FINANCING YOUR U.S. STUDIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR A WEBINAR FROM THE OFFICE OF THE U.S. SPEAKER PROGRAM

This Discussion Guide is designed for virtual programming for American Spaces to give interested international students insight on financing university studies in the United States.

ACCESS TO VIDEO

Link: Financing U.S. Studies
Duration: *62* minutes
Recorded: March 10, 2020

TIPS ON VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

- Once downloaded, you can capture the video feed with OBS or other streaming tool. Or, you can upload it to your social media account to host a watch party.
- Consider inviting a local expert or U.S. official to facilitate discussion during and after the webinar.
- Preview the video beforehand to determine which parts you will show.
- For more tips **go here.**

ABOUT THIS WEBINAR

This program from EducationUSA offers practical advice and considerations for how to plan and finance a U.S. university or institution of higher education. Featuring three speakers, it discusses the various costs of attending a U.S. school and practical advice for determining what scholarships might exist, alternative financing through employment, general visa questions, and other expenses.

EducationUSA is a U.S. Department of State network of over 430 international student advising centers in more than 175 countries and territories offering accurate, comprehensive, and current information about opportunities to study at accredited postsecondary institutions in the United States.

RESOURCES

Useful Links

- Student Visa reference page listing the steps to apply for a student visa and the associated costs.
- EducationUSA financial aid list includes various grants and scholarships.
- FastWeb College Scholarship database mentioned in the program
- Higher Education in the U.S. - This guide was designed by American Spaces in collaboration with EducationUSA

Key Terms

- ***Billed costs -*** Costs including tuition and housing that students pay to the university, differs from non-billed costs which include transportation and entertainment.
- **Scholarships** - Scholarships are financial support requiring no financial reimbursement based on need (student's income) or on merit (academic record).
- **In-state versus Out-of-state tuition** - Cost of paying for a university based on residency in a particular state. Varies by university and college, although many U.S. public institutions charge international students out-of-state tuition or more.
- **Early Decision versus Rolling Admission** - Admission policies that either require a student to apply by a certain date (early decision/early admission), or they can apply at any date (rolling admission).

Speakers

Jacqueline Vogl - Senior International Officer, State University of New York at Plattsburgh speaks on financial resources for international students in the United States and ways to receive employment while studying in the United States.

Christine Kremer - Director of International Admission, University of Dayton speaks on different costs, public v. private schools, and navigating scholarships.

Ojima Abraham - International Student at Franklin and Marshall University speaks on navigating EducationUSA programs for financial aid and his experience as a student in the U.S.

Discussion Questions

Preview the video beforehand to determine which parts of the webinar you will show. Also, consider stopping the webinar periodically to engage your audience with the below questions as appropriate.

- *What is the difference between a scholarship and a loan?*
- *What kinds of work can you perform while studying in the United States?*
- *What are some budget best practices you do at home? How could you apply those to your budget while studying in the United States?*
- *What does the timeline for admissions look like?*
- *What's a graduate assistant position? What opportunities might be available as a graduate assistant?*
- *Are you familiar with EducationUSA programs offered in your home country?*