

1. SELECTING A COLLEGE. ACCREDITATION.

For admission to an American college, a Swedish student should have completed *gymnasieskolan*. (For further details on the U.S. system of education, read the attachment entitled "Higher Education in the United States.")

The academic year at U.S. colleges and universities generally begins in August or September, and you should start to apply at least one year before you want to begin your studies. Application deadlines vary greatly, but some are as early as November for enrollment the following autumn. A few schools have deadlines as late as July the same year.

Since there are approximately 3,500 accredited institutions of higher education in the U.S., you should be prepared to devote considerable time to selecting the right one. There are many important academic aspects to consider when choosing a school such as which subjects you want to study, entrance requirements, competitiveness and application deadlines, as well as practical ones such as location, the setting (urban or rural), climate, extracurricular activities, and the size of the school.

You need to consider the costs for an academic year. Both private and state institutions charge tuition and fees, which can range from \$4,000 - \$29,000 for an academic year. This is the cost just to attend a university. In addition, room and board (meals) will cost between \$4,000 - \$14,000. Private expenses including insurance coverage will amount to at least \$1,800. For one academic year (nine months) you will probably need from \$10,000 - \$45,000 to cover tuition and fees, room and board, and private expenses. Further, you have to calculate with travel costs.

In the United States, there is no central office authorizing the universities to operate. Instead, there are recognized accrediting organizations. *Högskoleverket* and *Centrala Studiestödsnämnden* (CSN) require that you attend a regionally accredited school. If you are planning to study for a complete undergraduate degree, and later need an evaluation of your degree here in Sweden, you should check with *Högskoleverket* before you leave for the United States.

In addition to the accreditation of the university, there are recognized organizations accrediting specific educational programs in fields such as Architecture, Business Administration, Engineering, Journalism, Nursing, and many others. This type of accreditation is called professional accreditation, and is especially important if you intend to earn a degree in those fields.

In summary:

- If you want to get the free Peterson's book, which you can use as a reference for addresses, information on tests required, costs, deadline dates, and general descriptions of the schools, send the Peterson's questionnaire to the Fulbright Commission (see instructions on front page).
- If you want information on your major subject, contact the Fulbright Commission.
- If you want to sign up to attend an information meeting, call the Fulbright Commission. The sessions are usually held on Wednesday mornings at 9:15.