

Although the United States is still the most popular destination for international students in the world, it is also one of the most expensive options. The elevated cost of studying in the United States from the international perspective.

By *Toni Baños*

The United States is known as one of the countries with the highest price of education in the world. College tuition has incremented in the past decades due to the rise of debt that universities suffered in order to make the costs more affordable to their students. Without the state funding previously provided, colleges had to replace it with tuition and fees from students and families.'

Other countries have increased tax rates to provide free tuition schools for students, which is the case of Germany. In Germany, the average salary tax rate for singles is 39.90%, while in the United States it is 22.70%. That almost 17% difference creates a large amount of money to the state or government that can be used for the public institutions.

The cost of tuition goes from around \$5,000 to \$50,000. The majority of undergrad college degrees last four years, so on average, every student has a debt of \$132,860 by the end of their basic college education. University of Cincinnati's tuition costs are, for in-state people \$9,982, on the other hand, for people out of state is \$25,316 plus the \$1,678 cost of fees.

Besides the extremely expensive cost of education, United States is still the most popular destination for international students in the world. I had the pleasure to know a little bit more about what international people think about it.

## Education Costs

Simone Palomo is a Venezuelan student-athlete, with a bachelor's degree in Exercise Sports Science. Simone has been living in the United States since 2017 when she had to leave Venezuela for the countries' government situation. She mentioned how expensive the education is here and how lucky she was to get a scholarship. *"The price is ridiculous. I think that the price at public universities should be related to the income. It is not fair to be paying as much as private ones when the system is behind them helping economically. I also don't understand the point of in-state and out-state education price, you are from this country, nothing changes besides you are moving few hours from your home. I could understand fees for international students, even though, the price would still be exaggerated."*

## Sports in College

Ellie Leather is a Senior at UC, a student of Psychology. She decided to come to the United States due to a doubtful scenario after finishing High School. *"One of the main reasons I came here for, was because of Track and Field. Running helped me take the decision to come, as well as my father's experience. He studied and lived here for a while. Besides all these facts, the life experience, what I learned here, and how independent this decision has made me, I wouldn't ever have experienced that in England."*

Sports have been an indispensable part of college, we could not imagine college in the United States without sports. Ellie mentioned; *"I feel America lives for college, they*

*grow up and they want to go to college so bad, and I feel a big part of it is because of how important sports are”*

### College Education Rate

In his Freshmen year, Carlos Kouassi is a current former of the UC Track and Field team. Born in Togo but raised in Switzerland arguments, *“I received a lot of help from the professors, advisors, in order to succeed as a foreign student and I appreciate it a lot. I would say, I received more help than in Switzerland. I think the online version also helped because it is easier to set up individual meetings.”*

Convenience is one of the factors more prized for international students. Being able to select the most convenient hour to take your classes is a positive point to the system. Not everything can be good about it though, Damien Berthenet, a transfer from the University of Lyon, France declares; *“I don’t have any relationship with people from my classes. This is due to the class’s convenience, which stops you from creating that class atmosphere that I used to have back home.”*

### How necessary is going to college

Alexia Coutiño, from Mexico, currently finishing her undergrad program in Pre-Physical Therapy, argues that not everyone is prepared to go to college and they should not be blamed for that. *“Not always is necessary, it depends on what you want to study. I feel everything related to the science field, requires study experience and a lot of knowledge of the basics. If I had to give you an example, it would be anatomy, it is not a field that can be learned through the internet, a lot of practice is required.”* Ellie also

mentioned, *"I don't know why people pay all that money for something that they might not need in their lives, it is probably not worth"*

In other parts of the World, it is common to have other options after High School. The Swiss talked about the options displayed. *"I don't think it is necessary to go to college back home, there are other options. One of them is an apprenticeship is a real job with training, so you can earn a wage while you learn and become fully trained in your chosen occupation by the end of and make the step up, I have seen people falling during the process,"* the Venezuelan said.

*the apprenticeship.*

### Is College a privilege?

*"Yes, not everyone can go to college. I think it is all about external help, people with parental aid are more in favor to finish college without a stratospheric loan. I've seen people going to class exhausted because they have several jobs, without time to sleep and they are not productive during the day. At that point, I would ask myself if it is worth getting through this process. American society is built around college degrees, so yes, studying is a privilege,"* argued Simone.

### College as a life changer

*"In France, people with low incomes can go to college for free and at the same time get scholarships not even being related to academic performance. I feel it is more open to diversity and less based on performance. We have what is called the social elevator.*

*You have to give the opportunity to everyone who is at the bottom to be able to step up. I feel it especially helps society to get a decent education. I think the US is trying to do that with the scholarships, even though the system is not working as well as the French.” Exposed the Frenchman.*

What do you think about free college?

*“I think going to college, even if it is free, it’s stepping up as a society. If everyone got a higher education, society is just going to get better. Might cost a lot of money to the country and to the states, might remove some of the simple jobs but as a group of people living in harmony, would create a better environment. If the US comes with an idea to make education more affordable, would benefit everyone.”*

Would you recommend the experience?

*“I would recommend the experience so much, even though, I think not everyone is able to take the decision*

Damien Berthenet / Student at UC / Senior MBA program / [berthedn@mail.uc.edu](mailto:berthedn@mail.uc.edu)

Carlos Kouassi / Student at UC / Freshman / Health Promotion Education  
fitness [kouassce@mail.uc.edu](mailto:kouassce@mail.uc.edu)

Ellie Leather / Student at UC / Senior Psychology / [leatheer@mail.uc.edu](mailto:leatheer@mail.uc.edu)

Alexia Cautino / Student at UC / Senior Physiotherapist / [coutioaa@mail.uc.edu](mailto:coutioaa@mail.uc.edu)

Simone Palomo / Student at UC / Exercise and Sports Science/  
[simopalomo@gmail.com](mailto:simopalomo@gmail.com)