

Five Top Tips

1. Start early – meet with the Futures Department in the 5th form or early L6th
2. Know how to choose colleges
3. Take the tests seriously – enrol on Stowe's SAT/ACT maths course
4. Understand the finances
5. Spend time on the application essays and speak to Stowe's Harvard Scholar

FREE RESOURCES

View webinars on applications at: www.theuniversityguys.com/usaapplications-webinar-recording-january2020/

Articles and podcasts on all aspects of applications to the USA (and Canada and Europe) at: www.theuniversityguys.com/knowledge

Did you know...

The Ivy League is not an academic term, but refers to a sports competition. A large number of the highest ranked and most selective universities are NOT in the Ivy League.

The US has two different sets of rankings, for universities and for colleges:

<https://www.usnews.com/bestcolleges/rankings/national-universities>

<https://www.usnews.com/bestcolleges/rankings/national-liberal-arts-colleges>



UNI IN THE USA

Applying to universities in the USA is a completely different process to applying to universities in the UK or Europe.

With the likelihood of having to take different tests, matching your academic and cultural preferences to universities with vastly differing curriculums, student bodies and values, and a vast array of choice with many universities more selective than Oxbridge (even beyond the Ivy League), it's important to plan ahead for US applications.

For more information, contact futures@stowe.co.uk



US UNIVERSITY TIMELINE



FAQ's

DO I NEED THE SAT?

Most US universities accept both the SAT and the ACT (in fact, the ACT tends to suit most UK students better). About 800 US universities including some of the top-ranked such as NYU, don't require the SAT or ACT

WILL I GET INTO A GOOD UNI?

The US has many more students, and many more universities, than the UK does. Though you might have only heard of a small number of US universities, there are huge number of 'good' universities that compare favourably to universities in the UK you may be considering.

DO MY EXTRA-CURRICULARS MATTER?

In most cases, when you apply to universities in the USA you don't apply for a subject, and instead are applying for the whole experience of that university. Universities therefore need to know you fit that experience: someone who is a good fit for Columbia may not be a good fit for Brown. Universities will look at what you do beyond your lessons to work out how you might fit their community beyond just academics.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Rather than getting straight into the tests, it's important to work out what kind of university a student might want (and be suited to). Starting out with 'we want the Ivy League' is unlikely to meet with success, given the significant differences between the Ivy League universities. The US-UK Fulbright Commission, College Board and Education USA have a variety of free resources available:

- <http://www.fulbright.org.uk/going-to-the-usa/undergraduate>
- <https://educationusa.state.gov/your-5-steps-us-study>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>