Tuition and fees vary greatly across colleges. The advertised amount is only the first line: ask for the institution's international-student cost of attendance.

Actual family cost

Subtract confirmed grants and scholarships, then add required housing, meals, health insurance, books, visa-related charges and flights. Keep a four-year projection and check renewal conditions for aid.

Funding reality

Need-based aid and merit awards for international students vary by institution. Some scholarships cover only part of the expense. Never treat a possible award as money already available.

Planning method: request the exact programme fee, price a real room, and add food, transport, insurance, travel home, deposits and a contingency. Recheck every figure before accepting an offer.

04 / ACCOMMODATION

Make housing part of the choice

Many colleges offer on-campus rooms and meal plans, sometimes required in the first year. Compare cost, guarantee period, vacation closures, residence support and transport. For off-campus housing, check lease terms, deposits, utility costs and the effect of distance on safety and study. Confirm when international students can move in.

05 / CITIES AND SETTINGS

Where might the student thrive?

Northeast and West Coast metros

Dense academic and employer networks; potentially very high housing and travel costs.

College towns

Campus-centred social life and different daily expenses; inspect travel connections.

Regional public institutions

Often large academic offerings; international tuition and aid terms need specific checking.

06 / ECONOMY AND CAREERS

Put the degree in context

The US economy and job markets vary by state and city, from technology and healthcare to finance, media, agriculture and manufacturing. Campus career support, internships and alumni networks can be valuable, but immigration and work authorisation rules constrain opportunities. Compare concrete programme outcomes and official visa guidance before making career assumptions.

Picture an ordinary Tuesday

Distance from Spain or Italy makes travel and support planning important. Ask about international orientation, academic advising, medical care, insurance, campus safety and support during holiday closures. A residential college experience can be rewarding, but the family should discuss independence, time zones and a realistic contact plan.

A PLAN FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Five decisions to make together

1. Choose three real programmes. Save their module lists, admission pages and the exact degree awarded.
2. Check eligibility. Record qualification and subject rules, language evidence, application channel and every deadline.
3. Build one budget per city. Use the published tuition for this student, a real housing option and a full-year living estimate.
4. Test the daily experience. Ask about accommodation, travel, wellbeing, healthcare and who can help on arrival.
5. Assign the next action. Decide what the student researches, what parents verify and which questions need a university answer.

OFFICIAL STARTING POINTS

Verify for your entry year

[EducationUSA: undergraduate applications ↗](#)

[EducationUSA: financial aid search ↗](#)

[EducationUSA: campus life and housing ↗](#)

[US State Department: student visas ↗](#)

Reviewed September 2026. Cost examples are sourced and dated where available. National averages are not offers. Requirements, fees, deadlines, housing and work or visa rules can change; the university and competent authorities are the final source for the student's circumstances.

Talk with us in English, Spanish or Italian: universityabroad.eu/consultation/