

# SHORTLISTING U.S. UNIVERSITIES IN 3 STEPS

## Self Evaluate

# 1

Use this step to set your priorities for picking a university. It is highly important to Start Early, approximately 12-18 months before the academic year.

### Questions to Ask Yourself

- Why do you want to study in the United States?
- Where do you want to live in the United States?
- Which colleges or universities will meet your needs?
- Will you need financial assistance?
- What are the application and financial aid deadlines?

## Explore University Websites Thoroughly:

# 2

Use university search engines or print guides and narrow your search to 10-20 universities.

- **International Admissions Page:** Check selection criteria, application process, and deadlines.
- **Financial Aid Page:** Look for costs, scholarships, fellowships, or assistantships.
- **Department Website:** Learn about the academic environment, faculty, and facilities.
- **Student Services and International Student Pages:** Understand campus life and activities.

# 3

## Use the 3-Tier Approach

### Tier 1 - Ambitious

- Most competitive
- Top choices with high standards

### Tier 2: Moderate

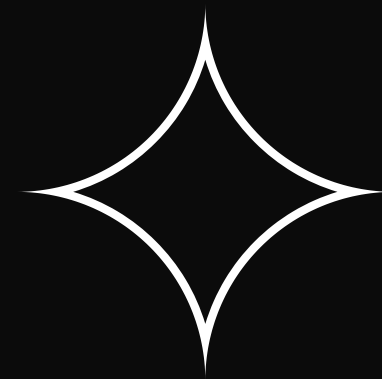
- Strong choices
- Meet most of your criteria
- Not as competitive as the first tier

### Tier 3: Safe

- Less selective
- Meets basic important criteria

## There is no Right or Wrong Choice!

- Weigh the pros and cons of each university.
- Pick the ones that offer you 'the right match'!



## Tips for Shortlisting

### Choose Priorities over Rankings

- No official ranking system exists.
- Choose schools that best meet your academic, financial, and personal needs.

### Detailed Research

- Take time to explore each shortlisted university's website.
- Consider the unique campus culture of each university.