

# GRADUATE STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES

## 留 美 之 路



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# Contents

## 目錄

PREFACE	
前言.....	1
SOME BASIC CONSIDERATIONS	
考慮留美的基本問題.....	3
APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOLS IN THE U.S.	
入學申請.....	17
OBTAINING A STUDENT PASSPORT	
申請留學護照.....	33
NONIMMIGRANT VISAS FOR STUDENT	
學生簽證.....	45
HOW TO ADJUST MORE EASILY	
留學生的生活適應.....	58

TOEFL : TEST OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE 托福考試.....	70
OTHER REQUIRED TESTS BESIDES TOEFL 托福以外的考試.....	81
HOW TO SOLVE HOUSING PROBLEMS 住的問題.....	95
PROBLEMS OF FOOD, TRANSPORTATION AND CLOTHING 食.衣.交通的問題.....	111
VACATION TIMES AND EMPLOYMENT 假期和工作問題.....	127
SOCIAL FUNCTIONS 社交問題.....	139

**The Foreign Student Adviser**  
外籍學生顧問..... 159

**Foreign Students Gain U.S.  
Technology Skills**  
外國學生在美國..... 169

## **留學生談母校**

**Ohio State University**  
俄亥俄州立大學 / 鄔達偉作 ..... 180

**University of California, Los Angeles**  
加州大學洛杉磯分校 / 李天任作 ..... 182

**University of Wisconsin — Madison**  
威斯康辛大學 / 劉思量作 ..... 186

**University of Iowa**  
愛荷華大學 / 熊耐柏作 ..... 89

**University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign** 伊利諾大學 / 吳美香作 ..... 192

**University of Texas, Arlington**  
德州大學阿靈頓校區／顏乃欣作 ..... 198

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**  
麻省理工學院／林晉祥作 ..... 204

**University of Georgia, Athens**  
喬治亞大學／洪瑞雲作 ..... 209

**Northwestern University**  
臨湖的西北大學／何東英作 ..... 213

**University of California, Riverside**  
加州大學河邊分校／方聖平作 ..... 216

**University of Tennessee, Knoxville**  
田納西大學——諾城校區／陳彰儀作 ..... 221

**Indiana University**  
印第安納大學／翁淑緣作 ..... 225

## 前 言

我國每年約有六千名大專畢業生赴美留學，他們啓程前的準備工作和抵美後的適應問題，是值得我們注意和關心的。

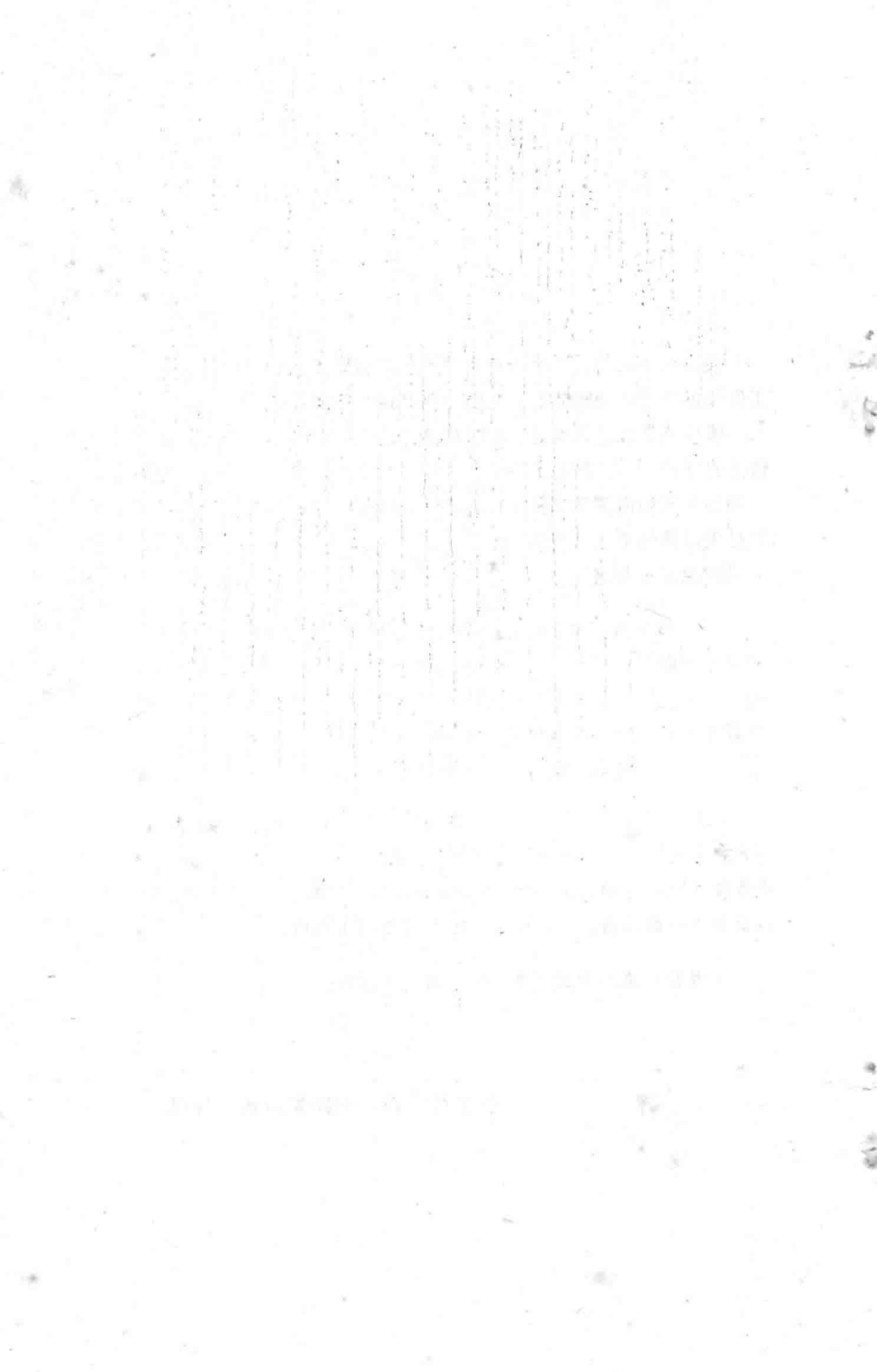
學生英文雜誌社本著一向服務讀者的宗旨，對這一項問題做了廣泛的探討，從第29卷7期起，連載了一系列的文章，從留美的基本問題，到如何選擇學校、如何申請入學、如何辦理護照及簽證，到赴美以後的求學、生活、工作、娛樂、社交等問題，都一一論列，可以說鉅細靡遺。

學生英文雜誌社刊登這一系列文章的目的，除了幫助有志留美的青年，做好心理上以及實質上的準備之外，對於暫時不準備留美的讀者，也可以從中比較中美兩國之間教育制度、學校生活、文化背景等差異，也是既有趣又有意義的學習。因此這一系列文章開始連載以來，極受讀者歡迎，紛紛要求出版單行本。

本系列文章的刊登以及單行本的出版，必須歸功於各位作者、譯者的辛勞，以及各機構熱心提供寶貴的資料，尤其感謝學術交流基金會 (Foundation for Scholarly Exchange) 的學生顧問以及美國在臺協會文化新聞組和旅遊服務組的資料。

本書若有錯誤疏漏之處，敬請讀者不吝賜正。

學生英文雜誌編輯委員會 謹識





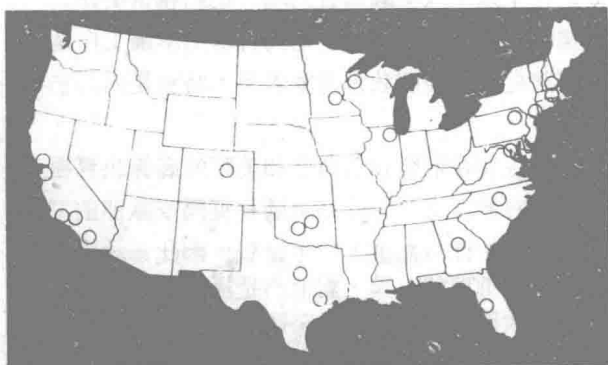
# SOME BASIC CONSIDERATIONS

## 考慮留美 的基本問題

守 旦 譯

*The following article has been adapted from a videotaped discussion on "American Higher Education and the Chinese Students" by Mrs. Julie Hu and Mr. Yau-de Wang, Student Advisors at the Foundation for Scholarly Exchange.*

此文係根據學術交流基金會學生顧問胡梅裘迪女士及王耀德先生共同擔任的錄影討論會「美國高等教育與中國留學生」改寫而成。



EVERY YEAR over 5,000 college graduates from the Republic of China go abroad to pursue further studies. Of these outbound students more than 90 per cent head for the United States. Whether or not they can succeed in their studies and enjoy their period abroad greatly depends upon the preparations they make prior to their departure. Such preparations should begin with an understanding of the American educational system, especially as it relates to the students from this country.

Superficially, the patterns and terminology of Chinese higher education are very similar to those of American higher education; the two systems outwardly appear closer than do the American and British or European systems. However, this similarity can be deceptive, and it is very helpful for both Chinese and Americans to keep in mind some important differences.

The first of these is the sheer number of universities and colleges in the United States. There are 3,055 postsecondary accredited institutions, 1,683 of which offer at least four years of education,

**每**年有五千名以上的中華民國大專畢業生出國留學。在這些遠渡重洋的學生中，百分之九十以上以美國為目的地。他們在留美期間是否能學業成功，生活愉快，大部份將取決於他們行前的準備工作是否完善。這類準備工作應該從了解美國教育制度着手，特別是因為它和我國留學生息息相關。

表面看來，我國的高等教育在形態和名稱上和美國的高等教育極為相像。在外表上這兩種教育制度之間似乎比美國和英國或歐洲的制度之間更為近似。然而這種相似性可能讓人產生錯覺，因此無論中國人或美國人，留意這中間一些重要的差異，對他們是極有幫助的。

首先要注意的是，美國大學的數量之多。美國經評鑑合格的大專以上院校總數達3055所，其中1683所提供四年以上的大學教育，再其



and of these, 800 offer graduate programs. In contrast, in the Republic of China there is a total of 101 institutions, 26 being four-year schools and 20 offering graduate programs.

The system of accreditation in the United States is also significantly different. Six private, regional accrediting associations and numerous professional and specialized associations are responsible for setting and maintaining academic standards for institutions and particular fields of study. The only role the federal government has in this process is to publish annually a list of all schools which have been accredited by one of the regional accrediting bodies. In the Republic of China, however, institutions of higher education are recognized by only one agency, the Ministry of Education. Here too, the Ministry controls the establishment and operation of all public and private education, whereas in the United States control is left almost entirely to each individual state. The federal government does, however, strongly influence institutions through a system of grants, their distribution often dependent upon the university's meeting certain conditions related to facilities and admission policies.

The number and quality of the students who can and do pursue higher education in the two countries is also a point of contrast. In the Republic of China only about 25 per cent of all those who take the annual nationwide entrance examination are admitted to a four-year university. In the United States, though there are some college entrance examinations which are very widely used, these are not the only criteria for admission. For example, some state universities are, by law, obligated to accept all high school graduates from their state. As a result, almost every high school graduate who wishes can find a place in a college, though he may not survive the first semester. United States undergraduates aren't, as a whole, the same elite group as their Chinese counterparts, though this is not necessarily the case in highly selective schools. Admission of

中的 800 所設有研究所課程。兩相比較，中華民國共有 101 所大專院校，其中 26 所為四年制大學及學院，20 所設有研究所課程。

美國的評鑑制度也有重大的不同點。六個私立的、區域性的評鑑會以及為數頗多的專業及專門協會負責為各高等教育和專門研究機構制定並監督維持其學術水準。在這過程中聯邦政府唯一的任務是每年將所有這些經過各地區評鑑機構甄別過的名單公佈出來。可是在中華民國，只有一個政府部門具有對高等學府的認定權，那就是教育部。我國教育部掌管所有公私立院校的設立和經營；而在美國，控制權限則幾乎全在各州。不過聯邦政府却可通過獎助的辦法，有力地影響各個院校。獎助金額的分配通常依各校是否符合某些有關設備和招生政策的條件而定。

另外可供比較的一點，是兩國可能接受和實際接受高等教育學生的質與量。在中華民國，每年參加全國大學及獨立學院聯招的全體考生中，只有大約百分之 25 得以錄取入學，而在美國，雖然也有些廣泛實施的大學入學考試，可是這類考試却不是入學的唯一標準。例如某些州立大學，依法律規定，對該州高中畢業生必須照單全收。如此則幾乎每位高中畢業生，只要有心要唸，就可進入大學，雖然他也許連一個學期也讀不下來。一

graduate students in both countries differs similarly, with an entrance examination again being practically the only criterion in the Republic of China.

Foreign students wishing to study at a Chinese university apply through the Ministry of Education. Foreign students applying for study in the United States, however, apply directly to the university. All schools share certain common requirements, yet each has its own timetable, detailed regulations, and admission forms. The only control by the government is in the issuance of student visas which, nevertheless, can be a decisive element in the process of admission.

For students who desire to study in the United States, two key factors should be considered: their English proficiency and the costs that will be involved. The first semester of school is usually a period full of frustration and discouragement for a Chinese student. Though better prepared in English than many other foreign students, they often have difficulty understanding lectures and presenting opinions. Overcoming these difficulties is an important factor in their becoming successful and happy with the experience. After arrival, frequent participation in student activities and off-campus informal gatherings will allow for more practice with English, as well as an opportunity to make friends and to better understand American culture. No students should waste time feeling ashamed about their English, for to expect to learn perfect English is unrealistic and may even worsen their problem. Research has shown that it is almost impossible for an adult to acquire a native speaker's proficiency in English. To "take it easy" is not only a good phrase to remember when depressed, but also a good motto to adopt when learning English. Before a student leaves Taiwan, he or she can practice by listening to English radio programs, reading aloud dialogues, and reciting short English arti-

般說來，美國大學生不是像我國大學生一樣屬於千挑百選的菁英。雖然在美國一些選擇性高的學校情形另當別論。兩國招收研究生的方式也同樣有所不同，在我國，仍然以入學考試為唯一的取捨標準。

有志來華留學的外籍學生一律向教育部申請，然而申請留美的外國學生却直接向各校辦理。所有學校都有某些共同的要求，但各校却有個別的日程表、規定細則和入學申請表格。美國政府的職權只在於發給學生簽證，不過這也是入學申請過程中重要的一環。

有志赴美留學的學生必須考慮兩個關鍵性的問題：英語程度和所需費用。中國學生入學後的第一學期往往滿懷挫折與氣鬱。雖然他們的英語比許多其他國籍的留學生好，他們在聽講和發表意見時也常感困難。這些問題的克服是他們留美經歷是否成功愉快的一項重要因素。他們到了學校以後若能經常參加學生活動和校外的社交聚會，就能多練習英語，也較有機會結交朋友和認識美國文化。學生們不應該為英語不夠好而害羞，反而浪費時間。想把英語學得完美無瑕是種不切實的期望，反而可能使問題更嚴重。研究結果證明，成年人想把英語學得像英美人那樣流利，是幾乎不可能的事。「別着急」不但是一句憂悶時應牢記的話，而且是學習英語時可以應用的座右銘。學生出國之前，可以用收聽英語廣

cles.

When taking financial problems into consideration the students must realize that attending school in the United States, including both tuition and living costs, can range from \$6,000 to \$ 10,000 per year. Generally, public universities in the south are the cheapest, and private east and west coast universities are the most expensive. For some students, especially those entering scientific or technical fields with excellent academic backgrounds and good proficiency in English, financial assistance from the university is possible. However, only about 10% of foreign students receive financial aid from a college or university; 64% rely on their own or family resources, and the rest are sponsored by their own government or have some other kind of financial aid.

After considering these factors a student desiring to study in the United States should make sure whether or not he or she meets the basic qualifications for study abroad. The most fundamental requirement of the R.O.C. government is that the applicant should be a graduate of a Ministry of Education—recognized college, either a junior college or a degree-granting institution. There have been cases where a student went through the whole application process and even obtained admission from a school only to discover that it wasn't possible to attend because this one requirement of the government had not been met.

The student should then become familiar with the other requirements that must eventually be met. The Ministry of Education issues a "Study Abroad Certificate" which is necessary in order to obtain a student passport and student visa. To qualify for this certificate, the student must be a college graduate, have proof of admission from a recognized foreign institution (an I-20 form), a score of at least 500 on the TOEFL, two letters of recommendation, proof of completion of military service, and evidence of attendance at a Study Abroad Orientation Class sponsored by the



播節目，大聲朗誦會話教材，背誦英語短文等方法多加練習。

在考慮經費問題時，學生必須了解，在美國就學的花費，包括學費和生活費用，可能高達每年六千到一萬美元。一般說來，南部的公立大學最便宜，東部和西部的私立大學最昂貴。部份學生，尤其成績優異英語流利的理工科生，有可能得到校方的獎助學金。然而也只有百分之十的外國學生能從學校獲得獎助，百分之六十四依靠自己或家庭的財源，其餘的學生則或由其本國政府獎助或經由其他的資助。

考慮過這些因素之後，有意赴美留學的學生還要弄清楚他是否符合留學的基本條件。我國政府最基本的限制，是申請者必須是教育部認可的大專院校畢業生。過去曾經發生過，學生歷經全部的申請程序，甚至還取得入學許可之後，才發現他因不符合政府的這一條限制而無法成行。

其次，學生還要了解將來需要符合的其他一些要求。教育部頒發一種「留學證明」，這是申請學生護照和學生簽證所需具備的。取得這種「留學證明」的條件，必須是大專畢業生，能證明已獲得經認可的國外學校的入學許可（I-20表），托福測驗成績 500 分以上，並要有兩封推薦函，退伍證明，並參加過教育部主辦的留學講習。由於這些規定有時會改變，最好還是直接向臺