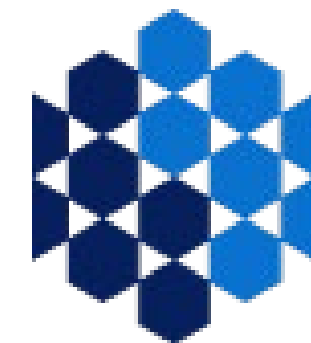




STUDY USA 2024-2025

An introduction to Study USA



Department for the
Economy

WHAT IS STUDY USA?

- Study USA is a scholarship programme providing an opportunity to study at a US College for one academic year
- Funded by the Department for the Economy
- Delivered by the British Council
- Began in 1994
- Over 50 places available in a typical year



WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

To provide students with:

- An outward-looking, international experience
- Improved core employability skills
- The necessary skills to become future leaders in Northern Ireland's economy

To raise economic, cultural & political awareness of Northern Ireland in the United States of America.

Am I eligible?

Some Requirements:

- In **full-time** education at a College or University in Northern Ireland, studying **any** subject discipline.
- Students from Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University and Stranmillis University College should apply during their **Level 2 year of study**, for participation in the programme the following year. Students from Saint Mary's University College should apply during their **pre-final year** for participation in the programme.
- QUB Medical and Dental students must also obtain school permission.



Academic Eligibility



- In good academic standing – your first year average needs to be 53% or higher
- In the event of many applications, only those with a First-Year minimum average result of 60% or higher will be short-listed. The exact minimum percentage will be determined by British Council as desirable criteria based on the number of applications received.
- HND/Foundation degree - academic standing will be confirmed with your college if an application is submitted before receipt of 1st semester grades.
- Have not participated in any other NI Executive-funded programme.

OUR PARTNER US COLLEGES

Campuses are typically very green & well kept



One of our Partner Colleges - Maryville College, Tennessee

OUR PARTNER US COLLEGES



**Rocky Mountain
College, Montana**



**Greensboro College,
North Carolina**



Galena Illinois

LIFE AT US COLLEGE

Social Life

- Closely-knit campus community
- Focus on extracurricular activities
- Many sports on offer
- Living in a dorm with a roommate
- Eating on campus with a meal plan
- Community and Service opportunities

Academic Life

- Smaller class sizes
- Close relationship with professors
- Continuous assessment throughout the year
- Graded on class participation

STUDENT SUPPORT

- Study USA students receive a great level of support
- Students receive a pre-departure handbook and attend an orientation day
- Safe way to experience a year abroad
- There is a strong support network including a Student Support Advisor, other students, US International Advisor & the British Council team



CLASSES WHILE IN THE US

- Classes – a combination of classes from your home discipline and classes from the list beside:
- Plus, your choice of elective classes
- Some elective examples include; sports, theatre, even Wilderness Camp or Game of Thrones



- Leadership
- Communication
- Public Speaking
- Marketing and PR
- Foreign Languages
- Management
- Finance
- Economics
- Human Resources
- Information Technology

PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS



- Minimum fifteen hours class time per week
- Minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0 (B)
- Five Ambassadorial Presentations on Northern Ireland
- Written and video Personal Development Portfolio
- Project (dependent on NI institution)

MONEY MATTERS

- **Study USA is funded by the Department for the Economy**
- The scholarship funding package includes:
 - Room and board for the academic year
 - A generous textbook allowance (\$1100)
 - One return flight to the US (approx. £1000)
 - **In addition, fees are generously waived by US institutions (approx. \$30,000)**

Overall financial package per scholarship of £45,000 (approx.)

COSTS TO CONSIDER

Programme participants must fund:

- Participation Fee: £1500, unless in receipt of a maintenance grant
- Travel & Medical Insurance: £400-£600
- Visa costs: \$500-550
- Spending Money
- Out of term time costs (accommodation and food)
- Travel



CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD STUDY USA STUDENT

- Shows a good understanding of all aspects of the programme
- Is willing to step out of comfort zone
- Displays a genuine interest in academics at US college
- Will be a good ambassador for Northern Ireland
- Will volunteer, and actively participate in campus life
- Is in good academic standing
- Understands how participation may impact upon future career plans

RECRUITMENT PROCESS

- **Apply online on our website:**
- <http://nireland.britishcouncil.org/opportunities/study-usa>
- Candidates will be shortlisted based on answers to questions
- **Remember:**
 - Answer the questions directly
 - Use specific examples rather than vague statements
 - Proof read
- Formal interview
- You will be asked questions related to the application form, and your knowledge of the programme
- The top candidates (normally 50- 60) will be offered a place
- Reserve list often receive places
- Several places will be ring-fenced for applicants from Further Education Colleges

TIMELINE

- **If successful:**
 - Matching with US College Interview: March
 - Admissions & Visa Paperwork: April–July
 - Study USA Orientation Day: End of June

- **US Academic Year:**
 - Fall Semester: Mid-August to Mid-December
 - Spring Semester: Mid-January to Late April / Early May

Study USA Graduation: September/October

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Speak to your campus Study USA contact
- Email the team at study.usa@britishcouncil.org with any questions
- Contact your campus careers service

- Student Verdict:
 - **"What's stopping you from an experience of a lifetime?"**

