K12 ACADEMICS — INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERIES

Studying in Tanzania

A guide for international students & families — how Tanzania's higher education works, the student visa & residence permit, English-medium study, and the rules.

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.

ENGLISH-MEDIUM, HOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM

Tanzania offers **affordable, English-medium higher education** anchored by the **University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM)**, the country's oldest and flagship university, in a welcoming East African country famous for Kilimanjaro, Serengeti, and Zanzibar. English is the medium of instruction, and international students verify qualifications through Tanzanian authorities. Students get a **student visa and residence permit**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Tanzanian rules, tuition, and the funds requirement change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with Tanzania Immigration, your university, and the Tanzanian mission**.

1

STEP 01 OF 10

Understand Why Students Choose Tanzania

WHAT TO KNOW

Tanzania offers **affordable, English-medium education; a flagship university (Dar es Salaam); a welcoming East African setting; and an extraordinary natural backdrop (Kilimanjaro, the Serengeti, Zanzibar)** — genuine value and experience.

BY THE NUMBERS

Affordable	UDSM	Setting
English-medium	flagship university	Kilimanjaro, Zanzibar

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Tanzania's **affordability, English medium, and setting** — for English-taught study in East Africa with a remarkable natural backdrop, it's a strong choice.

GOOD TO KNOW

The University of Dar es Salaam is **Tanzania's oldest and flagship university** — a respected, research-active institution.

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STEP 02 OF 10

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

The flagship is the **University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM)**, with a **Directorate of Internationalization (DICA)** supporting international students, alongside other public and private universities. English is the medium of instruction throughout, and most study is based in **Dar es Salaam** (with campuses and institutions elsewhere).

BY THE NUMBERS

UDSM	+ others	English
flagship (with DICA)	public & private	medium throughout

HOW TO HELP

Choose **UDSM** (the flagship, with dedicated international support) or another university by field — all English-medium, mostly based in Dar es Salaam.

GOOD TO KNOW

UDSM's **Directorate of Internationalization (DICA)** supports international students with admissions, arrival, and orientation.

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STEP 03 OF 10

Get the Student Visa & Residence Permit

WHAT TO KNOW

International students obtain a **student visa and residence permit** to study in Tanzania, coordinated with **Tanzania Immigration**. Begin visa, travel, and residence-permit preparations **as soon as you receive admission confirmation**; your university (e.g., UDSM's DICA) provides guidance on documentation and procedures.

BY THE NUMBERS

Student visa	Via	Start early
+ residence permit	Tanzania Immigration	on admission

HOW TO HELP

Obtain your **student visa and residence permit** via Tanzania Immigration, starting **as soon as you're admitted** — your university's international office guides the documentation.

GOOD TO KNOW

Begin **visa and residence-permit preparations immediately after admission** — early planning avoids delays.

4 STEP 04 OF 10

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly** (UDSM uses an online admission system). International applicants with foreign secondary certificates submit them to **NECTA for equivalence grading** before applying; foreign degrees are verified by the relevant authority. Non-native English speakers show **English proficiency (TOEFL/IELTS)**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly	NECTA	English
online (UDSM)	certificate equivalence	TOEFL/IELTS

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** (online at UDSM), getting **NECTA equivalence** for foreign secondary certificates and showing English proficiency if English isn't your first language.

WATCH OUT

Foreign secondary certificates need **NECTA equivalence grading before applying** — arrange this early.

5 STEP 05 OF 10

Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **affordable** (fees are set per program; international students should review each program's costs). Scholarships and financial aid vary by university and program. Living costs are low. Verify current fees directly with your university's admissions and international offices.

BY THE NUMBERS

Affordable	Scholarships	Low
fees per program	vary	living costs

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **affordable tuition** (set per program) plus low living costs, and check each university for scholarships — verify current fees with the admissions office.

GOOD TO KNOW

Verify **current fees per program** directly with your university — costs vary by program and level.

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STEP 06 OF 10

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa/permit you show **proof of financial resources** covering tuition and living expenses, plus your acceptance and standard documents. Plan and budget for the **entire duration** of your program. Confirm the exact requirements with Tanzania Immigration and your university.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds	Full duration	+ documents
tuition + living	budget ahead	& acceptance

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds for the full program** plus your acceptance documents — confirm the exact requirements with Tanzania Immigration and your university.

GOOD TO KNOW

Show financial resources for the **entire duration** of study — via bank statements or a sponsor letter.

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STEP 07 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

English is the **medium of instruction** at Tanzanian universities (Swahili is the national language, widely spoken), so non-native English speakers show proficiency (TOEFL/IELTS). English speakers face no language barrier; basic Swahili enriches daily life.

BY THE NUMBERS

English	Swahili	Proof
medium of instruction	national language	TOEFL/IELTS

HOW TO HELP

Study **in English** (proof via TOEFL/IELTS for non-native speakers), and pick up some Swahili — the widely-spoken national language — for daily life.

GOOD TO KNOW

All university courses are **conducted in English**; Swahili is the national language and useful day to day.

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STEP 08 OF 10

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After your visa/permit, **arrange accommodation, complete registration, and set up banking**. UDSM offers **halls of residence, homestays, and residential flats**. Most students are based in **Dar es Salaam**, with Zanzibar and the northern safari circuit within reach. Tanzania is welcoming and culturally rich.

BY THE NUMBERS

Accommodation	Registration + banking	Based
halls/homestays/flats	set up	Dar es Salaam

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **accommodation (halls, homestays, or flats), registration, banking** — in Dar es Salaam, with Zanzibar and the safari circuit within reach.

GOOD TO KNOW

UDSM offers **halls of residence, homestays, and residential flats** — explore options early through the university.

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STEP 09 OF 10

Explore Tanzania's Setting

WHAT TO KNOW

Tanzania pairs study with an **extraordinary setting**: Kilimanjaro (Africa's highest peak), the Serengeti and Ngorongoro, and the islands of **Zanzibar** (rich Swahili culture and history). This makes it a compelling base for fields like **conservation, tourism, marine science, and Swahili studies**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Kilimanjaro	Zanzibar	Fields
+ Serengeti	Swahili culture	conservation, tourism, marine

HOW TO HELP

Use Tanzania's **remarkable setting** (Kilimanjaro, the Serengeti, Zanzibar) for study and fieldwork in conservation, tourism, marine science, and Swahili studies.

GOOD TO KNOW

For **conservation, tourism, and marine science**, Tanzania's landscapes and Zanzibar offer distinctive fieldwork opportunities.

10 STEP 10 OF 10

Thrive & After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Tanzania's growing economy and your **regional networks** open East African and international opportunities, especially in development, tourism, conservation, and business. Confirm the current post-study visa/work pathway if you want to stay.

BY THE NUMBERS

Growing economy	Fields	Post-study
+ networks	development, tourism, conservation	confirm pathway

HOW TO HELP

Leverage Tanzania's **economy and your regional networks** for opportunities in development, tourism, and conservation, and confirm the current post-study pathway if you want to stay.

GOOD TO KNOW

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

QUICK REFERENCE

Studying in Tanzania: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm with Tanzania Immigration, your university, and the Tanzanian mission.

The system

The University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM — Tanzania's oldest and flagship university, with a Directorate of Internationalization supporting international students) anchors the system, alongside other public and private universities; English is the medium throughout.

Visa & permit

International students obtain a student visa and residence permit via Tanzania Immigration; begin preparations as soon as you receive admission confirmation, with guidance from your university's international office.

Applying

Apply directly (online at UDSM); foreign secondary certificates need NECTA equivalence grading before applying, and foreign degrees are verified; non-native English speakers show proficiency (TOEFL/IELTS).

Money & language

Show proof of funds for the full program plus acceptance documents; English is the medium of instruction (Swahili is the national language); tuition is affordable (set per program) with low living costs; UDSM offers halls, homestays, and flats.

Setting & after

An extraordinary backdrop (Kilimanjaro, the Serengeti, Zanzibar) suits conservation, tourism, and marine studies; regional networks open East African and international careers — confirm the post-study pathway.

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