



United States Student Achievers Program (USAP) 2016 Application Form

There are many determined and talented, economically-disadvantaged students in Zimbabwe who lack only financial resources and access to information to better their educational futures. The United States Student Achievers Program (USAP) seeks to identify highly academically qualified and motivated, low income, Upper Sixth "A" level students in Zimbabwe. 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 Zimbabwe. USAP works closely with students through regularly scheduled meetings and seminars to assist them throughout the application process to secure admission and scholarships for colleges and universities in the United States and in other international scholarship programs. USAP finances all costs of the application process, including registration fees for required standardized examinations and provides free membership to the EducationUSA Advising Center for its participants. USAP expects a sincere commitment of students to give back their energy and time to the program and to their communities and to be the best they can be.

We do not limit the program geographically; however, students must be able to reach locations in Harare or Bulawayo during school holidays and after A level exams, to take standardized exams and for full participation. Successful USAP participants will work on their application process to secure places and financial assistance to begin study in the US in August 2017. **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 currently be a highly-determined and hardworking Upper Sixth student who is currently in school and who will write either ZIMSEC or Cambridge "A" level examinations in 2016. You will be disqualified if you wrote your A Level exams in 2015 or earlier. 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 proven ethos of giving back to community. You must also demonstrate financial need; that your family would not be capable of financing the US application process on your own. Please complete this application form; return it together with the required documents listed at the end of the application form by SWIFT, email, fax, post or in person, to reach our offices no later than **Friday, February 26, 2016 to:**

Harare

EducationUSA – US Embassy PAS
Eastgate Building, Gold Bridge, 7th Fl
Corner 3rd St and R. Mugabe, Harare
Tel: 758800/14/5; Fax: 758804;
Email harare@educationusa.info

Gweru

American Center
Gweru Memorial Library
8th St and Lobengula, Gweru
Tel: 054-222628
gweru@educationusa.info

Bulawayo

American Corner
Bulawayo Public Library
Fort & 8th Streets, Bulawayo
Tel: 09-882989
Bulawayo@educationusa.info

Mutare

American Corner
Turner Memorial Library
Civic Center, Mutare
Tel: 020-602925
Mutare@educationusa.info

Any qualified U6 student is welcome to apply. Photocopies of this form **are** perfectly acceptable. We want to get to know you as well as possible. Please complete this application form fully, providing us as much information as you can about yourself, your dreams and ambitions, your family background and your academic and co-curricular record. Use additional paper as necessary. Please send all parts of our application together at one time to ensure that your application is complete and includes as much contact information for you as possible. 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 2016 Application Deadline: Friday, February 26, 2016

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 the completed application and attachments together. Feel free to attach paper or write on the back where you do not have sufficient space to answer the questions on this form.

Attach to this application the following documents:

1) A clear **photocopy** of your “O” level ZIMSEC and/or Cambridge IGCSE results slip(s) stamped by your current school. Include Cambridge AS results if you wrote them.

2) A maximum of two **letters of recommendation** form attesting to your character, talent and skills completed by a teacher, school administrator, priest/pastor or NGO or community leader who knows you well, either typed or handwritten. Please do not include a basic testimonial that does not talk about you as an individual.

3) A clear photocopy of **all L6 level school** reports from 2015 (required) and Form 3-4 reports for 2013-4 (recommended).

DO NOT ATTACH ORIGINAL COPIES.

Write one essay from Section A and one essay from Section B, each of about 300 – 600 words:

Colleges and universities in the United States want to get to know you as a person, both in and out of the classroom. Use these essays as an opportunity to let us get to know you personally, how you think and what’s important to you. Whether you are studying science, commercial or arts subjects at A level, 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 demonstrate your intellectual strengths and curiosity. As we want to get to know you as an individual and not look for the most dramatic tale, it is essential that all experiences related in these essays be a true and accurate depiction of your life and that you write them yourself without the aid of teachers or peers.

Section A – Choose One Topic

1. The nineteenth century philosopher John Stuart Mills once wrote “One person with a belief is equal to a force of 99 who only have interests.” Tell us about one of your **beliefs** – how you came to it, why you hold onto it, what has challenged it, and what you imagine its influence will be on your education and future.
2. “Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.” – Albert Einstein
Describe your most interesting **mistake**.
3. The driving force behind some of the greatest discoveries of the modern age was once dismissed as myth or as infeasible. We live in an age of entrepreneurs and start-ups where **innovation** is valued. Close your eyes and picture yourself in 15 years. You have come up with an idea that you think will transform people’s lives or world view. Describe your idea and the steps you will take to making it a reality.

Section B – Choose One Topic

4. 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.
5. “Each life converges to some center, expressed or still; exists in every human nature, a goal”- Emily Dickinson. What do you understand to be the **goal** of your life and why?
6. **Topic of your choice:** In the spirit of adventure and positive risk, pose an essay question of your own and answer it. Draw on your best qualities as a thinker, visionary, social critic, writer, or future citizen of the global USAP village. Take a risk and have fun with it - we look forward to reading what you come up with.

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USAP 2016 Application Form

Personal Information:

1. Full name (first name(s) followed by family name):
2. What name do you prefer to be called?
3. Gender:
3. Address where you reside when not at school:
4. Contact telephone(s) (**required**):
5. Email address:
6. Date of Birth (Month, day, year):
7. Facebook Account Name?
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 the person whom you live with:
11. Number of direct siblings and ages. For each, state whether they live with you, whether they are in school, which school and in what grade/form or level. :
12. Number of other dependent people currently living with and supported by your family and their relationships to you:
13. Amount of your "A" level school fees (inclusive of all top-up fees and levies and boarding fees) for first term in 2015:
14. Who currently pays for your school fees? Are you on any bursary/scholarship? If so, how much does the bursary cover?
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 more than a week or two of school because of finances? IF so, please explain.

17. Which EducationUSA advising center is the easiest for you to access? (Harare, Bulawayo, Mutare, Gweru)?

17 a. If you live far from Harare, do you have someone you can stay with in Harare during school holidays when you are attending USAP meetings, SAT exams and courses? Please state person's name, relationship to you, address and contact telephone number:

18. What else should we know about your economic and personal background, your family and your financial situation? Please use the back of this paper or an extra sheet to answer this question so we can truly understand your financial situation.

Academic and School Information:

19. "A" Level School Name and Mailing Address:

20. "A" Level School telephone number(s):

21. Headmaster/Headmistress' name, cell number and email address:

Deputy Headmaster/Headmistress' name, cell number and email address:

22. "A" Level Subjects you are taking. Please circle your favorite subject. Underline the subject you find most challenging.

Which subject that you dropped after O Level do you miss the most? Why?

23. Are you taking ZIMSEC exams, Cambridge exams or both? When are you writing exams (June and/or November 2016)?

24. 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>	<u>Reason for leaving the school</u>
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I.

II.

III.

25. List all extra-curricular clubs, sports and activities that you participate or have participated in at high school, in your community and/or church in order of importance to you. Indicate how many hours a week you devote to each. **If you want to give us a sample of your talents, feel free to attach evidence (ie copy of award, photo, poem, drawing, musical recording, etc).** *We regret that we cannot return materials sent to us.*

26. Please describe which one of these activities is the most important to you and why.

27. What is the most important academic honor/prize you have been awarded?

28. Describe how you have demonstrated leadership in and out of school. If you hold any leadership positions, list them.

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.

29. 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)?

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

31. How has your family background affected the way you see the world?

32. If you do not get the opportunity to be a USAP student, what are your plans for the next five years?

33. Complete these sentences as they best fit you and your uniqueness....

- a. I can't live without....

- b. An odd thing you should know about me is....

- c. Two words my best friend would use to describe me are....

- d. My favorite source of inspiration is...

34. What do you think is the single most important societal problem facing Zimbabwe? Why?

35. USAP is more of a family than merely access to colleges that could offer you a scholarship. **What qualities do you bring to this diverse but talented family of dreamers?**

36. "Death is something inevitable. When a man has done what he considers to be his duty to his people and his country, he can rest in peace." -- Nelson Mandela. What do you consider to be your duty to your people and your country?

37. Reflecting on your high school years, what would you do differently if given a second chance to relive them?

38. What is one concrete action you have taken to make your community a better place?

39. Take a moment to read through your USAP application. What do you think is the tiny spark that will ignite your acceptance/birth into the USAP family?

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



USAP 2016 Application Recommendation Form

_____ is an U6 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 Zimbabwe. We are asking you to take a moment to comment on his/her suitability for the program by completing this form and returning it to the student to attach to his/her USAP application. **Applications are due to the EducationUSA Advising Centers in Harare, Gweru, Mutare or Bulawayo by Friday, February 26, 2016.**

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?

What are the first words that come to mind when you think of this student?

Please evaluate this student against the following USAP selection criteria:

Academic Excellence –

Demonstrated Leadership Potential –

Ethos of Giving Back –

Economic Disadvantage –

Feel free to use this space, the back of this paper or a separate letter for your additional comments about the accomplishments and potential of this student and their suitability for the USAP program.