

# EIGHT ESSENTIAL STEPS

Admissions Officers share their tips for successful college applications from Americans living abroad

## 1. LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Where you live is not who you are! Living overseas isn't unique. Demonstrate your knowledge of your host city and who you are as a result of your global experience. Show your perspective.

## 2. PLAN AHEAD

Campus visits and standardized testing require advanced planning! Mark your calendars starting at least 18 months in advance.

## 4. DUAL NATIONALS: DISCLOSE YOUR PASSPORTS

There is no advantage to applying as an international citizen. In fact, doing so will affect your financial aid eligibility and can affect your admission, as certain schools are need aware for internationals. Be honest, say who you are!

## 3. DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Don't assume that policies or deadlines for one school will be the same for another. Research the details for each school. Relying on information from a well-intentioned relative is a poor decision.

## 5. THE ESSAY

Don't be so clichéd! Dig beneath the surface and share what isn't revealed in your transcript. Connect the dots in your activities and how you've grown in the process.

## 6. SEEKING ADVICE/SUPPORT

Trust your school based counselor!  
Look for an EducationUSA office or consider an IEC if your school does not have a designated counselor.

## 8. EXPLAIN YOUR CONTEXT

Upload an open-ended document in the additional information section for details that need clarification. This is the place to address multiple high schools, reasons for a gap year, or restraints of a national curriculum.

## 7. MAXIMIZE RIGOR IN CURRICULUM

It doesn't matter which you do: A levels/IB/AP/ foreign national curriculum. Take the most challenging course load in which you can excel. Homeschoolers: consider a few classes in a brick and mortar institution.