

# Applying Iranian way

*(For Undergraduate Admission)*

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## **NOTE:**

This article might not be useful for students who have received their bachelor's degree. They can use Mr.Mehdi Yahyanejad's article at <http://web.mit.edu/persian/www/apply/apply.html> (in English) or [http://web.mit.edu/persian/www/apply/apply\\_sharif.pdf](http://web.mit.edu/persian/www/apply/apply_sharif.pdf) (Farsi in PDF format by Mr. Rahmandad) .

## **1. Preface**

Perhaps it sounds a little bit strange or even impossible for Iranian high school students to enter an American accredited university directly after their graduation from high school.

This article intends to provide Iranian high school students with the information they need to apply for undergraduate admission in an American university.

Applying for undergraduate admission like other important decisions in life requires a careful thought at the first step. I do not want to discourage you, but there are some facts that you should know!

Many parents have got a low opinion about studying in a foreign country, especially America, at the ages of 18 or so. This matter is worse for girls. Moreover once you enter America, you might not be able to see your family for some years. It is a very important matter since you will leave your family suddenly without any preparation for that at such an early age. But it is a great experience that lets you learn to be independent through your life. Of course you can find very good friends especially Iranian students in America.

Furthermore, if you choose to study in Iran, you are living in your own country. So during your undergraduate study, you will not need to spend some of your energy adapting to a new environment.

If you are not a very social person, by going abroad for your study, you put yourself in danger of being alone and facing strong depression. It affects your studies and you will gain much less than what you should from your study. In Iran, because of your family and your friends and warm Iranian culture there is a low chance of loneliness.

Another subject you have to take into consideration, especially if you are not enrolled in a university, is the University Entrance Exam (Konkur) and the low rate of admission for international students in American universities. You have to plan in such a way that if, heaven forbidden, you are not admitted, you will be ready for Konkur; even if you get admission it does not mean you will get financial aid. We will discuss it later.

I recommend you, first read this article and get information from other resources as well as taking advice just from people who have enough information to guide you and then make up your mind.

However, do not forget if you are not admitted, it is not the end of the world. You have the chance of transfer admission and graduate admission also. Moreover, you will have a very great experience for graduate admission.

## ***2. Why studying in the US in the undergraduate level?***

Studying in the US is a very exciting, unique and useful experience. You will be able to choose from a diverse range of degree programs in the best universities in the world. You will also be able to learn about the American culture and society. Furthermore, you will get the chance to do research as an undergraduate student.

First and foremost, unlike Iran where you have to choose a major before entering the university, in the US you will choose your intended major after taking a few courses. This will enhance your chances of choosing the right major. Furthermore, in Iran, only a few majors are considered "good" or "respectable" and students who choose other majors (like humanities) are sold short. As a result students choose their majors according to the (usually distorted) view that engineering (especially electrical) or medicine is the only "good" majors. Yet in America, students can experience other fields as well and make a more educated decision. In addition, majors like economics or management are treated with more respect in the US. Our country needs to specialists and academicians in all areas of study and therefore, coming to the America will make you a better person for your country.

Second, living abroad gives you a very unique experience. You will have the chance to learn about the American culture and their way of doing things. You will also be able to interact with people from all over the world. Learning about other culture's is one of the most educating and useful aspects of the student life.

The United States of America has the highest labor productivity rate in the world and highest economic growth among the industrialized nations. There are many cultural and structural factors contributing to America's economical might. The undergraduate curriculum and student life at the US will allow you to learn about the structure of the American society and how it affects their well being. As an undergraduate student, who is required to take courses in humanities and liberal arts, you will be able to learn how and why this happens. In contrast, if you come to the US as a graduate student, you will be mostly concentrating in a very narrow field and you will not have this chance.

Third, studying in a high ranking American university enables you to learn about and research on the cutting edge topics in various areas of study. Especially, here students have more freedom in the courses they take and usually have to complete fewer number of courses than Iran (where everyone needs to follow a curriculum provided by the ministry of higher education and the council for cultural revolution). Therefore, they can avoid some of the courses that are not related to their area of interest and have more time to do research. Also, since all of the high ranking science and engineering schools in the US are research oriented, you will have an excellent opportunity to work with the top-notch researchers in the world. Making research as an undergraduate student will enhance your chances for getting into a good graduate school.

### **3. How to find the right college?**

You can use some useful web sites. The best I recommend is USNEWS.COM.

URL <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/rankindex.htm>

You can see the ranking for every university in general or in a specific major, their admission rate and requirements, financial aid for international students, and lots more.

#### **•College Ranking:**

This is up to you. But remember it may have a great effect in your future career and resume. Of course the better a university is the lower is your chance for admission as an international student (top universities have just 5-8% international student body in undergraduate level.)

Normally, 11000 to 16000 students apply for admission in an accredit college (about 2000 international applicants) and only 1000-1600 students get admission (20 to 80 international applicants.)

#### **•Financial aid matter: (moshkele dolar 😊, 😞!!! )**

Undergraduate study costs about \$36000 to \$45000 annually in a private university. Public universities are commonly cheaper. (Take a look at USNEWS.COM).

Many students use financial aid programs, offered by universities during their study for a bachelor degree.

Since in undergraduate level universities can't offer students TA(teacher assistantship) or RA( research assistantship ) ,it costs them millions of dolor to help all students. So, many universities do not offer any kind of financial aid to international students. Even among those few institutes that do, some will consider your financial aid need when they make decision (like Stanford University.) It means it will reduce your chance of being admitted.

Moreover, some universities express that they do not take your need into consideration but they do not grantee that you will be offered financial aid if you are admitted .Be sure to check their financial aid website

After so much bad news, always keep the hope that God will help you. You can

apply these universities; perhaps you will be lucky enough to find something. Of course there are some institutes that you can guarantee need based financial aid upon admission (e.g. Princeton and MIT).

- ***Canada or America?***

Canada has very good universities which are absolutely cheaper than American ones while having a good level of education. Some of its universities are among the best colleges in the world like McGill and Univ. of Toronto. Their admission rates are very high (60% for McGill, quoted from College Board statistics) and they are less picky than Americans. But there is a very important problem. There is almost no college which offers full cost financial aid for undergraduate level. Of course at the time of admission or meanwhile you study there you can win some merit-based financial aid, but they only cover a portion of your expenses. The cost is 8000 - 10000\$ annually. Do not forget to check their web sites to make sure of the expense.

On the other hand getting student visa from a Canadian embassy is much easier than getting visa from an American one. Moreover, in the new law of immigration to Canada (effective from June 2002) having studied in Canada has got a score for your immigration application, if you intend to immigrate to Canada one day, even for your parents'. If you have enough money to study in Canada (at least to show university and consulate that you can cover the expenses) then applying for some top Canadian universities will be a good idea.

## ***4. How to apply?***

The best way is to apply via Internet. Go to the university web site and keep heading to admission pages. Try to enter undergraduate sections. There you can find whatever you may want to know about applying to that college here are some undergraduate admission offices web sites

MIT:

Admission: <http://web.mit.edu/admissions/www/undergrad/index.html>

Financial Aid: <http://web.mit.edu/finaid/>

Princeton:

Admission: <http://www.princeton.edu/pr/admissions/u/index.shtml>

Financial Aid: <http://www.princeton.edu/pr/aid/>

Caltech:

Admission: <http://www.admissions.caltech.edu/>

Financial aid: <http://www.finaid.caltech.edu/>

Stanford:

Admission: <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/uga/>

Financial aid: <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/finaid/>

Cornell:

Admission: <http://www.admissions.cornell.edu/>

Financial aid: <http://www.admissions.cornell.edu/finaid/>

Many universities have got different applications for international students. (Students who have green card: You are considered permanent resident of the US. If you do not reside in America, you will probably have to check your condition with the university to make sure if you are considered an international student or not.)

Many universities in the America have on-line application opportunity. You may also ask them to send you the paper based application form in their websites. Of course some universities still prefer paper based application forms (Like Princeton.)

Try to avoid e-mailing them. Because of the large pull of emails they receive every day it takes quit long time for them to reply individuals.

### •*Application Form:*

Most application forms have two parts. Part1: Biographical Information Part 2: Activities and Essays.

In Part 1 of your application, that you are supposed to fill up and send to the institute with a non-refundable fee immediately, you have to provide some pieces of information about yourself and your family. Just follow the instructions.

In Part 2 which is almost the most important part of your application, you are asked about your education, test scores, activities, employment, honors and achievements and etc. Many colleges ask their applicants to write an essay about some topics provided in the application form. **ESSAYS ARE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS.** Actually they are one of the ways that admission officers try to know you better. Most topics are about your future plan for your life or if you have ever faced any major difficulty in your life and if so what your reaction was. They follow another purpose also: to know how well you express yourself in English.

**WRITE THEM YOURSELF.** Admission committee can easily spot if it is not your work. (One way is comparing your writing score in TOEFL and SAT II to your essay.) **SPEND ENOUGH TIME THINKING AND WRITING YOUR ESSAY.** Avoid meaningless essay. Just imagine that an admission officer has to read 100 essays in a day.

I recommend you download the application of the previous academic year and try to fill it up in the summer. You can prepare for the real application and get a kind of sense what you have to write in your essays. It is quite a good idea to finish filling up all parts of application during summer (the application forms for the next academic year are normally ready by late August,) because you won't have much enough time

to work properly on them in the school year. It is not require to wait till you take SAT' and TOEFL. Just write the date when you intend to take the tests.

If you have any other question CALL the admission office.

•**Application fee:**

Ordinary, you are supposed to pay a 50 -70\$ application fee. (Just with your Part 1 application form.) This can be done by a major credit card on-line or a bank check. I don't think many of you have access to a credit card, (but I have heard that Refah Bank issues some Visa cards) . Normally we can't send foreign institutes money so you have to get a relative or friend to do that for you.

•**Tests:**

Many colleges require you to take SAT I (Reasoning Test), SAT II (Subject test),and TOEFL . Some may require two or less of them but I recommend you take all three of them. It requires you to exit Iran twice, because you cannot take both SAT I and SAT II in one calendar month. The best location for taking tests is Dubai. It is a safe and comfortable city for a 2-3 days trip.

**SAT I (Reasoning Test):**

It is a two part exam: 3 sections of Verbal (each 30 minutes long) and 3 sections of Math . The score of each part is reported from 200 to 800.

Verbal: this part is almost an IQ test (test-e hoosh ) ,but it requires you to have a quite significant vocabulary. With high school English preparations I don't think you can get a better score than 250!!! If you have studied English in an institute for about 4 years you can normally get a score from 350 to 500. (When I say 500 I mean you should be the God of English. Or you should be able to read "Gone with the Wind" as easily as you read Hamshahri newspaper ☺ .)

I have seen Indians and the Chinese can get a 700 to 800 very easily.(They are the God of English ☺ ) .Many of you may think it is not important to get a good mark in Verbal section. Actually many admission officers try to focus on your TOEFL score but they can't ignore the obvious difference between your score and an Indian's. If you intend to get a good mark (higher than 600) you have to invest on that for some years before when you want to take SAT I.

Math: This section measures your ability in solving intellectual math problems. It does not require any important preparation and you are allowed to use calculator during the test. Just try not to make any mistake. It can decrease your score much. I expect you to get at least 740 in this section.

For more information go to: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

You can buy "10 Real SATs" book .This book is not available in Iran. Try to buy it on-line collegeboard.com or in [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) (You may probably need to ask someone outside Iran do that for you.) Another way to improve your vocabulary is joining mailing list which sends you one word a day with its meaning and a piece of an article which it is used in, such as [www.mywordaday.com](http://www.mywordaday.com) , <http://wordsmith.org> ,



<http://www.Merriam-Webster.com/>

New Your Times has SAT preparation pages too at

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/students/satofday/index.html>

### **SAT II (Reasoning test):**

Most colleges ask you to take one Math test and one test in science (physics or chemistry or Biology), many of them require or recommend taking Writing test as well. The scores are reported from 200(the worst score) to 800(the best one.) The purpose of this test is to estimate your academic background as a high school student and an applicant of a college.

On the test date you are allowed to take up to 3 tests which you normally choose at the time of registration . But you can take another subject in the test or even cancel a section, even to choose what subject to answer at the time. But if you take Writing test you have to take it in the first hour of the exam.

You have one hour to answer questions in each section. During this hour you are not allowed to work on any other section. Suppose you choose to answer physics in the second hour of the test and you have some extra time after finishing answering the questions you mustn't keep heading to the next subject you want to take or get back to work on the previous subject you answered. If you do so, you will loose 75\$ registration fee and the money and time you spend for the trip.☹

DO NOT THINK YOU CAN GET 800 EASILY IN EVERY SECTION.I have to say in contrast to what you may think our academic preparations for this exam are not enough to make 800. For further information ask College Board to send you bulletins by email, or buy "Real SAT II" published by College Board. You can also find some information at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) .

### ***SAT II Writing Test:***

Many colleges ask both international and domestic applicants to take SAT II writing. Because of its importance I describe it more here.

You may wonder why universities ask you to take this exam although you write an essay in TOEFL and a get a score on that. Actually getting a good score in SAT II writing is more difficult than TOEFL. Readers in TOEFL know that you are an international student and whose mother tongue is not English. Even in the TOEFL you have more time to write your essay (almost 10 minutes more time). But in SAT II, the reader doesn't know you ethnic and nationality. He will score your writing on the same base he does when she reads a native speaker's essay. On the other hand, in SAT II, you also have to answer 60 questions about English writing To get a good score in this section you need to have a large vocabulary as well as know English writing tips. College Board states it does not exam English grammar in writing section but you can never get a better score than 3 out of 6 if you do not have a

mastery over English grammar. Another advantage of SAT II writing score is that it allows admission staff to get a better scale of comparing students altogether. Beside all as college student, you must be able to express yourself as clearly as possible. This factor is more obvious when you want to write an article to be printed for example in IEEE magazine.

The time for essay writing is 20 minutes. So you have to be very quick. You can get the required speed only by practicing very hard. The best way is to use TOEFL writing topics list which is available in TOEFL bulletin. It helps you much in TOEFL too.

SAT II writing topics are in two forms. One form is the same as TOEFL, it presents an opinion and ask you to state whether you agree with that or not and to present your reasons with SPECIFIC EXAMPLES in history or art or politics matter or even your own life. SPECIFIC EXAMPLES, this is very important issue. Without any example your essay is incomplete and I do not think you can get a better mark than 3. Another important factor: try to write and express yourself as CLEARLY and DIRECTLY as possible. Avoid addressing the topic generally. Take a stand and defend your opinion as well as you can. Avoid entering dual fronts. This makes your essay seem incomplete and your thoughts a mess.

Do not care about the reader opinion. They do not consider it at all. They just give you a score at what you write.

When I say as DIRECTLY as you can, I mean you do not have time to write introduction and Dibaeh -e - Saadi or Hafez poems at the first line (!!!) like what we do in Persian writing. Even the reader doesn't like it at all. For a better understanding of what I mean refer to Collegeboard.com and see different essays with their scores as examples.

College Board does not release its writing topics the way TOEF does. So you have to draw the main frame of your essay in one or two minutes that requires practice. Normally you have to write between 3 to 5 paragraphs. A long essay doesn't mean a better score at all. Of course you do not have the time to write more. So finish your essay in maximum 5 or 6 paragraphs.

In the first paragraph take a stand. You have to either agree or disagree with the subject, and then try to support your opinion in the next paragraphs with SPECIFIC EXAMPLES. Most students make a conclusion at the last paragraph. It is almost repeating their opinion in another way.

Another form of topics is incomplete sentence. It means that they you are given an incomplete sentence and asked to complete it and support your idea in the same way I described.

After 20 minutes you have to hand in your essay. If it is not complete do not worry much. The readers know that you didn't have enough time; but a finished essay is

better than an incomplete one. As I said before by practicing you can finish writing in 20 minutes. After the essay writing you have to switch to multiple choices questions (Testi) immediately. You have just 40 minutes to answer 60 questions. The clock is ticking; but remember never ever loose conscious and carefulness because of speed. Multiply questions in writing are arranged in three formats: Identifying Sentence Errors, Improving Sentences, and Improving Paragraphs.

In Identifying Sentence Errors, you just have to spot mistakes according to writing tips, logic, and English grammar .A sentence is given and four words are underscored which are labeled "A", "B", "C", and "D", you have an other answer "No Error" which is labeled "E". You have to choose one. Remember that E can be the true answer too.

Example: Few people cannot hardly (A) tell (B) the difference between purple and fuchsia, even when (C) samples of these related colors are (D) placed side by side. No Error (E) *quoted from "Real SAT II" published by College Board.* The answer is (A) because double negative is forbidden in writing. This section has 30 questions, 20 of them at the beginning of the test and 10 of them after Improving Paragraphs, which In Improving Sentences, one or two sentences are given. A portion is underscored you have to spot the best reversion of in such a way that makes the statement more clear and better. Answer labeled (A) is exactly the same sentence. This choice can be a true answer as well (It means you chose Hichkodam like Konkur.)

Example: Because of their increasing popularity, wilderness areas are becoming overcrowded.

- (A): Because of their increasing popularity
- (B): Their popularity is increasing
- (C): Due to their popularity's increase
- (D): The popularity of them being on the increase
- (E): Their popularity having been increased

*Quoted from "Real SAT II" published by College Board.*

The answer is (A.) You will face 18 Improving Sentences questions.

In Improving Paragraphs you are given two early drafts of essays. Some parts of the passages need to be rewritten. Reading passages takes you almost 5 minutes.

Some questions are about particular sentences or parts of them and ask you to improve sentences structure and word choice. If you get a mastery over previous sections you will be able to cut through these questions very easily. Other questions refer to parts of the essay or the whole draft and ask you about its organization and development. This part has 12 questions.

By the way, admission officers know a non-native speaker is not supposed to get a very good mark in this exam. Even Americans has problem with this part. But I have seen Indians who got 780 or 790 in this exam (They know English even better than the native speakers!!!!!!)

## TOEFL®:

Because TOEFL is tested by computer, Computer Based Test (CBT), you can almost take it whenever you want. See [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org)

You have to register at least 3 weeks (usually 2 months) before the test date if you send your form by mail. The registration for Middle East test centers should be made in Cairo, Egypt. You can register by phone or fax too if you have a credit card. In the case of registering by phone you won't receive any letter as your admission ticket. Write down the 16 digit appointment number as the officer tells you. This is enough for the admission at the test center. The test center in Dubai is behind Al Mamzar building, next to a girls' polytechnic college. Remember to take your passport for identification.

Some tips about registration: TOEFL does not accept any address or phone number from Iran, even for sending bulletin. You have to provide them with an address outside Iran. Be sure to do that because you need a copy of your official TOEFL score to get visa. For more information and tips about the test take a look at [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org) you can download its bulletin directly from internet.

Oh, this may not happen to most of you but, it is better not to appoint the test date one day prior and after an Islamic holiday (I mean regarding Ghamari calendar.); because these holidays may vary in date from a country to another one and you will be rescheduled without being informed. This happened to me. I was appointed for one day prior to Eid-e-Mabaas regarding Iranian calendar, but the Eid was changed in Dubai and when I went to the test center every doors were closed!!! Unfortunately I had a return ticket to Tehran on the same evening. I canceled my return trip and stayed one day more in Dubai. The most shocking point was when I went to the test center on the following day I was informed I needed to wait another day in Dubai. I was rescheduled without being informed. Other Iranian test takers had the same problem too. I was very lucky to say "I will inform ETS of this irregularity." This sentence allowed me to take the test on the same day and get back to Iran in the evening.

A good score above 260 at this exam will raise your chance of admission very much. It also has an effect in getting visa. You should get at least 233 to be eligible to be issued F1-visa. As a matter of fact, TOEFL score is taken more seriously into consideration for undergraduate admission than graduate admission. For example 100% of international undergraduate admitted students in the past three years at Stanford have gotten a score higher than 270!!! If you get a score below 250, your chance of admission in an accredit college is almost nothing.

Mr.Rahmandad has provided very useful tips for taking the exam at [http://web.mit.edu/persian/www/apply/apply\\_sharif.pdf](http://web.mit.edu/persian/www/apply/apply_sharif.pdf) so I finish here.

- ***Teacher reference forms:***

You have to forward these forms to two of your teachers. Usually admission committee asks about your personality in these forms and tries to get a picture of your character.

There are some problems about these forms. First, many teachers do not know English well enough to address what they are asked. A more important is even they do not know what a recommendation is. We do not have this system here and they do not write recommendations even in Farsi. I suppose graduate students have fewer problems than you in this regard. Try to make it clear for them what they have to do in a polite manner. Tell them what the admission committee seeks for and ask them to help you in this regard. If it is necessary translate the questions in the form for them.

A very important factor teachers should know about recommendations is that for every feature of your character they mention in their letter they have to make a SPECIFIC EXAMPLE of your behavior that they have seen or heard about. Statements that "this student is very genius and he is the second Einstein" don't help much. This can be replaced by "He understands the difficult concepts quickly and shows great interest to find its application in the real world."

My point is that because of the years of experience admission officers can spot your character features through your behavior and activates in the class. So the best evidence and recommendation of your abilities is specifying details. Try to give the recommendation forms to the teachers who are less busy. They will have more time to prepare what you need.

You can get back the form and letter from your teachers and send them in a signed and sealed envelop. It is better that you send them yourself by DHL, ARAMEX or other world wide express. Avoid regular air mail offered by post (Iran post does not have any kind of express or Pishtaz to the US.). Previously there was registered mail service to America (Post-e-Sefāreshi) and you could be sure your parcel would be in America in 15 to 30 days but this service is no longer available.

- ***Secondary school report form and academic transcript:***

This form must be filled by the principal of your school. It is another kind of recommendation letters. He or she has to attach your officially translated academic transcript (Karnameh) to this form. So, prepare that before.

- ***International applicants' financial aid form :***

The financial aid form is a very important document. You will get the financial aid based on that. Usually you have to provide them with information about the expenses of your family and your assets. You have to attach an official translation of your parents' tax form or bank statement or a letter written by your parent's employer to prove you say.

- ***Certificate of Finance form:***

Certificate of finance form is also a very important document. This form verifies that you have enough financial resources to cover your expenses while you are in America. This form asks you how much money you can bring to America and how much money you have through financial aids (like scholarships) or any help from a relative in the US.

You will be issued I-20 form (the form you need to get visa) by the university only if they verify you have enough money to live in the US.

Make a copy from all documents and forms you send to universities.

## ***5. Admission results:***

Admission decisions usually are made by the end of March (almost by Sizdehbedar.) They either offer admission or deny admission. Some colleges may also put you in the waiting list which means if any space becomes available after admitted students accept or reject admission, they will admit some other students who are in the waiting list.

If you are admitted, you have to accept or reject admission offer. I mean you have to send a letter to admission committee whether you go to that university or not. **MAKE SURE TO SEND THIS LETTER EVENIF YOU DO NOT WANT TO OR CAN'T ATTEND THAT UNIVERSITY.** It is Rasme -Adab and if you don't it will make other Iranian applicant bad credit later.

## ***6. Getting visa:***

You need to get a F-1 student visa. The problems is that because of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks in New York City, nothing is clear yet. The new laws are not effective yet. They will be effective from next winter. The situation is changing day by day. Under the current system, you have to go to the American consulate in a third country to get your visa. People usually go to countries in the Middle East. I think under the post September 11<sup>th</sup> era that's the best thing do. Chances of getting an F-1 visa from a Country like Canada for Iranian Citizens (who are citizens of a state sponsor of terrorism) is far more lower. Dubai is a reasonable choice. You need to bring your passport, I-20 form (provided by an the University that has admitted you), three 3x8 photos, the completed visa application form (downloadable from the US embassy website), and documents proving that you intend to Iran upon completion of your studies.

For the latter, you can bring something that shows your family lives in Iran. Dress neatly and go to the consulate with a smile. In the consulate, a visa consular will interview you. Try to avoid saying anything that suggests you may want to immigrate to the US or another country. If she approves your visa, she requires you to fill out an additional form.

This form will be used for conducting security background check. The background checks take at least five weeks. Plan accordingly. After the background checks are done, you can contact the American consulate and ask about the outcome of the background check. If the result is positive, you need to go to the consulate (usually another trip to a foreign country). Go there and pick your visa. Congratulation!

### ***7. Coming to America:***

You need to make the ticket reservation as soon as possible. Come to America soon enough to participate in the orientation program. If you are admitted, the university will inform you about the important dates.

### ***8. Living expenses:***

The living expenses vary significantly depending on the part of the US you will be living in. The figures for living expenses are usually provided by the admission office of the particular university you are accepted. The \$36,000-\$45,000 cost I talked about earlier includes the living cost and is a good estimation.

### ***9. Conclusion:***

I wish you all the best.

### ***10. Special Thanks to:***

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**& Iranian Students Association of MIT**

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