

Top Ivy League Universities to Study in the USA

The full list of the eight private universities that make up the Ivy League. Listed alphabetically; this is not a ranking. Admission is highly selective at every one of them.

No.	Ivy League University	City, State	Founded	Known For	Official Website
1	Brown University	Providence, Rhode Island	1764	Open curriculum, sciences, humanities	brown.edu
2	Columbia University	New York, New York	1754	Engineering, journalism, business	columbia.edu
3	Cornell University	Ithaca, New York	1865	Engineering, hotel administration, agriculture	cornell.edu
4	Dartmouth College	Hanover, New Hampshire	1769	Undergraduate liberal arts, business	dartmouth.edu
5	Harvard University	Cambridge, Massachusetts	1636	Law, business, medicine, public policy	harvard.edu
6	Princeton University	Princeton, New Jersey	1746	Mathematics, economics, public policy	princeton.edu
7	University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	1740	Business (Wharton), nursing, engineering	upenn.edu
8	Yale University	New Haven, Connecticut	1701	Law, humanities, sciences	yale.edu

What Should I Check Before I Apply?

- **Financial aid:** several Ivy League universities meet the full demonstrated need of admitted international students. Policies differ, so read each university's current aid page for international applicants.
- **Tests:** a number of Ivy League universities require the SAT or ACT again. Check each testing policy for your application year.
- **Deadlines:** Early Decision or Early Action falls around November 1; Regular Decision around January 1–5. Plan your tests in Class 11.
- **Beyond the Ivy League:** MIT, Stanford, Caltech and the University of Chicago are private research universities too, but not Ivy League members. The right list starts from your profile, not a name.

Source: official university websites. The Ivy League has had the same eight members since the athletic conference was formed in 1954.

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Eligibility, costs and policies change over time. Universities decide admission and the US embassy or consulate decides visas. Checked September 2026.