

Studying in Algeria

A guide for international students & families — how Algeria's higher education works, the student visa, very affordable study in Arabic/French (and growing English), and the rules.

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A HUGE, VERY AFFORDABLE PUBLIC SYSTEM

Algeria — Africa's largest country — has a **huge, very affordable public university system** (a university in every region), led by the historic University of Algiers and the science-focused USTHB. Teaching is mainly in **Arabic and French, with English growing**, and a new 2025 framework and official "Study in Algeria" portal have streamlined international admissions. Students get a **student visa**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Algerian rules, tuition, and the funds requirement change (foreign-student admission is now governed by Presidential Decree 25-83 of 2025). The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Ministry of Higher Education, your university, and the Algerian consulate.**

Understand Why Students Choose Algeria

WHAT TO KNOW

Algeria offers **very affordable (often near-free) public education**; a **huge national university network**; **Arabic and French instruction (with English growing)**; **cultural proximity for Arab students**; and a **newly streamlined admissions framework** — strong value in a large, established system.

BY THE NUMBERS

Very affordable

huge public system

Arabic & French

+ growing English

New framework

streamlined 2025

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Algeria's **affordability and large system** against mostly Arabic/French instruction — for affordable study (especially for Arabic/French speakers, and increasingly in English), it's attractive.

GOOD TO KNOW

Algeria's public universities are **very affordable, often near-free**, across a national network with a university in every region.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

The system is large and French-modeled (LMD): the **University of Algiers (1909, the oldest)**, the science/tech **USTHB (now English-medium)**, the **University of Oran**, the **University of Constantine**, and specialized schools like **ESI (computing/AI)**. There are 48+ universities plus vocational institutes. Instruction is mainly Arabic and French, with English expanding.

BY THE NUMBERS

University of Algiers

oldest (1909)

USTHB

science/tech (English)

+ Oran, Constantine

& ESI

HOW TO HELP

Choose the historic **University of Algiers**, the science-focused **USTHB** (now English-medium), or Oran/Constantine/ESI by field — in a large, French-modeled (LMD) system.

WATCH OUT

USTHB **switched its teaching language to English in 2025** — a growing English option in science and technology.

Get the Student Visa & Follow the 2025 Framework

WHAT TO KNOW

Foreign-student admission is now governed by **Presidential Decree 25-83 (February 2025)**, with the official **"Study in Algeria"** platform providing information. You must be **admitted by a host institution and obtain a certificate from the Ministry of Higher Education** before enrolment; then apply for a **student visa** at an Algerian embassy (with your enrolment certificate and proof of funds).

BY THE NUMBERS

Decree 25-83

2025 framework

Ministry certificate

before enrolment

Student visa

via embassy

HOW TO HELP

Follow the **2025 framework** (Decree 25-83): get admitted, obtain the **Ministry of Higher Education certificate**, then apply for the **student visa** (enrolment certificate + funds) at an Algerian embassy.

GOOD TO KNOW

The official **"Study in Algeria"** platform (studyinalgeria.mesrs.dz) is the starting point for international applicants — use it for programs and procedures.

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **via the “Study in Algeria” platform or university portals**. Foreign diplomas need **equivalency** (the Ministry’s Equivalence Department issues a degree-equivalence certificate and a grade-equivalence document). The academic year runs **October–June**, with applications commonly due **May–July**; language requirements depend on the program.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply

via the platform

Equivalency

Ministry Equivalence Dept

Oct–June

academic year

HOW TO HELP

Apply **via the Study in Algeria platform** (or university portals), get your foreign diploma **equivalency** from the Ministry, and meet the program’s language requirement — typically by May–July for an October start.

GOOD TO KNOW

Foreign diplomas require **equivalency certification** from the Ministry’s Equivalence Department — arrange this early.

Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **very affordable**: international students typically pay roughly **\$1,000–3,000/year**, and many public programs (especially at postgraduate level) are low-cost or effectively free. The **Algerian government and universities** offer scholarships covering tuition and living — contact host universities for program-specific funding.

BY THE NUMBERS

Tuition

~\$1,000–3,000/yr

Many programs

low-cost/free

Scholarships

government & university

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **very affordable tuition** (~\$1,000–3,000; many programs low-cost or free) plus low living costs, and pursue Algerian government or university scholarships (covering tuition and living).

GOOD TO KNOW

Many public programs are **low-cost or effectively free**, and government scholarships can cover tuition and living — a strong value proposition.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa you show **proof of funds** (alongside your enrolment certificate) covering tuition and living, plus **health insurance** (~\$300–600/year). Living costs are low (~\$200–500/month). Confirm the exact requirements with the Algerian consulate and your university.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

+ enrolment certificate

Health insurance

~\$300–600/yr

Living

~\$200–500/month

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds, your enrolment certificate, and health insurance** — living costs are low; confirm the exact requirements with the Algerian consulate.

GOOD TO KNOW

Living costs are low (~\$200–500/month) — among the most affordable of any destination.



Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Instruction is **mainly in Arabic and French** (Algeria's system is French-modeled; Arabic and Tamazight are official, and French is widely used), with **English growing** (USTHB is now English-medium, and ESI and some postgraduate STEM programs offer English). Match the language to your program.

BY THE NUMBERS

Arabic & French

main mediums

English

USTHB, ESI, some STEM

Match

to your program

HOW TO HELP

Match the language to your program — **Arabic or French** for most, or **English** (USTHB, ESI, some postgraduate STEM) — and build the relevant language before you start.

GOOD TO KNOW

English options are **growing** (USTHB now teaches in English; ESI and some STEM postgrad offer English) — check your program's language.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After your visa, **arrange residence, housing, and banking, and set up insurance**. Most students are based in **Algiers, Oran, or Constantine**, which host large university communities and student services. Algeria offers rich culture, a Mediterranean coast, and varied landscapes; follow your university's and local guidance.

BY THE NUMBERS

Residence + housing

first tasks

Cities

Algiers, Oran, Constantine

Banking + insurance

set up

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **residence, housing, banking, insurance** — in Algiers, Oran, or Constantine, following your university's guidance.

GOOD TO KNOW

Algiers, Oran, and Constantine host **large university communities and student services** — your main study bases.

Understand the Affordable Public-System Advantage

WHAT TO KNOW

Algeria's **large national public network** — a university in every region, at very low cost — is its core strength, with established programs in **medicine, engineering, sciences, law, and literature**. The new digital platform and 2025 framework make it more accessible to international students than before.

BY THE NUMBERS

National network

every region

Strengths

medicine, engineering, sciences

More accessible

new framework

HOW TO HELP

Tap Algeria's **large, low-cost public network** (strong in medicine, engineering, and sciences), now more accessible to internationals via the 2025 framework and digital platform.

GOOD TO KNOW

Algeria's strengths include **medicine, engineering, and the sciences**, delivered across a broad, affordable national system.

Thrive & After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Algeria's links across the **Maghreb, the Mediterranean, and the Arab world**, plus your language skills, open regional opportunities in fields like medicine, engineering, energy, and sciences. Confirm the current post-study visa/work pathway if you want to stay, and use your networks.

BY THE NUMBERS

Links

Maghreb, Mediterranean, Arab world

Fields

medicine, engineering, energy

Post-study

confirm pathway

HOW TO HELP

Leverage Algeria's **regional links and your language skills** for opportunities in medicine, engineering, energy, and sciences, and confirm the current post-study pathway if you want to stay.

GOOD TO KNOW

Confirm the **current post-study options** — they can change, and vary by field and situation.

Studying in Algeria: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change and the 2025 framework is new, so confirm with the Ministry of Higher Education, your university, and the Algerian consulate.

The system

A large, French-modeled (LMD) system with 48+ universities: the University of Algiers (1909, the oldest), USTHB (science/tech, now English-medium), the University of Oran, the University of Constantine, and specialized schools like ESI (computing/AI); mainly Arabic and French, with English growing.

Visa & framework

Foreign-student admission is governed by Presidential Decree 25-83 (2025); use the official “Study in Algeria” platform, obtain a Ministry of Higher Education certificate after admission, then apply for a student visa (enrolment certificate + funds) at an Algerian embassy.

Applying & tuition

Apply via the Study in Algeria platform or university portals (foreign diplomas need Ministry equivalency); the year runs October–June (apply ~May–July); tuition ~\$1,000–3,000/year (many programs low-cost or free); government and university scholarships cover tuition and living.

Money & language

Show proof of funds plus health insurance (~\$300–600/year; living ~\$200–500/month); instruction is mainly Arabic and French, with English growing (USTHB, ESI, some postgraduate STEM).

Strengths & after

A large, affordable national network strong in medicine, engineering, and sciences; regional links across the Maghreb, the Mediterranean, and the Arab world open careers — confirm the post-study pathway.

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