

# Affordable Higher Education for All

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Whether you are young or old, you need a college education to have a decent career. The government should allow students to attend college for free or very low cost. The government should also provide affordable daycare and good public transportation so that school is a realistic choice for more people.

Yes, it will be expensive for the government to subsidize higher education. However, the benefits outweigh the costs. An educated society is better in many ways. There would be less poverty and a lower crime rate. An educated society would be more organized and more functional.

Low cost higher education would mean higher taxes. I am a taxpayer. I am willing to pay more taxes because having a more educated population would be a benefit to all of us. I think others would be willing to pay more taxes too if they knew how important it was.

Low cost higher education is not a new idea. Many countries offer it to their citizens. For example, if you are a citizen of Sweden or Finland, your college tuition is very inexpensive. In other countries, like Denmark or Norway, the price of college is low.

At my school, the University of New Mexico, scholarships are available for students who can't afford the tuition. The scholarships are paid for with the income from the sale of lottery tickets.

It was difficult for me to get an education where I grew up in

Mexico. My family couldn't afford the books, the uniform, or the tuition. I had to leave school to work. Now, I am a U.S. citizen. I believe that, as citizens, we should support education in every way possible.



Lorena Lopez is from Mexico. She has four children, and she is a student at the University of New Mexico in Valencia studying English and working on a GED. She hopes to have a career in medical forensics.

Country	Out of Pocket Cost	Median Income	Out of Pocket Cost % of Median Income	Rank
Australia	\$14,187	\$23,017	61.64%	13
Canada	\$9,358	\$26,623	35.15%	9
Denmark	\$4,021	\$22,929	17.54%	4
England and Wales	\$9,543	\$24,652	38.71%	11
Finland	\$830	\$21,010	3.95%	1
France	\$7,242	\$20,660	35.05%	8
Germany	\$5,408	\$22,020	24.56%	6
Japan	\$20,868	\$22,790	91.57%	14
Latvia	\$4,920	\$13,646	36.05%	10
Mexico	\$8,012	\$4,615	173.62%	15
Netherlands	\$6,060	\$28,032	21.62%	5
Norway	\$3,017	\$26,623	11.33%	3
New Zealand	\$6,468	\$19,265	33.58%	7
Sweden	\$2,025	\$20,716	9.78%	2
USA	\$14,382	\$26,990	53.28%	12

As you can see in the above chart from the "2010 Global Higher Education Ranking Report" (p. 27), U.S. students face disproportionately greater higher education costs than their European peers. The authors of that report calculated the average out-of-pocket cost of higher education, based on five cost inputs – education costs, living costs, grants, loans, and tax expenditures.

<<http://eucenterillinois.blogspot.com/2011/11/higher-education-costs-and-american.html>>.