K12 ACADEMICS — INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERIES

Studying in Romania

A guide for international students & families — how Romanian higher education works, the Ministry Letter of Acceptance, the study visa and residence permit, affordable English medicine, and work.

K12 ACADEMICS

Find Your Community

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.

AFFORDABLE EU, STRONG IN ENGLISH MEDICINE

Romania offers **affordable, EU-recognized degrees** — and is a well-established destination for **English-taught medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy** at universities like Carol Davila and the UMF medical schools. Since 2024 it's a Schengen member. A key step: non-EU students need a **Letter of Acceptance from the Ministry of Education** before the visa. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Romanian rules, tuition, and the funds requirement (tied to the minimum salary) change. The figures here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Romanian embassy, the IGI (immigration), and your university**.

1

STEP 01 OF 10

Understand Why Students Choose Romania

WHAT TO KNOW

Romania offers **affordable EU degrees, strong English-taught medicine/dentistry/pharmacy, low living costs, and Schengen membership** — plus a Latin-based language that eases learning for speakers of Romance languages.

BY THE NUMBERS

English medicine	Affordable	Schengen
Carol Davila, UMF	low tuition & living	since 2024

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Romania's **affordable EU degrees and strong medical programs** against the Ministry-of-Education paperwork step — for English-taught medicine especially, it's excellent value.

GOOD TO KNOW

Romania is a **major destination for English-taught medicine** at a fraction of Western fees — a leading draw.

2

STEP 02 OF 10

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Romania's leading institutions include the **University of Bucharest**, **Babeş-Bolyai University** (Cluj), and the medical universities — **Carol Davila** (Bucharest) and the **UMF** schools (Cluj, Iaşi, Timişoara). Programs run in Romanian, English, French, German, and Hungarian.

BY THE NUMBERS

Bucharest / Babeş-Bolyai	Carol Davila / UMF	Multilingual
broad	medicine	incl. English programs

HOW TO HELP

Choose by field — Bucharest or Babeş-Bolyai for breadth, Carol Davila or a UMF school for medicine — and confirm the language of instruction.

GOOD TO KNOW

Romania's **UMF medical universities** (Cluj, Iaşi, Timişoara) offer well-regarded English-taught medicine — confirm each one's program.

3

STEP 03 OF 10

Get the Letter of Acceptance & Visa

WHAT TO KNOW

Two key steps: first, your university helps you obtain a **Letter of Acceptance (Scrisoare de Acceptare) from the Ministry of Education**; then you apply for a **long-stay (D) study visa** at a Romanian embassy, with proof you've paid the first year's tuition.

BY THE NUMBERS

Letter of Acceptance	Long-stay (D) visa	Tuition
from the Ministry	at the embassy	first year paid

HOW TO HELP

Get your **Ministry Letter of Acceptance** (the university facilitates it), pay the first year's tuition, then apply for the **D visa** — the whole process can take 2–3 months.

WATCH OUT

The **Ministry of Education Letter of Acceptance** is essential — without it, the embassy won't issue a study visa.

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STEP 04 OF 10

Get Your Residence Permit

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving on the D visa, you must apply for a **residence permit within 30 days** at the **IGI (General Inspectorate for Immigration)**. It's issued for the study period and renewable (up to several years), and can be extended ~6 months after graduation to finalize paperwork.

BY THE NUMBERS

Within 30 days	Renewable	+6 months
apply at IGI	for your studies	grace after graduation

HOW TO HELP

Apply for your **residence permit within 30 days of arrival** at the IGI, with your documents and proof of funds — it's renewable, and extendable briefly after graduation.

WATCH OUT

The **30-day residence-permit deadline** after arrival is firm — handle it promptly at the IGI.

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STEP 05 OF 10

Plan for Tuition & Funding

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU students pay tuition, but it's **affordable by EU standards** (medicine is the pricier outlier). Romania also offers **government (MFA) scholarships** — covering full tuition, free dormitory accommodation, and a monthly stipend — via the "Study in Romania" portal (usually applied for January–March).

BY THE NUMBERS

Non-EU	Medicine	MFA scholarships
affordable tuition	pricier	full waiver + dorm + stipend

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **non-EU tuition** (medicine is the outlier) plus low living costs, and consider the **Romanian Government (MFA) scholarships**, which fully fund selected students.

GOOD TO KNOW

Romanian Government scholarships (via the "Study in Romania" portal) cover **tuition, dorm, and a stipend** — apply in the January–March window.

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STEP 06 OF 10

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa you must prove **means of support at least equal to the minimum gross national salary per month** (recently around **€500–600/month**) for the visa period, plus **proof the first year's tuition is paid** and health insurance.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds	~€500–600/mo	Tuition
~min. salary/month	recently	first year paid

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** at the minimum-salary benchmark, **proof of paid tuition**, and **health insurance** (€30,000 coverage, valid in Romania) — all required for the visa.

WATCH OUT

Financial documents must be **complete and notarized/apostilled**, and your insurance must cover Romania — common rejection points, so check carefully.

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STEP 07 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Programs are taught in **Romanian** or **English** (IELTS is the main test; equivalents accepted). Romanian, being **Latin-based**, is relatively approachable for speakers of Romance languages, and helps with daily life.

BY THE NUMBERS

Romanian or English	English	Latin-based
by program	IELTS etc.	eases learning

HOW TO HELP

Take the **right test for your program's language** (IELTS for English programs), and pick up some Romanian — its Latin roots make it approachable, and it helps daily life.

GOOD TO KNOW

Romanian's **Latin base** makes it easier for Romance-language speakers — a small advantage for daily life.

8 STEP 08 OF 10

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

Have documents **apostilled/legalized and translated into Romanian** before you travel. After arriving, **apply for the residence permit (within 30 days), confirm insurance, and set up banking**. Living costs are low (€400–700/month), and dormitories are cheap.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apostille + translate	Residence permit	Low costs
into Romanian	within 30 days	€400–700/mo

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **apostilled, Romanian-translated documents**, handle the residence permit within 30 days, and enjoy Romania's low living and dormitory costs.

GOOD TO KNOW

All documents need the correct **apostille/legalization and Romanian translation** — prepare them before you travel.

9

STEP 09 OF 10

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Once you hold your residence permit, non-EU students may work **up to 4 hours per day (20 hours/week) without a separate work permit** — covering jobs, internships, and volunteering, with studies coming first.

BY THE NUMBERS

Work	No work permit	After the permit
4 hrs/day (20/week)	needed	not before

HOW TO HELP

You may work **up to 20 hours/week without a separate permit** once you have your residence permit — useful for experience, with studies as the priority.

GOOD TO KNOW

Work rights apply **only after you get the residence permit**, not on arrival — plan accordingly.

10 STEP 10 OF 10

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Your residence can be **extended up to 6 months after graduation** to complete and authenticate your study papers. Romania's EU membership and recognized degree (especially in medicine, under EU rules) open opportunities across Europe.

BY THE NUMBERS

+6 months	EU-recognized	Medicine
post-graduation	degree	EU recognition

HOW TO HELP

Use the **post-graduation extension** to finalize paperwork, and leverage your EU-recognized degree (medicine especially) for opportunities across Europe — confirming the current route.

GOOD TO KNOW

Romanian medical degrees benefit from **EU-wide recognition** — valuable for practicing across Europe, subject to each country's rules.

QUICK REFERENCE

Studying in Romania: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm everything with the Romanian embassy, the IGI, and your university.

The system

University of Bucharest, Babeş-Bolyai (Cluj), Carol Davila and the UMF medical universities; programs in Romanian, English, French, German, and Hungarian; EU-recognized (Bologna).

Letter of Acceptance & visa

Non-EU students need a Letter of Acceptance from the Ministry of Education (facilitated by the university), then a long-stay (D) study visa (with first-year tuition paid) at a Romanian embassy.

Residence permit

Apply within 30 days of arrival at the IGI (General Inspectorate for Immigration); renewable for your studies and extendable ~6 months after graduation.

Money

Prove means at least the minimum gross salary per month (recently ~€500–600) plus paid first-year tuition and health insurance (€30,000, valid in Romania); MFA scholarships fully fund selected students.

Work & after

After the permit, work up to 20 hrs/week without a separate permit; residence extendable ~6 months post-graduation; EU-recognized degrees (medicine especially).

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