

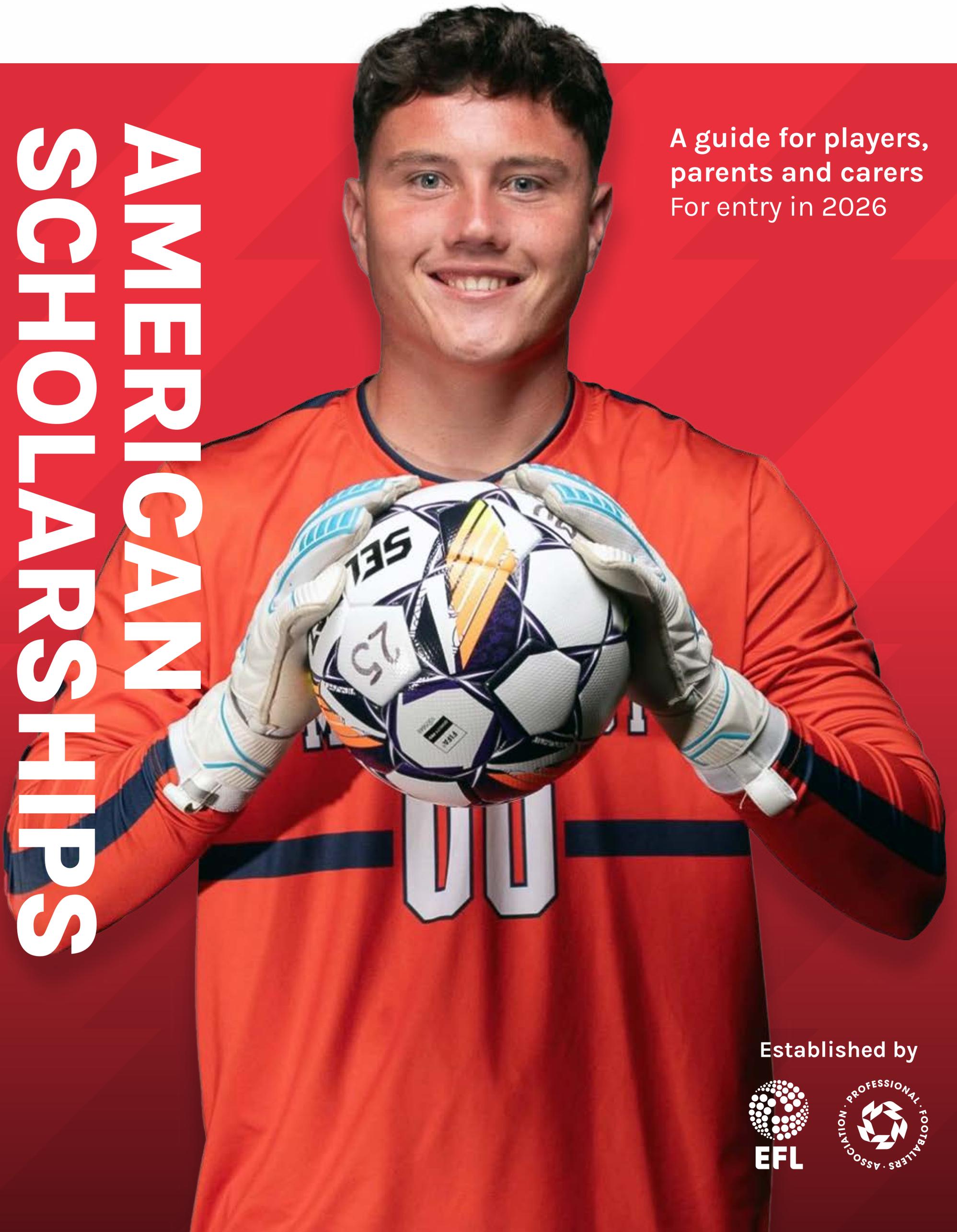


League  
Football  
Education

lfe.org.uk

# AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIPS

A guide for players,  
parents and carers  
For entry in 2026



Established by



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# THE SCHOLARSHIP JOURNEY

# DAY IN THE LIFE



# ELIGIBILITY

## Are you eligible to study in the USA?

Athletic associations govern college sports and set rules regarding scholarships and athletic recruitment. There are a number of associations that colleges or universities can join, most notably:



### National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

There are over 1200 member universities and colleges classified within three NCAA divisions (Divisions I and II being the most competitive). Athletic standards are high and the level of competition is intense. Only students with the very highest standard of ability tend to be recruited.

[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)



### National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)

There are around 350, mostly smaller colleges in the NAIA, organised by districts. Many NAIA colleges have excellent sports programmes and may offer some sports scholarships. The level of athletic ability is still high, although the standard is not set as high as for NCAA Division I teams.

[www.naia.org](http://www.naia.org)



### National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)

Member colleges are accredited two-year institutions. The NJCAA is comprised of two divisions. Division I colleges may offer full scholarships, whereas Division II do not offer scholarships.

[www.njcaa.org](http://www.njcaa.org)

# ELIGIBILITY



## Admissions Criteria

As a general rule, USA universities will expect to see a similar type of qualification and results as British universities of a similar level of prestige and competitiveness.

As a minimum requirement for four-year Bachelor's degrees, you should have completed at least five GCSEs at grade C/4 or above (or five Scottish Standard Grades), including English and Maths, plus be completing or have completed a post age 16 qualification. A small number of high ranking academic universities will require A-Levels for entry. Students aspiring to very high academic universities are recommended to research their individual requirements.

Certain universities in the states will prefer those that have completed their extended diploma.

## Academic Performance

Your academic abilities will be evaluated in the first instance by your GCSE results and or your predicted A-Level/BTEC results.

USA universities may use this Grade Point Average to help them form an opinion of an applicant's academic strength. Please note, if you are applying to go to the USA, Fulbright does not recommend converting your UK grades in to USA scores on your application. Your UK results should be submitted in their original format.

# ELIGIBILITY

## GCSEs and A-Level Results Converter

UK Numerical Grade	US Letter Grade	US Grade Point Average
7, 8, 9	A	4.0
5 or 6	B	3.0
4	C	2.0
1, 2 or 3	D	0

## Professional/Apprentice Eligibility

If looking to attend an NCAA governed university and you have been a professional footballer then you could still be eligible.

However, spending more than a year out of formal education or earning wages/bonuses above the set threshold will make you ineligible.

Completing your BTEC ensures you are eligible to go to university in America without 'topping up' your education.

# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

## Overview – The SAT Test

The SAT Test, also known as SAT Reasoning Test, is a standardised test for college admissions in the USA. The SAT is owned, published, and developed by the College Board, a non-profit organisation in the USA. The College Board claims the test can assess a student's readiness for college.

The current SAT test consists of two main sections (Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing), whilst there is also an optional essay which a small number of universities may also require.

**To register an account and book your seat for a test please visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)**

*Please note: Testing of English as a second language may also be required for apprentices who do not consider English to be their first language. In addition, the test often require candidates to use American spellings, language and grammar.*

## Overview – The ACT Test

The ACT test is another standardised test for college admissions in the USA. You can undertake this test instead of the SAT if you preferred, as both are equally reputable.

**To book onto an ACT Test, or to learn more about the ACT, please visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)**

## Study Material

[www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) is the college board recommended study material.

## SAT Test Dates

**8th November 2025**

*(Register by 24th October 2025)*

**6th December 2025**

*(Register by 21st November 2025)*

**14th March 2026**

*(Register by 27th February 2026)*

**2nd May 2025**

*(Register by 17th April 2026)*

**6th of June 2025**

*(Register by 22nd May 2026)*

## ACT Test Dates

**5th and 6th September 2025**

**17th and 18th October 2025**

**12th and 13th December 2025**

**6th and 7th February 2026**

**10th and 11th April 2026**

**12th and 13th June 2026**

**10th and 11th July 2026**

# SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

The process by which you could be considered for a sport scholarship can be a lengthy and complicated one. Unlike academic scholarships where you would simply submit an application indicating an interest in receiving funding to study at a university, students must engage in a highly-regulated recruitment process.

Sport scholarships are granted by the university or athletics association in which a university participates with athletic directors or coaches playing a central role in decision making.

Scholarships are often offered on a percentage basis (i.e. a 75% scholarship will cover 75% of the total cost of tuition fees for one year), and universities have strict limits on the total amount they can award each year. Therefore, a university may split a small number of large awards into a larger number of lesser-value awards. For example, a university that has three 100% scholarships to offer per year may split them up to award six 50% scholarships to twice the number of student-athletes.



For more information on funding options, please visit Undergraduate Study in the USA - Finances section on [www.fulbright.org.uk](http://www.fulbright.org.uk) or [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

# SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

## How to get a Scholarship - The DIY Scholarship

Although it may be preferable to receive expert support when seeking a USA Scholarship, the 'do-it-yourself' approach is a viable option. To get started, you may wish to follow the steps outlined below:

**1** Visit the NCAA website ([www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)), or one of the other athletic associations mentioned earlier, to view both the list of universities offering your sport at the varsity level and the eligibility rules for being considered for a sport scholarship at their member universities.

**2** Compile a list of contact information for the coaches at each university in which you are interested.

**3** Draft a CV that includes, academic, personal and football accomplishments. Be sure to include teams played for, number of years, tournament/league results and or records held. Make sure to include some football video footage/highlights. **You can request a template of this type of CV from LFE's Anthony Cato via email: [acato@lfe.org.uk](mailto:acato@lfe.org.uk)**

**4** Write a letter/personal statement to the relevant coach at each institution that explains both your academic and athletic abilities in terms that can be identified by him or her.

**5** Register with the appropriate Eligibility Center. This is an agency that provides initial eligibility certification for prospective athletes, but is not a placement agency. It provides initial eligibility certification results to colleges/universities that request the information.

**For any further information, advice and guidance regarding eligibility and the process in general, please contact LFE Transition Officer [acato@lfe.org.uk](mailto:acato@lfe.org.uk)**

**6** You should receive responses from universities within a few weeks. Some may invite you to submit a video of you participating in your sport, others may send a recruiter to see you in action for your club or invite you to visit their university.

# SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

League Football Education is delighted to announce it has partnered with both U.S Sports Scholarships and Varsity Nine to provide apprentices with unique opportunities to continue their playing careers, whilst studying a degree overseas.

“It was vitally important for us to bring the expertise of both U.S Sports Scholarships and Varsity Nine on board to facilitate this transition route for those who intend to continue their playing experience while also gaining an education over in the States. We look forward to working closely with the organisations and helping to offer unique and exciting opportunities for our apprentices.”



# STUDENT-ATHLETE SEASON



## **JANUARY - MAY**

Off-season - Training every day and out of conference games regularly



## **JUNE AND JULY**

Summer leagues (e.g. USL 2) for best college players



## **AUGUST**

Pre-season



## **SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER**

Conference Games



## **END OF OCTOBER**

Playoff Games (qualification dependent)



## **NOVEMBER**

Season End (depending on national tournament progress)



## **DECEMBER**

Fly home

# PFA CHARITY GRANTS



The PFA provide grant aid for a variety of courses to help all members and ex-members of The PFA prepare for a second career.

Members studying at university outside the UK can receive a £1,250 bursary per year of study.

You will need to apply for this bursary at the start of the academic year by contacting the PFA Personal Development Department.

Tel: (+44) 0330 236 8850

Email: [personaldevelopment@thepfa.com](mailto:personaldevelopment@thepfa.com)

PFA Manchester  
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# STORIES FROM THE STATES

Take a look behind the scenes  
look at a typical day in the life  
of a D1 college football athlete  
in America.

# USEFUL WEBSITES

## College Board

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

Provides information tips on dates and fees, online registration, SAT test preparation etc.

## The ACT

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

An alternative to the SAT test.

## NCAA Eligibility Center

[www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)

This agency provides initial eligibility certification for prospective NCAA athletes. It provides initial eligibility certification results to colleges/universities that request the information.

## NAIA Eligibility Center

[www.playnaia.org](http://www.playnaia.org)



## Supported by



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