



# STUDY USA 2025-26

An introduction to Study USA

Queen's University Belfast

Wednesday 17 April 2024

## Itinerary 4.00-5.00pm

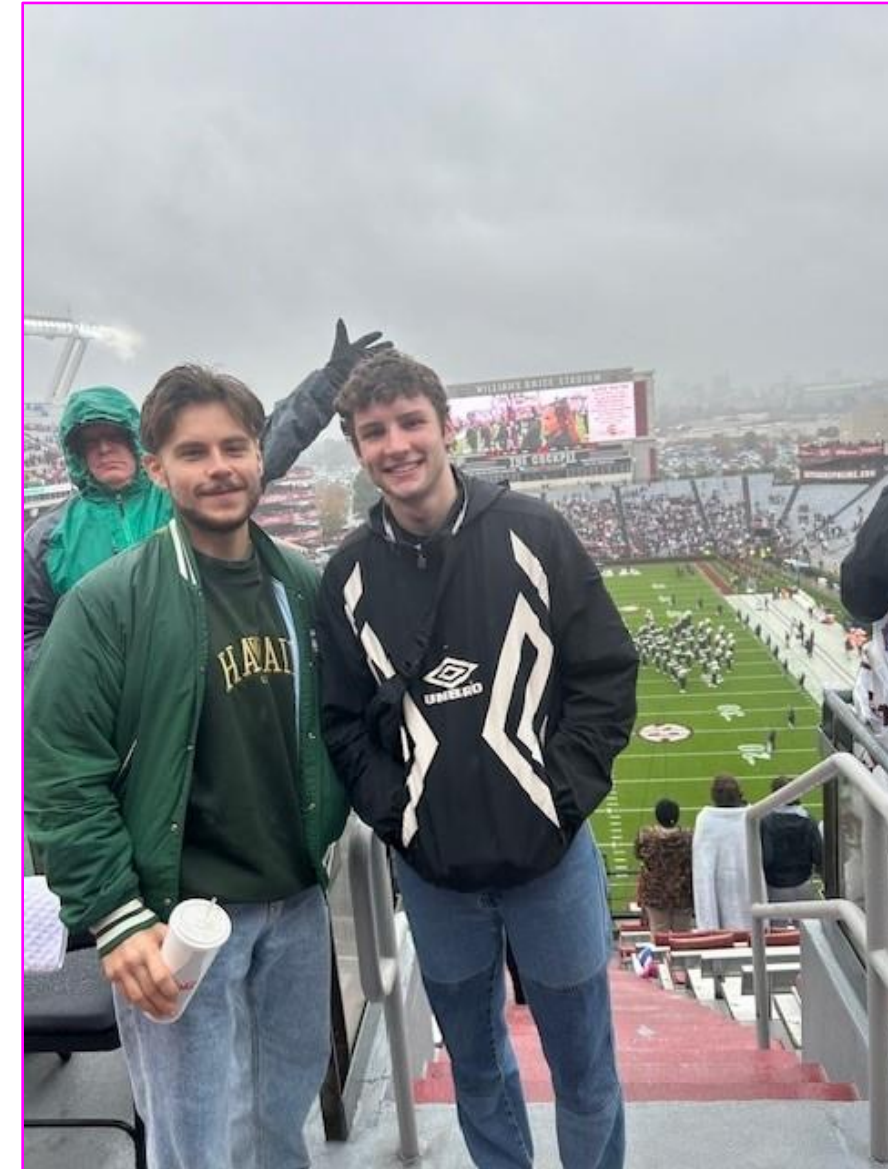
- Study USA Programme Overview
- Eligibility Requirements
- Partner US Colleges & Campus Life
- Student Support
- Class Choices – what will I be studying?
- Funding model and costs to consider
- Applications and recruitment timeline
- Q&A with QUB participant – David Smyth

## Final Q&A and Close



## 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's it all about?

The programme aims to provide students with:

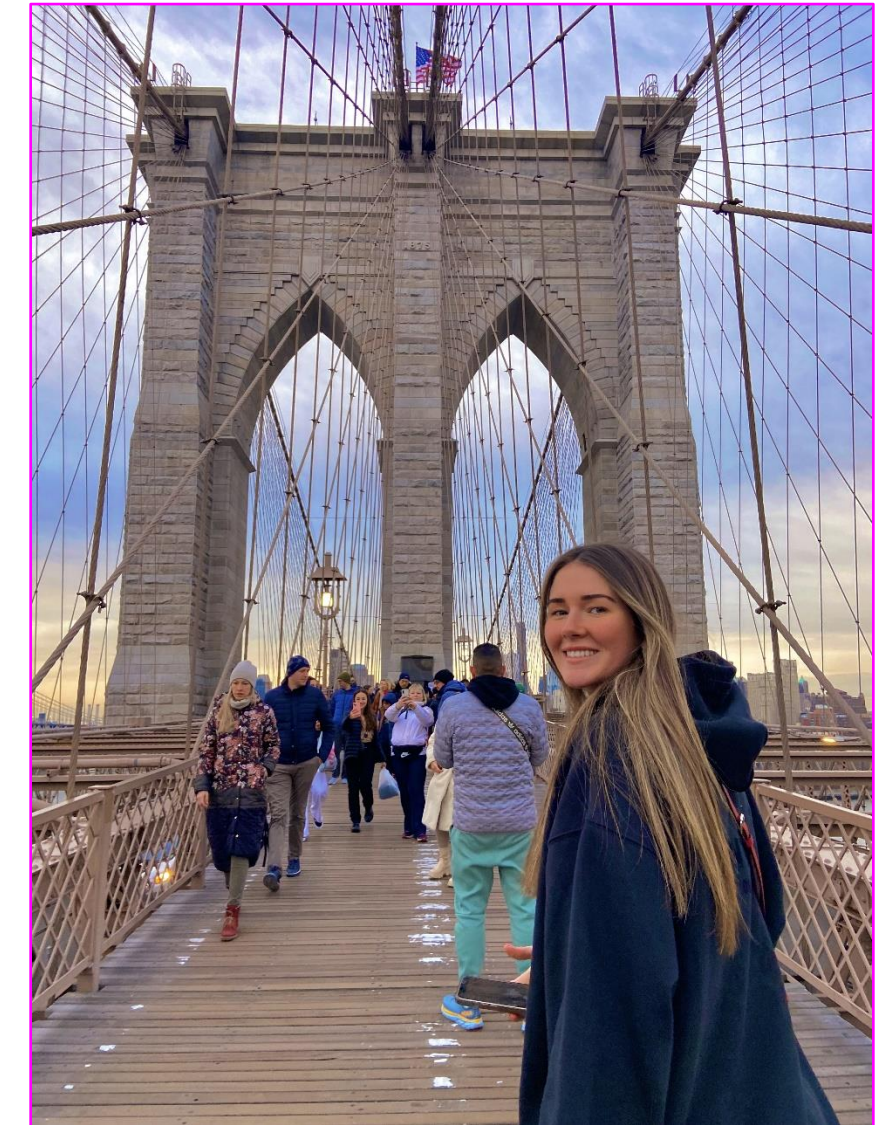
- An outward-looking, international experience to develop their global awareness
- The opportunity to improve their core employability skills
- The opportunity to develop the skills necessary to become future global leaders within the NI economy
- Build their confidence, adaptability and resilience
- Begin building their international network
- The opportunity to embrace new teaching and working styles
- The opportunity to raise economic, cultural and political awareness of Northern Ireland in the USA

WHAT'S IT ALL  
**ABOUT?**



## Am I eligible to apply?

- Applicants must be a UK/EU National with permanent residence status in UK / Ireland
- Applicants must be in **full-time** education at a College or University in Northern Ireland, studying **any** subject discipline.
- Students from **Queen's University Belfast** should apply during their 2<sup>nd</sup> year, for participation in the programme the following year (year 3).
- QUB Medical and Dental students must also obtain school permission.



Full eligibility criteria available on our website!



## Academic Eligibility

- In good academic standing – your **1<sup>st</sup> year average** needs to be **53%** or higher
- In the event of being over-subscribed, only those with a 1<sup>st</sup> year 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 e.g. Washington Ireland, Language Assistants









## Our Partner US College Campuses



Campuses are typically very green and well kept.

This is Maryville College, Tennessee



## Campus Life at a 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 in advance and whilst in the USA
- Students attend three **pre-departure orientation sessions** and receive a Study USA Student Handbook
- Safe way to experience a year abroad
- There is a robust, strong support network including a **Student Support Advisor** (based in USA)
- You will have a designated **International Advisor** on campus in the USA and ongoing support from the Study USA team.
- Access from Wellbeing Team from your NI institution.





## Class Choices Each Term – what will I study?

**2 x classes** related to your home discipline (40%)

**2 x classes** from the list below (40%)

**1 x elective class** e.g. Art, Sports, Humanities (20%)

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Communications   | 6. Human Resources        |
| 2. Public Speaking  | 7. Information Technology |
| 3. Leadership       | 8. Foreign Languages      |
| 4. Marketing and PR | 9. Finance                |
| 5. Management       | 10. Economics             |

- Due to different learning style, students find **100 or 200** level classes more manageable.
- Sometimes students struggle with 300 classes even if it is in their subject area.
- Requirement to **maintain GPA 3.0** to graduate from the programme

Class Levels in USA = 100 – Freshman | 200 – Sophomore | 300 – Junior | 400 – Senior

## Programme Requirements

- Minimum **15 x hours** class time per week
- Maintain a minimum Grade Point Average of **3.0 (57%)** each semester
- Completion of **5 x** Ambassadorial Presentations on Northern Ireland
- **1 x** written assignment and **1 x** video Personal Development Portfolio on completion
- Business Project – QUB students (liaise with your Go Global team in Careers Dept).





## 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).

The financial package per scholarship is **£45,000**.



## Costs To Consider

Programme participants must fund the following:

Participation Fee	£1,500
Travel & Medical Insurance	£400-600
Visa Costs	\$500-550
Spending Money	
Out of term time costs	e.g. accommodation/ food
Travel within the USA	

NOTE: The participation fee is waived for students who are in receipt of a maintenance grant.

You will **not** be eligible to receive a student loan whilst in the USA.





## Characteristics of a good Study USA student

- Shows a good understanding of all aspects of the programme.
- Willing to step out of your 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.



## The Recruitment Process - Timeline

Applications open	September 2024
Interviews	December 2024 / January 2025
Matching Meetings US Colleges	Early spring 2025

**Apply online:** <http://nireland.britishcouncil.org/opportunities/study-usa>

### Remember!

- Candidates will be shortlisted based on answers to questions.
- Answer the questions directly and in detail with specific examples rather than vague statements.
- Proofread it and get it checked in your Careers Department.
- Do not use Chat GPT or other AI platforms! We do check and we will reject such applications!



## The Recruitment Process

- Formal interview in Belfast in spring 2025.
- 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 students may receive a place.
- Several places are ring-fenced for applicants from Further Education Colleges.



## What happens if my application is successful?

### If successful:

- Matching with US College Interview: Jan / Feb
- 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 in NI : September/October**





## **Q&A with Study USA Ambassador from QUB**

David Smyth, Law with Politics

**Alvernia University**  
**Pennsylvania**



## What's next?

- Scan this QR code now to register for student updates regarding the launch of our 2025-26 programme and when the Study USA team will be hosting events at QUB in autumn 2024.
- Email the Study USA team at [study.usa@britishcouncil.org](mailto:study.usa@britishcouncil.org) with any questions
- Contact your campus Go Global team and careers department.

### Study USA 2025-2026 Marketing & Campus Event Updates



We will not share your personal data externally in line with our GDPR policy and you can opt out at any time by emailing: [study.usa@britishcouncil.org](mailto:study.usa@britishcouncil.org)



**Thank you for your time.**

**QUESTIONS**

