K12 ACADEMICS — INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERIES

Studying in Argentina

A guide for international students & families — how Argentine higher education works, the student visa, low-cost public universities, Spanish study, work rights, and a 2025 tuition change.

K12 ACADEMICS

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2026 EDITION

ABOUT K12 ACADEMICS

The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

WORLD-CLASS PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, LOW COSTS, WORK RIGHTS

Argentina offers **world-class public universities (UBA is top-100 globally and #1 in Latin America), very low costs, rich Spanish immersion, and student work rights (20 hours/week)**. One important recent change: since **Decree 366/2025**, public-university tuition is no longer automatically free for non-permanent-resident international students — some institutions may now charge, so verify each one. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Argentine rules changed in 2025 (Decree 366/2025 affects tuition for non-permanent residents; implementation varies by institution), and figures change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with each university, the Dirección Nacional de Migraciones (DNM), and the Argentine consulate**.

1

STEP 01 OF 10

Understand Why Students Choose Argentina

WHAT TO KNOW

Argentina offers **a top-100 world university (UBA), very low living costs, immersive Spanish, strong medicine and agriculture programs, and student work rights (20 hours/week)** — a compelling, affordable package.

BY THE NUMBERS

UBA	Very low costs	Strong
top-100 world, #1 Latin America	+ work rights	medicine, agriculture

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Argentina's **quality and affordability** against the 2025 tuition change and a demanding Spanish requirement — for immersive, low-cost study with work rights, it's attractive.

WATCH OUT

Student visa holders can **work up to 20 hours/week** — a key advantage over some neighbours (e.g., Chile, where the student visa doesn't permit work).

2

STEP 02 OF 10

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Public universities (UBA, UNC, UNLP, and dozens of national universities) are highly regarded and historically tuition-free; **private universities** (Torcuato Di Tella, Universidad Austral) charge tuition but offer flexible programs. You apply **directly to each**; UBA's entry filter is the **CBC (Ciclo Básico Común)**, a foundational year.

BY THE NUMBERS

Public	Private	UBA entry
UBA, UNC, UNLP	Di Tella, Austral	CBC foundational year

HOW TO HELP

Choose a **public university** (highly regarded; verify current tuition for internationals) or a **private university**, and note UBA's CBC foundational year as the entry filter.

GOOD TO KNOW

National universities screen not with an exam but with a **year of assessed coursework in Spanish (the CBC)** — plan for it at UBA.

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STEP 03 OF 10

Get the Student Visa & DNI

WHAT TO KNOW

For study over 90 days you need a **student visa (category D)**, arranged via an Argentine consulate or the **Dirección Nacional de Migraciones (DNM)** (processing ~20–40 days). After arrival you obtain your **DNI (residency card)** — needed for banking, formal work, and daily life.

BY THE NUMBERS

Student visa	Via consulate / DNM	DNI
category D (>90 days)	~20–40 days	residency card

HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **student visa (category D)** via a consulate or the DNM, then obtain your **DNI** after arrival — it's essential for banking and formal work.

GOOD TO KNOW

Your **DNI (residency card)** is needed to be formally employed and for everyday life — obtain it promptly.

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STEP 04 OF 10

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to each university**. Public universities generally have **no traditional entrance exam** (UBA's CBC foundational year serves as the filter); private universities have their own admissions. You'll need **strong Spanish** (UBA now requires **SIELE Global C1** for non-Spanish-schooled applicants) and credential recognition (revalidación) for some programs.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly	Public	Spanish
to each	CBC filter (no exam)	UBA: SIELE C1

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** to your chosen university, prepare for UBA's CBC (or a private university's admissions), and meet the **Spanish requirement (SIELE C1 at UBA)**.

WATCH OUT

UBA's **SIELE Global C1** requirement is a step above the B2 many guides quote — reaching it takes well over a year from zero, so plan Spanish early.

5

STEP 05 OF 10

Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

WHAT TO KNOW

This is the key 2025 change: since **Decree 366/2025**, public universities **may charge non-permanent-resident international students** (implementation varies — verify each institution; where charged, it's typically a modest fee). Private universities run **$4,000–15,000/year**. Postgraduate programs can carry fees even at public universities. Scholarships are available.

BY THE NUMBERS

Public	Private	Postgrad
verify (2025 change)	$4,000–15,000/yr	fees even at public

HOW TO HELP

Verify each public university's current policy (post-Decree 366/2025 they may charge internationals), budget for private fees ($4k–15k) if relevant, and explore scholarships.

GOOD TO KNOW

Don't assume free public tuition anymore — confirm each institution's current status-based policy before applying.

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STEP 06 OF 10

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

You'll show **proof of funds** for tuition (where applicable) and living, plus apostilled and translated documents. Note: **non-emergency public healthcare requires permanent residency**, so buy **private health insurance** (emergency care is free for all). Confirm the exact requirements with your consulate/DNM.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds	Private insurance	Documents
tuition (if any) + living	for non-emergency care	apostilled & translated

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds**, apostilled/translated documents, and **private health insurance** — confirm the exact requirements with your consulate and the DNM.

GOOD TO KNOW

Buy **private health insurance**: non-emergency public healthcare requires permanent residency (emergency care is free for everyone).

7

STEP 07 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Most programs are taught **entirely in Spanish**, so proficiency is essential (UBA requires **SIELE Global C1**; other universities set their own level). English-taught undergraduate degree tracks are **rare** — mostly scattered exchange courses. Build Spanish well before you apply.

BY THE NUMBERS

Spanish	UBA	English
essential (most programs)	SIELE C1	rare (undergrad)

HOW TO HELP

Plan for **strong Spanish** (UBA's SIELE C1 or each university's level) — English-taught degree tracks are rare, so Spanish is the practical requirement.

GOOD TO KNOW

English-taught **degree tracks are rare** — don't rely on studying in English at the undergraduate level.

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STEP 08 OF 10

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, obtain your **DNI, arrange housing, open a bank account, and buy insurance**. Living costs are low ($500–900/month in Buenos Aires), and the city is vibrant and welcoming. Bureaucracy can be slow — allow extra time. Most students are based in **Buenos Aires, Córdoba, or La Plata**.

BY THE NUMBERS

DNI + housing	Low costs	Cities
first tasks	$500–900/month	Buenos Aires, Córdoba

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **DNI, housing, banking, insurance** — and enjoy Argentina—s low costs and vibrant cities; allow extra time for bureaucracy.

GOOD TO KNOW

Argentine **bureaucracy can be slow** — start your DNI and paperwork early, and keep organized copies of everything.

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STEP 09 OF 10

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

A real advantage: the **student visa allows part-time work (up to 20 hours per week during term, full-time during holidays)**. To be formally employed you need your **DNI**. This provides a legal income pathway — a notable difference from some neighbouring countries.

BY THE NUMBERS

Work	Full-time	Need
20 hrs/week in term	in holidays	your DNI to work

HOW TO HELP

You may **work up to 20 hours/week** (full-time in holidays) once you have your **DNI** — a legal income pathway that helps with living costs.

GOOD TO KNOW

Formal employment requires your **DNI** — obtain it first, then you can work part-time legally.

10 STEP 10 OF 10

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Argentina's strengths in **medicine, agriculture, engineering, and social sciences**, plus a path toward **longer-term residency**, offer opportunities. Confirm the current post-study and residency pathways (they depend on your visa category and continuous legal residence), and use your Spanish across the region.

BY THE NUMBERS

Strengths	Residency	Confirm
medicine, agriculture, engineering	a pathway	current rules

HOW TO HELP

Plan around Argentina's **academic strengths and residency pathway**, confirm the current post-study rules (which depend on your visa and continuous residence), and use your Spanish regionally.

GOOD TO KNOW

Progression toward **longer-term residency** depends on your visa category and continuous legal residence — confirm the current requirements.

QUICK REFERENCE

Studying in Argentina: The Essentials

A snapshot — rules changed in 2025 (Decree 366/2025), so confirm with each university, the DNM, and the Argentine consulate.

The system

Public universities (UBA — top-100 world, #1 in Latin America — UNC, UNLP) and private universities (Torcuato Di Tella, Universidad Austral); UBA's entry filter is the CBC foundational year; apply directly to each.

Visa & DNI

Study over 90 days needs a student visa (category D) via a consulate or the DNM (~20–40 days); obtain your DNI (residency card) after arrival for banking and formal work.

Tuition (2025 change)

Since Decree 366/2025, public universities may charge non-permanent-resident international students (verify each institution); private universities $4,000–15,000/year; postgraduate fees possible even at public universities.

Money & language

Show proof of funds plus apostilled/translated documents and private health insurance (non-emergency public care needs permanent residency); most programs are in Spanish (UBA: SIELE C1); English undergrad tracks are rare.

Work & after

The student visa allows up to 20 hrs/week in term (full-time in holidays; need your DNI); strengths in medicine, agriculture, and engineering, with a pathway toward longer-term residency — confirm current rules.

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