K12 ACADEMICS — INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERIES

Studying in Moldova

A guide for international students & families — how Moldovan higher education works, the student visa and residence permit, very affordable tuition, English-taught medicine, and work.

K12 ACADEMICS

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2026 EDITION

ABOUT K12 ACADEMICS

The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

AMONG EUROPE'S MOST AFFORDABLE, ENGLISH MEDICINE

Moldova is one of Europe's **most affordable** study destinations, with **very low tuition and living costs**, **ECTS-compatible degrees**, and a well-known route into **English-taught medicine and pharmacy** at Nicolae Testemiţanu State University (USMF). It—s an EU candidate, not a member. Non-EU students need a **Type D visa and a residence permit for study**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Moldova is an EU candidate (not a member); degree recognition abroad varies, so verify it. Rules, tuition, and funds change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM), your university, and the Moldovan embassy**.

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STEP 01 OF 10

Understand Why Students Choose Moldova

WHAT TO KNOW

Moldova offers **very low tuition and living costs, ECTS-compatible degrees, and a strong, affordable route into English-taught medicine/dentistry/pharmacy** at USMF — plus a high visa-approval rate and a welcoming, budget-friendly environment.

BY THE NUMBERS

Very affordable	English medicine	ECTS degrees
tuition & living	USMF (Testemiţanu)	EU-compatible

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Moldova's **very low costs and strong medicine option** against its EU-candidate status (verify recognition) — for budget-conscious medical students especially, it's excellent value.

GOOD TO KNOW

Nicolae Testemiţanu (USMF) is a **well-known English-taught medicine destination** at a fraction of Western fees.

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STEP 02 OF 10

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Moldova's leading institutions include **Moldova State University (USM)**, **Nicolae Testemiţanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy (USMF)**, and the **Technical University of Moldova (UTM — engineering, IT)**, plus the Academy of Economic Studies and private universities. Degrees are ECTS-compatible.

BY THE NUMBERS

Moldova State Univ	USMF	Technical Univ
broad	medicine & pharmacy	engineering & IT

HOW TO HELP

Choose by field — USMF for medicine/pharmacy, UTM for engineering/IT, USM for breadth — all offering ECTS-compatible, affordable degrees.

GOOD TO KNOW

Popular fields include **medicine, IT, economics, and management** — with English-taught options in several.

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STEP 03 OF 10

Get the Visa & Residence Permit

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU students need a **Type D student visa** (via a Moldovan embassy, using your acceptance letter) and, after arrival, a **residence permit for study purposes** from the **General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM)**. Moldova reports a high visa-approval rate for genuine students.

BY THE NUMBERS

Type D visa	Residence permit	High approval
at the embassy	for study (IGM)	for genuine students

HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **Type D visa** with your acceptance letter, funds proof, and insurance, then apply for your **residence permit for study at the IGM** after arrival.

WATCH OUT

Register and apply for the **residence permit promptly** after arrival at the IGM — your university usually assists.

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STEP 04 OF 10

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to universities** (admission windows are typically **July–August**). For English programs you'll usually show **English proficiency (B2 or IELTS ~6.0)**, though some accept prior English-medium study; a **preparatory language year** is available where needed. Diploma recognition may apply.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly	English	Prep year
July–August	B2 / IELTS ~6.0	if needed

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** in the July–August window, provide **English proficiency** (or use a preparatory year), and handle any diploma recognition.

GOOD TO KNOW

A **preparatory year** (language and sciences) is available — useful for medicine applicants who need to build up first.

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STEP 05 OF 10

Plan for Tuition & Funding

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **very affordable**: bachelor's programs typically cost **€1,200–2,800/year**, while **medicine is around €6,000/year** (dentistry ~€7,000, pharmacy ~€4,000). Moldova offers some state-funded places and scholarships via bilateral agreements.

BY THE NUMBERS

Bachelor's	Medicine	Some state-funded
~€1,200–2,800/yr	~€6,000/yr	+ scholarships

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **very affordable tuition** (medicine is the higher outlier) plus low living costs, and explore state-funded places and bilateral scholarships.

GOOD TO KNOW

Moldova has **some of the lowest total costs in Europe** — both tuition and living are very low.

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STEP 06 OF 10

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa/permit you must prove **sufficient funds** — commonly around **€3,200–5,000** in a bank account — plus **health insurance**, a medical certificate, and proof of accommodation. Confirm the exact amount, as it varies.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds	+ insurance	Accommodation
~€3,200–5,000	& medical certificate	proof required

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** at the current amount, **health insurance**, a medical certificate, and accommodation proof — all required for the visa and residence permit.

GOOD TO KNOW

Confirm the exact **funds figure** with the Moldovan embassy — it varies by source and can change.

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STEP 07 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Programs are taught in **Romanian (the official language), Russian, or English**. For English programs you prove English (B2/IELTS, some waive IELTS); a **preparatory year** supports those studying in Romanian or needing language/science prep.

BY THE NUMBERS

Romanian	Russian & English	Prep year
official	also available	language support

HOW TO HELP

Confirm your program's language — choose an **English-taught program** or a preparatory year — and pick up some Romanian or Russian for daily life.

GOOD TO KNOW

English-taught programs (notably in medicine) **don't always require IELTS** — a B2 certificate or prior English study often suffices.

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STEP 08 OF 10

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, apply for your **residence permit at the IGM, confirm insurance, and set up banking**. Living costs are among Europe's lowest (€250–400/month; dorms from ~€40–180). Chișinău is affordable and walkable.

BY THE NUMBERS

Residence permit	Very low costs	Cheap dorms
at the IGM	€250–400/mo	from ~€40/mo

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **IGM residence permit, insurance, banking** — and enjoy Moldova—s very low living and dormitory costs.

GOOD TO KNOW

Moldova's costs are **among the lowest in Europe**, with dorms from ~€40/month — a real advantage.

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STEP 09 OF 10

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Students with a study residence permit may **work in Moldova** under labour law (up to a legal annual cap, and within normal weekly hours) — in practice, part-time work alongside studies, useful for experience in a low-cost country.

BY THE NUMBERS

Work	Part-time	Studies first
permitted (within limits)	alongside studies	the priority

HOW TO HELP

You may **work part-time** with your study residence permit (within the legal limits) — useful for experience, with studies as the priority.

GOOD TO KNOW

Confirm the **current work-hour limits** — Moldova sets an annual cap and normal weekly-hour rules.

10 STEP 10 OF 10

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Moldova's degrees are **ECTS-compatible** and, as an EU candidate deepening ties with the EU, increasingly portable. After graduating, explore local or regional opportunities — and **verify recognition** where you'll use your degree.

BY THE NUMBERS

ECTS degrees	Regional opportunities	Verify recognition
+ EU ties	after study	before relying

HOW TO HELP

Plan your path with **recognition in mind** (verify it where you'll use the degree), and explore regional opportunities as Moldova deepens EU integration.

WATCH OUT

As an EU candidate (not member), **verify degree recognition** in your target country — especially important for regulated professions like medicine.

QUICK REFERENCE

Studying in Moldova: The Essentials

A snapshot — Moldova is an EU candidate (not member); verify degree recognition, and confirm details with the IGM, your university, and the Moldovan embassy.

The system

Moldova State University, Nicolae Testemiţanu (USMF, medicine/pharmacy), Technical University of Moldova (engineering/IT), and others; ECTS-compatible degrees; based mainly in Chișinău.

Visa & permit

Non-EU students need a Type D student visa (at a Moldovan embassy), then a residence permit for study purposes from the General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM) after arrival.

Tuition

Very affordable: bachelor's ~€1,200–2,800/year; medicine ~€6,000, dentistry ~€7,000, pharmacy ~€4,000; some state-funded places and bilateral scholarships.

Money & language

Prove ~€3,200–5,000 plus health insurance, a medical certificate, and accommodation; Romanian/Russian/English programs (English often B2, sometimes no IELTS); preparatory year available.

Work & after

Students may work part-time within legal limits; ECTS-compatible degrees support regional/EU mobility — but verify recognition where you'll use the degree.

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