

# USA EDUCATION LOAN GUIDE 2026

The Definitive Handbook for Collateral-Free Funding

## 1. The Non-Collateral Advantage

For Indian students targeting the United States, "Collateral-Free" loans are the primary gateway to Ivy League and Tier-1 universities. Unlike traditional loans, these are granted based on your **Future Earning Potential** rather than existing family assets.

### STEM Bonus

Students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields often qualify for 0.5% lower interest rates due to high employability.

### GRE/GMAT Impact

A high standardized test score (e.g., GRE 320+) can act as a secondary "security," helping secure loans from top private lenders.

## 2. Indian NBFCs vs. USD Lenders

Criteria	Indian NBFCs (INR)	International Lenders (USD)
Currency Risk	Borrow in ₹ / Pay in ₹	Borrow in \$ / Pay in \$
Co-signer Req.	Mandatory (Indian Resident)	Often Not Required
Interest Type	Floating (Based on Repo)	Fixed or SOFR-linked
Tax Benefit	Eligible for Sec 80E	Not Eligible for 80E

## 3. Eligibility Checklist for USA Loans

- ✓ Confirmed Admission (I-20 or Admit Letter) from a SEVP-approved school.

- ✓ Strong academic background (minimum 60% in undergraduate studies).
- ✓ Valid Passport and standardized test scores (GRE/GMAT/IELTS/TOEFL).
- ✓ Co-applicant with a stable income source and healthy CIBIL score (>700).

## 4. Maximizing Your ROI

In the USA, your **Cost of Attendance (COA)** includes tuition, insurance, and living expenses. Most non-collateral loans cover up to 100% of the COA, but we recommend borrowing only what is necessary to maintain a healthy **Debt-to-Income Ratio** post-graduation.

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Empowering Students through Financial Clarity

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