K12 ACADEMICS — INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERIES

Studying in Paraguay

A guide for international students & families — how Paraguayan higher education works, the student visa & residency, very affordable Spanish-language study, medicine, and practicalities.

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.

VERY AFFORDABLE, SPANISH IMMERSION, A PRESTIGIOUS MEDICAL SCHOOL

Paraguay is a **very affordable**, welcoming, bilingual (Spanish and Guaraní) country best suited to students seeking **Spanish immersion or medical study**. Its flagship is the **Universidad Nacional de Asunción (UNA)** — the oldest and largest public university, with a highly regarded medical school — alongside private universities like the Universidad Autónoma de Asunción. Be clear up front: **most programs are taught in Spanish**. Students get a **student visa and residency**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or medical-licensing advice. Paraguayan rules, tuition, and requirements change (residency is often required for enrolment). The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Dirección General de Migraciones, your university, and the Paraguayan consulate**.

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STEP 01 OF 10

Understand Whether Paraguay Fits You

WHAT TO KNOW

Paraguay suits students who want **very affordable study, immersive Spanish, or medical education (including a prestigious public medical school)** — but **most programs are in Spanish**, so it's best for Spanish speakers (or those committed to learning, with prep courses available) rather than English-taught degree seekers.

BY THE NUMBERS

Very affordable	Medicine	Spanish
+ Spanish immersion	prestigious UNA school	essential

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Paraguay's **affordability and medical/immersion options** against its **Spanish-only teaching** — it's strong for Spanish study or medicine, less so for English-taught degrees.

WATCH OUT

Be realistic: Paraguay is a **Spanish-language destination** — great for immersion or medicine, but plan for Spanish (prep courses are available).

2

STEP 02 OF 10

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

The flagship is the public **Universidad Nacional de Asunción (UNA — 1889, the oldest and largest; strong in medicine, law, and engineering; free tuition for residents)**. Private universities include the **Universidad Autónoma de Asunción** (international-friendly, with a Spanish-prep course), the Private University of the East (UPE), and Universidad Católica.

BY THE NUMBERS

UNA	Autónoma	+ UPE, Católica
oldest/largest (public)	private, Spanish-prep	& others

HOW TO HELP

Choose the public **UNA** (prestigious, affordable, Spanish) or a private university (Autónoma — international-friendly, with Spanish prep) by field.

GOOD TO KNOW

UNA's medical school (FCM) is **prestigious and highly competitive**, with a rigorous admission course; private universities are more accessible.

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STEP 03 OF 10

Get the Student Visa & Residency

WHAT TO KNOW

International students need a **student visa** (with a letter from the school stating the study purpose and proof of funds), and enrolment often requires obtaining **Paraguayan residency (temporary or permanent)**. Apply through a Paraguayan consulate or the **Dirección General de Migraciones**; your university guides the process.

BY THE NUMBERS

Student visa	Residency	Via
school letter + funds	often required to enrol	Migraciones / consulate

HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **student visa** (school letter, funds proof) and obtain **Paraguayan residency** where required for enrolment — your university guides the process via Migraciones.

WATCH OUT

Enrolment (e.g., at UNA) often requires **Paraguayan residency** — confirm the requirement and timeline with your university.

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STEP 04 OF 10

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to each university**. **Spanish proficiency is essential** (the Universidad Autónoma offers a Spanish-as-a-foreign-language course, after which students can progress {0} some later transfer to UNA). UNA{1}s medical school requires a **rigorous, merit-based admission exam (CPI)**. Provide transcripts and standard documents.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly	Spanish	UNA medicine
to each	essential (prep available)	competitive exam (CPI)

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly**, ensuring **Spanish proficiency** (a prep course is available at Autónoma) — and note UNA's competitive medical admission exam (CPI).

GOOD TO KNOW

A common pathway: complete a **Spanish-preparation course**, then enter a program — some students later transfer to UNA.

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STEP 05 OF 10

Plan for Tuition & Costs

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **very affordable**: **UNA (public) is free for residents** (international students pay, but costs are low); private universities are affordable by international standards (bachelor's roughly ~$8,000/year). Living costs are **low** (rent ~$250–400/month in Asunción).

BY THE NUMBERS

UNA	Private	Low
free for residents	affordable (~$8k/yr)	living costs

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **very affordable tuition** (UNA free for residents; private ~$8k/year) plus low living costs (rent ~$250–400/month).

GOOD TO KNOW

Costs are **low by global standards** — the main practical draw alongside immersion and medicine.

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STEP 06 OF 10

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa you show a **school letter and proof of funds**, plus standard documents. Note: **there is no public healthcare for international students**, so **private health insurance is essential**. Confirm the exact requirements with your university and the Dirección General de Migraciones.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds	Private insurance	Confirm
+ school letter	essential	per migration

HOW TO HELP

Prepare a **school letter, proof of funds, and private health insurance (essential — no public cover for internationals)**; confirm specifics with Migraciones.

GOOD TO KNOW

Private health insurance is essential — international students have no access to public healthcare in Paraguay.

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STEP 07 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

The language of instruction is **Spanish**, so proficiency is essential; **Guaraní** is also an official language and widely spoken (a rich cultural feature). Spanish-preparation courses (e.g., at the Universidad Autónoma) help you reach the required level — and Paraguay is great for immersion.

BY THE NUMBERS

Spanish	Guaraní	Prep courses
essential (medium)	co-official, cultural	available

HOW TO HELP

Plan for **Spanish proficiency** (essential), using a Spanish-prep course if needed — and enjoy Paraguay's bilingual (Spanish/Guaraní) cultural setting.

GOOD TO KNOW

Paraguay is **bilingual (Spanish and Guaraní)** — classes are in Spanish, with Guaraní a distinctive cultural feature.

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STEP 08 OF 10

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, complete your **residency, arrange housing, and set up banking and private insurance**. Housing near campus is affordable (rent ~$250–400/month). Most students are based in **Asunción** (with Ciudad del Este and Encarnación also university cities). Paraguay is welcoming, safe, and compact.

BY THE NUMBERS

Residency + housing	Affordable rent	Based
first tasks	~$250–400/month	in Asunción

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **residency, housing (affordable near campus), banking, private insurance** — in welcoming Asunción (or Ciudad del Este/Encarnación).

GOOD TO KNOW

Housing near campus is **affordable** — a real advantage in Paraguay's low-cost cities.

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STEP 09 OF 10

Explore Immersion & the Medical Pathway

WHAT TO KNOW

Paraguay is popular for **Spanish immersion** and for **medical study**: UNA{0}s medical school (FCM) is prestigious and competitive, with the major Hospital de Clínicas teaching hospital, while private universities offer more accessible medical and other programs {1} often via a Spanish-prep-then-degree pathway.

BY THE NUMBERS

Immersion	UNA medicine	Pathway
Spanish + Guaraní culture	prestigious (FCM)	Spanish prep → degree

HOW TO HELP

Use Paraguay for **Spanish immersion and medical study** (competitive UNA/FCM, or more accessible private universities) — often via a Spanish-prep-then-degree pathway.

GOOD TO KNOW

UNA's **Hospital de Clínicas** is the nation's largest teaching hospital — strong clinical training for medical students.

10 STEP 10 OF 10

Thrive & After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Paraguay's **Spanish immersion and (for medicine) strong clinical training**, plus your language skills, build a solid regional profile. For any degree or medical study, **verify recognition and licensing** where you'll use it. Confirm the current post-study pathway if you want to stay.

BY THE NUMBERS

Spanish	Verify	Post-study
+ clinical training	recognition (degrees/medicine)	confirm pathway

HOW TO HELP

Leverage Paraguay's **Spanish immersion and clinical training**, verify recognition for any degree/medical study, and confirm the current post-study pathway if you want to stay.

GOOD TO KNOW

For degrees or medicine, **verify recognition and licensing** where you'll use your qualification — an essential step.

QUICK REFERENCE

Studying in Paraguay: The Essentials

A snapshot — most programs are in Spanish, and figures change, so confirm with your university, the Dirección General de Migraciones, and the Paraguayan consulate.

The system

The public Universidad Nacional de Asunción (UNA — 1889, the oldest and largest; a prestigious medical school with the Hospital de Clínicas; free tuition for residents) plus private universities (Universidad Autónoma de Asunción — with Spanish prep — UPE, Católica); mostly Spanish-taught.

Visa & residency

International students need a student visa (school letter, proof of funds), and enrolment often requires Paraguayan residency (temporary/permanent); apply via a consulate or the Dirección General de Migraciones; private health insurance is essential.

Tuition & language

Very affordable (UNA free for residents; private ~$8,000/year); Spanish is the medium of instruction (essential), with Guaraní co-official; Spanish-preparation courses (e.g., at Autónoma) help reach the required level; living costs low.

Best for

Spanish immersion and medical study (competitive UNA/FCM, or more accessible private universities), often via a Spanish-prep-then-degree pathway; less suited to English-taught degree seekers.

After study

Spanish immersion and (for medicine) strong clinical training build a regional profile; for degrees or medicine, verify recognition and licensing where you'll use your qualification.

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