

Studying in Ghana

A guide for international students & families — how Ghanaian higher education works, the student visa & permit, English-medium study, and life in one of West Africa's most stable nations.

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ENGLISH-MEDIUM, STABLE & SAFE, AFFORDABLE

Ghana is one of **West Africa's most stable and welcoming** countries, with **English-medium, internationally recognized universities** — the University of Ghana (Legon), KNUST, and Ashesi — at affordable costs. English is the official language (no barrier for English speakers), and Ghana's rich culture and Pan-African heritage add to the appeal. Students get a **student visa and permit**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Ghanaian rules, tuition, and the funds requirement change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with your university's international office, the Ghana Immigration Service, and the Ghanaian mission.**

Understand Why Students Choose Ghana

WHAT TO KNOW

Ghana offers **English-medium, internationally recognized universities; a stable, safe, democratic setting; affordable costs; strong African and diaspora studies; and warm, welcoming culture** — a leading English-speaking destination in West Africa.

BY THE NUMBERS

English-medium

recognized universities

Stable & safe

democratic

Affordable

+ heritage

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Ghana's **English-medium quality, stability, and affordability** — for English-taught study in a safe, welcoming West African country, it's a strong, distinctive choice.

GOOD TO KNOW

Ghana is one of **West Africa's most stable and safe** countries — a welcoming, English-speaking base for international students.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Public universities lead: the **University of Ghana (UG, Legon, Accra — oldest, largest, premier; arts, sciences, law, business, medicine)**, **KNUST (Kumasi — science and technology, engineering, pharmacy)**, and the University of Cape Coast. Private universities include **Ashesi University** (a respected liberal-arts institution) and GIMPA. English is the medium throughout.

BY THE NUMBERS

UG Legon

premier (public)

KNUST

science & technology

Ashesi

respected private

HOW TO HELP

Choose **UG Legon** (premier, broad), **KNUST** (science/technology), or a private university (Ashesi) by field — all English-medium.

GOOD TO KNOW

UG (founded 1948) is Ghana's **oldest and premier university**; KNUST leads in science and technology — both internationally recognized.

Get the Student Visa & Permit

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply for a **student visa** at a Ghanaian embassy (with your acceptance letter, funds proof, a **yellow-fever vaccination certificate**, police clearance, and a medical report). After arriving, your university helps you register with the **Ghana Immigration Service (GIS)** for a **student/residence permit**, and you obtain the **Non-Citizen Ghana Card (\$120)**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Student visa

via embassy

+ yellow fever

& police/medical

On arrival

GIS permit + Ghana Card

HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **student visa** (acceptance, funds, yellow-fever certificate, police, medical), then register with the **GIS** for your permit and get the **Non-Citizen Ghana Card** after arrival.

WATCH OUT

A **yellow-fever vaccination certificate is mandatory** for entry (Ghana is endemic) — arrange it before travel.

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to each university** (undergraduate applications are often accepted year-round; the academic year begins around **September/October**). English is the medium, so no separate language test is usually needed for English speakers. Note application fees (e.g., UG's ~\$110) and endorsement requirements for visiting students.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly

year-round (year starts Sept)

English

no test (English speakers)

UG fee

~\$110

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** to your chosen university (year begins around September) — English is the medium, so it's accessible for English speakers; note application fees.

GOOD TO KNOW

Undergraduate applications are often accepted **year-round**, with the academic year beginning around September/October.

Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **affordable** (international students pay more than nationals; **ECOWAS/West-African students often get reduced rates** at public universities). Expect an application fee (UG ~\$110) and standard fees. Scholarships and financial aid vary — check each university's international office.

BY THE NUMBERS

Affordable

int'l pay more

ECOWAS

reduced rates

Scholarships

per university

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **affordable tuition** (internationals pay more; ECOWAS students get reduced rates) plus the application fee and living costs, and check each university for scholarships.

GOOD TO KNOW

ECOWAS (West-African) students often pay reduced rates at public universities — a benefit if you qualify.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa you show **proof of funds** for tuition and living (students are generally advised to have access to about **\$500/month**), plus your **yellow-fever certificate** and often a police clearance and medical report. Confirm the exact requirements with the Ghanaian mission.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

~\$500/month advised

Yellow fever

certificate

+ police/medical

as required

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds (~\$500/month)**, your **yellow-fever certificate**, and any required **police/medical documents** — confirm specifics with the Ghanaian mission.

GOOD TO KNOW

Show **proof of funds** for tuition and living (about \$500/month is a common guide) — via bank statements, scholarship, or sponsorship.



Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

English is Ghana's **official language and the medium of instruction** throughout, so there's no language barrier for English speakers, and no separate language test is usually required (non-native speakers may still show English proficiency).

BY THE NUMBERS

English

official & medium

No barrier

for English speakers

Proof

for non-native speakers

HOW TO HELP

Study **entirely in English** — no language barrier for English speakers, though non-native speakers may need to show English proficiency.

GOOD TO KNOW

For English speakers, **language is not a barrier** — a key advantage of studying in Ghana.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After your visa, **obtain your permit and Non-Citizen Ghana Card, arrange housing, and set up banking.** International students can live in **university residences** or private housing. Most study in **Accra (Legon) or Kumasi (KNUST)**. Ghana is warm, welcoming, and culturally rich, with beaches, history, and vibrant cities.

BY THE NUMBERS

Permit + Ghana Card

first tasks

Housing

residences or private

Cities

Accra, Kumasi

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **permit, Non-Citizen Ghana Card, housing (residences available), banking** — in Accra or Kumasi; Ghana is warm, welcoming, and culturally rich.

GOOD TO KNOW

International students can live in **university residences** — apply early through the international office.

Understand Why Ghana Stands Out

WHAT TO KNOW

Ghana combines **political stability, safety, a strong democracy, English-medium education, and warm hospitality** with deep **Pan-African and diaspora connections** (a focus of initiatives welcoming the global African diaspora). It's a welcoming gateway to West Africa and to African studies.

BY THE NUMBERS

Stable & safe

strong democracy

English

+ hospitality

Pan-African

diaspora connections

HOW TO HELP

Value Ghana's **stability, safety, and Pan-African heritage** — a welcoming, English-speaking gateway to West Africa and African studies.

GOOD TO KNOW

Ghana's **Pan-African and diaspora connections** make it a meaningful destination for students exploring African heritage and studies.

Understand Work & After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Be aware: the **student permit generally does not authorise paid work** (limited exceptions, such as research-assistant roles, may be possible) — so plan to fund your studies, and verify the current terms. A Ghanaian degree and your regional networks open **West African and international opportunities**; confirm the current post-study pathway.

BY THE NUMBERS

Work

generally not authorised

Exceptions

e.g., research assistants

Post-study

confirm pathway

HOW TO HELP

Treat the **student permit as generally not permitting paid work** (limited exceptions aside), plan to fund your studies, and confirm the current post-study pathway if you want to stay.

WATCH OUT

Reports on student work vary — treat paid work as **generally not authorised** and verify the current terms with the GIS.

Studying in Ghana: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm with your university's international office, the Ghana Immigration Service, and the Ghanaian mission.

The system

Public universities — the University of Ghana (UG, Legon — oldest and premier), KNUST (science/technology), and the University of Cape Coast — plus private universities like Ashesi and GIMPA; English is the medium throughout.

Visa & permit

Apply for a student visa at a Ghanaian embassy (acceptance, funds, yellow-fever certificate, police clearance, medical report); on arrival, register with the Ghana Immigration Service for a student/residence permit and obtain the Non-Citizen Ghana Card (\$120).

Applying & tuition

Apply directly (often year-round; the year begins around September); English is the medium (no separate test usually needed for English speakers); tuition is affordable (internationals pay more; ECOWAS students get reduced rates); UG application fee ~\$110.

Money & health

Show proof of funds (about \$500/month is a common guide) plus a mandatory yellow-fever certificate (Ghana is endemic); police/medical documents may be required; university residences are available.

Work & after

The student permit generally does not authorise paid work (limited exceptions such as research-assistant roles); Ghana's stability, safety, and Pan-African heritage make it a welcoming West African base — confirm the post-study pathway.

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