

# So You Want to Study in the United States?

U.S. Embassy Mozambique  
EducationUSA Advising Program



## Why Study in the United States?

*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



### QUALITY

- World-class institutions
- Widely accepted degrees

### CHOICE

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

### VALUE

- Schools in every price range
- Generous financial aid

### FLEXIBILITY

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

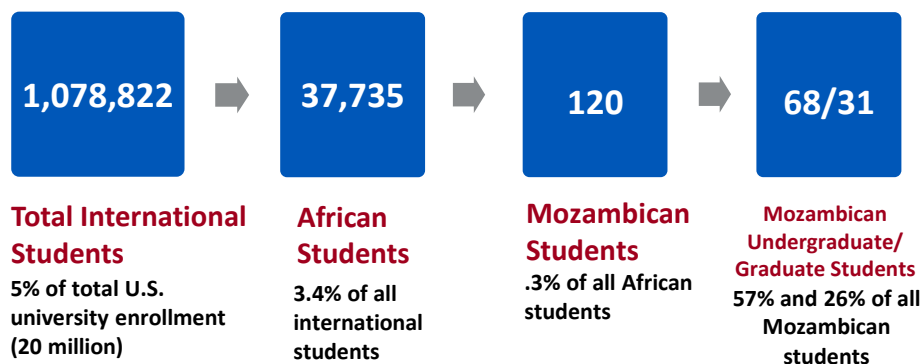
### PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY

- Access to work, study, and internship opportunities
- Career counseling services



## Mozambicans Studying in the U.S.

2016-2017 Academic Year



Source: 2017 Open Doors Report



## International Student Enrollment in the US: 2016-2017



RANK	Country	# of Students
1	Nigeria	10,674
2	Ghana	3,049
3	Kenya	3,019
4	RSA	1,813
--	Angola	1,296
--	Mozambique	120
--	Cabo Verde	80



## Your 5 Steps to Study in the United States



**Research Your Options**



**Finance Your Studies**



**Complete Your Application**



**Apply for a Student Visa**



**Prepare for Your Departure**



**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

<b>August/September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>School Year Starts</b></li><li>• Application period for next year begins</li></ul>
<b>September-February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application Period</li></ul>
<b>March/April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Admissions and Financial Aid Decisions Sent</li></ul>
<b>May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enrollment deadline</li></ul>
<b>June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>School Year Ends</b></li></ul>

\* 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.



### 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**



\* Source: [College Board, Trends in College Pricing, 2011](#)  
\*\* Source: [College Board, Trends in College Pricing, Jan. 2011](#)  
\*\*\* Source: [College Board, Trends in College Pricing, Jan. 2011](#)

## 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:

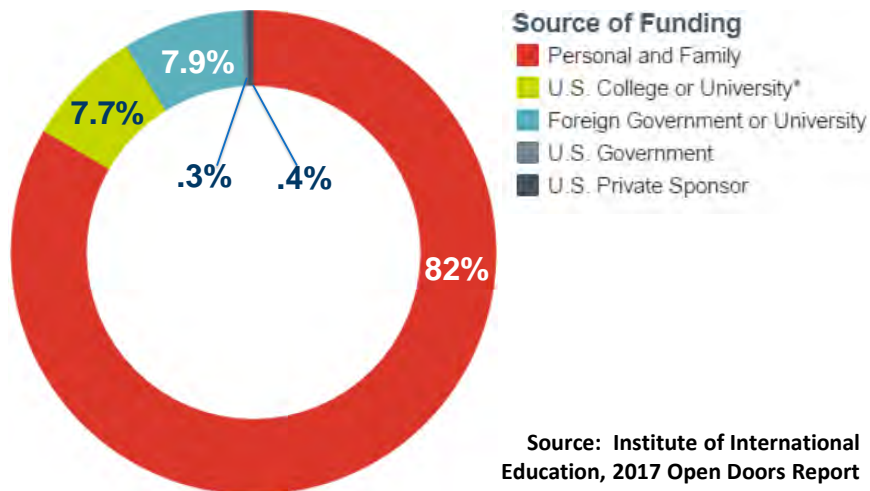
- Academics
- Athletics
- The Arts
- Leadership
- **Highly Competitive**

**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



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





# Undergraduate Financial Aid



## 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.



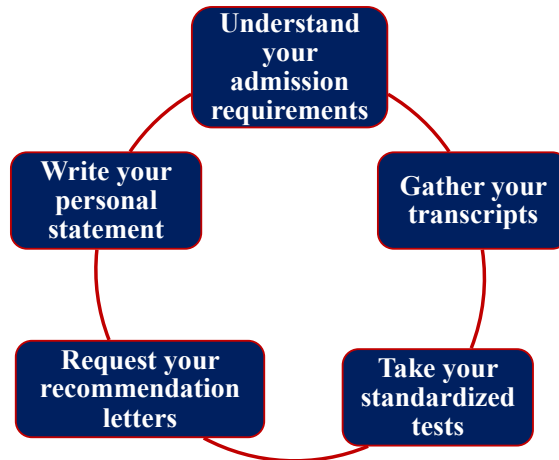
### Application Components

- 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
  - IELTS (International English Language Testing System): [www.ielts.org/](http://www.ielts.org/)
    - 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

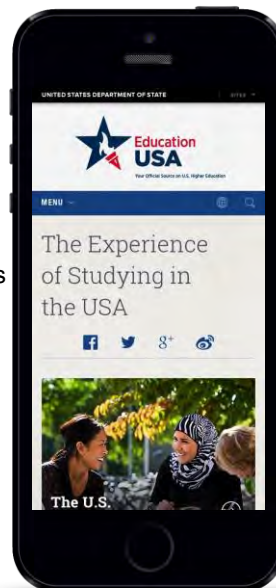
Centro Cultural Americano Martin Luther King, Av. Mao Tse Tung, 542, Maputo

- 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
2. [www.facebook.com/U.S.EmbassyMozambique/](https://www.facebook.com/U.S.EmbassyMozambique/)  
Like our Facebook page for information and updates on educational opportunities and events
3. <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



## Staying Connected





Questions?



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