

The AmCit

U.S. Embassy Luanda's American Citizen Newsletter
December 2018



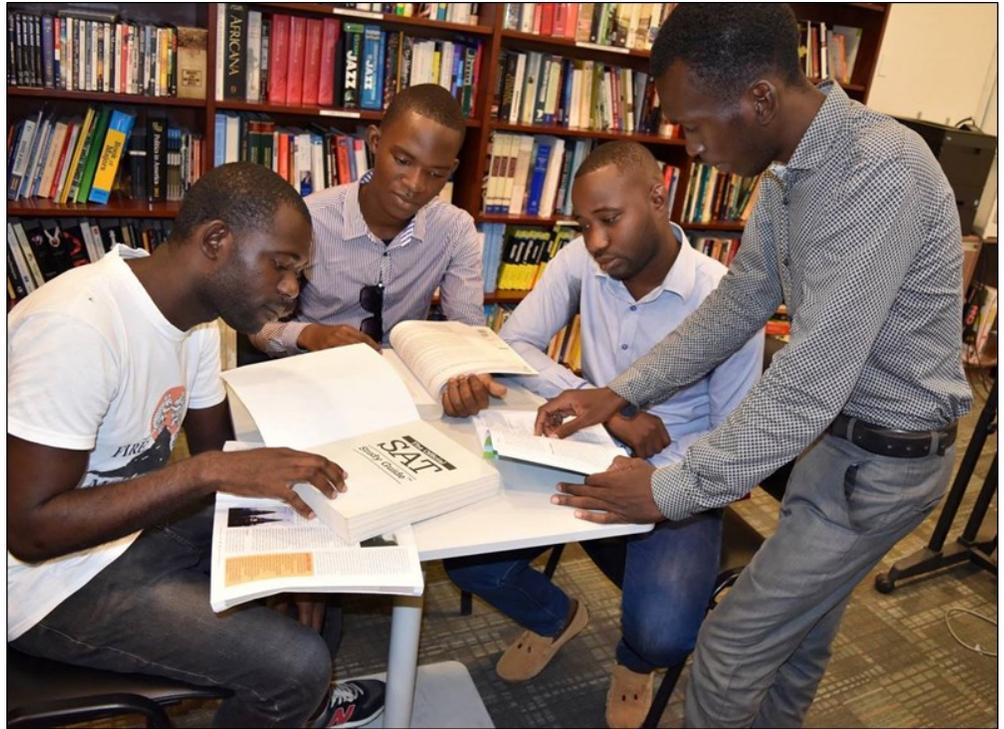
Embassy provides insight into U.S. universities

The U.S. Embassy in Luanda provides a wealth of information through its [EducationUSA Advising Center](#) to American citizens and others interested in pursuing higher education in the United States.

The center provides accurate, objective information and guidance to prospective students about accredited colleges and universities across the U.S. An adviser guides visitors through the processes of selecting institutions that suit their needs, applying for admission, seeking financial aid, and preparing for departure to the United States.

The resources are available to both U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents. All American citizens – even those who have never lived in the United States and those who are have dual citizenship with other countries – have the same privileges as other citizens when it comes to opportunities for higher education, according to the U.S. Embassy Education Advisor, Sadraque Vicente.

Importantly, admission officials at most U.S. universities value prospective students who have lived abroad because those students bring diverse experiences and perspectives to university communities, he said.



Prospective college students research U.S. universities and the schools' admissions requirements at the EducationUSA Advising Center within the U.S. Embassy in Luanda.

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Education: 5 pro tips for prospective students

“For admissions purposes, you usually are evaluated as international students, because admissions officers are assigned by geographical areas and have knowledge of the schools their applicants have attended,” Vicente said.

Similarly, U.S. students who live overseas are eligible for the same financial aid packages as other U.S. students, but there are five important considerations to keep in mind, he said.

1 U.S. citizens living overseas are entitled to fill out a form called the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#), to apply for grants, work-study programs, and loans. Those students should state clearly and repeatedly that they are U.S. citizens living abroad. The form is widely known as the FAFSA.

2 Generally, U.S. students living overseas cannot claim legal residence in any particular state, unless their parents have a residence and pay taxes in a particular state. As a result, U.S. citizens living overseas typically cannot apply for in-state tuition rates, even in states where they were born and lived several years when they were young.

3 The Free Application for Federal Student Aid application requires income tax information from students’ parents, if the students’ parents are U.S. citizens or U.S. green card holders, even if the parents live outside of the United States.

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Online assistance is just a click away

Useful information is available online about U.S. colleges and universities, and how to apply to them. Here are six important links:

EducationUSA — Explore the State Department’s site that offers accurate, comprehensive and current information about opportunities to study at institutions across the United States. www.educationusa.state.gov

Council for Higher Education Accreditation — Research whether higher education institutions and programs are accredited by recognized U.S. accrediting organizations. www.chea.org

SAT (formerly the Scholastic Assessment Test) — Get details about the standardized test that is used for admission to nearly all U.S. colleges and universities. The test measures reading, writing and math skills. www.collegeboard.org

Test of English as a Foreign Language — Learn about the widely accepted test that measures the English abilities of non-native English speakers who want to enroll at U.S. schools. www.ets.org/toefl

The Common Application — Find out how to use one application to apply to multiple U.S. schools. www.commonapp.org

Collegexpress — Tap into information about scholarships and financial-aid packages at hundreds of colleges. www.collegexpress.com

Education: U.S. schools seek overseas students

4 If the students' parents are not U.S. citizens or U.S. green card holders, they might not file U.S. tax returns, which makes it difficult to use the FAFSA. The form will require additional information from students in that group.

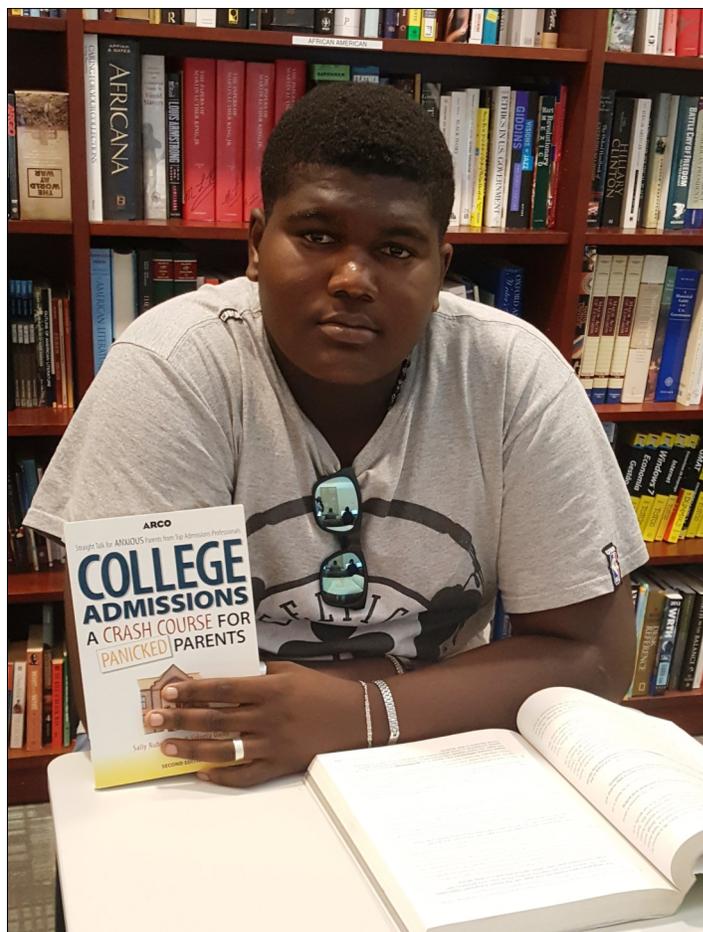
5 Students should print and keep a copy of their completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid applications, and wait until they receive an analysis back from the federal student aid board. They should send copies of the applications to the admissions and financial aid offices of the schools they are applying to, along with cover letters explaining the family's financial circumstances, so that school administrators can do their own analysis if they need to.

Vicente said U.S. students living abroad can apply to their dream schools where they may well face less competition for admission and financial aid than their counterparts who live in the United States.

Edymilson Semedo, 17, was born in Boston, but has lived in Angola since he was 3. He's interested in returning to the United States for college and he contacted the EducationUSA Advising Center to learn the process.

"I appreciated the information I learned, and I am now preparing myself to apply for scholarships in the U.S. I am also working hard to enhance my English language skills," he said.

Some universities bend over backwards for U.S. citizens abroad, because it is a good way for the schools to attract a diverse international population, Vicente said. However, prospective students must manage their application process carefully and be realistic about which universities to apply to, he said. Some students



Edymilson Semedo, 17, has lived in Angola for most of his life. Recently, he's hit the books at the U.S. Embassy to learn more about college admissions.

may need to take the [Test of English as a Foreign Language](#).

For more information about the EducationUSA Advising Center, visit www.educationusa.state.gov or send an email to PAInboxLuanda@state.gov.

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Consular contact information

Our American Citizen Services hours are from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, excluding holidays. For notaries and non-emergency passport services, make appointments via <https://ao.usembassy.gov/>. Here are other ways to reach us:

ConsularLuanda@state.gov

<https://ao.usembassy.gov/>

www.Facebook.com/USinLuanda

(244) 222-641-000, business hours

(244) 923-404-209, emergency after-hours

Embassy closure dates ahead

The U.S. Embassy closes for official U.S. and Angolan holidays. Here are the closure dates through April:

Dec. 25: Christmas Day

Jan. 1: New Year's Day

Jan. 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Feb. 4: Initiation of Armed Struggle

Feb. 18: Presidents Day

March 5: Carnival

March 8: International Women's Day.

April 4: Peace Day

April 19: Good Friday

Embassy wants to reach Americans during crises

The **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)** allows Americans to register with the U.S. Embassy when they travel overseas. The program provides embassy officers the means to reach Americans during emergencies abroad and in times of need for their families back home.

Americans should keep their contact information updated, since it may be the only way for them to be contacted during critical times. Travelers can enroll in the program and edit their information at <https://step.state.gov/step/> or at the U.S. Embassy.

Seeking suggestions for the newsletter's future editions

The AmCit newsletter is designed for American citizens who live and work in Angola. This edition's college education theme was suggested by a reader.

What topics would you like to know more about in future issues? How can we make this forum as useful as possible?

Email your ideas, questions, and suggestions to ACSLuanda@state.gov.