



United States Student Achievers Program 2012 Application Form

There are many talented economically-disadvantaged students in Nigeria who lack only financial resources and access to information to enhance their educational opportunities.

For the fifth year, the United States Embassy in Nigeria seeks to identify highly academically qualified and motivated, low-income, SS 3 “O” level students to join the United States Student Achievers Program (USAP). USAP works with students through regularly scheduled meetings and seminars to assist them throughout the application process to secure admission and scholarships to study in colleges and universities in the United States of America. USAP finances the costs of the application process and provides free membership to the US Educational Advising Center for its participants. Although we do not limit the program geographically, students **MUST** be able to appear in person at our Abuja office on a regular basis during the school year. In addition, full participation is required during school holidays and after O level exams. The SS 3 students will work with our educational advising staff to attempt to secure placement and financial assistance to begin study in the US in August 2013. **ENTRY INTO THIS PROGRAM IS NO GUARANTEE OF A SCHOLARSHIP OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES.**

To apply to USAP, you must currently be a highly determined and hardworking SS 3 student who has or will write "O" level examinations in 2012. Applicants must have a strong academic and co-curricular record as well as demonstrated financial need. For consideration, please complete and return this application form via mail or in person with the required documents listed, no later than **May 30, 2012**.

Mailing Address:
*Educational Advising Center
US Embassy Public Affairs Section
PO Box 5760 Garki
Abuja, Nigeria*

Physical Address:
*US Embassy Public Affairs Section
Plot 1075 Diplomatic Drive
Abuja
Tel: 09-4614241; Fax: 09-4614334; email: adebayoso@state.gov or shadebayo@yahoo.com*

Photocopies of this form are acceptable. Please complete this application form fully, providing as much information as possible about yourself, your ambitions, your family background, and your academic and co-curricular record. Should your application be successful, we will contact the schools during the second term and invite finalists for interviews.

Read directions carefully: It is essential that you attach to your application the following documents:

- 1) A photocopy of your "O" level certificate(s) or of your "O" level results slip(s) stamped by your current school. Include mock results if applicable.
- 2) A letter of recommendation from one a teacher, headmaster, pastor or community leader who knows you well and can attest to your character and skills.
- 3) A copy of your end-of-year report from your SS 2 year and, if possible, your first term report from SS 3.
- 4) Two written essays, one from Group A and one from Group B. Essays should be at least one page:
(See next page for continuation of instructions)

Group A – Choose one only

College and university officials in the United States are interested in learning and knowing about you, both inside and outside the classroom. Use this essay as an opportunity to reflect on who you are, how you think and what's important to you. It is important that your essay gives a clear description of you; the reader is not looking for the most dramatic tale. Therefore, it is essential that all experiences related in these essays are a **true factual** and accurate depiction of your life.

A1. To what extent and how does your culture, language and tradition shape you as a person? In a world that is a mixed salad of cultures, how can you preserve your own culture while learning to respect others? How will you handle negative stereotypes and ignorance about your country and culture?

A2. Describe a situation where you and your opinion were in the minority. How did you make yourself heard and how did you deal with the response to your decision or opinion? What can you learn from this experience and how can you apply the experience to your future? (Please tell a true experience from your own life.)

A3. Explain a risk that you have taken that has influenced your life greatly, either positively or negatively. What have you learned about yourself and about risk taking from this experience?

Group B – Choose one only

No matter whether you have studied science, commercial or arts subjects at O' levels, if you attend a U.S. college or university you will be exposed and required take a wide variety of subjects from the humanities, social sciences, and pure sciences. With liberal arts education in mind, please answer one of the following questions to show us your intellectual strengths.

B1. "Rigorous reasoning is crucial in mathematics, and insight plays an important secondary role these days. In the natural sciences, I would say that the order of these two virtues is reversed. Rigor is, of course, very important. But the most important value is insight – insight into the workings of the world. It may be because there is another guarantor of correctness in the sciences, namely, the empirical evidence from observation and experiments"

B2. "Stereotyped beliefs have the power to become self-fulfilling prophesies for behavior"

B3. What is the greatest scientific discovery so far in the history of humankind? Describe its positive and potentially negative impact to justify your choice. Now if you could make one scientific discovery in your life, what discovery would you want to make and why?

B4. "Literature is the best way to overcome death. My father, as I said, is an actor. He's the happiest man on earth when he's performing, but when the show is over, he's sad and troubled. I wish he could live in the eternal present, live in the present and to remain in the pantheon of the future. Literature is a way to say, I was here, this is what I thought, this is what I perceived. This is my signature, this is my name."

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Personal Information:

Name:

Home address where you reside when not at school:

Contact telephone(s) (required):

Email address, if any:

Birth date:

Gender:

Mother's current occupation, workplace and telephone number:

Father's current occupation, workplace and telephone number:

If parents are deceased, state name, relationship and occupation of your guardian:

Number of siblings:

Number of dependent people living with your family:

Church/Religion, if any:

Amount of your "O" level school fees (inclusive of boarding fees, if applicable) paid per term:

Who currently pays for your school fees? Are you on any bursary?

For those from outside of Abuja only:

If you are from outside of Abuja, do you have someone you can stay with in Abuja during the holidays and after your O level exams? Please state person's name, relationship, and physical address:

If accepted, how will you finance transport to come to Abuja at least monthly during the school term for USAP meetings?

Academic Information:

"O" Level School Name and Mailing Address:

"O" Level School telephone number:

Principals' Name:

"O" Level Subjects you are taking. Please circle your strongest subject:

List below all schools you have attended and which grades/forms you did at each school:

<u>School</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Grades/Forms Completed</u>
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1.

2.

3.

4.

List the extra-curricular clubs, sports and activities that you participate in at high school and in your community and/or church. Circle the one to which you devote the most time and energy.

Please describe which one of these activities has the most meaning for you and why.

Short Answer Questions:

Feel free to use the back of this sheet or additional paper if the space is insufficient.

What do you hope to study at university? What is your planned career? Feel free to mention more than one potential field of study and career path. US education offers many new opportunities, so think widely.

List all prizes, honors or awards you have received during secondary and high school.

What else should we know about your background, your family and your financial condition? Feel free to use an extra sheet of paper if this space is too small.

Selection for USAP is very keen. Why should we select you over other highly-qualified Nigerian students? What makes you unique?

Dream a little. What impact do you want to make on the future of Nigeria? Assuming that you will return home after completing your studies in the USA, how will you contribute positively to your home community and country?

Thank you for applying for the USAP program. We look forward to reviewing your application!

USAP 2012 Application Deadline: May 30, 2012.