



United States Student Achievers Program (USAP) 2009 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. For the tenth year, the United States Embassy seeks to identify highly academically qualified and motivated, low-income, Upper Sixth "A" level students in Zimbabwe to join the United States Student Achievers Program (USAP). 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. USAP finances all costs of the application process, including registration fees for required standardized examinations and provides free membership to the US Educational 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.

Although we do not limit the program geographically, students **MUST** be able to reach our offices in Harare on a monthly basis during the school year, throughout school holidays, and after A level exams, for full participation. Upper Sixth students will work with our educational advising staff over this year and the next year to try to secure places and financial assistance to begin study in the US in August 2010. ***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 will write either ZIMSEC or Cambridge "A" level examinations in November 2009. To be eligible for consideration, you must have a **VERY** strong academic record and be actively involved in co-curricular, leadership and community activities. 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 **Monday, April 20, 2009 to:**

Physical Address:

*US Embassy Educational Advising Center
Eastgate Mall, Gold Bridge, 7th Floor
Corner 3rd St and R. Mugabe, Harare
Tel: 758800/14/5; Fax: 758804; email amaimano@usapglobal.org or useaczim2@gmail.com*

Mailing Address:

*US Embassy Educational Advising Center
PO Box 4010, Harare*

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. Please send all parts of our application together at one time to ensure that your application is complete and has 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 2009 Application Deadline: Monday, April 20, 2009

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.

Include the Following Documents:

- 1) A **photocopy** of your ZIMSEC “O” level results slip(s) stamped by your current school. Include Cambridge IGCSE or AS results if applicable.
- 2) A full letter of recommendation attesting to your character, talent and skills by a teacher, headmaster, 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 copy of **all A level school** reports that you have from 2008 and 2009, including those from Lower Six and if available, a first term report from Upper Six.
- 4) Write two essays, one from Group A and one from Group B, each of at least one page:

Group A – Choose one only

Colleges and universities in the United States will 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. Values define directions in life. What defines you as a person and what have you come to value most in your life? What has been the greatest factor or experience influencing your day to day decisions and your life choices so far? How do you define personal success? Given the Zimbabwean context, how would you define success and wealth?

A2. Evaluate a positive or negative choice you have made that has influenced your life greatly. What have you learned about yourself and about the values involved in decision making from this experience?

A3. If someone invented a time-travel machine that allowed you to go back in time in your own life, and change something that either you or someone else did that has had a direct impact on your life, what would you change, and why? Reflect briefly in your conclusion on whether you think such a machine would be an asset or a detriment to society.

Group B – Choose one only

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 answer one of the following questions to demonstrate your intellectual strengths.

B1. “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” Martin Luther King, Jr. Use evidence from your studies, your knowledge of current affairs and your experiences in Zimbabwe to write a paper agreeing or disagreeing with this statement.

B2. America is often termed “the melting pot” and American society is said to be one of diversity. Yet, people often define the term “diversity” narrowly in terms of race or ethnicity. Think more broadly and deeply – what really is diversity? What is its role in our global society and economy? What experiences have you had that will prepare you to contribute positively to the diversity of America and its college communities and to gain from it? What are the challenges that come with diversity?

B3. Given your experiences as a high school student in Zimbabwe in 2008-09, how would you advise the newly minted Minister of Education Coltart to resuscitate the education sector? Given his resource constraints, what should be his first priorities and more importantly while trying to rebuild, what should be his vision? What would you change about the way you’ve been taught and current philosophy and curriculum of education in Zimbabwe?

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USAP 2009 Application Form – Due on or before April 20, 2009

Personal Information:

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

2. What name do you prefer to be called?

3. Home 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. Amount of your "A" level school fees (inclusive of all top-up fees and levies and boarding fees) paid for first term in 2009:

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 a significant part of a school term(s) because of finances? IF so, please explain.

Questions 17 and 18 are for those from outside of Harare only:

17. If you are from outside of Harare, do you have someone you can stay with in Harare during the holidays and after your A level exams when you are attending USAP meetings, exams and courses? Please state person's name, relationship to you, physical address and contact telephone number:

18. If accepted in USAP, how will you finance transport to and from Harare monthly during the school term for USAP meetings?

Academic and School Information:

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

20. "A" Level School telephone number(s) and name of Headmaster or Teacher and their cell number:

21. Headmaster/Headmistress' Name:

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

23. Are you taking English Language and Communication Skills as a subject at school? Will you write the exam?

24. Are you taking ZIMSEC exams, University of Cambridge exams or both?

25. When are you writing your exams (June and/or November)?

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

School Location Grades/Forms Completed Reason for leaving the school

I.

II.

III.

IV.

27. List all extra-curricular clubs, sports and activities that you participate or have participated in at school and in your community and/or church. Circle the **one** to which you devote the most time and energy. If you want to give us a sample of your talents, feel free to attach evidence (ie photo, poem, drawing, musical recording, etc). *We regret that we cannot return materials sent to us.*

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

29. What is the most important academic prize or honor you have been awarded?

30. Do you hold any leadership positions at school? Please list them here and in which forms you held these positions (ie, prefect, Headgirl/boy, President or 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 as a person through these questions.

31. 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)?

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

33. What have you come to value most in your life so far?

34. What is your favorite.....

- a. book?

- b. place?

- c. possession?

- d. quotation?

- e. hero/heroine?

35. 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.

36. Selection for USAP is very keen. Last year we chose 30 students from a pool of over 450 applicants. Why should we select you over other highly-qualified Zimbabwean students? What makes you unique?

37. What specific impact do you want to make on the future of Zimbabwe? Assuming that you will return home one day after completing your studies in the USA, how will you contribute positively to your home community? *Please don't think there is one correct answer!*

38. Although USAP started in Zimbabwe, it also now works with students in 14 other countries. What would you want to share with other international USAP students about your home culture and country?

39. When completing this application, which questions was most challenging for you and why?

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