

Access Academy Webinar Series:

# Scholarships and Financial Aid in the US

*13th of July 2020*

Panelists: Andres Sebastian Lee, Micaela Soria Robles,  
Oliver Osei-Asibey, Harrison Smith



project access



# Agenda

Intros

Basics of Financial Aid in the US for international students - Andy

Basics of applying for Financial Aid - Micaela

Scholarships vs. Financial Aid

Our Experiences:

Andy

Oliver

Micaela

Resources

# Mission to help untraditional students



Project Access is an **international non-profit** set up to provide **bright students from untraditional backgrounds** with personal mentors, who are currently university students at one of our target universities

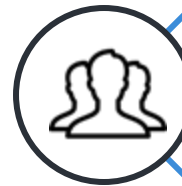
*We have a network of*

**160+** team members

**3,500+** mentors

*We have supported*

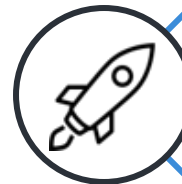
**3,000+** aspiring students!



Mentees come from untraditional backgrounds and need resources and guidance



Mentors help students navigate the application process and offer 1:1 support



Once they receive an offer, mentees form part of our campus community

# Introductions



**Oliver Osei-Asibey**  
Economics  
The Wharton School



**Micaela Soria Robles**  
International Relations and  
Human Rights  
Stanford University



**Andy Lee**  
International Relations  
Stanford University



**Harrison Smith**  
History and Computer  
Science  
Yale University





# The Basics

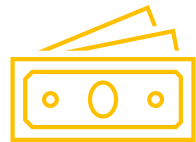
- Financial Aid
- How to apply for it
- Scholarships vs. Financial Aid

# Financial Aid – The Basics



*Limited FA for International Students, but it exists!*

- **"Demonstrated financial need"**
- **5 US universities are "need-blind"** and meet full-need for international students
  - Harvard, Yale, Princeton, MIT, Amherst
- **Most US universities are need-aware. :(**
- **However, many universities meet full need** for accepted students.
  - Columbia, UPenn, Brown, Dartmouth
- **"Student contributions"** (~\$5,000 for full-ride students)
  - Work-study programs at uni (on-campus jobs)



# Applying for Financial Aid



- **Required Materials:**
  - **CSS Profile** (College Scholarship Service Profile)
    - \$25 for 1st school, \$16 for every additional school after that
      - School-specific fee waivers! (Ex: Yale)
    - Priority filing dates (usually 1 month after application deadline, but check!)
  - **IDOC** (Institutional Documentation Service)
- Reach out to **University Financial Aid Offices** or **University International Centers** for more information
  - Some may be available to talk through Zoom or other platforms
  - Prepare early to get necessary documents ready in time

## Financial Aid Application Deadlines



	<b>Early Action</b>	<b>Regular Decision</b>	<b>Transfer</b>
CSS Profile	November 1	February 1	March 1
<del>FAFSA</del>	<del>November 1</del>	<del>February 1</del>	<del>March 1</del>
IDOC	November 1	February 1	March 1




- <https://college.harvard.edu/financial-aid/apply-financial-aid/prospective-students>



# Scholarships vs. Financial Aid



- Most Top Universities do not offer sports or academic scholarships – only financial aid.



- The philosophy behind this is that everyone who goes to those schools would deserve a scholarship if they offered it.



- Look for scholarships from your regional or national government.
- Other private institutions in the US, like USC or Duke, do offer academic or sports scholarships.



# Our Experiences



# Andy's Story



## • Application Story

- Applied thru QuestBridge to 5 Early Schools
  - Yale, Stanford, Princeton, Columbia, UPenn
  - Got deferred from ALL 5!
- Accepted Regular Decision to Stanford, UC Berkeley, UCLA, and 11 other schools
- Received Regents' & Chancellor's Scholarship from UC Berkeley
- Received full financial aid from Stanford, other unis
- Received two scholarships to meet student contributions

## • My advice:

- Do your research! Be proactive.
- Factor in whether a college is need-blind when planning college application strategy
- Complete your applications **well** ahead of time!

# Micaela's Story

## • Application Story

### • 9 college applications:

- EA to Harvard: Accepted
- RD to Stanford, Princeton, MIT, Brown, UCLA, UC Berkeley, and 2 other UC's: Accepted to all, Early Notification by Stanford, Regents' and Chancellor's Scholarship by Berkeley
- Full Scholarship through The Gates Scholarship

## • My advice:

- Reach out to people that offer to help. Reach out/search for resources because many are out there, you just need to find them!
- Great essays can help you stand out.



# Oliver's Story



- **Application Story**

- Took a gap year
- Applied Early Action and was deferred
- Applied to ~12 colleges in the regular round
- admitted to UPenn & NYUAD in the regular round with full funding

- **Post-Application**

- 7 alumni interviews in London, NYUAD candidate weekend
- Tip: take advantage of fly-out colleges/programs!

- **My advice:**

- Separate applications into Reach, Safety and Match based on financial aid
- Look at endowment to get an idea of aid pool
- Be strategic with your applications! Smaller colleges and public schools have less resources to give out need-based aid
- Consider unconventional colleges (Yale-NUS, NYU Abu Dhabi, Minerva KGI)

# Resources

- University financial aid offices – contact them directly!
- Your regional or national government – scholarships!
- The PA US Program – we have Specialist Mentors



# Q&A



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CPO

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