

Studying in Macau

A guide for international students & families — how Macau's higher education works, the student stay permit, English-medium study, and its Greater Bay Area location.

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ENGLISH & CHINESE PROGRAMS, IN THE GREATER BAY AREA

Macau (a special administrative region of China) offers **English- and Chinese-medium universities** — led by the QS-ranked University of Macau and Macau University of Science and Technology — in a safe, compact, culturally rich city at the heart of the **Greater Bay Area** (near Hong Kong and mainland China). Non-local students obtain a **student stay permit**, arranged by their university. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Macau's rules, tuition, and funds change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with your university, the Macao Immigration Department, and the relevant mission.**

Understand Why Students Choose Macau

WHAT TO KNOW

Macau offers **English- and Chinese-medium universities**; a **QS-ranked flagship (University of Macau)**; a **safe, compact, culturally rich setting**; **scholarships**; and a **Greater Bay Area location** with strong regional connectivity to Hong Kong and mainland China.

BY THE NUMBERS

English & Chinese

programs

QS-ranked

University of Macau

Greater Bay Area

near Hong Kong

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Macau's **English-taught quality, scholarships, and Greater Bay Area location** against its small size — for a well-connected, safe study base, it's a strong choice.

GOOD TO KNOW

Macau's **Greater Bay Area location** gives access to Hong Kong and mainland China — strong for careers in tourism, finance, and technology.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

The leading universities are the **University of Macau (UM — the flagship, QS-ranked)** and **Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST)**, plus **Macau Polytechnic University** and **Macau University of Tourism**. Programs are taught in **English and Chinese** (some in Portuguese or Japanese), across bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels.

BY THE NUMBERS

University of Macau

flagship (QS-ranked)

MUST

+ Polytechnic, Tourism

English & Chinese

instruction

HOW TO HELP

Choose among the **University of Macau, MUST, and others** by field, and confirm the language of instruction — English and Chinese are both common.

GOOD TO KNOW

Programs span **English and Chinese** (with some Portuguese/Japanese) — check your program's medium of instruction.

Get the Student Stay Permit

WHAT TO KNOW

Macau **doesn't issue a traditional student visa**: your **university arranges the student stay permit (special authorization to stay for students) after your arrival** — the University of Macau, for example, does this as a group. You may still need an **entry visa to get into Macau** (depending on nationality; some get one on arrival).

BY THE NUMBERS

No study visa

before arrival

Stay permit

university-arranged (on arrival)

Entry visa

may be needed to enter

HOW TO HELP

Let your **university arrange your student stay permit after arrival**, and check whether you need an **entry visa** to enter Macau (some nationalities get one on arrival).

WATCH OUT

The **stay permit is arranged after arrival** by your university — but confirm any entry-visa requirement for your nationality first.

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to each university** (there's no single central platform), typically in **December–March** for the autumn intake. Some universities (UM, MUST, Polytechnic, Tourism) offer a **joint admission examination**. You'll provide transcripts and English proof (IELTS/TOEFL) where required.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly

Dec–March

Joint admission exam

at some

English

IELTS/TOEFL

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** to your chosen universities (Dec–March for autumn), with transcripts and English proof — some universities offer a joint admission exam.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some universities use a **joint admission examination (usually held in March)** — check whether your program requires it.

Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is roughly **MOP 60,000–120,000/year** (varying by program). The University of Macau and others offer **scholarships** — admission-based awards (partial to full tuition), continuing-student awards (renewed on GPA), and research funding (tuition waiver plus stipend). Apply early, often alongside admission.

BY THE NUMBERS

Tuition

~MOP 60k–120k/yr

Scholarships

admission, continuing, research

Apply early

often with admission

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **tuition** (~MOP 60k–120k/year), and pursue university scholarships (admission-based, continuing, or research funding) — apply early, often with your admission.

GOOD TO KNOW

University scholarships range from **partial-to-full tuition waivers to research stipends** — most require a separate application alongside admission.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the stay permit you show **proof of funds** — commonly around **MOP 120,000 (about US\$15,000)** — plus an admission letter, proof of tuition payment, housing documentation, and **health insurance**. Confirm the exact requirements with your university and immigration.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

~MOP 120,000 (US\$15,000)

+ tuition proof

& housing

Insurance

required

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds (~MOP 120,000)**, your admission and tuition-payment documents, housing proof, and insurance — confirm specifics with your university and immigration.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **~MOP 120,000 (US\$15,000) funds requirement** is a common benchmark — confirm the exact figure for your situation.



Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Programs are taught in **English or Chinese** (some in Portuguese or Japanese). For English programs you prove English (**IELTS/TOEFL**); for Chinese programs you prove Chinese. Some Cantonese or Mandarin helps daily life in this multilingual city.

BY THE NUMBERS

English or Chinese

by program

English

IELTS/TOEFL

Some Chinese

helps daily life

HOW TO HELP

Confirm your program's language — prove **English (IELTS/TOEFL)** or Chinese as required — and pick up some Cantonese/Mandarin for daily life.

GOOD TO KNOW

Macau is **multilingual** (Cantonese, Mandarin, Portuguese, English) — some Chinese helps daily life even in English programs.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, your **university arranges your stay permit**; you also **set up banking, housing, and insurance**. Living costs run roughly **MOP 5,000–10,000/month**. Macau is safe, compact, and easy to navigate, with a low crime rate and rich Portuguese-Chinese heritage.

BY THE NUMBERS

Stay permit

university arranges

Banking + housing

set up

~MOP 5k–10k/month

living costs

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **stay permit (university-arranged), banking, housing, insurance** — in a safe, compact, multicultural city; budget ~—5kMOP 10k/month.

GOOD TO KNOW

Macau is **safe, compact, and easy to navigate** — a comfortable base with rich heritage and Greater Bay Area connectivity.

Explore the Greater Bay Area

WHAT TO KNOW

Macau sits in the **Greater Bay Area**, alongside Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and other cities — a major economic zone. This gives strong **regional connectivity and career opportunities** in tourism, finance, and technology, and easy travel across the region.

BY THE NUMBERS

Greater Bay Area

major economic zone

Sectors

tourism, finance, tech

Connectivity

Hong Kong & mainland

HOW TO HELP

Take advantage of Macau's **Greater Bay Area location** for regional connectivity and career opportunities (tourism, finance, technology) and easy travel.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **Greater Bay Area** links Macau to Hong Kong and mainland cities — a strong asset for internships and careers.

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Macau's tourism, gaming, finance, and technology sectors — and its Greater Bay Area links — offer opportunities. Confirm the current post-study work/stay pathway if you want to remain, and use your regional networks and (where relevant) Chinese-language skills.

BY THE NUMBERS

Sectors

tourism, finance, tech

Regional networks

+ language skills

Post-study

confirm pathway

HOW TO HELP

Use Macau's **sectors and Greater Bay Area links**, build regional networks and Chinese skills, and confirm the current post-study work/stay pathway if you want to stay.

GOOD TO KNOW

Confirm the **current post-study work/stay options** — they can change, and vary by field and situation.

Studying in Macau: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm with your university, the Macao Immigration Department, and the relevant mission.

The system

Ten higher-education institutions led by the University of Macau (the QS-ranked flagship), Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), Macau Polytechnic University, and Macau University of Tourism; programs in English and Chinese (some Portuguese/Japanese).

The permit

Macau doesn't issue a traditional student visa; the university arranges the student stay permit after arrival; you may need an entry visa to enter Macau (some nationalities get one on arrival).

Tuition & scholarships

~MOP 60,000–120,000/year; university scholarships include admission-based awards, continuing-student awards, and research funding (tuition waiver plus stipend); apply early, often with admission.

Money & language

Show proof of funds (~MOP 120,000 / US\$15,000) plus tuition, housing, and insurance documents; programs in English (IELTS/TOEFL) or Chinese; some Chinese helps daily life.

Location & after

Macau sits in the Greater Bay Area (near Hong Kong and mainland China), with career links in tourism, finance, and technology; confirm the current post-study work/stay pathway.

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