



United States Student Achievers Program (USAP) 2013 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 fourteenth 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.

We do not limit the program geographically; however, students must be able to reach our offices in Harare, Gweru or Bulawayo 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 2014. **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 2013. 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 strong record 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 **Monday, March 18, 2013 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 Corner
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

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 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 2013 Application Deadline: Monday, March 18, 2013

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 completed application and attachments together.

Attach to this application the following documents:

- 1) A **photocopy** of your “O” level ZIMSEC results slip(s) stamped by your current school. Include Cambridge IGCSE or AS results only if applicable.
- 2) The attached letter 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 copy of **all L6 level school** reports from 2012.
- 4) Write two essays, one from Group A and one from Group B, each of about 250 – 500 words:

Group A – Choose one only

Colleges and universities in the United States 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. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?

A2. A famous question : “*Is it always necessary to do what is right and what keeps harmony or do what you want and benefit thyself?*” Tell us about a significant situation where you were at the horns of ethical dilemma. Describe the situation, the outcomes and how it molded you into the person you are today.

A3. 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.

A4. “Applying to the US is not a 100m sprint; it is a marathon that requires tenacity.” Tell us about a situation in which you have consistently applied yourself despite setbacks.

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. “*There is no place for secrets in modern society.*” Using evidence from your studies, your knowledge of current and past affairs and your experiences in Zimbabwe, write a paper agreeing or disagreeing with this statement.

B2. America is often termed ‘a melting pot’ and the American society is often termed to be one of diversity. How would you define diversity and what is its role in our global society. What are the challenges that come with diversity?

B3. Zimbabwe’s 2012 O level pass rate, ie those candidates who passed 5 or more O level subjects, declined to 18%. What do you think are the best ways to address the problems facing Zimbabwe’s current educational system.

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USAP 2013 Application Form

Personal Information:

1. Full name (first name(s) followed by family name):
2. What name do you prefer to be called?
3. 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) for first term in 2013:
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 is for those from outside of Harare/Chitungwiza area only:

17. If you live far from 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. 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.

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:

Career Counselor name, cell number and email address (if applicable):

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

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

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

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

25. 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.

26. List all extra-curricular clubs, sports and activities that you participate or have participated in at high school and in your community and/or church in order of importance to you. 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.*

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

28. What, if any, is the most important academic prize or honor you have been awarded?

29. 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/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 well through these questions so take time to answer them honestly and fully.

30. 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)?

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

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

34. How do you define leadership? Briefly describe your style of leadership, activism or service.

35. Briefly stating why, what is your favorite....

- a. book?
- b. memory?
- c. word?
- d. song?
- e. hero/heroine?
- f. specific place?

36. What is one great question that every educated person should ask?

37. USAP is more of a family than merely access to colleges that could offer you a scholarship. In what ways will you contribute to the USAP family?

38. What difference do you think you will make to the world?

39. What does the word "identity" mean to you? Who do you say you are and why?

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

41. What motivates you to wake up every morning and go to school?

42. If you were a fruit, which would you be and why?

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

USAP 2013 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 the student to attach to his/her USAP application. Applications are due to the EducationUSA Advising Centers in Harare, Gweru or Bulawayo by March 18, 2013.

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.