

Studying in Mongolia

A guide for international students & families — how Mongolia's higher education works, the student visa, very affordable tuition, medicine at MNUMS, and the language reality.

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VERY AFFORDABLE — A NICHE DESTINATION (MIND THE LANGUAGE)

Mongolia is a **very affordable**, niche study destination, best suited to two groups: **medical students at the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences (MNUMS)**, and students drawn to **Mongolian studies, language, and culture** at the National University of Mongolia (NUM). An honest note up front: **most programs are taught in Mongolian**, with English limited to medicine and a few tracks. Students get a **student visa and residence registration**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or medical-licensing advice. Mongolian rules, tuition, and recognition change; **English-taught programs are limited**, and medical licensing depends on where you'll practice — verify with the relevant council. Confirm details with your university's international office and immigration.

Understand Whether Mongolia Fits You

WHAT TO KNOW

Mongolia suits students who want **very affordable medical education (MNUMS), or Mongolian studies/language/culture**, in a safe country — but **most programs are in Mongolian**, so English options are limited. Weigh this language reality carefully before applying.

BY THE NUMBERS

Best for

MNUMS medicine; Mongolian studies

Very affordable

+ safe

Language

mostly Mongolian

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Mongolia's **affordability and niche strengths** against its **limited English programs** — it's an excellent fit for medicine or Mongolian studies, less so for general English-taught study.

WATCH OUT

Be realistic: outside **MNUMS medicine and a few tracks**, most programs are in Mongolian — plan your program and language accordingly.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

The leading universities are the **National University of Mongolia (NUM — broad, and strong for Mongolian studies)**, the **Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences (MNUMS — the public healthcare university, with an English medical track)**, and the **Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST)**. All are in Ulaanbaatar, with some branch campuses.

BY THE NUMBERS

NUM

broad; Mongolian studies

MNUMS

medicine (English track)

MUST

science & technology

HOW TO HELP

Choose **MNUMS** for English-medium medicine, **NUM** for Mongolian studies or broader programs, or **MUST** for technology — confirming the language of instruction for each.

GOOD TO KNOW

MNUMS covers **medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, public health, and nursing**, and welcomes international students with documented admission rules.

Get the Student Visa & Residence

WHAT TO KNOW

After admission, you apply for a **student visa** and complete **residence registration** after arrival; your university's international office (or host department) assists. Required items include a passport (valid 3+ years), your diploma, a medical form (including an HIV test), a tuition receipt, photos, and a registration fee.

BY THE NUMBERS

Student visa

after admission

Residence registration

on arrival

International office

assists

HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **student visa** and complete **residence registration** with your university's international office, preparing your passport, diploma, medical form, tuition receipt, and photos.

GOOD TO KNOW

The process is **documented but bureaucratic** — your university's international office guides each step.

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to your university** (NUM has an international admissions office; MNUMS publishes international admission regulations). MNUMS is **selective** (organized once a year). Provide academic transcripts, a diploma, and **English proficiency** where the program is English-taught. Submit documents **about three months ahead**; windows run roughly **March–June**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly

NUM / MNUMS

MNUMS

selective, annual

March–June

apply ~3 months ahead

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** to your university (MNUMS is selective, with published international admission rules), submitting transcripts and English proof about three months ahead (~March–June).

GOOD TO KNOW

MNUMS admits international students **once a year** and is selective — apply early with complete documents.

Plan for Tuition & Costs

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **very affordable** and varies by program (MNUMS notes that international students are charged at the **same rate as Mongolian citizens** from the following year). Living costs are low (~\$300–600/month). Government and university **scholarships** exist — check with each institution.

BY THE NUMBERS

Very affordable

varies by program

MNUMS

local rate (following year)

Low

living costs

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **very affordable tuition** plus low living costs, and check government and university scholarships (MNUMS charges international students the local rate from the following year).

GOOD TO KNOW

Costs are **among the lowest of any destination** — the main practical draw alongside the niche programs.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

You'll provide a **tuition receipt** (paid before the year begins), **proof of funds** for living, a **medical form (including an HIV test)**, a registration-fee receipt, and **health insurance** (international travel insurance is strongly recommended). Confirm the exact requirements with your university and immigration.

BY THE NUMBERS

Tuition receipt

paid in advance

Medical form

incl. HIV test

+ insurance

recommended

HOW TO HELP

Prepare a **tuition receipt**, proof of funds, a **medical form (HIV test)**, and insurance — confirm specifics with your university's international office and immigration.

GOOD TO KNOW

Comprehensive **international health insurance is strongly recommended** — especially given winter respiratory considerations.



Understand the Language Reality

WHAT TO KNOW

This is the key consideration: **the main language of instruction is Mongolian**. English-taught options are **limited** — chiefly MNUMS's medical track and some international programs. If studying in Mongolian, plan for **intensive language classes**; learn at least basic Mongolian before arrival either way.

BY THE NUMBERS

Mongolian

main medium

English

limited (MNUMS, some)

Language classes

plan for them

HOW TO HELP

Confirm your program's language carefully — choose an **English-taught track (MNUMS or international programs)** or commit to **intensive Mongolian** — and learn basic Mongolian before arrival.

WATCH OUT

Don't assume English-taught study — outside specific tracks, programs are in Mongolian, so verify and plan language study.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, complete your **residence registration, arrange dormitory or private housing, and set up banking and insurance**. Prepare for **Ulaanbaatar's cold winters and winter air pollution** (a real health consideration — pack warm clothing and factor in precautions). Universities' international offices help with logistics.

BY THE NUMBERS

Residence registration

+ housing

Cold winters

+ winter air pollution

International office

helps

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **residence registration, housing (dorms available), banking, insurance** — and prepare for cold winters and winter air pollution in Ulaanbaatar.

GOOD TO KNOW

Budget for **winter clothing** and be aware of **winter air pollution** in Ulaanbaatar — a genuine health consideration.

Explore the Niche Strengths

WHAT TO KNOW

Mongolia is a **strong destination for two things**: affordable **English-medium medicine at MNUMS**, and **Mongolian studies, language, history, and culture** at NUM (excellent for field trips, faculty expertise, and cultural immersion). There are also links to **mining and resource** sectors via technical programs.

BY THE NUMBERS

MNUMS

English-medium medicine

NUM

Mongolian studies & culture

Technical

mining/resource links

HOW TO HELP

Play to Mongolia's **niche strengths** — MNUMS medicine, NUM's Mongolian studies and cultural immersion, and technical links to mining/resources.

GOOD TO KNOW

For **Mongolian studies**, NUM offers strong faculty, field trips, and cultural immersion — a distinctive, hard-to-replicate experience.

Thrive & After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Graduates often move into **resource, mining, and technology** sectors, or Mongolia-focused academic and research paths. For **medicine**, verify recognition and pass the licensing exam where you'll practice. Confirm the current post-study work pathway if you want to stay.

BY THE NUMBERS

Sectors

resource, mining, tech

Medicine

verify recognition

Post-study

confirm pathway

HOW TO HELP

Plan around Mongolia's **resource/tech sectors or Mongolia-focused paths**; for medicine, verify recognition and licensing where you'll practice, and confirm the post-study pathway.

GOOD TO KNOW

For medicine, **verify recognition and pass your target country's licensing exam** — the essential step to practice.

Studying in Mongolia: The Essentials

A snapshot — English-taught programs are limited, and recognition/licensing vary, so confirm with your university's international office and immigration.

The system

The National University of Mongolia (NUM — broad, strong for Mongolian studies), the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences (MNUMS — public healthcare, with an English medical track), and the Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST).

Visa & language

Apply for a student visa and complete residence registration after arrival (the international office assists); crucially, the main language is Mongolian — English is limited to MNUMS medicine and a few tracks, so verify and plan.

Applying

Apply directly to NUM or MNUMS (MNUMS is selective, admitting once a year), with transcripts, a diploma, and English proof for English tracks; submit ~3 months ahead (roughly March–June).

Money

Very affordable (MNUMS charges the local rate from the following year); low living costs (~\$300–600/month); provide a tuition receipt, a medical form (HIV test), and insurance; some scholarships.

Strengths & after

Best for MNUMS medicine and Mongolian studies/culture (plus mining/resource links); prepare for cold winters and winter air pollution; for medicine, verify recognition and the licensing exam.

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