

Studying in Nepal

A guide for international students & families — how Nepal's higher education works, the student visa, affordable English-medium medicine (MBBS), the program structure, and recognition.

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AFFORDABLE, ENGLISH-MEDIUM MEDICINE, GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED

Nepal is a popular destination for **affordable, English-medium medical education (MBBS)**, with well-regarded colleges affiliated to **Kathmandu University and Tribhuvan University**, plus institutes like **B.P. Koirala and Patan Academy of Health Sciences**. Degrees are **globally recognized** (WHO, FAIMER, and various councils), and the curriculum aligns closely with international standards. This guide walks the process in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or medical-licensing advice. Nepali rules, tuition, and recognition change, and **degree recognition and licensing depend on where you'll practice — verify with the relevant medical council**. Confirm details with your university and the relevant mission.

Understand Why Students Choose Nepal

WHAT TO KNOW

Nepal offers **affordable, English-medium MBBS; globally recognized degrees; a curriculum closely aligned with international (and Indian) standards; and a welcoming, budget-friendly environment** — a practical route for aspiring doctors.

BY THE NUMBERS

Affordable

English MBBS

Recognized

WHO/FAIMER-listed

Curriculum

internationally aligned

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Nepal's **affordable, recognized medical degrees and familiar curriculum** against the need to pass licensing exams where you'll practice — strong value for South Asian students especially.

GOOD TO KNOW

Nepal's curriculum **closely resembles the Indian system**, helping students prepare for licensing exams like FMGE/NExT.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Medical colleges are **affiliated with Kathmandu University (KU) or Tribhuvan University's Institute of Medicine (IoM)**. Leaders include **B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Patan Academy of Health Sciences, Manipal College of Medical Sciences, and Kathmandu University School of Medical Sciences**, plus Nepal Medical College and others.

BY THE NUMBERS

KU / Tribhuvan (IoM)

affiliating universities

B.P. Koirala / Patan

+ institutes

Manipal

& others

HOW TO HELP

Choose a **KU- or IoM-affiliated medical college** (B.P. Koirala, Patan, Manipal, and others) — confirming its affiliation, accreditation, and recognition.

WATCH OUT

Confirm your college is **recognized (WHO/FAIMER-listed and, for India, NMC-approved)** — essential for later licensing.

Get the Student Visa

WHAT TO KNOW

Foreign students (except Indians, who don't need a visa under the open-border arrangement) apply for a **student visa** through Nepal's Department of Immigration, based on admission to a recognized institution. You'll show your admission letter, passport, and supporting documents.

BY THE NUMBERS

Student visa

for most foreign students

Indians

exempt (open border)

Via

Dept of Immigration

HOW TO HELP

Apply for a **student visa** (via the Department of Immigration) once admitted — Indian students are exempt under the open-border arrangement, but others need one.

GOOD TO KNOW

Indian citizens don't require a visa to study in Nepal; all other international students do — confirm your status.

Apply to Universities (or Colleges)

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to colleges** (or via their affiliating university). Some (like KU) hold an **entrance test**; teaching is **in English with no IELTS/TOEFL** required. Indian students must clear **NEET** (per home-country rules) and typically apply for the **August/September intake**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly

to colleges

Entrance test

at some (e.g., KU)

English

no IELTS/TOEFL

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly to your chosen college** (some hold an entrance test), for the August/September intake — teaching is in English, and Indian students must clear NEET.

GOOD TO KNOW

Indian students need a valid **NEET score** (and later FMGE/NEXT to practice in India) — check your home-country requirements.

Plan for Tuition & Costs

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **affordable** and varies by college (government colleges are cheaper than private), remaining **well below Western and Indian-private fees**. Living costs are low. Some colleges offer scholarships to eligible students — ask directly.

BY THE NUMBERS

Affordable

varies by college

Government

cheaper than private

Low

living costs

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **affordable tuition** (government colleges cheapest; private higher) plus low living costs, and ask each college about scholarships.

GOOD TO KNOW

Overall costs are **far below Western and Indian-private medical fees** — the main draw.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

You'll show a **bank statement** demonstrating funds for tuition and living, plus a **medical-fitness certificate** and **health insurance**. For the visa (non-Indian students), your college guides the required documents. Confirm specifics with your college and the immigration authorities.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

bank statement

Medical certificate

+ insurance

Confirm

per college

HOW TO HELP

Prepare a **bank statement**, a **medical-fitness certificate**, and insurance — your college guides the visa documents (for non-Indian students); confirm specifics with them.

GOOD TO KNOW

Requirements are modest — follow your college's and the immigration authorities's official checklist.



STEP 07 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

MBBS is taught **in English**, so there's no language barrier for study, and **no IELTS/TOEFL is required**. Some **Nepali (or Hindi, widely understood)** helps in clinical rotations and daily life; colleges often provide support.

BY THE NUMBERS

English

medium of instruction

No IELTS/TOEFL

needed

Nepali/Hindi

helps clinicals

HOW TO HELP

Study **entirely in English** (no language test needed), and pick up some **Nepali or Hindi** — useful in clinical rotations and daily life.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some **Nepali/Hindi** helps with **clinical rotations** and local patients — colleges usually support this.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After acceptance (and a visa for non-Indian students), **arrange hostel or private housing, insurance, and banking**. Most colleges offer **hostel facilities for international students**. Colleges are based in **Kathmandu, Pokhara, and other cities**; living costs are low.

BY THE NUMBERS

Hostel

for international students

Insurance + banking

set up

Cities

Kathmandu, Pokhara

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **housing (hostels are common), insurance, banking** — and settle into Kathmandu, Pokhara, or another college city; costs are low.

GOOD TO KNOW

Most colleges provide **hostel facilities for international students** — convenient and affordable.

Understand the Program Structure

WHAT TO KNOW

The **MBBS program** runs about **5.5 years**: roughly **4.5 years of academic study (basic and clinical sciences)** plus a **1-year compulsory internship** with clinical rotations in affiliated teaching hospitals. This structure gives strong practical, hospital-based experience.

BY THE NUMBERS

~5.5 years
total

4.5 academic
+ 1 internship

Hospital training
affiliated hospitals

HOW TO HELP

Plan for the **5.5-year structure** (4.5 academic years + a 1-year internship) — and use the hospital-based clinical training fully.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **compulsory internship year** builds real clinical experience — key preparation for licensing exams.

Thrive & Practice After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Your degree is **globally recognized (WHO/FAIMER-listed)**, but to practice you'll typically need to **pass the licensing exam of your target country** (e.g., FMGE/NExT for India, and others elsewhere). **Verify recognition and requirements** where you plan to work — the crucial final step.

BY THE NUMBERS

Recognized

WHO/FAIMER-listed

Licensing exam

in your target country

Verify

before you rely on it

HOW TO HELP

Plan early for the **licensing exam** where you'll practice, and **verify recognition** for your target country before committing.

WATCH OUT

The degree opens the door, but **passing your country's licensing exam is essential to practice** — prepare throughout your studies.

Studying in Nepal: The Essentials

A snapshot — recognition and licensing vary by country, so verify with the relevant medical council, your college, and immigration.

The system

Medical colleges affiliated with Kathmandu University (KU) or Tribhuvan University's Institute of Medicine (IoM); leaders include B.P. Koirala, Patan Academy of Health Sciences, Manipal College of Medical Sciences, and Kathmandu University School of Medical Sciences.

The visa

Indian students don't need a visa (open-border arrangement); all other international students apply for a student visa via Nepal's Department of Immigration, based on admission to a recognized institution.

Tuition & program

Affordable and varying by college (government cheaper than private), well below Western/Indian-private fees; the MBBS program runs ~5.5 years (4.5 academic + 1 internship); English-medium, no IELTS/TOEFL.

Money & language

Show a bank statement, a medical-fitness certificate, and insurance; study in English, with some Nepali/Hindi useful for clinical rotations; Indian students must clear NEET.

Recognition

Degrees are WHO- and FAIMER-listed, but practicing requires passing your target country's licensing exam (FMGE/NExT, etc.) — verify recognition before you commit.

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