

Studying in Uganda

A guide for international students & families — how Uganda's higher education works, the student pass, English-medium study at Makerere and beyond, and the rules.

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ENGLISH-MEDIUM, HOME TO PRESTIGIOUS MAKERERE

Uganda offers **affordable, English-medium higher education** anchored by **Makerere University** — one of Africa's oldest and most prestigious universities — alongside a growing set of public and private institutions. English is the medium of instruction (no barrier for English speakers), and Uganda is a welcoming East African base. Students get a **student pass**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

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

Understand Why Students Choose Uganda

WHAT TO KNOW

Uganda offers **affordable, English-medium education; a prestigious flagship (Makerere University); a welcoming East African setting; and strong regional networks** — genuine quality and value.

BY THE NUMBERS

Affordable

English-medium

Makerere

prestigious flagship

East Africa

welcoming

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Uganda's **affordability and Makerere's reputation** — for English-taught study in East Africa at a respected university, it's a strong, value-driven choice.

GOOD TO KNOW

Makerere University (founded 1922) is **one of Africa's oldest and most prestigious universities** — a genuinely respected name across the continent.

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

The flagship is **Makerere University (Kampala)** — broad, research-active, and highly regarded — alongside other public universities and a large private sector (including **Kampala International University** and St. Lawrence University). English is the medium of instruction throughout.

BY THE NUMBERS

Makerere

flagship (Kampala)

KIU

+ private sector

English

medium throughout

HOW TO HELP

Choose **Makerere** (the prestigious flagship) or another public/private university (e.g., KIU) by field — all English-medium, mostly in and around Kampala.

GOOD TO KNOW

Beyond Makerere, Uganda has a **large private higher-education sector** — giving flexible options across fields.

Get the Student Pass

WHAT TO KNOW

International students need a **student pass**, applied for through the **Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control** (with your admission letter and funds proof). Your university's international office guides the process; apply well ahead of your program start and renew as required.

BY THE NUMBERS

Student pass

via Immigration Control

Admission + funds

required

Apply ahead

+ renew

HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **student pass** via the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control (with your admission letter and funds proof), well ahead of your start — your university helps.

GOOD TO KNOW

Your university's international office guides the **student-pass process** — start it early to avoid delays.

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to each university** (Makerere and others have online applications). English is the medium, so no separate language test is usually needed for English speakers. Provide your secondary results and transcripts; requirements can vary by nationality and program, so check each university's international page.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly

online

English

no test (English speakers)

Documents

results & transcripts

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** to your chosen university (online at Makerere and others), with your secondary results and transcripts — English is the medium, so it's accessible for English speakers.

GOOD TO KNOW

Requirements can **vary by nationality and program** — check each university's international-student page for specifics.

Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **affordable** (international students pay more than nationals, but costs stay low by global standards; fees are set per program). Scholarships and financial aid vary by university — check each institution's international office. Living costs are low.

BY THE NUMBERS

Affordable

int'l pay more

Fees

per program

Scholarships

per university

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **affordable tuition** (internationals pay more; set per program) plus low living costs, and check each university for scholarships.

GOOD TO KNOW

Uganda's **low tuition and living costs** are a key draw — confirm the exact fee for your program with the university.

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the student pass you show **proof of funds** covering tuition and living, plus your admission letter and standard documents. Living costs are low. Confirm the exact requirements with the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control and your university.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds

tuition + living

+ admission

& documents

Confirm

per immigration

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds and your admission documents** — living costs are low; confirm the exact requirements with immigration and your university.

GOOD TO KNOW

Requirements are set by immigration and the university — follow their official checklist.



Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

English is Uganda's **medium of instruction** (and an official language), so there's no language barrier for English speakers, and no separate language test is usually required (non-native speakers may show English proficiency).

BY THE NUMBERS

English

medium of instruction

No barrier

for English speakers

Proof

for non-native speakers

HOW TO HELP

Study **in English** — no language barrier for English speakers, though non-native speakers may need to show English proficiency.

GOOD TO KNOW

For English speakers, **language is not a barrier** — a key advantage of studying in Uganda.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After your pass, **arrange housing, complete registration, and set up banking**. Most students are based in **Kampala**, a lively capital. Uganda is welcoming and green, with a mild climate and access to East Africa's landscapes and wildlife; follow your university's local guidance.

BY THE NUMBERS

Housing + registration

first tasks

Kampala

lively capital

Banking

set up

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **housing, registration, banking** — in lively Kampala, following your university's local guidance.

GOOD TO KNOW

Most students are based in **Kampala** — a green, welcoming capital with a mild climate.

Understand the Regional Advantage

WHAT TO KNOW

Uganda sits at the heart of **East Africa**, with strong regional links (the East African Community) and a Makerere alumni network across the continent. This opens **regional internship, research, and career** opportunities, especially in development, health, agriculture, and business.

BY THE NUMBERS

East Africa

regional links (EAC)

Makerere network

continental

Opportunities

development, health, business

HOW TO HELP

Use Uganda's **central East African position and Makerere's networks** for regional internships, research, and careers in development, health, and business.

GOOD TO KNOW

Makerere's **pan-African alumni network** and Uganda's EAC links are real assets for regional opportunities.

Thrive & After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Uganda's growing economy and your **Makerere/regional networks** open East African and international opportunities. Confirm the current post-study visa/work pathway if you want to stay, and use your connections across the region.

BY THE NUMBERS

Growing economy

+ networks

East Africa

+ international

Post-study

confirm pathway

HOW TO HELP

Leverage your **Makerere and regional networks** for East African and international opportunities, and confirm the current post-study visa/work 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 Uganda: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm with the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control, your university, and the Ugandan mission.

The system

Makerere University (Kampala — founded 1922, one of Africa's oldest and most prestigious universities) anchors the system, alongside other public universities and a large private sector (including Kampala International University); English is the medium throughout.

The visa

International students need a student pass via the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control (with an admission letter and funds proof); the university's international office guides the process; apply ahead and renew as required.

Applying & tuition

Apply directly (online at Makerere and others), with secondary results and transcripts; English is the medium (no separate test usually needed for English speakers); tuition is affordable (internationals pay more; set per program), with low living costs.

Money & language

Show proof of funds covering tuition and living plus admission documents; English is the medium of instruction (and an official language); non-native speakers may show English proficiency.

Regional advantage & after

Uganda's central East African position (EAC links) and Makerere's pan-African network open regional internships, research, and careers — confirm the post-study pathway.

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