

Choosing a US University for Your Children

WHEN LIVING IN THE UK

As your children grow up and prepare to enter the next chapter of their life in university, your goal as a parent is to help ensure they have access to the top level of education and a vast number of opportunities. While the UK is home to numerous prestigious universities, many parents living in the UK look to the US for their children's university education because of the diverse selection of secondary education institutions available there.

The US is home to over 5,000 universities, nearly 30 times the number of universities found in the UK. With such a vast selection from which to choose, it is understandable why many parents opt to send their children across the pond for their next stage of education.

If you are considering choosing a US university for your child, the following tips will help you narrow down the thousands of options to find the ideal fit.

CONSIDER YOUR CHILD'S ACADEMIC FOCUS

The beauty of university is that it allows your child the chance to determine the next steps of their life. Universities expose students to numerous topics and subjects, particularly during freshman year.

While all universities will offer a similar foundation for a university degree during the first year, it is worth considering any specialized academic focus your child has when choosing a school. For example, if your child is interested in a degree in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics),

you might want to narrow down your university list to schools that specialize in this focus. If your child has a specialized degree path in mind, such as a medical degree, you will want to apply for schools that carry prestige in that subject area.

By choosing a school that specializes in a specific field, your child will be offered a higher level of education and will walk away with a more recognizable degree.

The good news is that even if your child decides to shift their academic focus a year into their education, they can always transfer credits to a different school if the initial university you pick isn't ideal for their new degree path.

LOOK AT THE UNIVERSITY'S LOCATION

Beyond just the education they will receive from the university you choose, your child will also be enriched by the location of the school. For this reason, it is important to carefully consider the city and state where a university is located.

If you have a child who is interested in spending time outdoors, you might want to focus on universities in the US that are located in mountainous or oceanside regions. If your child is looking to experience rich culture and a vibrant art scene, opting for a university in a major US city, such as Chicago or New York might be the ideal fit.

Make sure to carefully review data about the area and look for a location that will provide your child with American experiences outside of the classroom.



EMBRACE EXTRACURRICULARS

Socializing with classmates and getting involved in clubs, sports and other extracurricular activities will help make attending university a full experience for your child. As you shop universities, compare what on-campus activities they offer.

Look for schools that have a diverse array of opportunities. This will allow your child to explore new hobbies, engage in activities they already love and meet a rich group of classmates. Many of these connections will help open additional doors down the road for your child as they enter their career field.

FIND ADDED OPPORTUNITY IN INTERNSHIPS

One of the best ways to learn is through a hands-on approach. If your child has expressed an interest in a specific career field, look

for universities that offer on-campus or sponsored internship opportunities. This can allow your child to experience their preferred career in a meaningful way.

Not only will this ensure your student has a better grasp of what a specific career entails, but it can also lead to immediate job opportunities when their degree is complete. Internships are a powerful way to advance and stand out from other students post-grad.

Regardless of which US university you pick, you can rest assured that your child will be exposed to a wealth of knowledge, experience and opportunity during their time in the US. This will help to prepare them for the career path they choose, opening up the doors to global opportunities. All that's left is to narrow down your picks, apply to the right schools and watch your child grow as they embrace the next stage of their life.

The key to admission at a prestigious US college is positioning oneself to stand out from the crowd.

For most schools, you are not applying for a place in a degree program, but to become a unique contributor within a diverse academic community, where students are encouraged to explore many subjects before choosing their specialization.

For international students, the US application process can seem daunting. Between targeting the right schools among thousands of undergraduate programs, prepping for standardized tests (SAT or ACT), navigating essay requirements beyond the Common Application, securing recommendations, prioritizing extracurricular activities, volunteer work and jobs, the challenge is far more complex than tackling UCAS and Oxbridge.

With the demands of a longer lead-time, it is important to get a head start.

Universities appreciate high impact, proactive students who demonstrate leadership and are involved in their communities. Strong grades are not enough.

Steps Involved:

Though a college tour is not possible for everyone, campus visits offer an important opportunity to gauge if a school is a good fit.

SAT/ACT's have been optional during Covid but may become mandatory again. Do these early! Preparation is crucial, and test time management paramount.

Recommendations also matter, along with grades and test scores, the personal essay is a crucial element of the application.

The main essay is a personal creative writing piece that helps a university learn about you as an individual. It should be compelling, introspective, and written in a clear and concise manner.

In providing the right combination of coaching and guidance, an experienced counselor can optimize your candidacy to ensure that you enter the American university system with confidence.

Arcus Advisory | [arcusadvisory.com](https://www.arcusadvisory.com)

Interested in university in the USA?



Navigating the best pathway for getting your child into a US college can be a daunting and time consuming challenge.



Arcus Advisory is a leading UK-based educational consultancy. We advise families from around the world, helping to optimise their potential and gain admission to top US universities.

Offering a hands-on, unique 4 stage approach, Arcus guides students throughout the US application process, preparing them for the best possible chance of success.

Most important, Arcus Advisory works with students to create their bespoke blueprint and timeline for a successful application, including college visits, university shortlisting, application management and essay optimisation. Our wealth of experience has helped applicants gain admission to many of the world's highest ranked universities.



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