



International University Applications



Bold & Loyal
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The application process for studying outside the UK can be baffling – what tests do I need to take? Where should I study? How do I even begin to narrow down the 4000+ institutions in the US and Canada so that I can make an application appropriate to me and my goals?

International Universities

Wycliffe College has helped pupils find university placements in many countries. Pupils have gone on to study diverse subjects, from engineering to business, political science, design technology, media, and communications. Pupils have been accepted to prestigious universities in Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Germany, and Cyprus. With more European universities offering degrees taught in English, pupils' post-secondary options are constantly expanding. We ensure that pupils' transcripts and applications meet the required expectations of a wide-range of universities. Pupils can spend time exploring their many options in one-on-one sessions with Mrs. Wentzel.

Choosing a North American University

The vast majority of pupils applying for entrance to a US or Canadian university do not apply for a specific programme; it is common to make an application without knowing exactly which degree you will end up taking. Unlike in the UK, where pupils try to gain admission to the best ranked or most appropriate programme of study based on their subject specific interest, for North American applications, pupils must consider where they will best “fit”, that is, have the space and the support to learn and grow in their academic abilities. For pupils interested in drama, music or fine art the US offers both performance-based and Liberal Arts approaches to these subjects which give pupils the opportunity to also study a wide-range of subjects outside their particular creative field. This can be invaluable for pupils also wishing to have a business or language component to their creative degree. Choosing a “major” (i.e. a subject concentration) often only occurs at the end of the second year or beginning of the third year of a pupil's four-year course. There are 4000+ institutions of higher education in North America, and it is important that pupils take the time to adequately research their options. This process can begin as early as Year 11.

Testing

Many colleges and Universities in the US require pupils to submit SAT or ACT scores. These are standardized exams taken by millions of pupils around the world. Test policies and requirements can be found on the admissions pages of individual institutions. The SAT and ACT are offered a limited number of times per year so pupils must ensure they have planned ahead if exams are required by a college in which they are interested.

Making your Application

As in the UK, some applications for the US can be made via a centralized application system, the Common Application. In Canada, many application systems are unique to the province or specific university. The applications in America and some Canadian universities are holistic, that is, the admissions committees take into consideration not only a pupil's grades and overall academic performance, but also their contribution to their school and wider community, their extracurricular activities and their personality, as revealed in their Personal Statement and references written by teachers.

Our Programme

American and Canadian Universities offer a huge range of opportunities for pupils including world class athletic facilities, the freedom and flexibility to sample a wide variety of subjects before choosing a major and a totally immersive experience in another culture. Along with these very positive points come certain more difficult aspects: higher tuition fees, visa applications and a very long distance separating a pupil and their family. It is quite a lot to navigate both for parents and pupils.

At Wycliffe, we offer individualised support to pupils wishing to apply to Universities in North America which is fitted round pupils' academic and extracurricular commitments. We also offer support for parents and guardians trying to navigate the complex application process.

We meet with interested pupils to prepare them for the SATs (the standardised test required by a large number of universities in the US). Wycliffe is also an SAT testing centre so pupils taking the exam early on a Saturday morning are spared a potentially disruptive early morning car journey or stay overnight in order to sit this crucial exam. We also counsel pupils through the application process.

Useful Information

If you've started to do some research into studying in America, you've probably realised that tuition fees are significantly higher in the States than they are in the UK. However, there are many generous scholarships and financial support packages available to international pupils which can go some way to lowering the cost of attendance. It is also worth mentioning that the "sticker price" (that is, the total given for attendance on a University's webpage) is inclusive of tuition, room, board and fees. It is also important to remember that few pupils pay the full amount shown; the vast majority of institutions offer need and merit based financial aid. Several prestigious and well known scholarships such as the Jefferson Scholarship and the Morehead Cain Scholarship are available to international applicants. Wycliffe is a nominating school for the Jefferson Scholarship at the University of Virginia.

Canadian Universities tend to have lower fees, but also to offer less financial aid. Sporting scholarships are rare in Canada.

Each institution will have its own financial aid policies and you should visit the Financial Aid pages of any Universities you are interested in well before the application deadline.



If you are interested in learning more about the process, please contact Mrs. Wentzel, the International University Admissions Coordinator. Pupils are also welcome to arrange a meeting with Mrs. Wentzel by email or through their tutor.



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