

Equal opportunity for financial aid

[Countries](#), [United States](#)



Most post secondary institutions consider themselves to be equal opportunity establishments, although their financial aid system does not always seem to agree. In leaving my native country for university I have personally gone through the difficulties of trying to get financial aid. If you are an international student your only hopes of obtaining any aid are based on your athletic ability or your SAT scores. If we chose to come to America to get a university education, we should be treated as equals and allowed to apply for all the same financial aid that the American students do.

It is every student-athletes dream to come to an American university.

Athletes from around the world try to obtain athletic scholarships in hopes of getting the training and recognition to be able to go professional.

Unfortunately not every athlete is able to obtain a full athletic scholarship, leaving the student to come up with the remainder. Not that we all deserve full scholarships, but in order to qualify for an I-20 student visa you must show proof of having 15, 000 American dollars at your dispense. Once that amount is converted to Malaysian funds that amount is nearly \$60, 000, significantly more than ny American student needs proof of.

The Malaysian government does not agree with giving of athletic scholarships, therefore they withhold any funding for student-athletes to leave to study in the United States. There is one source of financial aid for post secondary students from Malaysia, For students studying internationally, called the Malaysia Student Assistance Program. This is a near impossible student loan to obtain, it is available to students who's parents either make enough money to send them anywhere they want to go,

or for students who could not afford to go to university in Malaysia, therefore needing the athletic scholarships only offered in the United States.

Being from a middle class family, like many other Malaysian student-athletes could not qualify for this loan because of my working class. The other option for international students to obtain financial aid from the institution of education would be from their SAT scores. The United States is the only country in which this standardized test is mandatory. In Malaysia the cost of taking this test is \$100 American, which converts to approximately \$ 400 Malaysian, the cost of taking this test restricts most people from taking it numerous times as we are prompted to do.

I could only afford to take the test once, therefore limiting my academic scholarship. American students also have the opportunity to hold employment while in university. International students according to the I-20 student visa are unable to hold employment. We are not given social security numbers or citizenship status, although the majority of us will end up acquiring a green card and living in the United States by the time that we are done our university educations. For the amount of money we are giving to the American economy one would think that they would be grateful and be willing to give back by helping to subsidize our education.

We are forced into bank loans, and personal loans to pay for our education. The thought of living in debt for the rest of my life trying to pay back seven years of post-secondary education is absolutely terrifying. As well as the thought of only being nineteen years old and already being in debt, because I am unable to hold a job or obtain any sort of financial aid because I am not

an American The Malaysian government has a right to withhold money from its citizens for leaving the country, as well as the American government has a right to only give to American citizens.

I am just unsure as to why either country would want to withhold money from any student from any country. In a time where education is so important to the future why would either country want to hold its youth back. We would not be aiding or taking away from either economy by studying in another country. We aid the American economy by continuing our education here, and then we return to our country of origin where we pursue summer and winter employment, where we still pay taxes.

We are not helping solely our economy of our country of origin, but we are helping a global economy by becoming aware of not just our country, but also other countries. We remain sheltered if we stay in one place all our lives, we need to explore and see the world, and we can start by going from our home country to another for post secondary education. The opportunity to study in another country does not come to everyone, but to those it does come to, it is a very difficult opportunity to pass up.

If we are invited to this country to continue our education, why are we not treated as equals, both emotionally and financially. We, like the American students are just that, students. We do not come here because we do not want to study in our native countries, we come for the opportunity to experience new things, meet new people and become more educated, just like the American students. We do not come here to be judged or treated

differently. We came to be treated like what we are, students, regardless of where we came from.