K12 ACADEMICS — INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERIES

Studying in Zambia

A guide for international students & families — how Zambia's higher education works, the study permit, English-medium study, and life in a peaceful Southern African country.

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, PEACEFUL & VERY AFFORDABLE

Zambia is a **peaceful, friendly, English-medium** study destination in Southern Africa, led by the **University of Zambia (UNZA)** with Copperbelt University and Mulungushi University. Tuition is **very affordable** (roughly $200–770/year at public universities), English is the official language (no barrier for English speakers), and the country is welcoming and stable. Students get a **study permit**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

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

1

STEP 01 OF 10

Understand Why Students Choose Zambia

WHAT TO KNOW

Zambia offers **English-medium universities; a peaceful, friendly, stable setting; very affordable tuition and living; and a welcoming base in Southern and East Africa** — strong value and a warm, safe environment.

BY THE NUMBERS

English-medium	Peaceful & stable	Very affordable
universities	friendly	tuition & living

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Zambia's **affordability, English medium, and peaceful setting** against a no-work rule — for affordable English-taught study in a welcoming country, it's a strong choice.

GOOD TO KNOW

Zambia is known as a **very peaceful and friendly country** — a welcoming, stable base for students across the region.

2

STEP 02 OF 10

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

The premier institution is the **University of Zambia (UNZA, Lusaka)**, with a dedicated international students office; **Copperbelt University (Kitwe)** is strong in mining, engineering, and technology, and **Mulungushi University (Kabwe)** adds further options. English is the medium of instruction throughout.

BY THE NUMBERS

UNZA	Copperbelt	Mulungushi
premier (Lusaka)	mining/engineering	+ others

HOW TO HELP

Choose the **University of Zambia** (premier, broad) or **Copperbelt University** (mining/engineering) or Mulungushi by field — all English-medium.

GOOD TO KNOW

Copperbelt University is strong in **mining, engineering, and technology** — fitting Zambia's copper-mining economy.

3

STEP 03 OF 10

Get the Study Permit

WHAT TO KNOW

International students need a **study permit** from the **Department of Immigration**, and the application should be done **while outside Zambia**. Your institution certifies your ability to pay tuition and living costs; you'll also provide a **police clearance** (for applicants 18+). Check whether you need an entry visa via the Zambian mission.

BY THE NUMBERS

Study permit	Apply	+ police clearance
Dept of Immigration	from outside Zambia	(18+)

HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **study permit** via the Department of Immigration from **outside Zambia** — your institution certifies your funds, and you provide a police clearance (18+).

WATCH OUT

Apply for the study permit **while still outside Zambia**, and check separately whether you need an entry visa.

4

STEP 04 OF 10

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to each university** (online or via the admissions office). English is the medium, so no separate language test is usually needed for English speakers — and UNZA offers **English-proficiency courses** (elementary to advanced) if you need to build your level. Provide certified transcripts, a CV, and a motivation letter.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly	English	Documents
online/admissions	+ UNZA proficiency courses	transcripts, CV, letter

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** to your chosen university with transcripts and a motivation letter — English is the medium, and UNZA offers English-proficiency courses if you need them.

GOOD TO KNOW

UNZA offers **English-proficiency courses (elementary to advanced)** — helpful if English isn't yet your strong language.

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STEP 05 OF 10

Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition at public universities is **very affordable** (ZMW 5,000–20,000/year, about $200–770; international students pay more than nationals). Universities and organizations offer scholarships and financial aid — check each university's international office for current fees and awards.

BY THE NUMBERS

Public	Int'l	Scholarships
ZMW 5k–20k/yr (~$200–770)	pay more	per university

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **very affordable tuition** (ZMW 5k–20k / $200–770; internationals pay more) plus low living costs, and check each university for scholarships.

GOOD TO KNOW

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

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STEP 06 OF 10

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the study permit your **institution certifies your ability to pay** tuition and living costs, and you show **proof of funds**, a police clearance, and standard documents. Living costs are low (~$250–500/month). Confirm the exact requirements with the Department of Immigration and your university.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds	+ police clearance	Living
institution certifies	& documents	~$250–500/month

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds (certified by your institution), a police clearance, and standard documents** — living costs are low; confirm with the Department of Immigration.

GOOD TO KNOW

Your **university certifies your ability to pay** tuition and living costs to immigration — an important part of the permit.

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STEP 07 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

English is Zambia's **official language and the medium of instruction**, so there's no language barrier for English speakers; non-native speakers can use UNZA's English-proficiency courses. This makes Zambia accessible to a wide international audience.

BY THE NUMBERS

English	No barrier	Support
official & medium	for English speakers	UNZA proficiency courses

HOW TO HELP

Study **in English** — no language barrier for English speakers, with UNZA's English-proficiency courses available for those who need them.

GOOD TO KNOW

For English speakers, **language is not a barrier** — and English support is available for others.

8 STEP 08 OF 10

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After your permit, **arrange housing, complete registration, and set up banking**. UNZA offers **accommodation for international students** (with exchange students housed near the main campus). Most students are based in **Lusaka** (or Kitwe for Copperbelt). Zambia is peaceful, friendly, and welcoming, with Victoria Falls and wildlife within reach.

BY THE NUMBERS

Housing + registration	UNZA	Based
first tasks	int'l accommodation	Lusaka (or Kitwe)

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **housing (UNZA offers international accommodation), registration, banking** — in peaceful, friendly Lusaka (or Kitwe).

GOOD TO KNOW

UNZA provides **accommodation for international students** — apply early through the international office.

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STEP 09 OF 10

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Be clear on this: the **study permit does not permit paid work** or profit-making activity in Zambia. Plan to **fund your studies fully**; check with your university about any on-campus roles or internships available to international students, but don't rely on work for income.

BY THE NUMBERS

Study permit	Fund fully	Ask
no paid work	don't rely on work	about campus/internships

HOW TO HELP

Understand that the **study permit doesn't permit paid work** — plan to fund your studies fully, and ask your university about any on-campus or internship options.

WATCH OUT

The study permit **does not allow profit-making activity** — budget accordingly and treat any opportunity as needing separate authorization.

10 STEP 10 OF 10

Thrive & After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Zambia's economy (mining, agriculture, tourism) and your **regional (SADC) networks** open Southern and East African opportunities, especially in mining/engineering, agriculture, and development. Confirm the current post-study visa/work pathway if you want to stay.

BY THE NUMBERS

Economy	SADC networks	Post-study
mining, agriculture, tourism	regional	confirm pathway

HOW TO HELP

Leverage Zambia's **economy and your regional networks** for opportunities in mining, agriculture, and development, 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.

QUICK REFERENCE

Studying in Zambia: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm with the Department of Immigration, your university, and the Zambian mission.

The system

The University of Zambia (UNZA, Lusaka — the premier institution, with an international students office) plus Copperbelt University (Kitwe — mining, engineering) and Mulungushi University; English is the official language and the medium throughout.

The visa

International students need a study permit from the Department of Immigration, applied for from outside Zambia; your institution certifies your ability to pay, and you provide a police clearance (18+); check whether you also need an entry visa.

Tuition & scholarships

Public universities very affordable (ZMW 5,000–20,000/year, ~$200–770; internationals pay more); university and external scholarships; living ~$250–500/month.

Applying & language

Apply directly (transcripts, CV, motivation letter); English is the medium (UNZA offers English-proficiency courses); UNZA provides international-student accommodation.

Work & after

The study permit does not permit paid work — fund your studies fully; a mining/agriculture/tourism economy and SADC networks open regional careers — confirm the post-study pathway.

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