

Studying in Liechtenstein

A guide for international students & families — how the University of Liechtenstein works, the study permit, low tuition, English master's programs, and work in a tiny Alpine principality.

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TINY, INTERNATIONAL, STRONG IN BUSINESS & FINANCE

Liechtenstein is a tiny Alpine principality with one focused university — the **University of Liechtenstein** — known for **business, finance, and architecture**, a close-knit international campus (students from 40+ countries), and **low tuition**. It's in the EEA and Schengen and uses the Swiss franc. Non-EU students need a **study visa and residence permit** (the university coordinates this). This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Liechtenstein has strict immigration rules and a small higher-ed system centered on the University of Liechtenstein. Figures change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the University of Liechtenstein and the Immigration and Passport Office**.

Understand Why Students Choose Liechtenstein

WHAT TO KNOW

The University of Liechtenstein offers **low tuition, a close-knit and highly international campus, strong ties to a world-class financial sector, and focused strengths in business, finance, and architecture** — in a safe, central Alpine location within Schengen.

BY THE NUMBERS

Low tuition

+ high quality

Business & finance

industry ties

International

40+ countries, ~800 students

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Liechtenstein's **low tuition and strong finance/business focus** against its very small size and high living costs — for those specific fields, it's a distinctive, personal option.

GOOD TO KNOW

The University of Liechtenstein is **small and focused** — great for business, finance, and architecture, with close student—faculty contact.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Higher education centers on the **University of Liechtenstein**, offering **bachelor's in Business Administration and Architecture (in German)**, and **master's in Architecture, Entrepreneurship, Innovative Finance, and Information Systems**, plus doctorates. (A separate private university, UFL, offers medicine/law doctoral study.)

BY THE NUMBERS

Business & Architecture

bachelor's (German)

Innovative Finance / IS

master's (English)

Small & applied

industry-linked

HOW TO HELP

Choose your program at the **University of Liechtenstein** — bachelor's in business/architecture (German) or master's including English-taught Innovative Finance and Information Systems.

WATCH OUT

Bachelor's programs are mostly **in German**; the **English-taught options are at master's level** (Innovative Finance, Information Systems) — check the language.

Get the Study Visa & Permit

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU/EEA students need a **visa to enter and a residence permit for study**. Importantly, the **university coordinates this for you** — you should **not start the procedure yourself**, but contact the university's permits office. The university provides a **bank bond guarantee**. EU/EEA students get a short-term residence permit.

BY THE NUMBERS

Visa + permit

for non-EU

University coordinates

don't start alone

Bank bond

university provides

HOW TO HELP

Let the **university's permits office coordinate your visa and residence permit** (contact them, don't start alone), and note the university provides a bank-bond guarantee as part of the process.

WATCH OUT

Do **not start the permit procedure yourself** — the University of Liechtenstein handles it; contact its permits office early.

Apply to the University

WHAT TO KNOW

Applications go **directly to the University of Liechtenstein**. Documents must be in **German or English** (certified translations otherwise), and there's a **CHF 100 admission fee**. Deadlines are **earlier for visa-required students** (e.g., around 31 March for the winter semester).

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly

to the university

German or English

documents

Earlier deadlines

for visa students

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly to the University of Liechtenstein** by the (earlier, for visa-required students) deadline, with German/English documents and the CHF 100 admission fee.

GOOD TO KNOW

Visa-required students face **earlier deadlines** (e.g., ~31 March for winter) — apply well ahead to allow permit time.

Plan for Tuition & Funding

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **low: CHF 950/semester (EU/EEA/Swiss) and CHF 1,250/semester (other international students)** for bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs, plus a one-time CHF 100 admission fee. Scholarships and financial aid are available for international students.

BY THE NUMBERS

EU/EEA

CHF 950/semester

Other international

CHF 1,250/semester

Scholarships

available

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **low tuition (~CHF 1,250/semester for non-EU)** plus (high) Liechtenstein living costs, and apply for university scholarships and aid.

GOOD TO KNOW

Tuition is **very low for the quality** — your main budget line is the high cost of living (see below).

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

You'll need to show you can support yourself — the university suggests budgeting around **CHF 1,500/month (~€1,600)** for accommodation, food, insurance, and daily costs — and the university provides a **bank-bond guarantee** as part of the permit. Valid **health insurance** is compulsory.

BY THE NUMBERS

Budget

~CHF 1,500/month

Bank bond

via the university

Health insurance

compulsory

HOW TO HELP

Plan for **~CHF 1,500/month** in living costs and arrange **health insurance** (the university helps non-EU students organize a valid policy); the bank bond is handled via the university.

WATCH OUT

Liechtenstein's **living costs are high** (Swiss-level) — budget realistically, and let the university help arrange insurance and the bond.



Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Bachelor's programs are taught in German (so you'll prove German), while the **English-taught master's programs** (Innovative Finance, Information Systems) require English. German strongly helps daily life and the local (finance-heavy) job market.

BY THE NUMBERS

Bachelor's

German

Master's

some in English

German

boosts jobs

HOW TO HELP

Prove the **language your program requires** (German for bachelor's, English for the English master's), and build German regardless — it strongly helps daily life and work.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you don't speak German, focus on the **English-taught master's programs** — bachelor's study is in German.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

The university offers **limited residential facilities** (reserve early on admission). Many students instead **live in neighbouring Switzerland or Austria and commute** (then that country's residence rules apply). Living costs are high; plan carefully.

BY THE NUMBERS

Uni residences

limited — reserve early

Or commute

from Switzerland/Austria

High costs

budget carefully

HOW TO HELP

Reserve **university housing early** (it's limited), or consider **living in Switzerland/Austria and commuting** (noting that country's residence rules), and budget for high costs.

GOOD TO KNOW

Many students **live across the border and commute** — if you do, the residence rules of Switzerland or Austria apply instead.

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EEA students can generally work **part-time (up to ~20 hours/week during term)**, but must get **prior approval from the Immigration and Passport Office before starting any job** — your employer submits an “employment commencement application.” Full-time work is possible in breaks.

BY THE NUMBERS

Work

~20 hrs/week in term

Prior approval

required before any job

Employer applies

to the office

HOW TO HELP

Work part-time (~20 hrs/week), but get **prior approval from the Immigration and Passport Office before starting** — your employer files the application; don't begin work first.

WATCH OUT

You must get **approval before starting any job** — beginning work without it breaches your permit.

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

After graduating, non-EEA students can apply for a **job-seeking residence permit (usually valid ~12 months)**. Liechtenstein's world-class **financial sector** (banking, funds, fintech) and its proximity to Switzerland/Austria offer strong opportunities.

BY THE NUMBERS

Job-seeking permit

~12 months

Finance sector

strong opportunities

Cross-border

Switzerland/Austria

HOW TO HELP

Plan for the **~12-month post-study job-seeking permit**, target Liechtenstein's finance and business sectors, and use its cross-border location for wider opportunities.

GOOD TO KNOW

Liechtenstein's **finance sector and cross-border location** create strong graduate opportunities — confirm the current post-study permit terms.

Studying in Liechtenstein: The Essentials

A snapshot — the system centers on the University of Liechtenstein, so confirm everything with the university and the Immigration and Passport Office.

The system

The University of Liechtenstein (business administration and architecture bachelor's in German; master's in Architecture, Entrepreneurship, Innovative Finance, and Information Systems, some in English; doctorates); ~800 students from 40+ countries.

Visa & permit

Non-EU/EEA students need a visa and residence permit for study, coordinated by the university (don't start alone; a bank bond is provided); EU/EEA students get a short-term residence permit.

Tuition

Low: CHF 950/semester (EU/EEA/Swiss), CHF 1,250/semester (other international) for bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs, plus a CHF 100 admission fee; scholarships available.

Money & language

Budget ~CHF 1,500/month (high, Swiss-level) plus compulsory health insurance; bachelor's in German, some master's in English (Innovative Finance, Information Systems).

Work & after

Work ~20 hrs/week in term, but only with prior Immigration Office approval (employer applies); a ~12-month post-study job-seeking permit follows, with strong finance-sector opportunities.

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