

CHAPTER 8

OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES

Much information is available to people in China who want to study in the United States. This chapter refers to many sources of that information under these headings:

- 8.1 World Wide Web Sites for People Wishing to Study in the U.S.A.
- 8.2 More Information for People Admitted to a U.S. College or University

8.1 World Wide Web Sites for People Wishing to Study in the U.S.A.

Many sites give information for people wishing to study in the United States. We provide links to relevant governmental sites and to the sites of NAFSA Global Partners. The Global Partners are organizations that support NAFSA's work in international educational exchange.

The United States Department of State has a *site concerning general aspects of study in the United States*, <http://educationusa.state.gov/>, and another *concerning visa procedures*, <http://www.unitedstatesvisas.gov/>.

These NAFSA Global Partners have sites with comprehensive information:

- *Hobsons*, www.hobsons.com/study_usa.shtml
- *Petersons*, www.petersons.com

Additional sites with information for prospective students can be found using search engines such as Google (www.google.com) or Yahoo (www.yahoo.com). Use search terms such as "studying in the USA," "studying in the United States," "study in the USA," and "study in the United States," "international student," and "international scholarships."

The *Educational Testing Service*, at <http://www.ets.org/choose.html>, gives information about the *standardized tests* most often required for admission to United States colleges and universities. These include the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT, for prospective undergraduate students), the Graduate Record Examination (GRE, for many prospective graduate students), the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT, for prospective graduate students in business fields), and the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

An increasing number of U.S. colleges and universities accept results from the *IELTS* (International English Language Testing System, at <http://www.ielts.org>) as an alternative to TOEFL results. U.S. colleges and universities that accept IELTS results will say so in the material they provide to applicants.

Applying for visa to study in the United States requires an application form, photographs, fees, and an interview at the U.S. consular post with jurisdiction over the part of China where you live. The web site of the U.S. embassy in Beijing, www.usembassy-china.org.cn, contains general information about applying for student visas in China. It has a map showing the jurisdiction of each U.S. consulate in China, and links to each consulate.

8.2 More Information for People Admitted to a U.S. College or University

Many web sites and several books give more information for people who have already been admitted to a U.S. school and want help with their preparations.

8.2.1 Helpful Web Sites

8.2.2 Helpful Books

8.2.1 Helpful Web Sites

- You have probably visited the web site of the *college or university you will attend*. If you have not, do so. The school has probably sent you its URL. You will want to visit the parts of the school's site related to admissions, your academic department, the international student office, housing, health services, recreation, counseling services, and the student newspaper.
- The *city or town where your school is located* may also have a site with information about the local area. Look for a site for the local *convention and visitor's bureau* and the local *newspaper*. Your school's web site may have links to all these. Otherwise you can find them using a search engine such as *google* (www.google.com) or *yahoo* (www.yahoo.com), entering the name of the city or town and the state where your school is located.
- Visit the site of your school's *Chinese Student Association (CSA)*, if there is one. Try locating it by (a) looking on your school's International Student Office web site for links to student organizations, (b), looking on your school's Student Activities Office site for links to student organizations, or (c) going to the *China News Digest* site at www.cnd.org and clicking on the directory of CSSAs (Chinese Student and Scholar Associations). From there, click on "U.S.A." and the name of the state where your school is located. If there is a CSA at your school, it might be linked to the CND site. (Some CSAs are not linked to the China News Digest site.)

The U.S. Department of State offers extensive *predeparture information* at <http://educationusa.state.gov/predeparture.htm>.

You can find other sites with predeparture information using search engines such as Google (www.google.com) and Yahoo (www.yahoo.com). Use search terms such as "studying in the USA," "studying in the United States," "study in the USA," and "study in the United States."

8.2.2 Helpful Books

Complete citations for each of these books are in the *references*, below. All these books are written without specialized vocabulary, so an intermediate-level reader of English can probably understand most of what they say.

American Ways: A Guide for Foreigners in the United States, written by an experienced foreign student adviser, gives a basic introduction to American culture.

The Art of Crossing Cultures combines information about American and other cultures with practical suggestions for coping with and learning from cultural differences.

Americans at Work: A Guide to the Can-Do People discusses typical American ideas and practices as found in places of work. Especially recommended for graduate assistants, post-doctoral fellows, interns, or others who will be in workplaces with Americans.

Culture Shock! U.S.A. is another introduction to American culture, somewhat more specific than *American Ways*.

The Yin and Yang of American Culture is a Korean-American's view of American culture as contrasted with Asian cultures. Readers from Asian countries besides Korea, including China, can learn from it.

Living in the U.S.A. addresses practical aspects of life in the United States, such as tipping, using telephones, using the transportation system, and so on.

Effective Study Skills is one of many available publications concerning study skills that have proven effective for students in American-style schools.