

Studying in Brunei

A guide for international students & families — how Brunei's higher education works, the student pass, English-medium study, transfer partnerships, and its fully-funded government scholarship.

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ENGLISH-MEDIUM, TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS, A FULLY-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP

Brunei — a small, oil-rich, high-income Sultanate in Southeast Asia — offers **well-regarded, English-medium universities** (Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Universiti Teknologi Brunei) with **transfer partnerships to Australia, the UK, and Ireland**. Its headline draw is the **fully-funded Brunei Darussalam Government Scholarship** for international students. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Brunelian rules, tuition, and scholarships change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with your university, Brunei immigration, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (for the scholarship)**.

Understand Why Students Choose Brunei

WHAT TO KNOW

Brunei offers **English-medium universities**; **transfer partnerships to Australia, the UK, and Ireland**; **a fully-funded government scholarship**; and **a safe, high-income setting** — an accessible, well-supported destination in Southeast Asia.

BY THE NUMBERS

English-medium
universities

Transfer
Australia, UK, Ireland

Fully-funded
government scholarship

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Brunei's **English-taught quality, transfer options, and generous scholarship** against its small size — for a funded, English-medium degree with international transfer routes, it's a strong choice.

GOOD TO KNOW

Brunei's universities transfer students to partner schools in Australia, the UK, and Ireland — they maintain high standards to do so.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

The main universities are **Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD)** and **Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB — technology)**, plus **Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA — Islamic studies)** and **Politeknik Brunei**. Undergraduate programs are typically **four years**. Admission runs through the **Higher Education Central Admission System (HECAS)**.

BY THE NUMBERS

UBD / UTB

main universities

UNISSA / Politeknik

+ others

HECAS

central admission

HOW TO HELP

Choose among **UBD, UTB, UNISSA, and Politeknik Brunei** by field, and apply through the central **HECAS** system — undergraduate programs typically run four years.

GOOD TO KNOW

Undergraduate programs at UBD run **four years (eight semesters)** — and often include a transfer or discovery-year component.

Get the Student Pass

WHAT TO KNOW

Once accepted, you apply for a **student pass and visa through your institution**. When approved, the **visa is typically issued on arrival**; the process usually takes about **three to eight weeks**. Your university guides the documentation.

BY THE NUMBERS

Student pass

via your institution

Visa

often on arrival

~3–8 weeks

processing

HOW TO HELP

Apply for your **student pass and visa through your institution** once accepted — approval usually takes 3–8 weeks, with the visa often issued on arrival.

GOOD TO KNOW

Your **institution handles the student pass** — follow its guidance, and allow several weeks for processing.

Apply to Universities (or the Scholarship)

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly (online)** to **UBD or UTB** (or via HECAS), with your academic records, English proof (**IELTS 6.0 / TOEFL 550**), and a medical examination. For the **fully-funded government scholarship**, apply through the dedicated process — the **deadline is typically mid-February** for the July/August intake.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly

UBD/UTB or HECAS

English

IELTS 6.0 / TOEFL 550

Scholarship

~Feb deadline

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** to UBD/UTB (with English proof and a medical exam), and — for full funding — apply to the **government scholarship by its mid-February deadline**.

GOOD TO KNOW

The scholarship and university applications can be linked — check whether your scholarship application is processed for you by the university.

Understand Tuition & the Government Scholarship

WHAT TO KNOW

Self-funded tuition is roughly **BND\$12,000/year (~US\$9,000)** for programs like Islamic finance, business, and economics. But the headline is the **Brunei Darussalam Government Scholarship: fully funded** — tuition, round-trip airfare, on-campus accommodation, a monthly allowance (BND\$500–650), and health insurance.

BY THE NUMBERS

Self-funded

~BND\$12,000/year

Govt scholarship

fully funded

Covers

tuition, airfare, allowance

HOW TO HELP

Decide between **self-funded study** (~BND\$12,000/year) and the **fully-funded government scholarship** (tuition, airfare, accommodation, allowance, insurance) — the scholarship is the standout route.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **government scholarship covers essentially everything** — a major reason international students choose Brunei; note scholars can't take paid employment.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

Scholarship holders have funding covered (with a modest allowance). **Self-funded** students show proof of funds for tuition and living, plus **health insurance** (scholars are urged to obtain additional cover). Confirm the exact requirements with your university and immigration.

BY THE NUMBERS

Scholarship

funding covered

Self-funded

proof of funds

Insurance

required

HOW TO HELP

If on the **scholarship**, funding is covered; if **self-funding**, prepare proof of funds and insurance — confirm specifics with your university and immigration.

GOOD TO KNOW

Scholars receive a **monthly allowance and accommodation** but are urged to get **additional insurance** — a small out-of-pocket step.



Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Teaching at UBD and UTB is **in English**, so you prove English (**IELTS 6.0, TOEFL 550**, or a UBD English test). The scholarship accepts English, Malay, or Arabic depending on the program. Some Malay helps daily life.

BY THE NUMBERS

English

UBD/UTB medium

IELTS 6.0 / TOEFL 550

or UBD test

Malay

helps daily life

HOW TO HELP

Prove **English proficiency** (IELTS 6.0 / TOEFL 550 or a UBD test) for English-taught programs, and pick up some Malay for daily life.

GOOD TO KNOW

UBD accepts several English qualifications (IGCSE, "O" Level, IELTS, TOEFL, or its own test) — check which you meet.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After your pass, **arrange accommodation (on-campus for scholarship holders), complete registration, and set up banking and insurance.** Brunei is **safe, orderly, and high-income**, with English widely spoken and a comfortable standard of living. It's a conservative Islamic society — plan respectfully.

BY THE NUMBERS

Accommodation

on-campus for scholars

Registration + banking

set up

Safe

high-income, English-friendly

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **accommodation (on-campus for scholars), registration, banking, insurance** — in a safe, high-income, English-friendly (and conservative Islamic) society.

GOOD TO KNOW

Brunei is a **conservative Islamic society** with a high standard of living — plan respectfully; scholars receive on-campus housing.

Explore Transfer Partnerships

WHAT TO KNOW

UBD and UTB maintain **partnerships with universities in Australia, the UK, and Ireland**, letting students study part of their degree abroad or transfer — a valuable route to international experience within a funded, English-medium program.

BY THE NUMBERS

Partnerships

Australia, UK, Ireland

Study abroad

or transfer

International

experience

HOW TO HELP

Use UBD/UTB's **transfer partnerships** (Australia, UK, Ireland) for international experience or a transfer — a real advantage within a funded, English-medium degree.

GOOD TO KNOW

Brunei's universities must **maintain high standards to transfer students** to partner schools abroad — a mark of quality.

Thrive & After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Brunei's stability, ASEAN location, and links to Australia/UK/Ireland partners offer strong opportunities. Note that **scholarship holders can't take paid employment** during study. Confirm the current post-study pathway if you want to work in Brunei or the region after graduating.

BY THE NUMBERS

ASEAN location

+ partner links

Scholars

no paid work during study

Post-study

confirm pathway

HOW TO HELP

Use Brunei's **stability, ASEAN location, and partner-university links**, respect the no-paid-work rule for scholars, and confirm the current post-study pathway if you want to stay.

WATCH OUT

Scholarship holders are **not permitted to take paid employment** during their studies — plan your finances around the allowance.

Studying in Brunei: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm with your university, Brunei immigration, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (scholarship).

The system

Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) are the main English-medium universities, plus UNISSA (Islamic studies) and Politeknik Brunei; undergraduate programs run ~4 years; admission via HECAS.

The pass

Once accepted, apply for a student pass and visa through your institution; approval takes ~3–8 weeks, with the visa often issued on arrival.

Tuition & scholarship

Self-funded ~BND\$12,000/year; the Brunei Darussalam Government Scholarship is fully funded (tuition, airfare, on-campus accommodation, a monthly allowance of BND\$500–650, and insurance), with a ~mid-February deadline.

Money & language

Scholarship holders have funding covered; self-funded students show proof of funds and insurance; English at UBD/UTB (IELTS 6.0 / TOEFL 550 or a UBD test), with Malay useful for daily life.

Transfer & after

UBD/UTB maintain transfer partnerships with universities in Australia, the UK, and Ireland; scholarship holders can't take paid employment during study; confirm the post-study pathway.

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