

Roadmap to Study in USA

Following timeline and checklist will give you a guideline for admission to US for Fall and Spring semester. Months listed are for best case scenario. Many students for Fall semester take GRE in Feb/March and still able to get admission for Fall semester.

Following checklist will undergo changes, so check back periodically and don't forget the check the comments. I plan to add links to all the sections below.

Exams (Fall – Aug, Spring – May)

- Get Passport (Surname(or last Name) is Mandatory)
- Register for GRE Test
- Register for TOEFL
- Prepare for GRE Exam
- Browse Universities
- Take GRE (or GMAT)
- Report Scores to 4 Universities (at end of the exam)
- Take TOEFL
- Report TOEFL Scores to Universities

University Selection (Fall – Oct/Nov, Spring – June)

- Browse Universities
- Research – University Deadlines, Fees, funding, cost of living, safety, etc
- Finalize programs
- Finalize Universities

Application Documents (Fall – Oct/Nov, Spring – Jun/July)

- Collect Required List of Documents (per school)
- Statement of Purpose
- Recommendation Letter
- Resume
- Transcripts
- Bank Statement
- Affidavit of Support
- Certificates and other supporting documents
- Copy of front and last pages of passport
- Copy of online application submission conformation

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Application (Fall – Nov/Dec, Spring – Jul/Aug)

- Fill out online Graduate School Application
- Fill Department application (if any)
- Pay Application Fee (online or send dd)
- Confirmation number or application id
- Submit Application (online)
- Mail Application documents – Express Mail (courier)

Admission (Fall – Feb/Mar/Apr, Spring – Oct/Nov/Dec)

- Check Application Status (Takes 2 to 4 months)
- Plan for Visa Bank balance and expenses
- Receive Admission Decision (Admission Letter + I-20 form)

F1 Visa (Fall – Jun/July/Aug, Spring – Dec/Jan)

- Learn about F1 Visa Interview Process
- Pay SEVIS Fees
- Bank Statement
- Affidavit from Sponsors
- Other Required Documents
- F1 Visa Questions and Answers

Travel to US (Fall – Aug, Spring – Dec/Jan)

- Find friends to travel together
- Book flight ticket
- Arrange for Pickup and Accommodation
- Buy stuffs
- Buy Suitcase
- Find Health Insurance Requirements
- Carrying Money to US (DD, TC or Wire Transfer)
- Leave a copy of documents at home

After Reaching US

- First few days
- Attend orientation
- Open Bank Account
- Shopping