

## READING 2 - How much are American university fees?

Tom Allingham - 4 November 2022

It's hard to say what the 'average' cost of tuition at an American college is. The fees can vary dramatically depending on the type of university and the length of your degree.

You can go public or private, and study for two years, four years, or perhaps even longer.

However, it's worth noting that at the end of your studies at a two-year college, you won't actually have a full degree. You'll have what's known as an associate's degree. This can be topped up to a full degree by transferring to another university and studying for an additional two or three years.

Fees will also vary depending on whether or not you're from the university's state. As a UK resident, unless you've somehow been resident in a specific state, you'll almost certainly be paying the out-of-state fees.

### Average annual tuition fees in the USA 2022/23

| Type of college                 | Cost*   |            |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------|
| Public two-year                 | £3,407  | (\$3,860)  |
| Public four-year (in-state)     | £9,657  | (\$10,940) |
| Public four-year (out-of-state) | £24,928 | (\$28,240) |
| Private non-profit four-year    | £34,779 | (\$39,400) |

As you can see, average tuition fees at private universities are much higher than at publicly funded universities. Most of the top American universities are private. They will typically charge even more than the average figures, with tuition at both Yale and Harvard topping \$50,000 a year.

Your fees need to be paid in advance of each semester. You can also choose to pay for the full year or semester by semester.

Similar to the UK in recent years, there have been many complaints in America regarding the rising cost of tuition fees and the cutting of financial aid sources.

Source : <https://www.savesthestudent.org/study-abroad/american-university-fees.html>

Financial aid comes in many formats: scholarships, grants, assistantships and work-study schemes. Some of these might be possible only for US citizens but there are many financial aid opportunities for international students too. For example, the University of Pennsylvania sets aside \$6 million each year to fund graduates from outside the US and in neighbouring Canada and Mexico. Many universities guarantee on-campus paid work for students while they study. Funding information is available on each university's website and financial aid should be applied for at the same time as a university place. Several high-ranking universities in the US operate a "needs-blind" admission policy, meaning the financial background of potential students is disregarded during the admission process and the university promises to financially support students so every successful applicant can attend. In 2017, these establishments were the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Princeton University, Yale University and Amherst College.

There are also a few well-known government-funded US scholarship programmes for international students, for example, the Fulbright Foreign Student Program and the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program.

Source: [www.timeshighereducation.com](http://www.timeshighereducation.com)