

Studying in Peru

A guide for international students & families — how Peruvian higher education works, the student visa and Carné de Extranjería, very affordable tuition, Spanish study, and the rules.

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VERY AFFORDABLE, HISTORIC UNIVERSITIES, RICH CULTURE

Peru offers **very affordable, quality higher education** — led by PUCP (top private), San Marcos (founded 1551, the oldest university in the Americas), and Cayetano Heredia (a leading medical school) — plus rich Spanish immersion and extraordinary culture (Machu Picchu, the Inca heritage). Students get a **student visa and, for residents, a Carné de Extranjería**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Peruvian rules, tuition, and the funds requirement change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with Migraciones (Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones), your university, and the Peruvian consulate.**

Understand Why Students Choose Peru

WHAT TO KNOW

Peru offers **very low tuition and living costs**, **historic and respected universities** (San Marcos, PUCP), a **leading medical school** (Cayetano Heredia), **immersive Spanish**, and **extraordinary culture** (Machu Picchu, the Inca heritage) — outstanding value.

BY THE NUMBERS

Very affordable

tuition & living

Historic

San Marcos (1551), PUCP

Medicine

Cayetano Heredia

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Peru's **very low costs**, **historic universities**, and **cultural richness** against a mostly Spanish-taught system — for affordable, immersive study, it's excellent.

GOOD TO KNOW

San Marcos (founded 1551) is the **oldest university in the Americas**, and Cayetano Heredia partners with Johns Hopkins and UC Berkeley — genuine prestige at low cost.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

The leaders are **PUCP** (top private — humanities, engineering, social sciences), **UNMSM (San Marcos — public, medicine, law, research)**, and **UPCH (Cayetano Heredia — health sciences)**, plus **Universidad de Lima** and **Universidad del Pacífico (business)**, **UTEC (engineering)**, and **Universidad Andina del Cusco**. 140+ institutions.

BY THE NUMBERS

PUCP

top private

San Marcos

oldest (public)

Cayetano Heredia

medicine/health

HOW TO HELP

Choose by field — PUCP for breadth, San Marcos for medicine/law/research, Cayetano Heredia for health sciences, UTEC/Pacífico for engineering/business — mostly in Lima (and Cusco).

GOOD TO KNOW

For medicine and health sciences, **Cayetano Heredia** is Peru's standout, with strong international partnerships.

Get the Student Visa & Carné

WHAT TO KNOW

You obtain a **student visa** (resident or temporary), via a Peruvian consulate or by processing with **Migraciones** after entering. A **resident student visa** is valid one year (renewable) and comes with a **Carné de Extranjería** (foreigner ID, valid four years); temporary students may get a **CTM (Carné Temporal Migratorio)** instead.

BY THE NUMBERS

Student visa

resident or temporary

Resident

1 year + Carné de Extranjería

Temporary

CTM possible

HOW TO HELP

Obtain a **student visa** (resident or temporary) via a consulate or Migraciones, and get your **Carné de Extranjería** (resident) or CTM (temporary) as your foreigner ID.

WATCH OUT

Resident student-visa holders must be in Peru **at least 183 days/year** to keep resident status — or apply for an authorised absence.

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to each university**. Requirements typically include academic transcripts, **Spanish proficiency** (most programs are in Spanish), and standard documents; some graduate programs are in English. Foreign documents need translation and (often) apostille. PUCP and others welcome many exchange and degree students each semester.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly

to each

Spanish

most programs

Documents

translated/apostilled

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** to your chosen university, prove **Spanish** (or English for some graduate programs), and prepare translated/apostilled documents.

GOOD TO KNOW

PUCP maintains **exchange programs with 150+ universities worldwide** — a strong option for a semester, year, or full degree.

Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **very affordable**: public universities average **PEN 500–3,000/year (~\$135–810)**; private universities (PUCP and others) charge more but remain low by global standards (PUCP's minimum international fee is ~\$1,078/year). Scholarships include **PRONABEC** (government) and university awards.

BY THE NUMBERS

Public

PEN 500–3,000/yr

Private

low by global standards

Scholarships

PRONABEC + university

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **very low tuition** (public cheapest; private still affordable) plus low living costs, and pursue PRONABEC or university scholarships.

GOOD TO KNOW

Even top private universities are **affordable by global standards** — public tuition is remarkably low (\$135–810/year).

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa you show **proof of funds** covering tuition and living, plus health insurance and standard documents. Living costs are low (~\$400–700/month). Note the **183-days-per-year residency rule** for resident students. Confirm the exact requirements with Migraciones and your consulate.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

tuition + living

+ insurance

& documents

183 days/year

residency rule

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds and insurance**, and note the **183-day residency rule** for resident students — confirm specifics with Migraciones and your consulate.

GOOD TO KNOW

Resident students must spend **at least 183 days/year in Peru** — plan travel accordingly, or apply for an authorised absence.



Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Most programs are taught in **Spanish**, so proficiency is essential; **some graduate programs are in English**. Living and studying in Peru offers excellent **Spanish immersion** — a highly valued skill ' so build Spanish before and during your studies.

BY THE NUMBERS

Spanish

most programs

English

some graduate

Immersion

builds Spanish fast

HOW TO HELP

Prove **Spanish** for most programs (or English for some graduate options), and use Peru's immersive setting to build Spanish — a valuable global skill.

GOOD TO KNOW

Studying in Peru is superb for **Spanish immersion** — many international students improve quickly through daily practice.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, obtain your **Carné de Extranjería (or CTM)**, arrange housing, and set up banking and insurance. Many students live with **host families or in shared housing**. Living costs are low; most students are based in **Lima** (with Cusco a cultural draw). Peru is welcoming and culturally rich.

BY THE NUMBERS

Carné / CTM

+ housing

Host families

or shared housing

Based

in Lima

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **Carné/CTM, housing (host families or shared), banking, insurance** — and enjoy Peru—s low costs and rich culture; most students are in Lima.

GOOD TO KNOW

Living with a **host family** is a popular, affordable option — and excellent for Spanish immersion.

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Be clear on this: a **resident student visa does not permit paid work** or professional remuneration in Peru. Only **strictly regulated part-time work (via a specific contract or academic internships)** may be authorised — it's not a standard work permit. Plan to fund your studies fully.

BY THE NUMBERS

Resident student visa

no paid work

Only

regulated internships

Fund fully

don't rely on work

HOW TO HELP

Understand that the **resident student visa doesn't permit paid work** — only regulated internships/contracts may be authorised, so plan to fund your studies fully.

WATCH OUT

A **CTM (temporary migratory card)** can, in some cases, include a work permit — but the standard resident student visa does not.

Thrive & After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Peru's strengths in **medicine/health sciences (Cayetano Heredia)**, **engineering (UTEC)**, and **business**, plus your **Spanish skills**, open regional opportunities. Confirm the current post-study visa/residency pathway if you want to stay, and use your Peruvian and Latin American networks.

BY THE NUMBERS

Strengths

medicine, engineering, business

Spanish

regional opportunities

Post-study

confirm pathway

HOW TO HELP

Leverage Peru's **academic strengths** and your **Spanish** for regional opportunities, and confirm the current post-study visa/residency 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 Peru: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm with Migraciones, your university, and the Peruvian consulate.

The system

PUCP (top private), Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (UNMSM — founded 1551, the oldest in the Americas), and Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH — medicine/health), plus Universidad de Lima, Universidad del Pacífico, and UTEC; mostly in Lima.

Visa & Carné

Obtain a student visa (resident or temporary) via a consulate or Migraciones; a resident visa (1 year) comes with a Carné de Extranjería (valid 4 years), temporary students may get a CTM; resident students must be in Peru 183+ days/year.

Tuition & scholarships

Very affordable: public universities average PEN 500–3,000/year (~\$135–810); private universities low by global standards (PUCP min ~\$1,078/year); PRONABEC and university scholarships; living ~\$400–700/month.

Money & language

Show proof of funds plus insurance; most programs are in Spanish (proficiency required), with some graduate programs in English; excellent for Spanish immersion; documents apostilled/translated.

Work & after

A resident student visa doesn't permit paid work (only regulated internships/contracts; a CTM may include a work permit); strengths in medicine, engineering, and business — confirm the post-study pathway.

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