

# FAQ

## Studying in the U.S.



### What is EducationUSA?

EducationUSA is a U.S. Department of State network of over 430 international student advising centers in more than 175 countries and territories. We promote U.S. higher education to students around the world by offering accurate, comprehensive, and current information about opportunities to study at all accredited post-secondary institutions in the United States. In Sweden, there are two EducationUSA advising centers you can contact for advising services—one located at the Fulbright Commission in Stockholm and the other at Malmö Borgarskola in Malmö.

### What are undergraduate vs. graduate studies?

**Undergraduate** or **bachelor's studies**, or *studier på kandidatnivå* in Swedish, refer to studies completed after secondary school (high school/*gymnasiet*). This level of study is often simply called “undergrad.” Watch this [video](#) from EducationUSA's Youtube channel for a short explanation of undergraduate studies in the U.S.

In the U.S., a **bachelor's degree** is generally obtained by studying for four years at a college or university. This is equivalent to a *kandidatexamen* in Sweden, but differs in that you will study some general subjects in addition to taking courses within your major—your primary field of study. All degree-seeking students will choose a major, but you can typically be accepted to college and start taking classes even before you've decided on a major. Some students also decide to double major (specialize in two main subjects) or pursue a minor—a smaller, separate specialization added on to their major.

Most community colleges in the U.S. offer shorter certificate programs and individual courses (*enstaka/fristående kurser*), as well as 2-year programs to attain an **associate's degree**. After two years, some students choose to transfer to a 4-year institution and study for two more years to get a bachelor's degree.

**Graduate studies**, or “grad school,” refers to studies completed after first obtaining an undergraduate degree. This umbrella term includes both **master's degree** programs (*studier på masternivå*) and **Ph.D.** programs (*studier på doktorandnivå*). Read more about different degree options on the website [Big Future](#).

### How do I study medicine or law in the United States?

Pursuing degrees in medicine or law in the U.S. can qualify you to work in these fields in the U.S., but you may need to complete additional certification if you want to eventually work as a doctor or lawyer in Sweden. The degree paths for these fields also look a bit different than they do in Sweden.

Studying to become a doctor in the U.S. happens at the graduate level, which means it first requires completing a bachelor's degree, often in a related field and including pre-med coursework. Then, you can pursue a **medical degree (MD or DO)**, which involves four years of medical school followed by three to seven years in residency.

Law degrees are also completed at the graduate level in the U.S. You can pursue a **JD (Juris Doctor)** degree after finishing undergrad. If you want to study law and be able to work as a lawyer in Sweden, you might consider doing your first law degree in Sweden (*juristprogrammet*, 4.5 years/270 hp) and then pursuing a

**Master of Laws (LLM)** in the U.S. LLMs are specialized master's programs popular among foreign students with a first law degree from another country who are interested in gaining specialization and experience in U.S. law. To practice law in the U.S. you will also need to pass the [bar exam](#).

## I'm interested in studying in the United States, but where do I start?

The [5 steps to U.S. study](#) can help you break down the process and know how to proceed.

### Step 1: Research your options

There are more than 4,500 universities and colleges in the United States. To help find a school that fits you, your interests, and your budget, we recommend using [Big Future](#), a College Board website designed to help prospective students navigate the college search and application process. Their tools [College Search](#) and [College Quiz](#) can help you find a U.S. university that is a good match for you and help you compare the requirements, available majors, cost of attendance, and sports and activities offered at different schools.

### Step 2: Finance your studies

There are various costs associated with attending college in the U.S., including tuition, living costs, buying textbooks, and other fees, so it's important to plan ahead. Search for information about special opportunities and financial aid that U.S. universities may offer international students, such as scholarships, in-state tuition benefits, or waived application fees and deadlines, among other provisions.

Keep in mind that the United States is a large country, and the cost of living varies greatly from place to place. Tuition costs will also vary depending on the type of school, where it is located, and other factors. Make sure to assess your funding and what you are able to afford early on in the process.

### Step 3: Complete your application

Applying for studies in the U.S. takes time and focus, as each application is different and involves collecting recommendations, writing essays, and securing and supplying scores from standardized tests. Today, over 1,000 schools use the [Common App](#) for admissions, and though others may use their own application system, many of the required materials may be similar. Plan to give this step the time it deserves for a successful result.

### Step 4: Apply for your student visa

Plan ahead and take care to follow the instructions provided by your U.S. university. Become familiar with the U.S. student visa requirements and allow plenty of time to follow all the necessary steps.

### Step 5: Prepare for your departure

Your university will provide you with information about which documents to gather prior to your departure and general information about immigration compliance. EducationUSA advisers can also provide guidance on packing, housing, adapting to a new culture, and other tips to help you prepare during this final step.

## How can I connect with EducationUSA in Sweden?

Find us on social media, contact an advising center, or scan our QR code for more resources!

**Instagram:** [@EducationUSASweden](#) and [@EducationUSA](#)

**Facebook:** [EducationUSA Sweden](#) and [EducationUSA Global](#)

**EdUSA Malmö:** [malmo.se/Ditt-gymnasieval/Malmo-Borgarskola](http://malmo.se/Ditt-gymnasieval/Malmo-Borgarskola), [educationusa@malmo.se](mailto:educationusa@malmo.se)

**EdUSA Stockholm:** [fulbright.se/advising](http://fulbright.se/advising), Emma Danbury (education adviser): [edanbury@educationusa.org](mailto:edanbury@educationusa.org)

