



United States Student Achievers Program (USAP) 2015 Application Form

The United States Achievers Program is for determined, talented and economically-disadvantaged Nigerian students who lack financial resources and access to information. For the 9th year, EducationUSA Advising Centers in Nigeria are rigorously seeking to identify academically qualified and motivated, low-income, secondary school leavers to join the United States Achievers Program (USAP). USAP's mission is to assist these highly-talented and economically-disadvantaged high school students to negotiate the admissions and financial aid process for colleges and universities in the United States. The ultimate goal is to produce widely-educated leaders to build tomorrow's Nigeria. The Nigerian USAPers will be part of a global network of USAP students from 17 countries and four continents. Presently, Nigeria has several students studying at highly competitive institutions. USAP program finances costs of the application process, including registration fees for required standardized examinations and provides free membership to the EducationUSA Advising Center. In turn, USAP expect students to give back their energy and time to the program and to their communities.

USAP applicants are welcome from all the States in Nigeria. However, students must be able to reach our offices in Lagos or Abuja on a monthly basis during the admission process. ***ENTRANCE INTO THIS PROGRAM IS NO GUARANTEE OF A SCHOLARSHIP OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES.***

To apply to USAP, you **must** be a highly-determined and hardworking student with WAEC results from 2014 or 2015. To be eligible for consideration, you must have a **VERY** strong academic record, be actively involved in co-curricular and leadership activities and have a strong record of giving back to community. You must also demonstrate financial need that your family would not be capable of financing the U.S. application process on their own. Please complete this application form and return it by post or in person to the office no later than **Friday, 15th of May, 2015** to the address below. Kindly attach all required documents listed at the end of the application form.

Abuja

Mailing Address:

EducationUSA Advising Center
U.S. Embassy
P.O. Box 5760 Garki
Abuja, Nigeria

Physical Address:

U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section
Plot 1075 Diplomatic Drive,
Abuja
Tel: 09-4614241; Fax: 09-4614334
E-mail: adebayosx@state.gov or shadebayo@yahoo.com

Lagos

Mailing Address:

EducationUSA Advising Center
Public Affairs Section
U.S. Consulate General, Lagos
Tel: 01-4603801; 01- 4603803
E-mail: anyigbom@state.gov or uwadilekecn@state.gov

Physical Address:

Educational Advising Center
Public Affairs Section
U.S. Consulate General
2, Walter Carrington Crescent,
Victoria Island, Lagos

Please complete this application form fully, providing us with as much information as you can about yourself, your dreams and ambitions; your family background and your academic and co-curricular activities. Please send all parts of our application together at one time to ensure that your application is complete and includes contact information for you. We cannot consider incomplete applications. **Because of the high volume of applications received, we can ONLY respond individually to those who are successfully selected to participate in the program.**

USAP 2015 Application Deadline: May 15th, 2015

Read directions carefully: It is essential that you attach to your application the documents listed below. Please do not send originals of certificates or reports as we cannot guarantee the return of any documents to unsuccessful candidates. Please send completed application and attachments together.

Attach to this application the following documents:

- 1) A **photocopy** of your WAEC results (from WAEC website). Include Cambridge A'Level results if applicable.
- 2) Request a teacher or your school principal to complete the attached letter of recommendation form, attesting to your character, talent and skills. Please do not include a basic testimonial that does not talk about you as an individual.
- 3) A copy of **your transcript from JS1 to SS3.**

4) Write two essays, one from Group A and one from Group B, each of about 250 – 500 words:

Group A – Choose one only

Colleges and universities in the United States want to get to know you as a person, both in and out of the classroom. Use this essay as an opportunity to let us get to know you, how you think and what's important to you. As we want to get to know you as an individual and not look for the most dramatic tale, is essential that all experiences related in these essays be a true and accurate depiction of your life.

A1. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?

A2. Tell us about a significant situation where you were at the horns of ethical dilemma. Describe the situation, the outcomes and how it molded you into the person you are today.

A3. There is a Quaker saying: “*Let your life speak.*” Describe the environment in which you were raised-your family, home, neighborhood, or community-and how it influenced the person you are today.

A4. “Applying to the US is not a 100m sprint; it is a marathon that requires tenacity.” Tell us about a situation in which you have consistently applied yourself despite setbacks.

Group B – Choose one only

Whether you are a science, commercial or arts student in secondary school, if you attend college or university in the US, you will be exposed to and will take a wide variety of subjects from the humanities, social sciences, and pure sciences. With this liberal arts educational philosophy in mind, please answer one of the following questions to demonstrate your intellectual strengths.

B1. “*There is no place for secrets in modern society.*” Using evidence from your studies, your knowledge of current and past affairs and your experiences in Nigeria, write a paper agreeing or disagreeing with this statement.

B2. America is often termed ‘a melting pot’ and the American society is often termed to be one of diversity. How would you define diversity and what is its role in our global society. What are the challenges that come with diversity?

B3. Nigerian Universities are often on strike. What do you think are the best ways to address the problems facing Nigeria’s current educational system?

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USAP 2015 Application Form

Personal Information:

1. Full name (first name(s) followed by family name):

2. What name do you prefer to be called?

3. Address where you reside when not at school:

4. Contact telephone(s) (**required**):
5. Email address, if any:

6. Date of Birth (Month, day, & year):
7. Gender:

8. Mother's current occupation and workplace, if living (Be specific, even if self-employed):

9. Father's current occupation and workplace, if living (Be specific, even if self-employed):

10. If parents are deceased, state name, relationship to you, occupation/workplace of your legal guardian:

11. Number of direct siblings, their ages, and for each one, state whether or not they are in school, which school and in what grade or form or level. :

12. Number of other dependent people currently living with and supported by your family and their relationships to you:

13. How much was your school fees in Secondary School (inclusive of boarding fees) for the 2013 school year:

14. Who paid your school fees?

15. If your fees are paid by a relative other than your parents, how many other children's fees are paid for by this same person? Do you live with this relative?

16. Have you or your siblings ever missed a significant part of a school term(s) because of finances? IF so, please explain.

Questions 17 is for those from outside of Lagos and Abuja area only:

17. If you live far from Lagos and Abuja, do you have someone you can stay with in Lagos or Abuja when you are attending USAP meetings or SAT exam? Please state person's name, relationship to you, physical address and contact telephone number:

18. What else should we know about your economic and personal background, your family and your financial situation? Feel free to use the back or an extra sheet of paper if this space is too small so we can truly understand your situation.

Academic and School Information:

19. Secondary School Name and Mailing Address:

20. Principal's Name, cell number and email address

21. List all extra-curricular clubs, sports and activities that you participate or have participated in at high school and in your community and/or church in order of importance to you. Circle the **one** to which you devote the most time and energy.

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

23. What, if any, is the most important academic prize or honor you have been awarded?

24. Do you hold any leadership positions at school? Please list them here and in which forms you held these positions (i.e., prefect, Head girl/boy, President/Secretary of a Club, Captain of a team, etc) Circle the most important leadership position you have held.

Short Answer Questions:

Feel free to use the back of this sheet or additional paper if the space is insufficient. We want to get to know you well through these questions so take time to answer them honestly and fully.

25. What do you hope to study at university? What is your planned career(s) and why? How did you develop your interest in these chosen field(s) of study and career path(s)?

26. **Outside of your planned career and study path**, what are your other academic or other passions? What skills do you hope to master or what do you simply have a burning desire to know more about?

27. USAP is more of a family than merely access to colleges that could offer you a scholarship. In what ways will you contribute to the USAP family?

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

USAP 2015 Application Recommendation Form

_____ is a student applying to be a participant in the United States Student Achievers Program. USAP's mission is to assist highly-talented and determined, economically-disadvantaged Advanced Level students to negotiate and finance the admissions process for colleges and universities in the United States with the aim of producing highly-skilled and widely-educated leaders to build tomorrow's Nigeria. We are asking you to take a moment to comment on his/her suitability for the program by completing this form and returning it the student to attach to his/her USAP application. Applications are due to the EducationUSA Advising Centers in Lagos or Abuja by May 15, 2015.

To be completed by the recommender:

Name:

Title/Role:

School/Organization:

Contact Email and/or Telephone Number:

For how long and in what context have you known this student?