

American University, Washington, DC Tips for U.S. High School Counselors with Students on F, J, & Diplomatic Visas

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Fall 2020 Update



Are you faced with any of the following?

- **Dramatic increase** in international students (F, J, and diplomatic visas) at your high school in the past few years
- **Limited resources** for support & training services (ESL, designated director of international students, housing, SEVP/SEVIS compliance, cross-cultural sensitivity training, teaching non-native speakers)
- Managing international **student and family expectations**
- Understanding U.S. universities' **differing admission requirements** for international applicants
- Helping international high school students overcome **challenges** & market their **strengths**



You are not alone!

According to the IIE Center for Academic Mobility Research and Impact (www.iie.org/research-and-publications):

- The number of international secondary students in the U.S. more than tripled from 2004 to 2016
- 72% (almost 60,000) F-1 students in U.S. high schools as of 2016 plan to enroll in U.S. higher education institutions after secondary studies
- Top 6 sending countries of origin for F-1 students in 2016: China, South Korea, Vietnam, Mexico, Japan, & Canada



Where do Int'l Secondary Students Study?

- **By type of school, 2016:** 94% study in private high schools (boarding schools, schools with religious affiliations, private day schools with home stays)
- **Top 10 U.S. states, 2016:** California, NY, Massachusetts, Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas, Connecticut, NJ, Virginia, Michigan
- **By host countries, 2016:** U.S. (81,981), Canada (44,510), UK (27,633), Australia (22,265)



The AU Response – Currently in Place...

- **Analyze 3-year data trends:** Identify domestic high schools with int'l applications
- Schedule **meetings** with domestic colleagues to review data & talking points
- **Increase outreach:** Domestic admissions identifies opportunities to reach out to int'l students, school and independent counselors within their territories i.e. visit ESL centers, HS ISSS or ELI staff.
- **Train** domestic team on int'l admissions 101: TOEFL/IELTS, SAT/ACT/Test Optional, China credentials, overview of F/J visa regulations, SEVIS
- Create virtual resource corner for counselors inside and outside the U.S.
www.American.edu/admissions/international/counselor-resources.cfm



The AU Response – Recommendations for the Future....

- **Host counselors:** Invite U.S. school counselors with larger clusters of intl's to special fall or spring domestic travel events
- **Host panels** of current AU int'l students prior to fall & spring travel to help domestic-team better articulate int'l experiences & opportunities to counselors and int'l prospects in their territories.
- **Create a sub-team and provide in-depth training to 3-5 int'l admissions "experts"** among our domestic admissions' colleagues to serve as front-line resources for entire domestic team.
- Join domestic team for visits to local 2-year colleges to strengthen **int'l transfer pipelines.**



Top Five Factors in the Admission Decision for Int'l Students

(per NACAC's fall 2016 Admission Trend Surveys)

1 – English proficiency exam scores

2 - Grades in college prep courses

3 – Grades in all subjects

4 – Curriculum strength (rigor)

5 – Admission test scores



What application components most predict academic success of int'l students at a U.S. Institution? (per survey of U.S. universities for NAFSA 2015 presentation, Anne Corriveau, BU)

55% - GPA

50% - Academic Rigor

50% - English proficiency (TOEFL/IELTS)

18% - Standardized Testing

9% - Essay



Additional indicators that predict academic success for American University, Washington, DC

- **Number of years** at the U.S. high school
- **Which year** student transitioned to U.S. (9th/10th/11th?) & transition ease
- **Rigor** of current and previous secondary school system
- Transcript grades on **English subjects** (ESL taken or not)
- English proficiency **sub-score consistency**
- **Email/phone communications** with admissions officer
- Leadership, community service, **involvement** at U.S. high school



Our Student Body

- **Undergraduates: 8,297**
- **Graduate and Law: 6,024**
- **Total: 14,311**
- **Over 1,600 international and U.S. citizen “Global Nomad” students from 123 countries call AU their home.**



AU Graduation Outcomes (Class of 2018 Census)

- **91%** of graduates participated in at least one internship before graduation
- **93%** of graduates were employed, enrolled in graduate school, or both, within six months of graduation
- **88%** of graduates who are working hold jobs related to their degree

<http://www.american.edu/weknowsuccess>



Application Options

Early Decision I:

- Deadline: November 15
- Notification: by December 31

Early Decision II:

- Deadline: January 15
- Notification: by February 15

Regular Decision:

- Deadline: January 15
- Notification: by April 1



Fall 2021 Application Checklist

A complete application packet for F-1 & J-1 students applying from high schools inside the U.S. must include:

- Common Application OR Coalition Application
- \$75 Application Fee (no fee waivers)
- Secondary School Report
- Academic Records for grades 9-12 (including original transcripts from all previous secondary schools)
- Secondary School Counselor Recommendation letter
- Teacher Recommendation Letter
- SAT or ACT (*unless student chooses to go “Test Optional” – more details coming up!*)
- Demonstrated English Proficiency (TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, DET) *
- AU Certification of Finances showing US\$ 70,231 or equivalent *
- Bank Letter showing US\$ 70,231 or equivalent *
- Copy of Passport Information Page *

**** Required for students who will need an F-1 or J-1 visa to study in the United States***

www.american.edu/admissions/international/international/instructions.cfm



Who Does NOT need to show finances?

- Any **NON F-1 or J-1 international student** (A-1, A-2, H-2, G-4, L-2, F-2, etc)
- Permanent Resident (P-R) or “Green Card” holder
- Pending Permanent Resident (PPR)
- Undocumented students
- Deferred Action (DACA)
- Political Asylee, Refugee status



English Proficiency for Fall 2021 Applicants

Required for all F-1 and J-1 students by Department of Homeland Security in order to receive AU I-20 or DS-2019

Via testing (one of the following):

- TOEFL iBT minimum score 85 with each sub-score >20 (90 iBT preferred)
- TOEFL paper-based minimum sub-scores 20 or higher (taken after May 31, 2017)
- IELTS composite score 6.5 or above, with each sub-score 6.0 or higher
- PTE score 60 minimum
- SAT READ subscore 30 minimum
- ACT English Score – 25 or above
- Duolingo English Test (DET) 115 minimum with each sub-score 105 or above

Or.....



English Proficiency for Fall 2021 Applicants (Cont)

Required for all F-1 and J-1 students by Department of Homeland Security in order to receive AU I-20 or DS-2019

Via Curriculum:

- Four years of study (grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 or equivalent) in U.S.-accredited or IB, CXC, or UK curricula (inside/outside the U.S.) where English is the only medium of instruction AND no ESL courses have been taken
- Four years of study (grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 or equivalent) in selected English-speaking countries* or in the educational systems of these countries* (regardless of location) where English is the only medium of instruction **AND** no ESL courses have been taken

**English speaking countries include: U.S., UK, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Australia, New Zealand, Canada (except Quebec), Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, South Africa, and these countries in the Caribbean (Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Helena, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands)*

<https://www.american.edu/admissions/international/instructions.cfm#proficiency>



SAT/ACT or Test Optional for AU?

It depends!

- The SAT or ACT is required of all applicants, including int'l students, who are graduating high school **inside** the U.S. unless student chooses to go “Test Optional” for standardized testing
- “Test Optional” does **not** refer to proof of English proficiency.
- F-1 & J-1 students must still prove English proficiency through TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, DET, etc.
- “Test Optional” does not put students at a disadvantage for admissions consideration when other application components are strong

When to consider “Test Optional” for your international student:

- Less than 4 years in an all-English curriculum
- Very recent transition to English-language curriculum
- Completed many ESL classes at a U.S. high school
- TOEFL, IELTS, PTE scores are at the low end of AU’s minimum requirements



AU's RESPONSE to COVID-19

ON-LINE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TESTING UPDATE

- To accommodate students who are unable to sit for in-person exams at this time, AU Undergraduate Admissions will be accepting the TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition and the IELTS Indicator for fall 2021 and until further notice.
- For students in China: “TOEFL ITP Plus for China – CEFR C-1 level” will be accepted until TOEFL iBT resumes testing in China.
 - Required minimum total score is 627, with subscores 64 for listening comprehension, 64 for structure and written expression, and 63 for reading comprehension.

AU's RESPONSE to COVID-19

ADVANCED CREDIT FOR IB, AP, A LEVEL & OTHER EXAMS

- Due to COVID-19, the College Board, Cambridge International, and International Baccalaureate Organization have announced changes to the format of the [2019-20 AP exam administration](#), [June 2020 A-Level series examination](#), and [the May 2020 DP and CP examinations](#).
- American University is committed to ensuring that AP, A-Level, and IB students receive the appropriate AU credit they have earned as outlined in the AP, A-Level, and IB charts for Academic Year 20-21.
- Visit www.american.edu/admissions/exam-credit.cfm for more details.

AU's RESPONSE to COVID-19

UPDATE RE PASS/FAIL GRADE POLICY ON TRANSCRIPTS

What will be accepted on the final year transcript? How will this impact future applicants?

- *Given 2020's unusual circumstances, we will be as flexible and accommodating to students as possible. We understand that some seniors may be awarded Pass/Fail grades for this semester. The use of Pass/Fail grades will not negatively impact their AU admission. Final transcripts should demonstrate proof of successful graduation and include a graduation date.*
- *For future applicants, we will grant the same understanding for a Pass/Fail grading structure for this or future semesters.*
- *We encourage counselors to include a statement on your school profile or respond to the additional question on the Common App school profile to indicate the reason for the Pass/Fail grades for this or future semesters.*

AU Transition Programs

International students who do not meet AU English proficiency or GPA requirements for direct entry may be recommended for IAP or American Collegiate in their denial letter. This is only available for students who meet IAP or American Collegiate minimum requirements:

- **International Accelerator Program at American University (IAP)** is a demanding one-year transition program that combines intensive English language instruction with coursework and supplemental resources that help fully integrate students into the university and their campus community. IAP provides a pathway program that is designed to prepare students for degree-seeking status at AU.
- **American Collegiate Program at AU:** This non-degree program is intended for first-year students who seek the academic, cultural, and English-language support to succeed at very competitive U.S. universities. Based at American University, students pursue a program that includes two to three semesters of credit-bearing course work, along with English language and other support. Additionally, these students receive counseling to facilitate a seamless transfer to any university, including AU.

Visit <http://www.auaccelerator.com> to learn more about the International Accelerator Program at American University



Undergraduate Cost Guide

Academic year 2020-21 (based on 9 months), subject to annual increase

- **Tuition** \$50,542
- **Fees** \$547
- **Average room** \$10,096
- **Average Board** \$4,884
- **Books** \$800
- **Health Insurance** \$1,847
- **Personal** \$1,472

- **TOTAL: \$70,231**



Undergraduate Scholarships for International Students

- Limited and competitive
- Merit (not need) based
- Partial: \$8,000-\$20,000 per academic year (estimated)
- No separate application or process is required
- Students must demonstrate full minimum amount of US\$70,231 on AU CFIS form & bank letter by application deadline even if they hope to receive partial merit-based scholarships

AU Emerging Global Leader Scholarship (AU EGLS)

- Covers all billable AU expenses (approximately \$66,500/year) for **ONE** outstanding international first-year freshman student who is dedicated to positive civic and social change. Student must prove ability to pay US\$4,000 per year. Deadline: December 15, 2020.
- www.american.edu/admissions/international/egls.cfm



AU Resources for Financial Planning!

Includes information for international students on F and J visas

- Tips, strategies, and guidance for prospective students and families:
www.american.edu/admissions/international/prospective-finance.cfm
- Ideas and resources for admitted students:
www.american.edu/admissions/international/admitted-finance.cfm
- U.S. State Department webinar re: fiscal planning for U.S. university study:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSvYoJG8HUM&list=UUjCJxQ9CNnoSwWP1-ZHbEiw>



Resources for you! – Part 1

www.nafsa.org

- State, regional, and annual conferences
- Member Interest Group (MIG) for secondary school counselors (www.nafsa.org/secondaryschool)
- ISSS Knowledge Community (KC): F, J, SEVIS, DSO training & updates
- International Enrollment Management KC: Credentials, ESL, admissions trends, IEM strategies, resources (www.nafsa.org/IEM)
- 2017 NAFSA Guide to International Recruitment

www.iie.org/research-and-publications

- Charting New Pathways to Higher Education: International Secondary Students in the U.S.
- Globally Mobile Youth: Trends in International Secondary Students in the U.S., 2013-2016, August 2017

www.nacacnet.org

- Engage with Affiliate ACACs
- International Student Programming at NACAC fairs/conferences
- International Counselor Toolkit: www.nacacnet.org/Knowledge-center/international/CounselorToolkit/



Resources for you! – Part 2

- www.internationalacac.org – International Association for College Admission Counseling
- www.ecis.org – Council of International Schools
- www.wes.org, www.ece.org – Credentials evaluation organizations (sample list)
- www.tabs.org – The Association of Boarding Schools
- www.educationusa.state.gov – U.S. State Department site with objective information & resources on all aspects of U.S. higher education including the application process
- www.american.edu/admissions/international/counselor-resources.cfm – Virtual resource corner for school counselors. Contains both AU and generic international education resources, PDFs, links, webinars



Thank you and good luck!

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#YouAreWelcomeHere: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=geEtkS9DiHY>

Meet our AU Diplomats! <https://www.american.edu/admissions/international/au-diplomats.cfm>

Resources for Counselors of International Students inside & outside the U.S.
www.american.edu/admissions/international/counselor-resources.cfm

