



Personalized Assistance

Academic and Social Excellence

Long-Term Success

## Scholarships and Financial Aid

**Finding a way to finance a college or university education is challenging on all levels. At Success Pathway, we assist your student to find scholarships and financial aid to subsidize their education so that they can focus on their education and graduate as contributing members of society.**

# Academic Excellence

When an international student elects to enroll at a college or university in the United States at either the undergraduate or graduate level, they have the opportunity to elect a major or minor in *any* field or subject, because the U.S. provides one of the world's best college or university systems. At both levels, exemplary programs exist in traditional disciplines such as English/History



or Math/Science, as well as in professional fields including Engineering and Pre-Med. In addition, students also have the opportunity to conduct research with other students and expert professors who are authorities in their field of study, both domestically and internationally.

# Variety of Educational Opportunities

There are nearly 10,000 colleges and universities world-wide of which 2,400 are located in the United States. Therefore, an international student can find almost any subject or major to pursue in the U.S. higher education system. While some U.S. colleges and universities emphasize a broad educational approach (liberal arts schools); others provide direct practical, employment-related skills (nursing programs) and still others offer focused experiences in the arts, social sciences or technical fields.

# Cutting-Edge Technology

Through private and public funding, colleges and universities in the U.S. are able to provide opportunities for students to experience cutting-edge technology, including on-going updates of hardware and software. This includes state-of-the-art equipment, coupled with high-tech research laboratories and techniques recognized world-wide. Even if you elect to major in English or History and your field does not directly involve research like Biology or Engineering, you will still have the chance to use new technology to conduct research with professors who are experts in their field.



# Opportunities for Research, Teaching, and Training

While enrolled in graduate programs (and some undergraduate programs), most international students can acquire training and teaching opportunities so that they can assume roles as teaching assistants to undergraduates and/or research assistants with professors. This experience allows students to work on special projects and results in the chance to explore a variety of aspects in a field of study.

Therefore, international students who bring a variety of experiences, new ideas and a broad base of skill sets to their classroom or laboratory have the chance to collaborate with other students and professors

conducting research. This type of collaboration with others often enhances insights into your field that would not be possible through individual course study and provides “hands-on” experience which improves your prospects when seeking jobs.

## Flexibility

Even though both undergraduate and graduate, majors and minors require specific course work, the courses international students can elect to take to fulfill these requirements can vary. As an example, within an undergraduate liberal arts program, art classes include a range of options including drawing/painting, dance or theater. As a student, you can decide which class to take which best matches your interests and passions.

Therefore, whether you choose a topic for an undergraduate independent study or a graduate thesis or dissertation, you can research ideas and topics that interest you and may have impact on your own country.



# Support Services

Given the many academic options offered in the United States, it can be a very rewarding experience for international students. However, navigating the day-to-day challenges can be difficult. For most international students, the college or university international student office is an excellent resource



to assist with your transition. The international student office can provide skills or tips to assist in adapting to your new environment, both academically and culturally.

The best place to start is to attend the international student orientation program upon your arrival. During the orientation you will learn how to address questions regarding your visa status, financial planning, housing options, employment possibilities, health concerns and career planning.

## Global Education and Long-Term Career Prospects

More than ever, experience in an international setting is a marketable commodity. Employers worldwide recruit international students because of their broad range of knowledge and their ability to adapt to

change. International students are an asset because they have adapted to change and developed self-confidence while acquiring multi-cultural language skills as well as cross-cultural awareness which allows them to negotiate business in the global market.

## Campus Life Experience

Choosing to continue your studies in the U.S., will allow you to not only broaden your educational opportunities, but also your cultural experience. From small, private colleges in rural towns to universities located in an urban setting, most offer a wide variety of student clubs and organizations, from student government to intramurals. Participation in student clubs and organizations broadens your scope of experience while acquiring leadership skills and making new friends. It may even lead to discovering a different or new area of interest which will impact your development and ultimately your marketability when you seek your first job and beyond...



# How can you deal with financial burden as an international student?

All of this is great, but how can you, as an international student, afford an education in the United States? Many colleges and universities are expensive with high tuition rates, especially for international students who pay out of state tuition. In addition, once you enroll, tuition rates continue to increase each year. Also, you should anticipate additional charges for books, health insurance, room and board, and transportation.



Realistically, it will be a financial struggle for an international student from a middle class family to afford tuition and fees without substantial financial aid and scholarships from their college or university or from privately funded scholarships. Both tuition and financial assistance can vary dramatically at each school, which means it's hard to budget accordingly. That's where Success Pathway can assist! Our team is here for you, waiting to help you achieve your dream! Our team of experts understands the financial burden some international students have to bear, and we can help you during the school selection process to locate financial assistance and resources. The Success Pathway database stores information on college and university financial aid policies for international students and we can also locate third party scholarships awarded to international students.

# International Students and FAFSA

To apply for financial aid from the U.S. federal and state governments, U.S. citizens and permanent residents must use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The information on the FAFSA is also used by colleges and universities to compute need-based awards. It is important to note, international students are not eligible for the U.S. government aid programs (Pell Grant, SEOG Grant, Stafford Loan, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, and Federal Work-Study). However, in order to be considered for any type of financial assistance, many schools will require international students to submit a FAFSA and in some cases, (mostly private) schools require submission of the College Scholarship Service, referred to as the CSS Profile. Once all of this information is analyzed, in addition to FAFSA and/or CSS eligibility, institutions may award their own grant or scholarship which students are not required to pay back. These awards may be need-based or based upon academic or athletic performance. The Success Pathway team has experience in financial assistance and can help you navigate through this complicated process to seek monies to fund your education. In the past, students who have demonstrated eligibility have secured between \$500-\$20,000 in assistance through Success Pathway.

## Work-Study in the USA

From the time students arrive on campus, an increasing number of schools are offering a specialized Curricular Practical Training (CPT) program which provides students the unique opportunity to work immediately. That's correct! Through individual college or university Work-Study programs, eligible students can earn money while earning their degree.



In addition to extra money while pursuing a degree, institutional Work-Study allows students to acquire on-the-job training and build a network of professional connections. This type of “hands-on” training and opportunity to network is an asset for students because it gives them a competitive edge in the workplace and a way to fund their own education.



While working, international students can expect to earn at least minimum wage. Even though it will not cover all education-related expenses, it will help offset the overall cost. Not only does a job provide extra cash, but it is also an opportunity to practice English in your current work placement and to prepare for interactions once you enter the workforce upon graduation. A word of caution--it is critical to understand

the demands of your coursework and to manage your schedule before taking on a job.

#### A Sample of Work Study Opportunities:

- Attend night classes and work during the day or on weekends
- Seek employment with both on and off campus companies
- Acquire jobs and get paid minimum wage
- Pursue either part-time or full-time employment
- Continue to work at both the undergraduate and graduate level
- Work as a researcher

For a small fee, Success Pathway will help you once you are enrolled in your college or university, to find an institutional Work-Study program that fits your class schedule and interest.

# International Scholarship Search

Our scholarship search tool was created specifically for international students who want to study in the U.S., but need help finding funding. Current and potential international students have a variety of scholarships, grants, and fellowships, available to them including nearly 2,000 awards that provide over \$1,000,000 in funding in our search tool. Our team



can filter awards based upon what you are studying, where you are studying, and where you are from to narrow down your search and save you time; scholarships with varying requirements and award amounts are included in our international student scholarship database. We can assist you to search for scholarships, learn the eligibility requirements, then apply directly to the company or program hosting the award.

We look forward to helping students like yourself who are considering continuing your education in the United States. You will find all the tools you need to compile your necessary research in deciding if the U.S. is the best place for you to complete your college or university education. Please contact us at: [info@successpathwayconsulting.com](mailto:info@successpathwayconsulting.com).

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