Higher Education Options & Opportunities for Non-Citizens

Opportunities for non-U.S. citizens differ from those available to citizen students (including those from Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories). The following information is meant to help guide high school students who are permanent resident non-citizens (Green Card holders) and refugee/asylees.

**FAFSA:** FAFSA’s financial aid, such as the Pell Grant, is available to citizens and non-citizens. Eligible non-citizens include:

- U.S. Permanent Residents (Green Card)
- Conditional Permanent Residents (I-551C)
- Non-Citizens with an arrival-departure record (I-94) from DHS that show any of the following:
  - “Refugee”
  - “Asylum Granted”
  - “Indefinite Parole”
  - “Humanitarian Parole”
  - “Cuban-Haitian Entrant”
- Additional federal student aid for non-citizens can be found [here](#).

**Scholarships and Loans:** While most general scholarships require citizenship to apply, there are many others designed for refugees/migrants, and many more open to specific ethnic groups. Students should be able to apply to many of these without issue.

**College Admissions:** According to staff leading international student recruitment at the Cleveland State University admissions office, depending on which university a non-citizen student applies to, they may be treated as either a permanent resident (as they are at CSU, for example), or an international student (e.g. Baldwin Wallace).

**Scholarships, Loans, and Tuition:** If a non-citizen student can prove their Ohio residence, universities like CSU will also give them in-state tuition rates, while universities that treat them as international students will not.

The following scholarship and loan opportunities, which can be co-signed by non-citizen guarantors, are open for students that are considered “international” by their university of choice.

- [The International Student Resource Center](#)
- [International Education Finance Corporation](#)
- [EduPASS - Smart Student Guide to Studying in the USA](#)
- [Education USA](#)
- [www.oas.org/en/rowefund](#)
- [https://studysoup.com/scholarships/global-student](#)
- [www.thescholarshipsystem.com](#)

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