

Studying in India

A guide for international students & families — how Indian higher education works, the Study in India portal and Student Visa, very affordable English-medium tuition, the ICCR scholarship, and rules.

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VERY AFFORDABLE, ENGLISH-MEDIUM, WORLD-FAMOUS INSTITUTES

India offers **very affordable, English-medium education** and some of the world's most respected institutes (the IITs, IIMs, and IISc), and its digitally modernized system is gaining traction as Western destinations tighten. Non-EU students register on the **Study in India (SII) portal**, get a **Student Visa (S)**, and register with the **FRRO** on arrival. The **ICCR scholarship** fully funds many students. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Indian rules changed in 2025 (mandatory Study in India portal registration, e-Student Visa, new FRRO rules) and vary. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Study in India portal, the Indian mission, and your institution.**

Understand Why Students Choose India

WHAT TO KNOW

India offers **very low tuition and living costs**, **English-medium teaching**, **world-renowned institutes (IITs, IIMs, IISc)**, **a huge range of programs**, and **generous government (ICCR) scholarships** — in an increasingly popular, digitally modernized system.

BY THE NUMBERS

Very affordable

tuition & living

English-medium

world-famous institutes

ICCR

fully-funded scholarships

HOW TO HELP

Weigh India's **affordability and famous institutes** against strict work rules and the newer portal process — for English-medium study on a budget, it's an increasingly strong choice.

GOOD TO KNOW

India's **IITs, IIMs, and IISc** are globally respected — and the wider system is very affordable and English-medium.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

India's institutions include the elite **IITs (technology)**, **IIMs (management)**, **IISc**, and **AIIMS (medicine)**, plus **NITs**, **IIITs**, and many **central/state/deemed/private universities** recognized by the **UGC**. Programs run bachelor's/master's/doctorate, mostly in English.

BY THE NUMBERS

IITs / IIMs / IISc

elite institutes

NITs / IIITs

+ many universities

UGC

recognition body

HOW TO HELP

Choose among India's **elite institutes** and **its many universities** (confirm UGC recognition), and note that admission is competitive at the top institutes.

WATCH OUT

Confirm your institution is **UGC-recognized** and offers a **regular, full-time** program — distance/part-time programs don't qualify for the Student Visa.

Register on the SII Portal & Get a Visa

WHAT TO KNOW

From 2025–26, all foreign students must **register on the Study in India (SII) portal** and obtain an **SII Unique ID** (cross-checked at visa authentication) *before* applying for a **Student Visa (S)** — now also available as an **e-Student Visa**.

BY THE NUMBERS

SII portal

register first

SII Unique ID

cross-checked

Student Visa (S)

or e-Student Visa

HOW TO HELP

Register on the **Study in India (SII) portal** for your Unique ID, then apply for the **Student Visa (S)** (or e-Student Visa) — the SII ID is required for visa authentication.

WATCH OUT

The **SII portal registration is now mandatory before the visa** — don't rely on older guides that skip this step.

Handle Admissions (DASA, ICCR, or direct)

WHAT TO KNOW

Three main routes: **DASA** (Direct Admission of Students Abroad — for engineering), **ICCR scholarships**, and **direct application via the Study in India portal** or individual universities. You'll need authenticated academic documents and to meet each program's requirements.

BY THE NUMBERS

DASA

engineering admissions

ICCR

scholarship route

Study in India / direct

the general route

HOW TO HELP

Choose your route — **DASA** for engineering, **ICCR** for a scholarship, or **direct/SII** for general admission — and prepare authenticated documents for each program.

GOOD TO KNOW

Applying on the **Study in India portal** doesn't guarantee a visa — it's subject to approval under Indian law.

Plan for Tuition & Funding

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **very affordable** at public universities (higher at IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, and top private universities). The **ICCR scholarship** is fully funded — covering **full tuition, a monthly stipend (₹18,000–35,000), house-rent allowance, a thesis grant, and return airfare** (apply via the A2A portal).

BY THE NUMBERS

Public

very affordable

IITs/IIMs

higher

ICCR

fully funded

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **affordable tuition** (higher at elite institutes), and pursue the fully-funded **ICCR scholarship** via the A2A portal, or Study in India fee waivers.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **ICCR scholarship** covers tuition, a stipend, housing allowance, and airfare — but note it **excludes medical coverage**, so you'll need your own insurance.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

You must show you can cover **full tuition plus living** (₹25,000–45,000/month depending on city) — a planning figure is around **₹450,000/year** at a mid-range institution (less at public universities). ICCR students must hold **medical insurance** (₹500,000 minimum).

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

~₹450,000/year

Living

₹25,000–45,000/mo

Insurance

₹500,000 (ICCR)

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** (bank statement, sponsor, or scholarship letter) covering tuition and living, and arrange **medical insurance** — confirm the exact evidence with your institution and mission.

GOOD TO KNOW

Confirm the **exact financial evidence** with your institution and the Indian mission — it varies by program and nationality.



Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Most higher-education programs are taught **in English**, so language is rarely a barrier — you demonstrate English proficiency where required (or via prior English-medium study). Some programs (and daily life) benefit from Hindi or a regional language.

BY THE NUMBERS

English

medium of instruction

Proof

where required

Hindi

helps daily life

HOW TO HELP

Demonstrate **English proficiency** where asked — most programs are in English — and pick up some Hindi or a regional language for daily life.

GOOD TO KNOW

India's **English-medium teaching** makes it accessible for English-speaking students.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

You must **register with the FRRO within 14 days of arrival** (via the e-FRRO portal), and renew it each year alongside your visa. Arrange **health insurance and accommodation** (many campuses offer hostels). Living costs are low, but vary widely by city.

BY THE NUMBERS

FRRO

within 14 days!

e-FRRO

online portal

Hostels

on many campuses

HOW TO HELP

Complete **FRRO registration within 14 days** of arrival (via e-FRRO), arrange insurance and housing, and note that renewals happen yearly alongside your visa.

WATCH OUT

The **14-day FRRO registration** is mandatory for stays over 180 days — and rules are being standardized (even long-exempt groups now register).

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Be clear on this: the **Student Visa does not permit employment** — it's for full-time study only, and part-time work is generally not allowed. Plan to **fund your studies fully**; India's low costs help, but don't count on working.

BY THE NUMBERS

No employment

on the Student Visa

Study only

full-time

Fund fully

don't rely on work

HOW TO HELP

Understand that the **Student Visa doesn't allow work** — budget to cover your full costs (India's low living costs make this manageable), and don't plan on part-time income.

WATCH OUT

The **Student Visa is study-only** — working on it is not permitted, so plan your finances accordingly.

Thrive & After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Make the most of India's institutes, low costs, and rich culture. Your **Student Visa is renewed yearly** via e-FRRO while enrolled. After graduating, other visa categories (e.g., employment) apply if you find qualifying work — confirm the current pathway.

BY THE NUMBERS

Renew yearly

via e-FRRO

After study

separate visa categories

Rich experience

+ low costs

HOW TO HELP

Renew your visa yearly while enrolled, immerse in India's culture and institutes, and explore separate visa categories (e.g., employment) after graduating if you find qualifying work.

GOOD TO KNOW

Post-study work requires a **separate visa category and a qualifying job** — the Student Visa doesn't convert automatically.

Studying in India: The Essentials

A snapshot — rules changed in 2025, so confirm everything with the Study in India portal, the Indian mission, and your institution.

The system

Elite Institutes (IITs, IIMs, IISc, AIIMS) plus NITs, IIITs, and many UGC-recognized universities; mostly English-medium; only regular full-time programs qualify for the Student Visa.

Portal & visa

From 2025–26, register on the Study in India (SII) portal for a Unique ID (cross-checked at visa authentication) before applying for a Student Visa (S) or e-Student Visa; register with the FRRO within 14 days of arrival.

Admissions & funding

Routes: DASA (engineering), ICCR scholarship, or direct/SII; the ICCR scholarship fully funds tuition, a stipend (₹18k–35k/month), housing allowance, and airfare (but not medical).

Money & language

Prove full tuition plus living (planning figure ~₹450,000/year, less at public universities); medical insurance required (ICCR: ₹500,000 min); mostly English-medium.

Work & after

The Student Visa does NOT permit employment (study only) — budget fully; post-study work requires a separate visa category and a qualifying job.

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