



INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT'S GUIDE
TO APPLYING TO
U.S. COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT APPLYING TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES?

- > It is a year long process that begins as early as "Junior" year
- > Main factors to think about?
 - **Area of study interest**
 - **School Requirements and Application Process**
 - Found on college or university website
 - Many schools participate in the Common Application or Coalition Application process
 - **School Acceptance Rates**
 - How selective is the university or college for admission?
 - **Cost and affordability**
 - Tuition
 - Room/Board
 - Scholarships / Loans
 - International students are not eligible for federal financial aid programs in the U.S., however, some universities do offer financial aid and scholarships to international students which varies by school
 - Scholarship examples: athletics, music, Academics , and other areas of talent
 - Ask institution's financial office about loans



HOW DO I GET ACCEPTED?

Universities and Colleges want students who will contribute to the school's mission, diverse programs, and culture.

THE HOLISTIC VIEW

- > Students are viewed as a whole
- > This includes:
 - Academic Grades
 - SAT and ACT scores
 - Achievements
 - Awards
 - Research Projects
 - Volunteer work
 - Sports
 - Clubs
 - Music
 - Journalism
 - Arts
 - Extracurricular Activities
 - Diversity within school



Image courtesy of Ambro / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

LOCATING ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

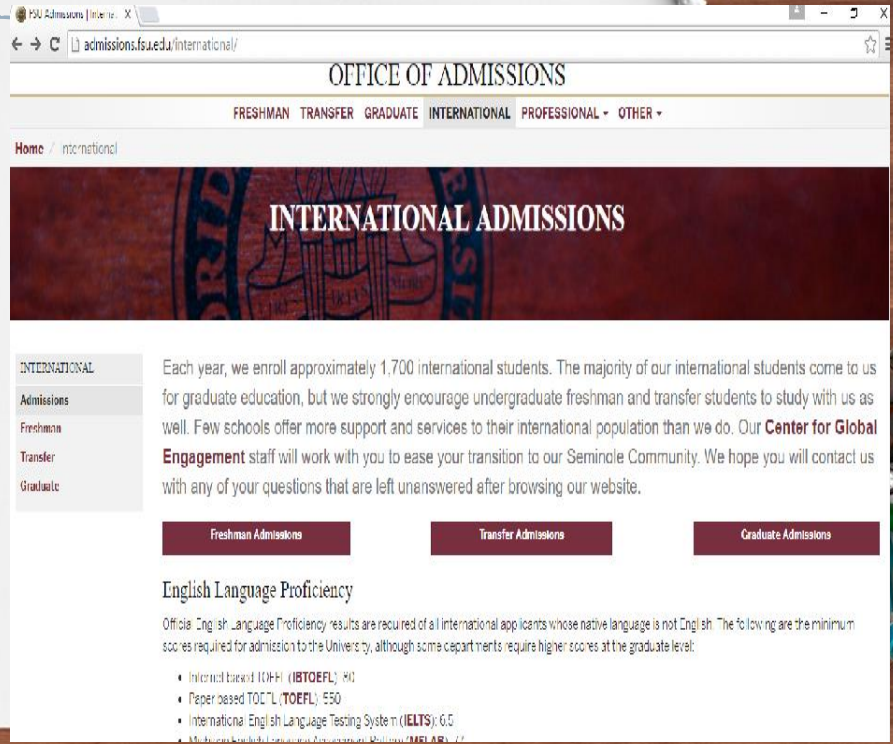
To locate information for a certain school,

- > go to the school's "Admissions" page and click on the tab for "International Students"



LOCATING ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Once you click on "International Admissions", this will bring up their admissions requirements for international students. You will be considered an undergraduate student and a freshman applicant.




The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL admissions.fsu.edu/international/. The page header reads "OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS" with a navigation menu including "FRESHMAN", "TRANSFER", "GRADUATE", "INTERNATIONAL", "PROFESSIONAL", and "OTHER". Below the header, a breadcrumb trail shows "Home / international". A large banner features the text "INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS" over a background of the Seminole State seal. A sidebar on the left lists navigation options: "INTERNATIONAL", "Admissions", "Freshman", "Transfer", and "Graduate". The main content area contains a paragraph: "Each year, we enroll approximately 1,700 international students. The majority of our international students come to us for graduate education, but we strongly encourage undergraduate freshman and transfer students to study with us as well. Few schools offer more support and services to their international population than we do. Our **Center for Global Engagement** staff will work with you to ease your transition to our Seminole Community. We hope you will contact us with any of your questions that are left unanswered after browsing our website." Below this text are three buttons: "Freshman Admissions", "Transfer Admissions", and "Graduate Admissions". A section titled "English Language Proficiency" follows, stating: "Official English Language Proficiency results are required of all international applicants whose native language is not English. The following are the minimum scores required for admission to the University, although some departments require higher scores at the graduate level:"

- Internet-based TOEFL (iBT/TOEFL): 80
- Paper-based TOEFL (TOEFL): 550
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS): 6.5
- Michigan State English Proficiency Battery (MSEPB): 17

LOCATING ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

- > The admissions page will include
 - The deadline for applying
 - Test score requirements
 - A link to their admissions application
 - Contact information for the admissions office



The screenshot shows the Florida State University Office of Admissions website. The header includes the university's name and a navigation menu with options: FRESHMAN, TRANSFER, GRADUATE, INTERNATIONAL, PROFESSIONAL, and OTHER. The current page is titled "International Freshman Requirements" and is part of the "INTERNATIONAL" section. A sidebar menu on the left lists "INTERNATIONAL", "Admissions", "Freshman", "Transfer", and "Graduate". The main content area is titled "The Process" and contains the following text:

International freshman applicants attend a variety of different educational systems. Students educated in the United States, or attending a school that follows an educational curriculum patterned after the U.S. system, should create the **Self-reported Student Academic Record (SSAR)**. To learn more about SSAR, click **here**. All other applicants should submit official or **certified copies** of all secondary school records and/or examination results. All credentials from non-U.S. institutions must be evaluated by a foreign credential evaluation agency to include a U.S. equivalent grade point average. We recommend a member of the **National Association of Credential Evaluation Services** or the **International Education Credential Services provided by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers**. All academic records must be issued in the native language and be accompanied by a certified English translation.

In addition, all applicants should:

- Apply **online**.
- Submit official **ACT** (#0734) and/or **SAT** (#5219) results for every test taken.
- Submit official **English Proficiency Test Scores** if your native language is not English.
- Contact the academic department directly if majoring in **dance, film** (animation or production), **music**, or **theatre**.

Requirements

Freshman admission is a holistic and selective process, and no single criterion guarantees admission. Rather, we consider all the documentation you submit, and we carefully review your academic record and test scores to ensure that you are prepared for the rigorous curriculum you will encounter at Florida State University. The academic profile of the middle 50% of freshmen accepted in 2016 was:

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

ASSESSING ACADEMIC READINESS



SAT <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>

ACT <http://www.actstudent.org/>

TOEFL <http://www.ets.org/toefl>
(Assesses English Proficiency)

Each college or university may have different test requirements. Make sure you research this information.

WAYS TO APPLY TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

Going Directly to the Schools Website:

- > Check out the school's website to see what they offer.
- > View the admissions requirements
 - Deadlines
 - GPA required
 - Standardize test needed

The Common Application:

- > A third-party website that allows you to see the school's admission requirements in one location

The Coalition Application:

- > A third-party website that allows you to see the school's admission requirements in one location
- > Includes Ivy league schools

THE COMMON APPLICATION

- > Is also called the Common App.
- > Please check with the school of your choice to see if they participate in this application so you do not have to fill out the same form repeatedly.
- > Check out all the cool features and resources given by the Common App at <http://www.commonapp.org/faq>
- > You must create a Common App account
- > You can add new schools to your account based upon university selection
- > The app allows you to see the requirements of your listed schools in one place
- > Free to use but may be required to pay a fee by the school

THE COALITION APPLICATION

- > Similar to the Common Application but it includes all eight Ivy League schools as well as many top schools like Stanford and Duke
 - Looks to serve underrepresented students and students who need more financial assistance
 - Free to use but may be required to pay a fee by the school
- > For more information, please check out <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>

I KNOW WHAT SCHOOLS I WANT TO ATTEND

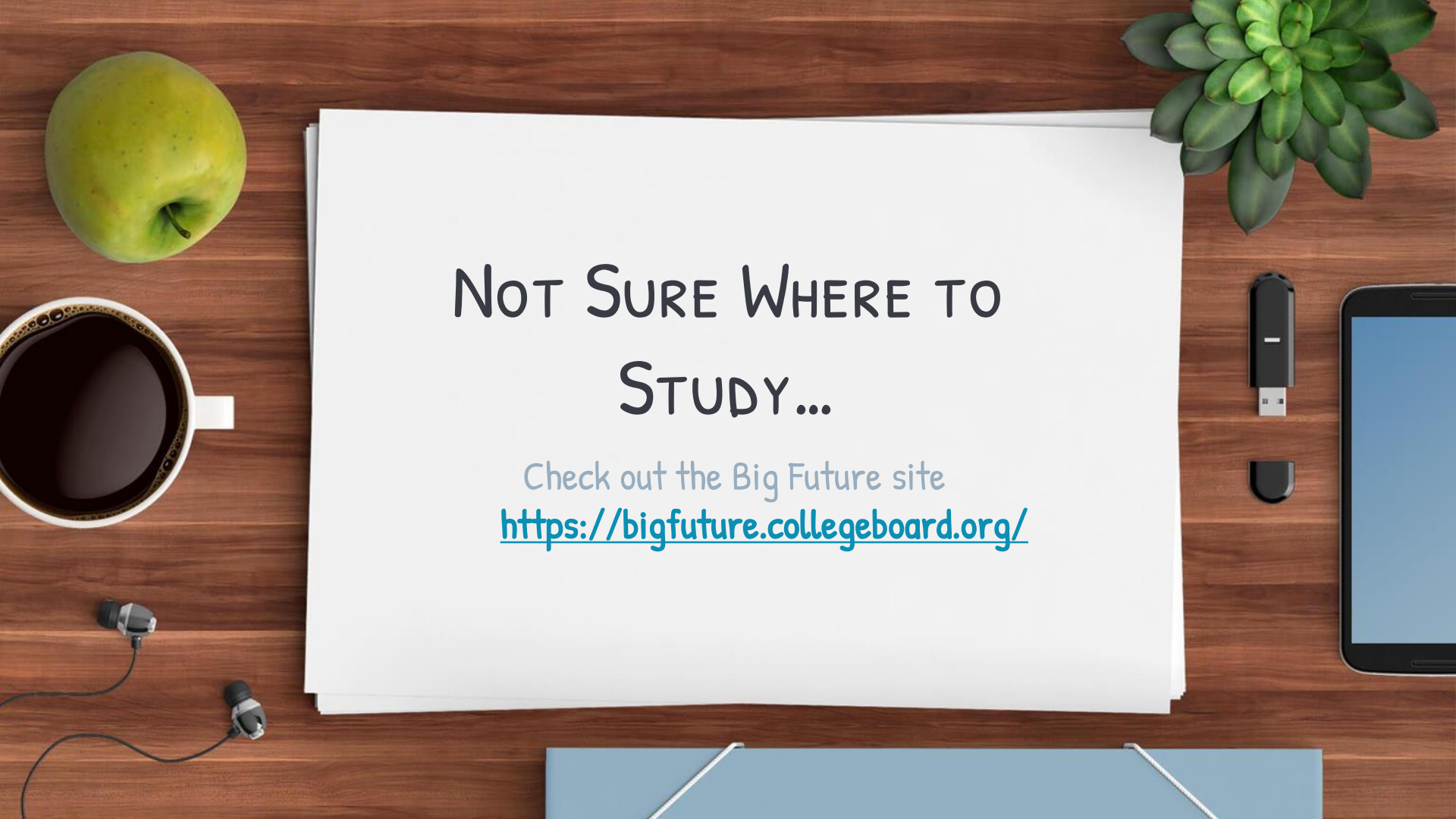
You are encouraged to begin your search early so you see the requirements schools are looking for and any updates.

If you are considering a school that participates in the Common Application or the Coalition Application, create an account. This will allow you to see what the admissions requirements are for that institution.

Look at the step-by-step guide provided by Common App;
<http://www.commonapp.org/how-apply>

Please review the information about the benefits of the Coalition App;
<http://www.coalitionforcollegaccess.org/mycoalition-intro.html>

** Please remember that not all schools participate in the Common Application or Coalition App system.



NOT SURE WHERE TO STUDY...

Check out the Big Future site
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

BIG FUTURE RESOURCE

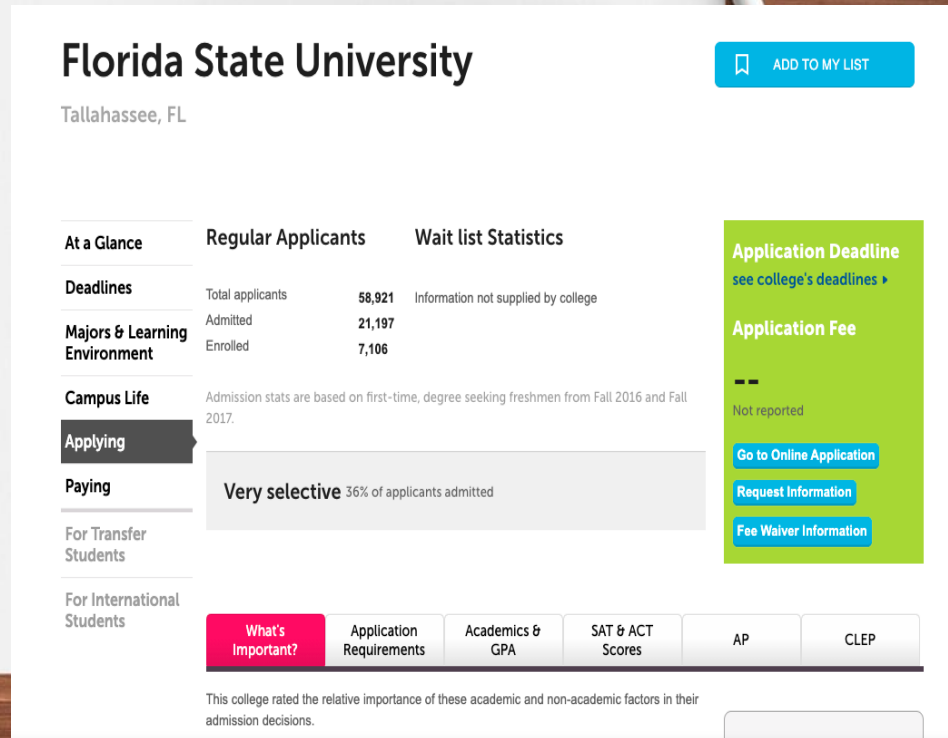
- > The Big Future site will give students and parents information about schools and help you map out a plan for applying to American colleges and universities.
- > Research schools of interest and make a list of your top 3 schools.
 - Think about:
 - What do you want to study?
 - Where do you want to go? (a specific school, state, city, etc.)

BIG FUTURE ALSO HAS

- > Tools to help you decide on a major/area of study
- > A search feature to help you find a school
- > Information on paying for college (including information on scholarships)
- > Tips for applying to universities (information about the actual application, essays, admissions tests, etc.)
- > A 'Make a Plan' feature so you can map out what you might need to do

INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

- > The Big Future site gives applicants additional information.
 - Videos from faculty
 - Acceptance rates
 - Average financial aid for international students
 - University cost for international students



The screenshot shows the Florida State University Big Future page. At the top, the university name is displayed in large black font, with 'Tallahassee, FL' below it. A blue button with a bookmark icon and the text 'ADD TO MY LIST' is in the top right corner. Below the university name, there are three main sections: 'At a Glance', 'Regular Applicants', and 'Wait list Statistics'. The 'At a Glance' section has a vertical menu with 'Applying' highlighted in a dark grey box. Below this menu, there are two rows of data: 'Deadlines' (Total applicants: 58,921; Admitted: 21,197) and 'Majors & Learning Environment' (Enrolled: 7,106). A note below states: 'Admission stats are based on first-time, degree seeking freshmen from Fall 2016 and Fall 2017.' The 'Regular Applicants' section shows 'Very selective' with a grey bar indicating that 36% of applicants are admitted. The 'Wait list Statistics' section shows 'Information not supplied by college'. On the right side, there is a green box with 'Application Deadline' (link to college's deadlines), 'Application Fee' (Not reported), and three buttons: 'Go to Online Application', 'Request Information', and 'Fee Waiver Information'. At the bottom, there is a navigation bar with buttons for 'What's Important?', 'Application Requirements', 'Academics & GPA', 'SAT & ACT Scores', 'AP', and 'CLEP'. A footer note states: 'This college rated the relative importance of these academic and non-academic factors in their admission decisions.'

Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL

[ADD TO MY LIST](#)

At a Glance	Regular Applicants	Wait list Statistics
Deadlines	Total applicants: 58,921	Information not supplied by college
Majors & Learning Environment	Admitted: 21,197	
	Enrolled: 7,106	

Admission stats are based on first-time, degree seeking freshmen from Fall 2016 and Fall 2017.

Applying

Paying

Very selective 36% of applicants admitted

Application Deadline
[see college's deadlines >](#)

Application Fee
--
Not reported

[Go to Online Application](#)

[Request Information](#)

[Fee Waiver Information](#)

[What's Important?](#) [Application Requirements](#) [Academics & GPA](#) [SAT & ACT Scores](#) [AP](#) [CLEP](#)

This college rated the relative importance of these academic and non-academic factors in their admission decisions.



SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR DUAL DIPLOMA



SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE DUAL DIPLOMA PROGRAM (USA)

Doral College (www.doral.edu) - Florida, United States

- > Doral College offers our international graduates the opportunity to study with an accredited college in the US.
- > Doral College offers virtual access to the American college experience and the ability to earn college credit in courses approved through the state common course numbering system, which facilitates transfer to any state college or university in the state of Florida.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE DUAL DIPLOMA PROGRAM (USA)

St. Thomas University (www.stu.edu) - Florida, United States

- Waiver of the application fee to undergraduate admission;
- Automatic undergraduate admission to St. Thomas University for students graduating with a High School diploma from Academica schools, including AIS, with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.75, with a waiver of compliance with SAT requirements;
- Waiver of Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English language Testing System (IELTS), or the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE), for international students.
- Eligibility to an Academic scholarship which may provide a tuition discount of up to fifty percent (50%) for undergraduate studies.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE DUAL DIPLOMA PROGRAM (USA)

Full Sail University (www.fullsail.edu) – Florida, United States

- > Graduates of Academica schools, including students graduating through Dual Diploma program, who meet Full Sail's enrollment eligibility requirements will be granted admission.
- > Applicants whose native language is not English are subject to additional admission requirements to demonstrate English language proficiency.
- > Students admitted to Full Sail shall receive a scholarship equal to a program tuition reduction of 5%, which will be based on the total tuition charged for the student's respective program.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE DUAL DIPLOMA PROGRAM (SPAIN)

Students who successfully complete the Dual Diploma program may have the opportunity to attend certain colleges with special considerations.

- > Each universities requirements will be different but may include waivers from tests (Admissions, TOEFL, and/or ILTS) or admissions fees
- > Scholarship opportunities may also be available based on the area of interest

For More Information: <https://www.academica.school/university>



KEEP IT SIMPLE

Things to start doing now

PLAN AND CREATE A TIMELINE FOR APPLYING TO COLLEGE

THIS INCLUDES...



Time to research schools

The earlier the better. This makes positioning yourself for acceptance easier.



Time to prepare and take SAT and/or ACT

This is generally taken once in **Spring** of your "Junior" year

And once during **Fall** of your "Senior" year.

**Remember that some schools might not require the SAT and/or ACT for international students so you need to know the admissions requirements for each school you are applying to.



TOEFL Test

Required for many colleges

Please check with the school of your choice and explain that you are in a Dual Diploma program.

Record keeping

Awards

Achievements

Activities

Resume

Letters of Recommendation

Time for completing applications

Application Deadlines

For Early Acceptance

In **Fall**

For General Acceptance

typically between **November** and **January** (with a few exceptions of February and March)
(Highly Dependent on the institution)

4 YEAR TIMELINE TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION

"Freshman" Year

- Maintain strong GPA (grade point average)
- Begin taking challenging courses
- Challenging courses or Dual Diploma Courses
- Get involved in extracurricular activities
- Look at colleges and universities to get an idea of what you may be interested in

"Sophomore" Year

- Maintain Strong GPA
- Research American Colleges and Universities
- Continue with challenging courses
- Get involved
- Clubs
- Sports
- Volunteer work
- Other activities
- Keep records of awards and activities
- Prepare and take PSAT in October

"Junior" Year

- Keep grades up
- Create calendar with deadlines
- Research institutions and requirements
- Register/take SAT/ACT in Spring
- Continue extracurricular activities and volunteer work
- Keep records of activities and awards
- Prepare Resume

"Senior" Year

- Summer before Senior Year
- TOEFL (if required)
- Research and put together requirements for applications.
- Write admission essay
- Keep grades up
- **CREATE CALENDER**
- Keep track of due dates for applications and deadlines
- Standard admission applications are due between November and January (remember that each school is different)
- Register to take SAT and ACT in October

GETTING STARTED CHECKLIST



Image courtesy of [imagerymajestic] / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

1. Find Admission requirements
 - Make sure you are looking at the requirements for an International Student.
2. Get organized by creating a calendar with deadlines for each school.
3. Find where, how, and to whom to ask questions about the application process for each school
 - This will most likely be on the International Students page.
4. Begin fulfilling requirements like recommendations and extra activities
5. Take Tests (SAT, ACT, and/or TOEFL)



ANY QUESTIONS?