So You Want to Study in the United States?

U.S. Embassy Mozambique
EducationUSA Advising Program

The U.S. educational system values academic honesty and freedom, critical reflection, independent thinking and decision making, interactive learning, leadership skills, and diversity.

Smithee, Greenblatt & Eland, 2004

Why Study in the United States?

**QUALITY**
- World-class institutions
- Widely accepted degrees

**CHOICE**
- +4,500 accredited universities
- +600 Fields of Study

**FLEXIBILITY**
- Design your own program
- Change fields/schools without penalty

**VALUE**
- Schools in every price range
- Generous financial aid

**PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY**
- Access to work, study, and internship opportunities
- Career counseling services
Mozambicans Studying in the U.S.
2016-2017 Academic Year

Total International Students
5% of total U.S. university enrollment (20 million)

African Students
3.4% of all international students

Mozambican Students
0.3% of all African students

Mozambican Undergraduate/Graduate Students
57% and 26% of all Mozambican students

Source: 2017 Open Doors Report

International Student Enrollment in the US: 2016-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th># of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>10,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>3,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>3,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>RSA</td>
<td>1,813</td>
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<td>Angola</td>
<td>1,296</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cabo Verde</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Your 5 Steps to Study in the United States

Before You Start: THINK and PLAN
General Requirements for Undergraduate Admission

- Complete secondary school; be qualified to enter local universities
- Strong grades
- Good English
- Adequate finances to pay and/or eligibility for scholarships
- Admissions exams
- Submit a complete application

THINK and Plan

- Schools are interested in who you are as a whole person: inside and outside of the classroom: extra-curriculars are important!

- Admission is based on how well YOU fit THE SCHOOL, as much as how well the school fits YOU.

- Applications period begins a year before enrollment: get started early
U.S. Academic Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| August/September | • School Year Starts  
                    | • Application period for next year begins                           |
| September-February | • Application Period                                                  |
| March/April    | • Admissions and Financial Aid Decisions Sent                         |
| May            | • Enrollment deadline                                                |
| June           | • School Year Ends                                                    |

*Many schools also offer enrollment in January instead of September, however financial aid is limited.*

Research Your Options: 1-2 Years Before Enrollment

- What do you want to study?
- What are your career goals? What are your personal goals?
- What size school do you want to attend? In what part of the country?
- How much can you afford to spend?
- When do you want to begin school?
- What type of degree do you want?
- Gather information from reliable sources, but make your own decisions!
U.S. Undergraduate Degree Programs

**Associate's degree**
- Two years to complete
- Community colleges or junior colleges
- May transfer to a Bachelor’s degree program afterwards
- Much cheaper, less selective, but less financial aid

**Bachelor’s degree**
- Four years to complete
- Colleges, universities, or specialized institutions
- Highly flexible with a wide variety of courses
- More versatile degree, more financial aid, but more expensive.

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**Step 2: Finance Your Studies**

Costs **can vary greatly** from one institution to another. With planning and research, studying in the U.S. can be affordable.
Costs of Higher Education

• Comprehensive ANNUAL costs range from $15,000 to $60,000 for undergraduate degree programs (includes tuition, fees, and living expenses)

• Over 1,000 universities award financial aid to international students

• 250 offer full tuition scholarships for undergraduate study

• The strongest students are the most competitive for scholarships

Reducing Educational Costs

Assess personal funds

• Determine how much your family can afford for your education each year.
• Full scholarships are difficult to get—expect to pay something yourself.
• Research to identify schools that offer financial aid

Plan a budget

• Remember that overall costs include tuition, fees, and living expenses.
• Develop your budget as early as possible!
Two Types of University Financial Aid

### Merit-Based (e.g., scholarships & grants)
Based on outstanding achievements in:
- Academics
- Athletics
- The Arts
- Leadership
- **Highly Competitive**

### Need-Based (e.g., loans, work programs)
- Based on Family income & financial need
- Requires proof of economic need
- On-campus work up to 20hrs/week

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**Primary Source of Funding**
International Undergraduate Students, 2016 - 2017

- **82%**
- **7.7%**
- **7.9%**
- **.3%**
- **.4%**

**Source of Funding**
- Personal and Family
- U.S. College or University
- Foreign Government or University
- U.S. Government
- U.S. Private Sponsor

Undergraduate Financial Aid

- Rarely covers full cost
- Must apply early - January 1st!
- Extremely competitive

Funding Strategies

- Find best buys
  - Look for the highest quality of education at the lowest cost, such as public universities.
- Think about location
  - Apply to institutions in areas that have a lower cost of living, such as in the South or the Midwest.
- Accelerate your program
  - Earn college-level transfer credit in your own country.
  - Attend summer and/or online courses, if available.
Funding Strategies

- Search for scholarships strategically
  - Look for the schools that provide the most funding for international students
  - Apply only to programs for which you are competitive
- Be proactive
  - Research all possible options thoroughly
  - Contact schools and ask about funding possibilities
- SUBMIT A STRONG APPLICATION!
  - Score high on required tests
  - Apply early and complete forms professionally

Funding Strategies

UNDERGRADUATES:

- Attend a community college
  - Lower tuition by attending a community college for the first two years.
  - Be sure that you can transfer credits to a four-year institution to complete your degree.
- Work for tuition waivers
  - Based on your first-year grades, some colleges and universities award partial tuition waivers.
  - A superior academic record could save you thousands of dollars.
Step 3. Complete Your Application

In the United States, application requirements can vary greatly from one institution to another.

Application Components

- Application forms
- Transcripts for all 4 years of high school
- Essays/Personal Statement
- Recommendation Letters
- Admissions Exams
- Financial Information
- Application fee (may be waived if you meet certain economic conditions)
U.S. Academic Calendar

Begin your application 6-12 months prior to study. Plan ahead for the time and effort involved in preparing your application package.

Admissions Exams

• Required by most schools to measure your English language skills and academic ability

• High test scores are critical for financial aid

• To perform well: become familiar with the test. PRACTICE and study hard!

• Study material available online, at the American Cultural Center in Maputo, and at American Spaces in Beira, Chimoio, and Nampula
English Proficiency Tests

- Required by all U.S. schools for graduate or undergraduate study
- Demonstrate your ability to use English in academic settings
- Tests listening, speaking, reading, and writing

  - TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language): [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)
    - American English test required by most U.S. schools
    - Score range: 0-120
    - Average minimum accepted score: 90
    - Offered at the American Cultural Center Maputo, $180

    - British English test accepted by some U.S. schools (check before you apply)
    - Offered at the British Council, 13,500 MZN

SAT

- Tests high school reading, writing and math skills
- Required by 1/3 of U.S. colleges
- Paper-based, multiple choice test
- Score scale: 400-1600. Check the minimum required score for the school you are interested in.

- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- Offered at the American International School in Maputo, $98
Application Procedures

• Online applications
• **Everything must be neat, organized, and on time!**
• Deadlines are very important! Make sure you follow them
• Always have someone proofread your applications and essays
• Create a CV to showcase who you are

Advice for Interested Students

- **Relax**
  - Be reflective about your interests and experience

- **Allow Time**
  - To conduct research
  - To complete your applications

- **Follow Directions**
  - Pay close attention to all directions
Build Your Skills
- Focus on your academic performance
- Pursue extra-curricular activity

Strengthen Your English
- Listen to and watch English Language news sources (VOA, BBC)
- Read English magazines, newspapers, books available at the American Cultural Center and Corners
- Practice English conversation, especially with native English speakers
- Participate in English Club at the American Embassy

EducationUSA Advising Services
Centro Cultural Americano Martin Luther King, Av. Mao Tse Tung, 542, Maputo
- Once-monthly group information sessions on studying in the U.S. (third Thursday of the month, 12:30-14:00)
- Individual Counseling
- Group information sessions on application-writing, scholarship opportunities, graduate programs, etc.
- Recruitment visits by U.S. university representatives
- Test preparation and application writing materials
- Scholarship Information
- English language programs
- American Corners in Beira (UP) and Chimoio (UCM) and American Reading Room in Nampula (UniLurio)
Staying Connected

1. [www.educationusa.info](http://www.educationusa.info)
   For general information on studying in the United States

   Like our Facebook page for information and updates on educational opportunities and events

3. [https://mz.usembassy.gov/](https://mz.usembassy.gov/)
   For information on U.S. government-sponsored scholarship and exchange programs

4. [MaputoEdAdvising@state.gov](mailto:MaputoEdAdvising@state.gov)
   For questions and info regarding U.S. educational advising services

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Questions?