



Thinking of Applying to the USA?

The USA is a popular destination for FPS students each year. The application process is much more segregated than the UK. There is a central application platform that coordinates applications to 900 universities, this is called CommonApp. Not all universities use CommonApp however, so you may have to apply directly to each individual university. This can be costly and time consuming. The recommendation is to apply to no more than 5 universities.

COMMONAPP:

The 2021 application cycle is opening as planned

It gets underway this week, with 2021 courses available now at <https://www.commonapp.org/>

The website is well-stocked with all the information you will need, including guidance for your parents and teachers <https://www.commonapp.org/counselors-and-recommenders/common-app-ready>

Studying in the USA can be expensive, so there is a guide for financing available as well as a list of scholarships and how to secure bursary funding <https://www.commonapp.org/plan/paying-for-college>

To apply through CommonApp, you will need to make an account. Using a sensibly named email address you check regularly, head to <https://www.commonapp.org/apply/first-time-students> to read how to do this and how to gather all information you may need before you log in for the first time. With CommonApp, you can apply to up to 20 colleges and universities. The application process costs vary as these depend on how many places you have applied to and what their individual costs are. Each university has their own requirements so you will need to check what you need for each one. This may include:

- Personal details inc. passport, address, school history etc.
- A submission essay (you may be given a prompt)
- A portfolio of work
- Evidence of extra-curricular and charitable activities
- References and recommendations from your teachers, form tutor and Mrs. Dickerson
- Predicted grades statement from Mrs. Dickerson

Direct Entry:

Some universities accept direct applications. There will be specific paperwork, requirements and costs for each of these. To apply, you will need to make separate applications to each of your intended choices. This can be extremely time consuming, as each place will ask for:

- Personal details inc. passport, address, school history etc.
- A Personal Statement or submission essay
- References from your teachers and Mrs. Dickerson
- Predicted grades statement from Mrs. Dickerson
- Any other information specific to the university or course you are applying for.

Using a third party/independent consultant/education group:

Some agencies in the UAE will offer to support you with your application. This may be assisting you with research, completing forms for you or submitting your application. Some of these individuals and agencies will work for free, some will charge you a fee. Please bear in mind that they will be making money from somewhere along the chain. The only free and impartial advice you will receive will be from Mrs. Dickerson and your teachers in school. We strongly advise AGAINST using any agency to complete and submit applications. Even if you use an agency, you will still require grade statements, references and other paperwork from school. An agency cannot generate these for you. Feel free to use agencies and individuals for advice but do not allow them to take over your application, even if it may seem like an easier option.