

Studying in Cyprus

A guide for international students & families — how higher education in the Republic of Cyprus works, the entry permit and residence permit, English-medium programs, accreditation, and work.

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ENGLISH-MEDIUM, EU, MEDITERRANEAN

The Republic of Cyprus has **one of the highest proportions of English-medium programs of any EU country**, plus affordable living and a sunny Mediterranean setting. Non-EU students get an **entry permit (Blue Slip)** arranged through the university, then a residence permit. One key caution: **verify KYSATS accreditation** before enrolling, since not all private institutions are accredited. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. This guide covers the **Republic of Cyprus** (an EU member). Rules, tuition, and funds change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Cyprus Migration Department, KYSATS, and your university**.

Understand Why Students Choose Cyprus

WHAT TO KNOW

The Republic of Cyprus offers a **huge range of English-medium programs, affordable tuition and living, EU-recognized degrees, and a sunny Mediterranean lifestyle** — with strong private universities in fields like medicine and business.

BY THE NUMBERS

English-medium

among EU's highest

Affordable

tuition & living

EU-recognized

(if accredited)

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Cyprus's **English-medium breadth and affordability** against the need to **verify accreditation** and the lack of a post-study work visa — for English-taught study, it's a strong option.

GOOD TO KNOW

Cyprus has **one of the highest shares of English-medium programs in the EU** — you can study entirely in English.

Understand the System (and Check Accreditation)

WHAT TO KNOW

Cyprus has **public universities** (University of Cyprus, Cyprus University of Technology) and **private universities** (University of Nicosia — strong in medicine, European University Cyprus, Frederick, and others). **Crucially, verify KYSATS accreditation** — not all private institutions or programs are accredited.

BY THE NUMBERS

Public

UCY, CUT

Private

UNIC, EUC, Frederick

KYSATS

verify accreditation!

HOW TO HELP

Choose an institution and program, and **confirm it's KYSATS-accredited** before committing — accreditation determines whether your degree is recognized internationally.

WATCH OUT

Not all private universities/programs are KYSATS-accredited — verify in the KYSATS database first; this affects degree recognition.

Get the Entry Permit (Blue Slip)

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU students need an **entry permit (the "Blue Slip")**, which is issued **in Cyprus by the Migration Department** — your university submits your application (with attested documents and payments). The scanned Blue Slip is emailed to you and is needed to enter the Republic.

BY THE NUMBERS

Blue Slip

the entry permit

University submits

to Migration Dept

Needed

to enter Cyprus

HOW TO HELP

Provide your university with the **attested documents and payments** so it can obtain your **Blue Slip** from the Migration Department — you'll need it (and possibly an embassy stamp) to enter.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **Blue Slip is issued in Cyprus** (the university arranges it), not a standard embassy visa — check whether your embassy also requires a verification stamp.

Get Your Residence Permit (Pink Slip)

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving and completing registration and payments, you receive a **Temporary Residence Permit (the “Pink Slip”, a student visa card)**. You must be enrolled **full-time**. Medical exams (e.g., chest X-ray, blood tests) are typically required.

BY THE NUMBERS

Pink Slip

residence permit card

Full-time

enrollment required

Medical exams

typically required

HOW TO HELP

Complete registration and payments on arrival to get your **Pink Slip** (residence permit), and prepare for the **required medical exams** — keep the card with you.

WATCH OUT

You must be **enrolled full-time** and complete medical exams to get and keep the Pink Slip — plan for both.

Plan for Tuition & Funding

WHAT TO KNOW

Public-university tuition (UCY, CUT) is low for EU students (~€3,500–4,500/year) and higher for non-EU. Private universities charge roughly **€4,000–12,000+/year** (medicine higher). Merit scholarships (often up to 50%) are common at private universities.

BY THE NUMBERS

Public

low for EU

Private

~€4,000–12,000+/yr

Scholarships

up to 50% (private)

HOW TO HELP

Budget the tuition (private universities vary widely; medicine is the outlier) plus moderate living costs, and pursue **merit scholarships**, which many private universities offer.

GOOD TO KNOW

Private-university **tuition and quality vary a lot** — compare rankings, graduate outcomes, and (again) KYSATS accreditation before committing.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

Immigration generally requires proof of about **€7,000–10,000/year** (covering tuition, accommodation, and living), and you should carry **at least €2,000 cash on arrival**. Comprehensive health insurance (€30,000 cover) and a medical certificate are also required.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

~€7,000–10,000/yr

On arrival

~€2,000 cash

+ insurance

& medical certificate

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** at the required level (bank guarantees/sponsor declarations are common), carry **€2,000 cash** for entry, and arrange insurance and the medical certificate.

WATCH OUT

Financial proof for Cyprus is **relatively strict** (often bank guarantees) — prepare strong, clear documents to avoid delays.



Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

The vast majority of international programs are **in English** (typically **IELTS 5.5+** or TOEFL, unless you studied in English); some universities run their own tests or offer **English preparatory programs**. Greek is the local language for daily life.

BY THE NUMBERS

English

IELTS 5.5+

English-medium

most programs

Prep programs

if you need them

HOW TO HELP

Prove **English (IELTS 5.5+ or equivalent)** for your program, or use a preparatory program if you need to build up — you can study entirely in English.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some universities **accept prior English-medium study or their own test** instead of IELTS — check your program's policy.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

Enter with your **Blue Slip and required documents** (and €2,000 cash), then complete your **Pink Slip, insurance, banking, and medical exams**. Living costs in Nicosia and Limassol are moderate. Note Cyprus is **not yet in Schengen**, so intra-EU travel needs checking.

BY THE NUMBERS

Blue Slip + cash

for entry

Pink Slip + medical

after arrival

Not Schengen

yet

HOW TO HELP

Enter with your **Blue Slip** and documents, complete your **Pink Slip, insurance, and medical exams**, and remember Cyprus isn't yet in Schengen when planning EU travel.

WATCH OUT

Cyprus is **not yet in the Schengen area** — so your Cypriot permit doesn't automatically allow Schengen travel; check before trips.

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU students may work **part-time (up to 20 hours/week) only after the first 6 months** of study, in **specific sectors** (e.g., hospitality), and full-time during holidays — after obtaining the residence permit (Pink Slip).

BY THE NUMBERS

Work

20 hrs/week after 6 months

Specific sectors

e.g., hospitality

After the Pink Slip

not before

HOW TO HELP

Plan to **fund your studies fully**: you can only work after 6 months, up to 20 hours/week, in certain sectors — it won't cover your costs upfront.

WATCH OUT

Work rights start **only after 6 months** and in limited sectors — don't rely on part-time work to fund your first year.

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Be aware: Cyprus has **no automatic post-study work visa**. To stay and work after graduating, routes include **employer-sponsored permits** or further study, and your EU-recognized (accredited) degree opens doors elsewhere in the EU.

BY THE NUMBERS

No auto post-study visa

plan ahead

Employer-sponsored

or further study

EU-recognized degree

if accredited

HOW TO HELP

Plan your post-study path early — Cyprus has **no automatic post-study work visa**, so target employer sponsorship, further study, or opportunities elsewhere in the EU.

WATCH OUT

There's **no automatic post-study work visa** in Cyprus — arrange employer sponsorship or another route before graduating if you want to stay.

Studying in Cyprus: The Essentials

A snapshot for the Republic of Cyprus — figures change, so confirm everything with the Migration Department, KYSATS, and your university.

The system

Public universities (University of Cyprus, Cyprus University of Technology) and private universities (University of Nicosia, European University Cyprus, Frederick); verify KYSATS accreditation before enrolling.

Entry & residence

Non-EU students need an entry permit (Blue Slip), issued in Cyprus via the university/Migration Department, then a residence permit (Pink Slip) after arrival; full-time enrollment and medical exams required.

Tuition

Public tuition low for EU (~€3,500–4,500), higher for non-EU; private universities ~€4,000–12,000+/year (medicine higher); merit scholarships (often up to 50%) common at private universities.

Money

Prove ~€7,000–10,000/year (often via bank guarantees), carry ~€2,000 cash on arrival, plus health insurance (€30,000) and a medical certificate; Cyprus is not yet in Schengen.

Work & after

Work up to 20 hrs/week only after 6 months, in specific sectors; there is no automatic post-study work visa — plan employer sponsorship or further study to stay.

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