

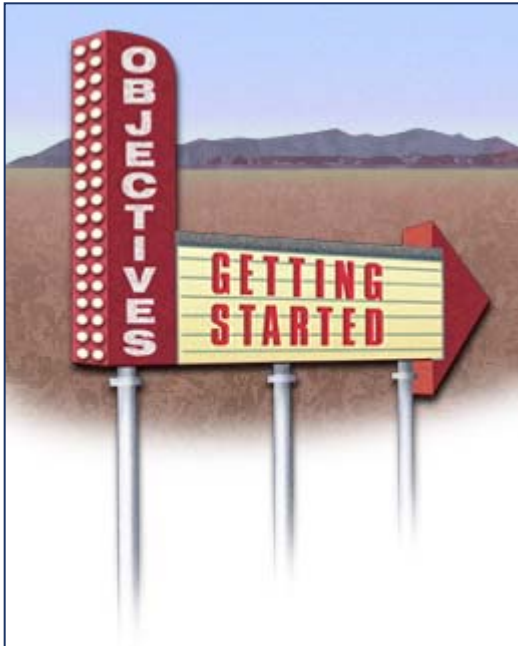
Why Study in the USA)

Christopher Price

Regional Director for North America

PFL Group International Ltd

Presentation Outline



1. First a little about my personal experiences and why I am here today
2. Why the USA?
3. Some final tips and conclusions
4. Q&A

Why Study in the United States?

- The American higher education system offers flexible options to fit students' individual needs and learning styles:
 - Direct entry to undergraduate programs;
 - English preparation programs leading to degree programs if necessary;
 - Transfer opportunities (2+2) to second and third year of undergraduate programs;
 - A wide-range of graduate programs, Diplomas, Masters and PhD;
- Students can choose to earn a two-year, four-year, or post graduate degree or a professional certification at a public or private institution
- Students who study in the US benefit from incomparable cultural diversity, world-class instructors, and leading technology

Key Benefits of Study in the United States?

1. World class learning institutions & Education Quality: US universities dominate all the recognized global ranking tables;
2. Choice: The US education system is vast, over 4,000 Schools and varied in terms of selectivity; geography; urban/country campus options; public versus private etc;
3. Cost: Whilst some the leading private universities in the US command premium fees, many high-quality public universities offer very competitive fees packages. Community College is cheaper and you can transfer. Also most institutions especially the best offer 'needs blind' scholarships;
4. World wide recognition leading to excellent career prospects: International students who complete their studies in the USA are highly sought after by companies worldwide;

Types of Institutions

- **Public/Private:**
Institutions often feature a variety of “colleges” within them that can include areas of concentrations, providing both large and small classroom experiences;
- **Liberal Arts:**
Colleges are generally smaller than public institutions and focus their offerings more on the humanities and sciences;
- **Ivy League:**
Schools are among the oldest and most famous in the US and stress undergraduate liberal arts education, but have notable graduate and professionals schools;
- **Technical Institutes:**
Are generally for those International students who are at the graduate level, where the focus is primarily in engineering and science and who are noted for their research and graduate programs;

Degrees Offered

- **Associate Degrees:**
Are generally offered at two-year institutions and are designed for students seeking practical (applied) courses, and also for those wanting to enter a four-year program in the future;
- **Bachelors:**
Offered at 4 year Universities and colleges that can vary in size, cost competitiveness, and offerings, but provide students with a very well-rounded education which results in a Bachelor's degree;
- **Graduate:**
Better known as a **Master's Degree**, is a graduate certification that typically takes one to two years of study beyond a bachelor's degree to obtain;
- **Doctorate:**
Or more commonly known as a **PhD**, is the certification awarded after advanced study beyond the bachelor's and master's degree and can take anywhere from 3 to 5 years to complete

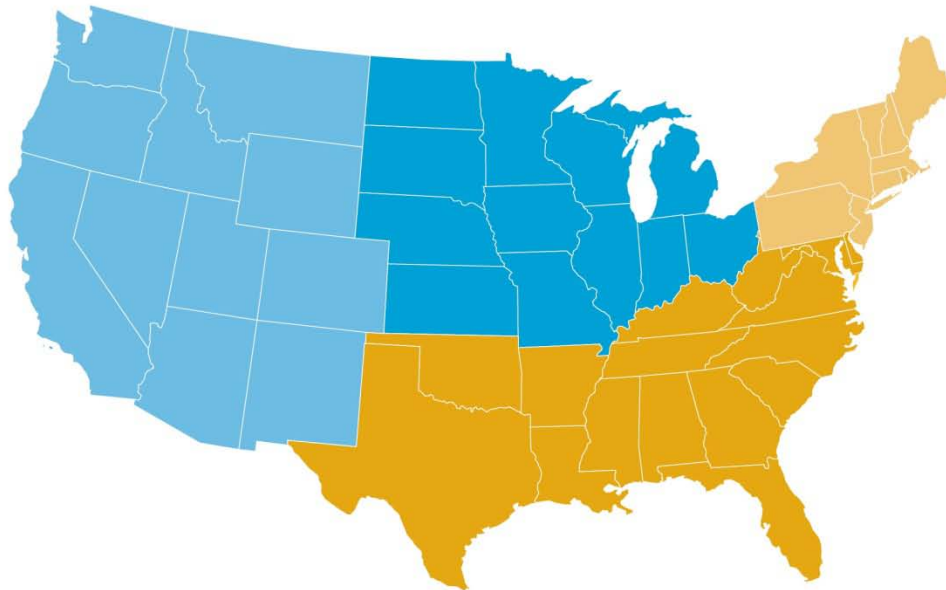
The American Landscape

MIDWEST

- Thrilling theme parks, American football games, & country fairs abound in the region known as the “Heartland”
- Beautiful changes of season include lush, green summers and cozy, snow-blanketed winters

WEST

- World-famous scenery, including the Grand Canyon & Yosemite Park, makes the West home to prime camping destinations
- From wide-open spaces to quaint mountain villages, the western U.S. has it all



NORTHEAST

- Exciting culture & vibrant towns are full of history & energy
- Cruise the many scenic highways of the Northeast during the region’s mild summers and picturesque winters

SOUTH

- Vibrant towns & events boast a jazzy & inviting culture
- Easy access to coastal waters makes the South a popular vacation spot during the gentle winter months

Entrance Exams

- To be accepted into an American university for bachelors level education, students may need to take the SAT or ACT test:
 - SAT: assesses how well a student analyzes and solves problems and is used as a measure of critical thinking skills;
 - ACT: is a multiple choice test that evaluates knowledge of English, mathematics, reading, and science;
- International students are often required to submit scores from an English language proficiency test, such as the IELTS or TOEFL;
- Graduate schools require that students take the GRE, GMAT, or other test, depending on the program;
- Check with the universities you are interested in for their specific testing and admission requirements, an/or check with a local advise if you have one. Sometimes these tests can be waived depending on your circumstances

Grading System

- Most US institutions use a five letter grading system that assigns a specific letter grade and numerical value to represent academic achievement, called a GPA;
- The letter-number designations are:

Number	Letter	Description
>4	A	Excellent
>3	B	Good
>2	C	Average
>1	D	Below Average
>0	F	Failing

Student Visa

- Give yourself plenty of time when supporting students with the process – visas can be issued 120 days before your date of departure, and many visa offices issue the visa very quickly after interview;
- Decide which type of visa the student needs:
 - F-1: standard for international students
 - J-1: international exchange students
 - M-1: trade and vocational students
- For a list of documentation needed for a US visa, visit www.travel.state.gov
- Check with our local US Embassy or consular office for more specific information for your country;

Other Important Areas to Consider

1. Many universities, given the flexibility of the 4-year degree program, are able to take students with lower levels of IELTS/TOEFL into the first year – be aware of this flexibility;
2. Application fees are required by almost all universities, so please be aware of this when applying;
3. Students will normally require some sort of accompanying test – SAT, GRE, GMAT etc so be aware of this;
4. Many universities have fixed application deadlines so be aware of this

Conclusions- Some final tips from an ‘insider’

- Think about what you want to study in details and be prepared to answer questions on this! i.e. what is your career plan?
- Think about where you want to study (country and region/city) if you have a preference.
- What kind of institution will suit you personally and academically? (large urban campus/small liberal arts college ‘up state’)
- How are you going to fund your studies? Be prepared to show you can!
- Do your research
- Ask those who have been before you!
- Apply early and know what you need to do in advance (TOEFL/GRE/GMAT/SATS etc)
- Check out the institutions websites and social media groups (they will all have a YouTube channel/iTunesU/Facebook group or something like it..)
- Get the help of a professional advisor its often free/little cost. We are here to help you. Your aims and ambitions our ours!

**Thank you! -
Questions?**



Christopher Price
**Regional Director for North
America**
PFL Group International Ltd

chris@preparationforlife.com

www.preparationforlife.com/NORTH_AMERICA