

Studying in Tunisia

A guide for international students & families — how Tunisian higher education works, the student visa, affordable study in French/Arabic (and English), medicine, and the rules.

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AFFORDABLE, A LARGE SYSTEM, MEDICINE & A MEDITERRANEAN SETTING

Tunisia offers **affordable, quality higher education** in a large system (250+ institutions) with a distinctive **Arabic, French, and Mediterranean** character. It's known for **medicine and engineering** (with strong public universities like El Manar and Carthage), and English-taught options are growing (the Mediterranean School of Business, South Mediterranean University). Students get a **student visa and residence card**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or medical-licensing advice. Tunisian rules, tuition, and the funds requirement change, and **medical-degree recognition depends on where you'll practice**. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with your university, Tunisian immigration, and the Tunisian consulate**.

Understand Why Students Choose Tunisia

WHAT TO KNOW

Tunisia offers **affordable tuition; a large system strong in medicine and engineering; French and Arabic immersion (with growing English options); and a Mediterranean, culturally rich setting** — well-located between Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.

BY THE NUMBERS

Affordable

+ large system

Medicine/engineering

strengths

French/Arabic

+ growing English

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Tunisia's **affordability and strengths in medicine/engineering** against a mostly French-taught system — for affordable medicine, engineering, or French/Arabic study, it's attractive.

GOOD TO KNOW

Tunisia has **one of the largest, most established higher-education systems in North Africa** — strong in medicine, engineering, and the sciences.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Public universities anchor the system: **the University of Tunis, the University of Tunis El Manar (medicine, sciences), and the University of Carthage**, with strong institutions in **Sfax, Sousse, and Monastir** (medicine). Private universities include the English-taught **Mediterranean School of Business (MSB)** and **South Mediterranean University (SMU)**. Most teaching is in French.

BY THE NUMBERS

Public

Tunis, El Manar, Carthage

Medicine

Monastir, Sousse, Sfax

Private

MSB, SMU (English)

HOW TO HELP

Choose a **public university** (El Manar/Carthage; Monastir/Sousse for medicine) or an **English-taught private university** (MSB, SMU) by field and language.

WATCH OUT

For English-taught study, **MSB and South Mediterranean University** offer business and engineering (MSB's EMBA is AMBA-accredited) — a growing English option.

Get the Student Visa & Carte de Séjour

WHAT TO KNOW

For programs over 90 days you need a **student visa**. Typically you first secure an **offer of placement** (public-university applicants work through the university's international cooperation bureau / the Direction Générale de la Coopération Internationale), which issues visa forms; after arriving, you obtain your **residence card (carte de séjour)**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Student visa

for >90 days

Offer of placement

+ visa forms

Carte de séjour

after arrival

HOW TO HELP

Secure your **offer of placement** (via the university's international cooperation bureau), apply for the **student visa**, then obtain your **carte de séjour** after arrival.

GOOD TO KNOW

Public-university international admissions run through the **university's international cooperation bureau** — which also helps with visa forms.

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly** (public universities via the international cooperation bureau; private universities like MSB/SMU directly). You'll typically need **French proficiency** (a preparatory year if your level is insufficient) or **English (for MSB/SMU)**, plus transcripts and standard documents. Programs run on an **October–July** calendar.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply

via bureau or direct

French

(or English for MSB/SMU)

Oct–July

academic year

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** (via the international cooperation bureau for public universities), proving French (prep year possible) or English (MSB/SMU), with transcripts.

GOOD TO KNOW

Most programs need **French proficiency** (a preparatory year is available if needed); MSB and SMU teach in English.

Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

WHAT TO KNOW

Public-university tuition for international students runs roughly **\$1,500–4,000/year** (private universities more) — affordable versus the West. The **Tunisian government and universities** offer scholarships (some via bilateral agreements). Living costs are low (~\$3,000–5,000/year).

BY THE NUMBERS

Public

~\$1,500–4,000/yr

Private

more

Scholarships

government & university

HOW TO HELP

Budget the tuition (public \$1.5k–4k; private more) plus low living costs, and pursue Tunisian government or university scholarships (some via bilateral agreements).

GOOD TO KNOW

Living costs are low (~\$3,000–5,000/year) — a key part of Tunisia's affordability.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa you show **proof of sufficient funds** for the full program, plus **health insurance** (private plans ~\$300–600/year; required) and standard documents. Confirm the exact requirements with the Tunisian consulate and your university's international office.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

full program

Health insurance

required (~\$300–600/yr)

Documents

transcripts, passport

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds for the full program, health insurance, and standard documents** — confirm the exact requirements with the Tunisian consulate and your university.

GOOD TO KNOW

Health insurance is required (private plans ~\$300–600/year) — arrange it as part of your visa file.



Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Most programs are taught in **French** (with a preparatory year available if your French is insufficient); some programs are in **Arabic**, and a growing set (MSB, SMU) are in **English**. Building French greatly eases both study and daily life.

BY THE NUMBERS

French

most programs

Arabic

some programs

English

MSB, SMU

HOW TO HELP

Match the language to your program — **French** (most; prep year possible), **Arabic** (some), or **English** (MSB/SMU) — and build French for daily life.

GOOD TO KNOW

A **preparatory French year** is available if your French isn't yet sufficient — plan for it if you choose a French-taught program.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After your visa, **obtain your carte de séjour, arrange housing, and set up banking and insurance.** Most students are based in **Tunis** (also Sfax, Sousse, and Monastir). Tunisia offers a Mediterranean climate, rich history, and low living costs, with coastal and cultural sites to explore.

BY THE NUMBERS

Carte de séjour + housing

first tasks

Cities

Tunis, Sfax, Sousse

Mediterranean

+ low costs

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **carte de séjour, housing, banking, insurance** — in Tunis (or Sfax/Sousse/Monastir); Tunisia offers a Mediterranean setting and low living costs.

GOOD TO KNOW

Most students are in **Tunis**, with Sfax, Sousse, and Monastir also popular — all affordable and welcoming.

Explore Medicine & the English Route

WHAT TO KNOW

Two notable routes: **medicine and engineering** at public universities (El Manar, Monastir, Sousse, Sfax — affordable, mostly French; **verify recognition where you'll practice**), and **English-taught business/engineering** at MSB and South Mediterranean University. Choose by field, language, and career goal.

BY THE NUMBERS

Medicine/engineering

public (French)

English

MSB, SMU

Verify

recognition (medicine)

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Tunisia's **affordable French-taught medicine/engineering** against **English business/engineering (MSB, SMU)** — and, for medicine, **verify recognition where you'll practice**.

WATCH OUT

For medicine, **verify recognition and the licensing exam** where you'll practice before committing.

Thrive & After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Tunisia's links across **North Africa, Europe (Francophonie), and the Middle East**, plus your language skills, open regional and international opportunities in engineering, medicine, and business. Confirm the current post-study visa/work pathway if you want to stay.

BY THE NUMBERS

Links

North Africa, Europe, Middle East

Fields

engineering, medicine, business

Post-study

confirm pathway

HOW TO HELP

Leverage Tunisia's **regional links and your language skills** for opportunities in engineering, medicine, and business, 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.

Studying in Tunisia: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures and recognition vary, so confirm with your university, Tunisian immigration, and the Tunisian consulate.

The system

One of North Africa's largest systems (250+ institutions): public universities (University of Tunis; University of Tunis El Manar — medicine, sciences; University of Carthage; plus Sfax, Sousse, Monastir for medicine) and English-taught private universities (Mediterranean School of Business, South Mediterranean University).

Visa & residence

Programs over 90 days need a student visa; secure an offer of placement (public applicants via the university's international cooperation bureau), apply for the visa, and obtain your carte de séjour after arrival.

Tuition & scholarships

Public-university tuition ~\$1,500–4,000/year for internationals (private more); Tunisian government and university scholarships (some via bilateral agreements); living ~\$3,000–5,000/year.

Money & language

Show proof of funds for the full program plus required health insurance (~\$300–600/year); most programs are in French (prep year available), some in Arabic, and a growing set (MSB, SMU) in English.

Strengths & after

Strong in medicine and engineering (verify medical recognition where you'll practice); regional links across North Africa, Europe, and the Middle East open careers — confirm the post-study pathway.

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