



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

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Applying to US Universities & The Sutton Trust US Programme

Aim

The aim of this document is to provide students with an overview of the American universities application process, supported by a thorough insight into the application by a successful QM year 12 student onto the Sutton Trust programme.

Background

“The number of UK students enrolled in US universities increased by 20 per cent between 2011 and 2015 and the trend is likely to continue.”

“Some claim half of the jobs that will exist in 2025 do not exist today, so while the US university application is an arduous process, the rewards can be great”

Independent 2016

Supporting websites

<https://us.suttontrust.com/>

The Sutton Trust programme

<https://www.independent.co.uk/student/study-abroad/a-level-results-2016-applying-us-university-ivy-league-application-how-to-get-into-american-college-a7197391.html>

Studying in the US: 9 things to consider when applying to an American university

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/nine-things-every-student-should-know-about-studying-united-states>

Nine things every student should know about studying in the United States

https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2019/world-ranking#!/page/0/length/25/sort_by/rank/sort_order/asc/cols/stats

World University Rankings 2019



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An article by a successful Year 12 onto the Sutton Trust programme

Seeing if it's right for you

- The application process for the Sutton Trust US Programme is long, as is the 'common application' for US universities, so it's important to see if it's something you think is right for you
- A lot of time will also be spent revising for one of the US standardised tests (the ACT or SAT) on top of A-Level studies. I've always been conscious that to put forward a competitive application to top US institutions I'd need to aim for high A-Level grades (AAA or higher) as well as revising for the ACT in a way that would allow me to attain a composite score higher than 30
- It wasn't a deciding factor for me, but I completed a mock ACT test before putting forward my Sutton Trust US Programme application. My score wasn't as bad as I'd thought it would be for the first time and gave me a bit of reassurance that I could be successful in the process if I put my mind to it!
- This shouldn't seem daunting to prospective applicants, but it's important to be aware of expectations of high achievement and commitment

The Sutton Trust US Programme

- For me, the prospect of a US higher education always seemed distant due to the inherent costs of application, testing and school fees. International students are not eligible for US govt. 'student loans'.
- The Sutton Trust US Programme was something I was very excited about therefore! They provide comprehensive US admissions advice to accepted applicants as well as a week-long visit to the states, all expenses paid, so that you can get a true feel for US higher education.
- The programme is highly competitive. Criteria for application contains requirements for family income and US citizenship status. It also favours first generation university applicants from schools with low



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rates of progression to higher education. GCSE attainment is also taken into account.

Resources that helped me & general advice

Start the Sutton Trust application early! If I remember correctly, it becomes available around November with the deadline placed in January. Good thought needs to be placed into each section of the application so it's important to allow time for multiple drafts

- Thoroughly read each section of the Sutton Trust US Programme website. It's the best resource for advice on applying. Also watch out for webinars that they host! I signed up for the one they did this year on 'Making an Effective Application'. The speakers were very informative and there was an opportunity at the end to ask questions!
- Read information provided on the websites of institutions that interest you. In particular, read the sections on financial aid and international students. The statistics will surprise you! For example, at Harvard, students whose families earn under £40,000 are not expected to contribute anything to their child's education! Furthermore, application to Harvard (and a few other institutions) are "needs blind" so your financial position won't negatively skew your application. It's surprising, but a US higher education can be leave much less of a financial burden than a UK one
- I enjoyed reading parts of the "Good School's Guide" to US Institutions.
- Another excellent resource is the US-UK Fulbright Commission website. Taken from their website, "*The US-UK Fulbright Commission hosts both the Fulbright scholarship programme and the EducationUSA advising network for the UK. We focus on opportunities and exchanges between the USA and the UK, as part of a global programme.*"
- I also enjoyed watching YouTube videos of past applicants video interviews for inspiration. There are also some vlogs of successful applicant's trips to the US which are interesting.



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Final comments

- I'd very much like to be a source of advice for future applicants.
Chris McHugh