

Studying in Namibia

A guide for international students & families — how Namibia's higher education works, the student visa, English-medium study, and life in a stable, striking country.

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.

ENGLISH-MEDIUM, STABLE & SAFE, STRIKING LANDSCAPES

Namibia is a **stable, safe, English-medium** study destination — unusual in the region for using **English as its official language** since independence. Its universities — the University of Namibia (UNAM) and the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) — offer affordable, English-taught degrees, and the country pairs good governance with some of Africa's most striking landscapes. Students get a **student visa**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Namibian rules, tuition, and the funds requirement change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, your university, and the Namibian mission.**

Understand Why Students Choose Namibia

WHAT TO KNOW

Namibia offers **English-medium universities (English is the official language); a stable, safe, democratic setting; affordable costs; and extraordinary landscapes and wildlife** — a secure, distinctive Southern African choice.

BY THE NUMBERS

English-medium

official language

Stable & safe

democratic

Landscapes

Namib, wildlife

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Namibia's **English medium, stability, and value** — for secure, English-taught study in a strikingly beautiful, well-governed country, it's a strong choice.

WATCH OUT

Namibia is **one of the few countries in the region with English as its official language** — so all university study is in English.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

The flagship is the **University of Namibia (UNAM)**, alongside the **Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST — applied sciences, engineering, IT)** and the private International University of Management (IUM). English is the medium of instruction throughout, and most study is based in and around **Windhoek**, the capital.

BY THE NUMBERS

UNAM

flagship

NUST

science & technology

IUM

private

HOW TO HELP

Choose the **University of Namibia** (flagship, broad) or **NUST** (applied sciences, engineering, IT) or IUM by field — all English-medium, mostly in Windhoek.

GOOD TO KNOW

NUST focuses on **applied sciences, engineering, and IT** — a strong option for STEM students.

Get the Student Visa

WHAT TO KNOW

International students need a **study visa/permit**, applied for through the **Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security** (with your acceptance letter, proof of health insurance, and proof of financial means). Your university's international office guides the process; apply well ahead and renew as required.

BY THE NUMBERS

Study visa

via Home Affairs

Acceptance + insurance

& funds

Apply ahead

+ renew

HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **study visa** via the Ministry of Home Affairs (with your acceptance letter, health insurance, and funds proof), well ahead of your program — your university helps.

GOOD TO KNOW

You'll need an **acceptance letter, health insurance, and proof of financial means** for the study visa — prepare these early.

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to each university**. English is the medium, so no separate language test is usually needed for English speakers. Provide your secondary results and transcripts; admissions typically expect a **minimum GPA around 2.7** (some programs set higher requirements). Check each university's international page.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly

to each

English

no test (English speakers)

GPA

~2.7 minimum

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** to your chosen university, with secondary results and transcripts — English is the medium, and admissions typically expect around a 2.7 GPA.

GOOD TO KNOW

Admissions guidelines list a **minimum GPA of about 2.7** (with 3.0 preferred); specific programs may set higher requirements.

Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition for international students runs roughly **N\$20,000–50,000/year (about \$1,100–2,800)** — affordable versus the West. The national NSFAP fund is for Namibian citizens, but universities and international organizations offer scholarships and aid — check each institution's international office.

BY THE NUMBERS

Tuition

~N\$20k–50k/yr (~\$1,100–2,800)

NSFAF

citizens only

Scholarships

per university

HOW TO HELP

Budget the tuition (~N\$20k–50k / \$1,100–2,800) plus living costs, and check each university and external organizations for scholarships (the national NSFAP is for citizens).

GOOD TO KNOW

Namibia's **affordable tuition** is a key draw — confirm the exact fee for your program with the university.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa you show **proof of financial means** covering tuition and living, plus **health insurance** and standard documents (acceptance letter, passport). Living costs run **~N\$7,000–10,000/month**; health insurance **~N\$3,000–5,000/year**. Confirm the exact requirements with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

tuition + living

Health insurance

required

Living

~N\$7k–10k/month

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of financial means and health insurance** plus your acceptance documents — confirm the exact requirements with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

GOOD TO KNOW

Show **proof of financial means and health insurance** — living costs run about N\$7,000–10,000/month.



Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

English is Namibia's **official language and the medium of instruction** throughout, so there's no language barrier for English speakers, and no separate language test is usually required (non-native speakers may show English proficiency).

BY THE NUMBERS

English

official & medium

No barrier

for English speakers

Proof

for non-native speakers

HOW TO HELP

Study **entirely in English** — no language barrier for English speakers, though non-native speakers may show English proficiency.

GOOD TO KNOW

For English speakers, **language is not a barrier** — a key advantage of studying in Namibia.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After your visa, **arrange housing, complete registration, and set up banking and insurance.** Most students are based in **Windhoek**, the calm, well-organized capital. Namibia is **safe and stable**, sparsely populated, and strikingly beautiful, with the Namib Desert and abundant wildlife within reach.

BY THE NUMBERS

Housing + registration

first tasks

Windhoek

calm capital

Safe & stable

+ striking

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **housing, registration, banking, insurance** — in calm, safe Windhoek; Namibia is stable, welcoming, and strikingly beautiful.

GOOD TO KNOW

Most students are based in **Windhoek** — a calm, orderly, safe capital.

Understand Why Namibia Stands Out

WHAT TO KNOW

Namibia pairs **political stability, safety, and a strong democracy** with **English-medium education and extraordinary landscapes** (the Namib Desert, Sossusvlei, the Skeleton Coast, and rich wildlife). This makes it distinctive for fields like **conservation, wildlife management, tourism, geology/mining, and environmental science**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Stable & safe

strong democracy

English

+ landscapes

Fields

conservation, mining, tourism

HOW TO HELP

Value Namibia's **stability, English medium, and landscapes** — distinctive for conservation, wildlife, tourism, geology/mining, and environmental study.

GOOD TO KNOW

For **conservation, wildlife, and environmental science**, Namibia's landscapes and governance make it a standout field-study destination.

Thrive & After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Namibia's economy (mining, tourism, fisheries) and your **regional (SADC) networks** open Southern African and international opportunities, especially in conservation, mining, and tourism. Confirm the current post-study visa/work pathway if you want to stay.

BY THE NUMBERS

Economy

mining, tourism, fisheries

SADC networks

regional

Post-study

confirm pathway

HOW TO HELP

Leverage Namibia's **economy and your SADC networks** for opportunities in conservation, mining, and tourism, and confirm the current post-study visa/work pathway if you want to stay.

GOOD TO KNOW

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

Studying in Namibia: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm with the Ministry of Home Affairs, your university, and the Namibian mission.

The system

The University of Namibia (UNAM — the flagship) and the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST — applied sciences, engineering, IT), plus the private International University of Management; English is the official language and the medium throughout, mostly in Windhoek.

The visa

International students need a study visa/permit via the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security (with an acceptance letter, health insurance, and proof of financial means); the university's international office guides the process; apply ahead and renew as required.

Applying & tuition

Apply directly, with secondary results and transcripts (admissions typically expect ~2.7 GPA); English is the medium (no separate test usually needed for English speakers); tuition ~N\$20,000–50,000/year (~\$1,100–2,800); the national NSFAP fund is for citizens, but university and external scholarships exist.

Money & language

Show proof of financial means plus health insurance and acceptance documents (living ~N\$7,000–10,000/month; insurance ~N\$3,000–5,000/year); English is the official medium of instruction.

Why it stands out & after

Political stability, safety, a strong democracy, English-medium education, and extraordinary landscapes (strong for conservation, wildlife, mining, and environmental study); a mining/tourism economy and SADC networks open regional careers — confirm the post-study pathway.

YOUR NAMIBIA JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Find Your Community.

Explore our other Studying in [Country] guides, Top Universities by Country, and country guides — among **1,297 free resources**.

tools.k12academics.com →

