

# Studying in Oman

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A guide for international students & families — how Oman's higher education works, the student visa, affordable English-medium study, and university partnerships.

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## **AFFORDABLE, ENGLISH-MEDIUM, ONE OF THE SAFEST IN THE REGION**

Oman offers **affordable, English-medium higher education** at its flagship Sultan Qaboos University and a range of private universities — many with **UK, US, or German partnerships**. Add low costs, a reputation as **one of the safest countries in the Middle East**, and a welcoming, tolerant society. International students get a **student visa**, facilitated by their institution. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

**General guidance, not legal or immigration advice.** Omani rules, tuition, and requirements change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with your university, the Royal Oman Police (immigration), and the Ministry of Higher Education.**

# Understand Why Students Choose Oman

## WHAT TO KNOW

Oman offers **affordable, English-medium programs; universities with UK/US/German partnerships; low living costs; one of the safest environments in the Middle East; and a welcoming, tolerant society** — an accessible Gulf destination.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Affordable

English-medium

### Partnerships

UK, US, German

### Very safe

welcoming society

## HOW TO HELP

Weigh Oman's **affordability, English-taught options, and safety** against a smaller international-student scene — for value and security in the Gulf, it's a solid choice.

## GOOD TO KNOW

Oman is regularly cited as **one of the safest countries in the Middle East** — a real draw for international students and families.

# Understand the System

## WHAT TO KNOW

The flagship is **Sultan Qaboos University (SQU)** (nine colleges, including Medicine, Engineering, and Science). Others include the public **University of Technology & Applied Sciences (UTAS)**, the **German University of Technology (GUtech)**, the **University of Nizwa**, **Muscat University**, and **Middle East College** (many with foreign-university partnerships).

## BY THE NUMBERS

**Sultan Qaboos Univ**

flagship (public)

**UTAS**

public, nationwide

**GUtech / Nizwa / MEC**

+ private

## HOW TO HELP

Choose **SQU** for the flagship experience, **GUtech** for a German model, or a **private university with a UK/US partnership** — confirming accreditation and the language of instruction.

## GOOD TO KNOW

Many private universities **partner with UK, US, German, or Australian institutions** — check the partnership and awarding body.

# Get the Student Visa

## WHAT TO KNOW

International students apply for a **student visa**, facilitated by their institution. You'll provide a valid passport, proof of admission, **proof of funds (a minimum around OMR 1,000)**, medical checks, attested documents, and health insurance. Your university guides the process.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Student visa

via your institution

### Funds

min ~OMR 1,000

### + medical

& attested documents

## HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **student visa** with your university's help, providing admission proof, funds (min ~OMR 1,000), medical checks, attested documents, and insurance.

## GOOD TO KNOW

Your **university facilitates the visa** — follow its guidance and prepare attested documents early.

# Apply to Universities

## WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to your chosen university**. The academic year starts in **September**, with many deadlines between **April and July**. You'll show **English proficiency (IELTS/TOEFL)** or take a placement test; some programs (Medicine, Architecture) may require interviews, portfolios, or extra exams.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**Apply directly**

Sept intake

**April–July**

typical deadlines

**English**

IELTS/TOEFL or placement

## HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** to your chosen university for the September intake (deadlines ~April–July), with English proof or a placement test.

## GOOD TO KNOW

Some programs (Medicine, Architecture) require **interviews, portfolios, or additional exams** — check your program's specific requirements.

## Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

### WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **affordable**: roughly **OMR 1,000–4,000/year** (varying by university and program). Funding includes the **Oman Government Scholarship** and university-specific scholarships or tuition discounts. Living costs are low (OMR 200–400/month).

### BY THE NUMBERS

#### Tuition

~OMR 1,000–4,000/yr

#### Scholarships

Oman Government + university

#### Low

living costs

### HOW TO HELP

Budget the **affordable tuition** (~OMR 1,000–4,000/year) plus low living costs, and explore the Oman Government Scholarship and university awards.

### GOOD TO KNOW

Most universities offer some **merit-based scholarships or tuition discounts** — ask each institution's admissions office.

# Meet the Financial Requirement

## WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa you show **proof of funds (a minimum around OMR 1,000)** covering tuition and living, plus **medical checks and health insurance** (OMR 100–300/year). Documents typically need attestation. Confirm the exact requirements with your university and immigration.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Funds

min ~OMR 1,000

### Medical + insurance

required

### Documents

attested

## HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds (min ~OMR 1,000)**, medical checks, insurance, and attested documents — confirm specifics with your university and immigration.

## GOOD TO KNOW

Documents usually need **attestation** — arrange it early to avoid delays.



# Meet Language Requirements

## WHAT TO KNOW

English is the **medium of instruction at most private universities** (and in SQU's engineering, medicine, and science programs), so you prove English (IELTS/TOEFL) or take a placement test. Arabic is the official language; some Arabic helps daily life.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### English

most private + SQU STEM

### Proof

IELTS/TOEFL or placement

### Arabic

helps daily life

## HOW TO HELP

Prove **English proficiency** (IELTS/TOEFL or placement) for English-taught programs, and pick up some Arabic for daily life.

## GOOD TO KNOW

Most private universities and SQU's STEM/medicine programs teach **in English** — language is rarely a barrier for study.

# Prepare for the Move

## WHAT TO KNOW

After your visa, **arrange housing, complete registration, and set up banking and insurance.** Living costs are low, and Oman is safe, welcoming, and tolerant, with a sizeable Indian expatriate community (and widely available Indian and international food). Most students are based in **Muscat**.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**Housing + registration**

first tasks

**Banking + insurance**

set up

**Based**

in Muscat

## HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **housing, registration, banking, insurance** — in a safe, welcoming country with low costs; most students are in Muscat.

## GOOD TO KNOW

Oman's **safety, tolerance, and expat community** make settling in comfortable for international students.

## Explore Fields & Partnerships

### WHAT TO KNOW

Oman's universities are strong in **engineering, IT and computer science, business, and medicine**, and many **partner with UK, US, German, or Australian universities** (e.g., Middle East College with Coventry, GUtech's German model) — giving internationally aligned degrees.

### BY THE NUMBERS

#### Fields

engineering, IT, business, medicine

#### Partnerships

UK, US, German, Australian

#### Aligned

international degrees

### HOW TO HELP

Match your field to Oman's strengths (engineering, IT, business, medicine), and consider a university with a **UK/US/German partnership** for an internationally aligned degree.

### GOOD TO KNOW

Partnerships (e.g., Middle East College–Coventry, GUtech's German model) give **internationally aligned qualifications** — a real advantage.

# Thrive & Work After Study

## WHAT TO KNOW

Oman's **Vision 2040** targets a knowledge-driven economy, with opportunities in business, engineering, technology, and the public sector, and strong industry links. Confirm the current post-study work pathway if you want to stay, and use any university-partnership routes.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Vision 2040

knowledge economy

### Sectors

business, engineering, tech

### Post-study

confirm pathway

## HOW TO HELP

Leverage Oman's **Vision 2040** opportunities (business, engineering, tech, public sector) and industry links, and confirm the current post-study work pathway if you want to stay.

## GOOD TO KNOW

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

# Studying in Oman: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm with your university, the Royal Oman Police (immigration), and the Ministry of Higher Education.

## The system

Flagship Sultan Qaboos University (SQU); the public University of Technology & Applied Sciences (UTAS); the German University of Technology (GUtech); and private universities (Nizwa, Muscat University, Middle East College), many with UK/US/German/Australian partnerships.

## The visa

International students apply for a student visa, facilitated by their institution, with a valid passport, admission proof, proof of funds (min ~OMR 1,000), medical checks, attested documents, and insurance.

## Tuition & scholarships

~OMR 1,000–4,000/year; the Oman Government Scholarship and university-specific scholarships/discounts; low living costs (OMR 200–400/month).

## Money & language

Show proof of funds (min ~OMR 1,000) plus medical checks and insurance (OMR 100–300/year); English at most private universities and SQU STEM/medicine (IELTS/TOEFL), with Arabic useful for daily life.

## Fields & after

Strong in engineering, IT, business, and medicine, with UK/US/German partnerships; Vision 2040 targets a knowledge economy (business, engineering, tech, public sector) — confirm the post-study work pathway.

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