

Studying in Lithuania

A guide for international students & families — how Lithuanian higher education works, the residence permit, affordable English-taught medicine, and post-study work.

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AFFORDABLE EU, INCL. ENGLISH MEDICINE

Lithuania is one of the EU's most affordable study destinations, with **500+ English-taught programs**, some of Europe's lowest living costs, and a well-known route to **English-taught medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science at LSMU**. Note a key change: since 2023, non-EU degree students **apply for a residence permit before arriving**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Lithuanian rules changed in 2023 (residence-permit-before-arrival for full-time students) and figures change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Migration Department, Study in Lithuania, and your university**.

Understand Why Students Choose Lithuania

WHAT TO KNOW

Lithuania offers **very affordable EU degrees**, **500+ English-taught programs**, some of the **lowest living costs of any EU capital**, and a **strong English-taught medicine/veterinary option at LSMU** — plus full EU/Schengen mobility.

BY THE NUMBERS

Very affordable

low tuition & living

English medicine/vet

LSMU

500+ programs

in English

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Lithuania's **affordability and strong health-science option** against its small scale — for medicine, dentistry, and veterinary especially, it's excellent value.

GOOD TO KNOW

LSMU is a well-known destination for **English-taught medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science** — a major draw.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Lithuania's leading institutions include **Vilnius University** (humanities, law, sciences), **KTU** (Kaunas University of Technology — engineering, IT, business), **VMU** (Vytautas Magnus), **ISM** (business), and **LSMU** (health sciences). Degrees are EU-recognized (Bologna).

BY THE NUMBERS

Vilnius University

broad & historic

KTU

technology

LSMU

health sciences

HOW TO HELP

Choose by field — Vilnius for breadth, KTU for technology, LSMU for medicine/vet — all offering EU-recognized degrees, many in English.

GOOD TO KNOW

Lithuanian degrees are **recognized across the EU** — portable for further study and work.

Get the Residence Permit (new 2023 rules)

WHAT TO KNOW

Since **1 July 2023**, non-EU full-time degree students generally must apply for a **temporary residence permit (TRP) before arriving** (the national D-visa route was restricted for them). Applications are submitted at **VFS Global** centers, and you register your address with the municipality within 5 days of arrival.

BY THE NUMBERS

TRP

before arrival (since 2023)

VFS Global

where you apply

Register

within 5 days

HOW TO HELP

Apply for your **TRP before travel via VFS Global** (the current route for full-time non-EU students), then register your address within 5 days of arrival — confirm the latest procedure.

WATCH OUT

The **D-visa route was restricted for full-time students in 2023** — don't rely on older guides; the TRP-before-arrival rule is current.

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply via **LAMIS** (a central platform aggregating many programs) or **directly** to each university (LSMU and ISM prefer direct applications). Upload your **apostilled, English-translated** diploma and transcripts, English certificate, and motivation letter. LSMU medicine has an **entrance test** (biology, chemistry).

BY THE NUMBERS

LAMIS or direct

by university

Apostille + translate

documents

LSMU

entrance test

HOW TO HELP

Apply via **LAMIS or directly** (LSMU/ISM prefer direct), prepare apostilled/translated documents, and prepare for the **LSMU entrance test** if applying for medicine or veterinary science.

GOOD TO KNOW

LSMU medicine/vet requires an **entrance test** (biology and chemistry MCQs) — prepare well ahead.

Plan for Tuition & Funding

WHAT TO KNOW

Most state-funded places are for EU/Lithuanian students; **other non-EU students pay tuition**. English programs typically cost **€2,000–6,000/year** (some bachelor's from ~€1,300), with **medicine/veterinary higher**. Lithuanian state scholarships and university awards exist.

BY THE NUMBERS

English programs

~€2,000–6,000/yr

Medicine/vet

higher

Scholarships

state & university

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **non-EU tuition** (medicine/vet is the outlier) plus low living costs, and pursue Lithuanian state and university scholarships.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some universities require **full-year tuition paid in advance** for non-EU students — confirm the payment schedule.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

You must prove **sufficient funds** — the government benchmarks student living costs at around **€5,000/year** — plus tuition and **health insurance**. Some universities require the first year's tuition paid before issuing documents.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

~€5,000/year

+ tuition

often prepaid

+ insurance

required

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** at the current benchmark plus tuition and **health insurance** — and be ready to prepay tuition where required.

WATCH OUT

Health insurance is **mandatory to enroll and get the permit** — arrange it early.



STEP 07 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Programs are in **Lithuanian** or, for the 500+ international programs, in **English** (typically **IELTS 5.5–6.5** depending on program). No Lithuanian is needed to begin an English program, though it helps daily life.

BY THE NUMBERS

English

IELTS 5.5–6.5

500+ programs

in English

Some Lithuanian

helps daily life

HOW TO HELP

Take an **accepted English test** for your program — you can study and live in English, though some Lithuanian helps with daily life and work.

GOOD TO KNOW

Daily life is easier with some Lithuanian, depending on the city — but you can study fully in English.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, **register your address within 5 days, confirm health insurance, and set up banking**. Living costs are among the EU's lowest (€500–800/month), and dormitories are very affordable (€100–250/month).

BY THE NUMBERS

Register

within 5 days

Low costs

€500–800/mo

Cheap dorms

€100–250/mo

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **address registration (within 5 days), insurance, banking** — and enjoy Lithuania—s very low living and dormitory costs.

GOOD TO KNOW

Dormitories are **very cheap (€100–250/month)** — apply through your university's housing office early.

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Lithuania is relatively generous: non-EU students with a study residence permit can **work during their studies with no additional permit** (recent rules allow substantial hours) — useful for experience, though studies come first.

BY THE NUMBERS

Work

no extra permit needed

Generous hours

recent rules

Studies first

the priority

HOW TO HELP

You can **work during your studies without a separate permit** — confirm the current hour rules, which recently liberalized — for experience and income, with studies as the priority.

GOOD TO KNOW

Lithuania's student work rules **recently liberalized** — confirm the current hours, as older guides may understate them.

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

After graduating, non-EU students can get a **12-month residence permit to search for a job, work, or become self-employed** — with no extra permit once you find work. A final-year permit stays valid ~3 months after studies end.

BY THE NUMBERS

12-month permit

job search/work

No extra permit

once employed

Grace period

~3 months after

HOW TO HELP

Plan for the **12-month post-study permit** (work, job search, or self-employment), and use the ~3-month grace period after your final year to get established.

GOOD TO KNOW

Lithuania's **12-month post-study permit** lets you work right away once you find a job — a clear route to staying.

Studying in Lithuania: The Essentials

A snapshot — rules changed in 2023, so confirm everything with the Migration Department, Study in Lithuania, and your university.

The system

Vilnius University, KTU (technology), VMU, ISM (business), and LSMU (health sciences); 500+ English-taught programs; EU-recognized (Bologna) degrees.

The permit

Since July 2023, non-EU full-time degree students generally apply for a temporary residence permit (TRP) before arriving (via VFS Global); register your address within 5 days of arrival.

Tuition

Non-EU students pay (state-funded places are mainly for EU/Lithuanian students); English programs ~€2,000–6,000/year, medicine/veterinary higher; state and university scholarships.

Money

Prove funds (~€5,000/year benchmark) plus tuition (often prepaid) and health insurance; living costs are among the EU's lowest (€500–800/month; dorms €100–250).

Work & after

Students can work without a separate permit (recently liberalized hours); a 12-month post-study permit allows job search, work, or self-employment.

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