

STUDY ABROAD

EQUITY GROUP FOUNDATION

A resource guide full of essential exciting information for eight (8) highly sought-after study abroad destinations. Thinking of studying abroad? 'Turn the page' to begin your journey!





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With this guide, we hope to make your goals for an international education seem more attainable and within your reach.

INTRODUCTION

The globalised world in which we live today calls for a more holistic frame of thinking, simply put, a worldview. Globalization is not limited to trade and business. The world is seeing a rapid development in the internationalization of higher education, and this increase in student mobility is not only targeted at the Ivy League of USA. In the near future, no one country will have the national monopoly anymore with regards to international students aspiring to study there. With this in mind, EGF has created a guide to help you in your search for an international degree. This is the first volume of the University Aboard guide and contains information on some of the more popular international destinations. With time, EGF plans to produce a second volume which will offer scholars an insight to a more diverse selection of countries and a reliable reference point to begin researching from.

Today you may feel that employers' attitudes will negate the benefits of studying abroad. High school, university and career-office staff members often know little about overseas study or its employment value back home. This is mainly due to the fact that once you go abroad to study, you are not expected to come back and work at home! But we believe otherwise. Kenya has a vision of having a knowledge-based economy in 2030. Human capital will be an essential element of competitiveness.

With this guide, we hope to make your goals for an international education seem more attainable and within your reach. Though it takes a lot of hard work and effort to complete an application, you will have the basic tools that you'll need to achieve your dreams. You will find that it won't be that hard after all. The only thing that stands between man and his greatest ideals and deepest desires is fear and doubt. We are hoping that as we go step by step through this guide, your fears will start to slowly fade away and give room for all the faith you need to make your dreams come true. We also hope that you will not conform to the beliefs that it is impossible to attain an international education.

John Wooden defined success as the peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing that you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming. This process may be daunting and time consuming, but if you put your all into it and give it your best shot, you will have nothing to lose and the best will come to you. It is an experience worth having and regardless the outcome, you will have a sense of satisfaction that you made it through. A positive mind is also a necessity; think only the best and in due time it shall manifest.



REASONS TO STUDY ABROAD

While it is increasingly possible to get a competitive university education in Kenya, many students seek opportunities abroad. World-class learning, travel throughout multiple countries, cultural exchange, foreign language immersion and unique academic adventures - all of these are hallmarks of the international study experience. There are countless reasons why everyone should at least consider studying abroad once in their academic lifetimes, here are our top few reasons.

Quality Education Get exposed to a world-class education that will allow you to compete and get exposed to world-class standards and have access to an international job market.

Improve your language skills Learning or improving foreign language skills are the main reasons why many students go abroad. The only way to truly become fluent in a language is to be immersed in it. Certainly, being surrounded by a foreign language and using it on a daily basis can be a great and easy way to improve your language skills. But the success depends on many factors.

- Have a basic understanding of the language and vocabulary before you go to avoid frustration
- Try and find an institution in a dialect-free region to learn the purest language.
- Practice the language as often as you can. May be you can get a tutor for free; where you teach him or her English (or maybe even Kiswahili!) in exchange for the lessons in the desired language
- Learn the conversational language as well as some terminology of your field of study to make the most out of your stay abroad

Experience the Culture Living abroad will show you a new culture from a deeper perspective than ever before. Depending on how exotic and foreign the culture you are going to is, the adjustment process will be anything from easy to nerve wrecking and frustrating. But dealing with this new situation will make you grow and become more open to other perspectives on life. Remember your way is not better than theirs, it's just different. Furthermore, from the vantage point of someone else's culture you can truly see your own. The American anthropologist Margaret Mead said, "As the traveler who has once been from home is wiser than he who has never left his own doorstep, so a knowledge of one other culture should sharpen our ability to scrutinize more steadily, to appreciate more lovingly, our own."

Extend your networks Networking is a buzz word of our times. Face book, LinkedIn and Twitter are just a few social and professional networking sites that help us to stay connected and use our connections as potential resources. Imagine in a few of years, you are working in your job and suddenly your company wants to expand to the country you have studied in. You will suddenly become a valuable resource for your company, because you will be able to use your networks to just pick up the phone and connect with several local people there who can give you valid and accurate information in an instant.

Improve your job chances Globally-minded employees are in high demand. Many companies seek out individuals with multi-lingual and multi-cultural experience and skills. Additionally, you can also take advantage of internships while you study abroad for an international work experience that is valued among employers. Experience abroad will give you an advantage over other applicants on the job market as candidates with international experience are known to be problem solvers, adaptable and independent.

Become independent Living in a foreign country all by yourself will inevitably make you independent. Getting out of your comfort zone is certainly not easy; you are forced to become independent. Show yourself, your parents and friends that you can do it- DIY-Style! Show them that they were all so wrong about you being a mama's boy (or girl)! It will feel great! But don't be afraid, in case of emergency, you can hop on a plane and be home within 24 hours.

Fight stereotypes by educating others Many other cultures only have experience with different ethnic groups through the media (i.e. news, sports, music, and movies). Don't be frustrated if your fellow students think that all Africans are malnourished and chronically ill; or live with lions and wear loin cloths. Stereotypes are a distinct challenge everyone faces abroad. However, this is also a unique opportunity to educate others about who you are as an individual and as a group. You can illustrate your own experiences in comparison to what others see and hear. This is your chance to be an individual, as well as a representative of your culture, and to encourage positive understanding of global diversity. Take advantage of the numerous groups and societies that you can join and become an advocate for your country and continent.

Change your perspective In addition to serving as a cultural ambassador to dispel other's misconceptions, studying abroad gives you a chance to break down some of your own stereotypes about other countries and peoples. A stay abroad will open your eyes and open your mind. You will understand that there is not just one way to achieve things, but many of equal value. This is one of the most important lessons studying abroad offers. This change of perspective allows us to embrace foreign concepts and innovations that can be implemented at home for the benefit of Kenya's development.

Christine Sambu, an intern at Equity Group Foundation talks of her decision to study abroad and her experiences so far...

Studying abroad is an option I had long considered in my formative years both in primary school and during my time in high school. I had long determined that I wanted to pursue my higher education studies in a global environment and with an international perspective, an opportunity that does not often present itself in local institutions. Additionally, my brother was also studying abroad, hence I was able to witness first-hand the benefits of education in the Diaspora. He has always been a mentor to me so I got to learn a lot about the application process in addition to other issues concerning studies in the USA.



The decision to study abroad was a great leap of faith, given that I was still relatively young and the prospect of being alone in a completely foreign country was quite daunting. Nevertheless, I figured that the benefits far outweighed the risks, and thus dedicated myself fully and aggressively towards applying to various colleges in the US. Applying to schools abroad is not an easy task – it takes a considerable amount of determination, hard work, and perseverance. I actually had to apply twice before I successfully got accepted into one of the universities. I first applied to about four colleges while in my fourth year in high school, but all I got in return were four rejection letters! In retrospect, I was rather ill-prepared and relatively uninformed about various factors to consider in applications at that time. In spite of this setback, I set my mind on re-applying again after high school, this time round wiser and armed with a boat-load of useful information with regards to submitting a strong application. It was a tedious and time-consuming process, but eventually, my efforts thankfully bore fruit – I was accepted into Brandeis University with a full scholarship and waitlisted in one of the Ivy League colleges. I obviously decided to go with the safer bet.

My experience so far has been life-changing. Studying abroad has its fair share of challenges, but the returns are high – you get to interact with bright students from the world over, get the privilege to be taught by world-class professors in state-of-the-art classrooms well-equipped with numerous facilities, and get much-needed exposure to the world at large, a factor that goes a long way in broadening your thinking and overall life experience.



2 WHERE SHOULD I GO?

Europe or elsewhere throughout the world? Where is the best place for you to study? The answer obviously depends on many different personal, curricular, and institutional considerations. Think this through carefully, as no given place is likely to answer all your needs, and yet each place has something unique to offer. Aside from USA, Western Europe is the traditional destination for most students going abroad. One of the reasons students head for Western European countries is because there are so many well-established universities. Yet programs now beckon from all over the globe. In increasing numbers, students are also deciding to consider other regions, sometimes based on institutional reputation, sometimes on language, cultural, or career interests. Excellent programs are available in the Middle East, Asia, and Australasia. In today's economically independent world, notably with the increasing Asia-Kenya relations, knowledge of these countries may prove to be a tremendous career asset.

Do you want to study in a big city, a small town or a rural area? A large city offers a wide array of social choices and many cultural opportunities, but it can also be expensive, impersonal, and more cosmopolitan than national in its identity. On the other hand, a provincial town or rural area can offer a traditional way of life and more contact with local residents, but its narrower lifestyle may be too confining for some and expose you to stereotypical behaviour.

Would you like to learn a language and study alongside local students or enroll on an English-taught program in a non-English speaking country? This is something you will have to think carefully about – there a number of institutions in non-English speaking countries that offer programs taught in English, but the quality of these has often been questioned. Make sure you do plenty of research and consult multiple sources of information before making your decision.





Or alternatively, would you like to go to a country with the highest financial aid/scholarship grant available?

Start by realistically assessing your academic and personal preparation and objectives. The following questions will help you begin your research:

- What do you want or need to study?
- Are you fluent enough in a foreign language to take classes in it, or will it become necessary for you to take some or all of your courses in English?
- How much time can you afford to spend abroad, in terms of academic time and economic resources?
- Where do you want to go? Why? Remember, one of the most rewarding ways to live overseas is to attend a foreign university. It is advisable that you select an institution in a country that you would like to live in.
- How structured or open of a program are you looking for? (US universities allow you to select your major half way through your programme; in China, it is extremely difficult to change programmes or have varied courses, without starting again)
- How much money can you spend on tuition and fees? On housing and food? On international transportation?
- Will you need to apply for financial aid? Is it available?

This guide will only serve as a preliminary reference point as you begin to explore the idea of studying abroad (USA guide is separate) and is full of sign-posts to other sources of information to begin the in-depth research required when planning a degree abroad. Make sure you make time to talk to students studying in your country of choice – the web is a great tool for this.

2.1 When should I go abroad?

There is really no perfect time to go abroad; it all depends on you and the course you would like to pursue. Some students feel they are not ready to leave home so soon after secondary school and opt to remain in Kenya for their undergraduate degree and study a Masters degree abroad. Others who are hoping to pursue professional degrees like medicine or law and plan to practice in Kenya, are generally more inclined to do their undergraduate degree locally and consider studying abroad for postgraduate studies. This is because professional degrees are usually tailored to the country in which they are taught in and therefore become relevant for students wishing to launch their careers there. In order to be able to practice in their destination country, students must be 'licensed'. Licensing is often granted through a professional body or a licensing board composed of advanced local practitioners and this process can take anywhere between one year to 3 years depending on the degree.



3 CHOOSING AN INSTITUTION

In general, three factors are equally weighted concurrently in the minds of students and parents when choosing an institution – a university's competitiveness (akin to brand and reputation), scholarship or financial aid, and field of study options. Students believe the most competitive institutions will best serve their long-term interests – jobs and earning potential. Rankings are seen to convey status and thus reputation and prestige. However rankings are only one aspect to consider when identifying an institution to further your education. Choosing a degree program that is the "right fit" for you is the best way to achieve your personal and academic goals for your studies abroad, as well as assist you with your long-range career plans. Therefore, it is important to plan carefully. Hundreds of opportunities exist, more than ever before. They differ in location, duration, curriculum, language, cost, and many, many other ways. Because there is so much to consider, it's wise to begin planning a full year before you want to depart. In some cases colleges and universities expect you to declare your intent to study abroad a full year in advance.

As well as making sure the course and university is right for you, there are practical issues you'll need to consider - Many overseas universities offer courses in English, but some require you to take a language test before they will admit you. You'll also need to arrange any student visa, residence permit or other paperwork that's required. There is more on this in the next sections.

3.1 What do rankings mean?

University rankings are highly influential and of keen interest to students, faculty, university administrators and policymakers around the world, but are almost always controversial and face a great deal of criticism too. Differences between ranking lists arise as a result of different definitions of university quality; different criteria and indicators used to measure quality; and different weightings for each indicator. All the rankings used in this guide are derived from the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings system, powered by data from Thomson Reuters, which EGF believes are the most comprehensive. The rank tables are the result of a global survey of user needs and 10 months of open consultation, and were devised with expert input from more than 50 leading figures from 15 countries, representing every continent. They use 13 separate indicators – more than any other global system – to take a holistic view.

EGF's recommended universities are all featured amongst the THES top 200 ranked institutions in the world. For your own comfort, you may want to refer to other world rankings. The following are just a few:

- Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Academic Ranking of World Universities – this system is known for being objective, stable and useful but best suited to those who want to consider a narrow picture of research power. Its six indicators are restricted purely to research, almost exclusively in science.
- The Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan's - based solely on journal articles
- Webometrics Ranking of World Universities – only for institutions seeking to monitor their global online visibility, an increasingly important issue in a world where brands really matter.

The promise of measuring university quality adequately and precisely across very diverse institutions and for different stakeholders is extremely difficult if not impossible. Although we believe that the THES rankings are the most comprehensive, we advise potential students not to base or limit their decisions solely on these or any rankings.

3.2 Financing your international degree

Almost all the countries featured in this guide have government bodies and institutions that award scholarships and financial aid grants to deserving students. Some, like Australia, offer relatively fewer funding opportunities than others, like Sweden and China that offer far more. Individual institutions are also likely to offer merit-based financial grants that are not captured in this guide. Visit the specific institutions' of your choice websites for more scholarship opportunities. In addition, there are a number of other expenses which may or may not be included in the stated bottom line 'program fee' and not covered by the grant/scholarship - but are nevertheless related to the overall costs of the experience of living and learning in another country. Remember to factor these costs in when you are coming up with your budgets. General-

- Academic fees; Application fee (refundable or non-refundable?); Administrative fee; Books and other supplies; Use of labs and libraries; Computers: Internet use fees, access to e-mail

Room and Board (Are room and board included during vacations and holidays?)-

- Accommodation/Food (whole year or only term time?); Housing or key deposits; Residence permits; Food (Does this include three meals a day? Seven days a week, or weekdays only?)

Transportation-

- Round-trip transportation from Kenya to the country of your chosen institution; Transportation between point of international entry and program site, if not included in the round-trip transportation fee; Commuting costs to and from campus; Program-related travel; Optional travel

Travel Documents-

- Passport fee; Visa fee; Immunizations, if required; International Student Identity Card Insurance-
- Health and accident insurance; Traveler's insurance, for lost or stolen personal items

3.3 Applying for scholarships

When applying for scholarships, it's important to know what you have in the way of strengths. The majority of scholarships are still merit-based (dependent on KCSE or test grades), but some administrators are starting to look for other attributes as well.

To know what you can get from a scholarship, you have to first know what you have in the way of assets.

Do you:

- Participate in any extracurricular activities?
- Participate in school events?
- Get involved in sporting events?
- Help out in your community?
- Volunteer anywhere?

Have you ever:

- Been in a school performance?
- Run for student council?
- Been on an exchange program?

Anything that differentiates you from the other students applying for scholarships is important. Try sitting down with your family and brainstorm to develop a list. Something that seems routine to you might be extraordinary to someone else.

4 VISA/HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Leaving your country requires a great deal of preparation and getting a visa and the necessary immunizations is part of the whole process. After scheduling an appointment online and paying the required fees, you would need to visit the embassies for an interview in order to obtain your visa. You need to be aware of the documents that would be needed for the interview to avoid being sent back home and waiting for another day which can be frustrating. The lines at the embassies are not fun and sometimes you have to be there before dawn in order to ensure you have at least some part of the day to yourself. You would need to prove that you have the capacity to meet your financial needs when abroad by providing your scholarship details or bank statements for the last three months. Some countries also require that you show a desire to come back home after your studies are done.

Living in a tropical disease country requires that you take a number of vaccines before leaving the country. These would include, but are not limited to:

- Hepatitis A and B
- Meningitis
- Yellow fever – required by the Kenyan government

Most injections are offered at City Hall in Nairobi but they should be able to refer you if they do not have the vaccines. Some vaccines require 3 doses and therefore you would need to start early so that you complete the last dose before you leave the country. However, for some, the third dose may be after six months and has to be taken when you are already in school. You would need to budget for that as well as part of your financial needs when you get abroad.



The unfortunate fact is that racism exists in almost all countries in the world, and will certainly exist in most if not all countries in this guide. NO ONE can guarantee that you will not come across it. It is important not to judge the whole country by one negative experience; it is often the case that certain cities or certain campuses and programs in a given country are more supportive and/or tolerant than others. The real issue is making an informed choice. Many students select places in spite of knowing that they are likely to encounter some overt or subtle discrimination there. If you are prepared for whatever attitudes exist, you will usually be able to handle it more constructively.

The first step is being aware that these problems exist in many countries, but don't let it prevent you from traveling outside your comfort zone. Remember, you can influence the people you meet positively! Many minority students have completely positive experience when exploring other cultures. One of the biggest challenges Africans face while studying abroad is the curiosity factor. In some countries (Eastern Europe/Russia, and the Far east/China) you may get prolonged stares because you simply look different. Sometimes it occurs because people in those countries just don't see a lot of anyone who looks different to them. It's often harmless, so do not worry about excessive attention to your race or hair.

There are some special things to consider about some minorities and their safety:

Women Unwanted attention can range from being a small nuisance to a potential danger. The way women communicate with men in Kenya may not be as socially acceptable in other countries. What is thought to be "friendly" at home can turn to be a flirt or sexual invitation in others, so make sure you establish behavior that shows that you are not interested. **Ethnic and Religious Minorities** You may not be considered an ethnic or religious majority at home, but when you go abroad you may become one. Ethnic and religious issues shouldn't be a negative factor of your study abroad experience so it is better to do a little research ahead of time to discover the national sentiment and current events of your future host country. **Students with Disabilities** In some countries there are still some prejudices and stereotypes about disabled students. They may be stared at, un-assisted, ignored and talked down there.

In addition, many countries do not meet the requirements for providing access for the disabled, such as wheelchair ramps, Braille signs and handicapped parking spaces. Moreover, the lack of services may be provided not only for those with physical disabilities but also to those with learning one, like mentally challenged. If you need some special arrangements abroad to be made, it is better to inquire far in advance.

TIPS!

- 1 Study up. As you consider travelling abroad for your undergraduate degree, don't hesitate to ask a question out of fear of seeming ignorant. Remember that not asking will leave you far more ignorant. Ask. The more you know about your destination, the easier your transition will be.
- 2 Once abroad, talk to everyone. Don't stick with your Kenyan counterparts. Whether you are travelling or studying, you will encounter a diverse range of people. Take advantage of it. When given the chance to interact with the "locals," take it. Your local friendships can get you home-cooked meals, house parties, free stays in the city/country, and delightful days at in a real home (not a student apartment!).
- 3 Be native. Take lessons from those who know the country best and enjoy their traditions. You will feel more in tune with your surroundings if you do.
- 4 Learn what you like and dislike. Time abroad will help you figure out more of what you want and don't want out of life. Follow what your journey teaches you.
- 5 Enjoy being where you are. Travel broadens your horizons. Take the time to enjoy your temporary hometown as well. And when you travel, spend more than just a day in any city. Savour the sounds and sights without too much hurry to move on to the next church or museum. You will feel far more at home.
- 6 Don't let anyone else dictate your experience. Go your own way, and don't be swayed by fellow Kenyans or classmates from making your own decisions.
- 7 Be prepared for others' stereotyping of Africans! (You will be expected to speak for your whole country! In any multi-cultural atmosphere you will often find yourself representing Kenya (and Africa) on issues of foreign policy, entertainment, and other cultural phenomena (from the Maasai to Kenyan Cowboys and corruption!). We all know how Africans are viewed in many corners of the earth: primitive, corrupt, unhealthy and suffering from numerous chronic infectious diseases. Be prepared for these stereotypes and work sensitively to break them down. Remember many locals in any country will not have had the opportunity to travel out of their country to experience things for themselves.

SWEDEN



SWEDEN

Did you know?

Sweden is considered a leader in innovation, ranking in the top 5 countries with most patent request per capita!

<http://www.studyinsweden.se/>

<https://www.studera.nu/studera/1374.html>

<http://www.hsv.se/english>

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sweden is a Scandinavian kingdom of 9 million inhabitants, of which almost 2 million live in and around the capital, Stockholm. It is one of the largest countries in Europe, with great diversity in its nature and climate. Sweden is a sparsely populated country, characterized by its long coastline, extensive forests and numerous lakes. It is one of the world's northernmost countries and despite this; Sweden still enjoys a favorable climate. Sweden is a country where winter is winter and summer is summer! Sweden is the land where the Nobel Prize was born for awarding candidates of academic distinction and, consequently, academia at all levels is taken seriously and standards of achievement remain high. This country located in the Northern area of Europe is famous for its creativity and innovation. It has a safe and modern environment with an English speaking population making it easy for international students to adapt to the new place. Today, knowledge is Sweden's prime asset, with education kept in the public domain and developed to a standard that ranks consistently among the highest in OECD statistics.

ECONOMY

The Swedish economy emerged from the financial crisis as one of the strongest in Europe. A high-tech local economy and a comprehensive system of welfare benefits allow Sweden to enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. Sweden has one of the most globalized and competitive economies today.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Sweden has a long and proud history of academic excellence, with outstanding universities dating back to the 15th century. Sweden is also the home of the Nobel Prize, the world's most prestigious academic distinction. Currently, there are 61 institutions offering higher education in various forms in Sweden. The majority of universities and university colleges are public. A number are self-governing and independent with a small number of independent organizations with degree awarding powers in Psychotherapy. Many students studying in Sweden come from abroad – approximately 20% of new students – making Sweden one of the world's most inclusive countries for education. Currently, some 30,000 foreign students are studying in Sweden, making for a vibrant, international study environment. There are two main higher education institutions: Universitet (University) and Högskola (University College). Universities and university colleges in Sweden offer a wide range of courses and study programs where the language of instruction is English. Study programs in both institutions are divided into credits. One credit corresponds to one week of full-time study. One year usually represents 40 credits. The Diploma (Högskoleexamen) undertaken at University colleges is awarded after the completion of at least 80 credits (two years' full-time study). It is awarded by all universities and higher education institutions. The Bachelor's Degree (Kandidatexamen) is conferred after the completion of at least 120 credits (three

years' full-time study). This article will only cover university programs in Sweden.

UNIVERSITY

Sweden's Universities are widely student focused, giving students the opportunity to express their thoughts, and share their ideas with others. This usually aids in the development of good team work attributes. Sweden has some of the top universities worldwide, six of which are in the top 200 (According to the THES, 2011).

APPLYING TO A SWEDISH UNIVERSITY

Opportunities for students to come to Sweden to study at an undergraduate level as degree students, or 'free movers', students who apply on an individual basis, are limited. Careful planning, good academic credentials, personal funds and strong motivation are needed. If you are a 'free mover', make sure to plan ahead and set aside plenty of time to make all the necessary arrangements. A growing number of undergraduate courses have been made available in English in order to make them more accessible, but for the most part, programs require a very good command of written and spoken Swedish and competition is very high. English-taught programs tend to be centered on social sciences, business, natural sciences and technology.

The application deadline for the following autumn semester is January 15th of that year for all students (i.e. If you plan on starting your degree in September 2012, you need to have submitted your application before the 15 January 2012). Sweden has a pooled admissions system; you can apply for multiple courses and study programs offered at different universities all on the same application. You are allowed to select up to twenty (20) courses and programs. The website can be accessed at <https://www.studera.nu/aw/toAccount.do?lang=en>

CHOOSING A COURSE

Many inventions that have come from Sweden are major source of pride, and a major contributor to Sweden's export boom. Engineering, research and development, information technology and biomedicine are some of the most heavily-funded of Sweden's business sector, putting them in the top percentile of countries in the world for published research and inventions. Inventors, engineering majors, scientists, computer programmers, and anyone interested in cutting edge technology will find this small country a world of inspiration.

Studyinsweden.se is a website administered by the Swedish Institute especially for international students. Here you will find out more about different universities and university colleges, scholarships and much more! This is the definitive site for international students who are looking for answers to questions regarding the practical aspects of living and studying in Sweden. <http://www.studyinsweden.se/Universities/> A database of English-taught programs can be found at <http://www.studyinsweden.se/How-To-Apply/Undergraduate-studies/Free-movers/>

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

In order to be offered a place in first cycle (undergraduate) courses or program, you must first meet certain general and specific entry requirements. If you meet these requirements, during the selection process you will compete with other students who are eligible for and applied to the same course and/or program.

- Have successfully completed upper secondary education/KCSE - submit certified copies of any certificate issued and the transcript of subjects taken and grades

awarded. Only final and officially issued documents are valid.

- Be able to demonstrate proficiency in English by means of an internationally recognized test, e.g. TOEFL, IELTS or the equivalent - For courses and programs where the language of instruction is English, the entry requirement is usually the equivalent of English studies at upper secondary/KCSE level in Sweden.

For students who received their final school grades after 31 December 2009, there is an additional entry requirement for mathematics as follows:

- You must have successfully completed courses in mathematics to reach the level of the Swedish course Mathematics A (approximately 10 years of mathematics studies).

When applying, you should then arrange for your school to send an official transcript of your complete high school record, together with a certified photocopy of your KCSE certificate(s) and/or Candidate Statement to the university.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Most courses and study programs have specific entry requirements in addition to the general requirements listed above. These requirements are often linked to the area of study of the course or program. These specific requirements are outlined in individual course or program descriptions which can be found on the website of the university that offers it.

Sweden has 6 universities amongst the top 200 in the world, the most prestigious of which are Karolinska Institute and Lund University.

- [Karolinska Institute](#)
- [Lund University](#)
- [Stockholm University](#)
- [Uppsala University](#)
- [Royal Institute of Technology](#)
- [Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences](#)

For courses taught in Swedish – written and oral skills in Swedish corresponding at the level of Swedish required on completion of Swedish upper-secondary education. This is generally assessed by the national Swedish test, [TISUS](#).

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for an undergraduate degree program or an individual course you should use the online application system at www.studera.nu, which processes your application.

LEARNING SWEDISH

Most undergraduate courses are taught in Swedish, requiring proficiency in the Swedish language. A large number of courses and programs at master's level are taught entirely in English because institutions want to be able to attract foreign as well as national students.

VISA PROCEDURES

For international students from Kenya, before applying for visa and residence permit, student must have been admitted to full time accredited university studies in Sweden. Generally, undergraduate and post graduate courses are more than 3 months, it is therefore essential to apply and obtain residence permit before entering Sweden. Applications are to be made at a Swedish Embassy in Nairobi in person. The application fee, which is not

refundable, is USD 162 (May, 2011)

For more information, please visit the Swedish Migration Board's website:

http://www.migrationsverket.se/info/studera_en.html

Visit the following website of the Swedish Embassy in Kenya for instructions on how to apply for a residence permit: http://www.swedenabroad.com/Page____106189.aspx.

FINANCING YOUR STUDIES

The cost of studying in Sweden will vary, since some students may pay tuition, while others receive grants, scholarships, and waivers. Until very recently (2011) International students enjoyed free tuition alongside Swedish and European students. Now, students who are not citizens of the EU, EEA, or Switzerland are subjected to application and tuition fees. Tuition tends to vary from USD 13,000-22,000 per academic year.

COST OF LIVING

The amount of money that you need to have to cover your cost of living is USD 1,200 per month. This amount is set by the Swedish Migration Board and you will need to show that you can cover this cost for the duration of your study permit. There are ways in which you can mitigate the financial strain: Sweden allows students to work for the duration of their studies.

WORKING WHILST YOU STUDY

If you are enrolled at a Swedish university or university college you can work in Sweden during the course of your studies without a work permit. You do, however, need a residence permit if you stay for longer than three months. Please note that you cannot apply for a residence permit unless you have been admitted to full time accredited university studies in Sweden. This includes paying the first installment of tuition fees. The application fee, which is not refundable, is USD 160.

Please visit <http://www.studyinsweden.se/Living-in-Sweden/Do-I-need-a-visa/> and the Swedish Embassy in Nairobi for current information http://www.swedenabroad.com/Page____106189.aspx

SCHOLARSHIPS The Swedish government, through the Swedish Institute, has developed two main scholarship programs. The first one is aimed at students from countries with which Sweden already has long-term development co-operations. These countries are Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Scholarships cover both living costs and tuition fees and are awarded for studies mainly at Master's level. A few scholarships will be awarded for studies at undergraduate level. Last year, 10 Kenyan students were awarded scholarships to further their studies at Master's level. Another scholarship program is administered by universities directly and is open to all students from outside the EU/EEA (Kenya included!). The budget is USD 4.9million for 2011, and will be increased to USD 9.7 million for 2012. You must contact the individual university/university college that you are interested in for more information. You may also come across a few prominent scholarship foundations in Sweden which provide academic and financial scholarships to foreign as well as native students for example the American-Scandinavian foundation.

Private Funding

The American-Scandinavian Foundation is instrumental in providing well-endowed funding for students who are pursuing research in Sweden and other Scandinavian countries. Eligible fellowship candidates must at least have their four-year undergraduate degree out of the way and be launching research associated with graduate or post-graduate studies.

Federal Scholarships

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships are reserved for those undergraduate students who have no other financial means to pay for a study abroad program in Sweden. The program is a creation of the federal government whose ulterior motive is to create a more highly educated and internationally savvy crowd of business and industry leaders prepared to compete in the 21st Century.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) funds [the Linnaeus-Palme programme](#), part of which offers teachers and students in developing countries the opportunity to come to Sweden. The program is administered by Sweden's International Programme Office for Education and Training. NOTE: The program offers a framework for cooperation between a Swedish university and one in the developing world. Thus, you cannot apply directly for scholarships but instead do this through your home university or college.

Financial needs:

Tuition and application fees

Tuition fees apply to students who are not citizens of the EU, EEA or Switzerland. The fees apply only to bachelors and master's programs and courses, while PhD programs are tuition-free. Universities set their own fees, and these vary from \$13000 to \$22,000 (USD) per academic year for most subjects. However, programs in the fields of medicine and art have notably higher fees.

Student union fees

Students usually join the local student union and pay a membership fee. Fees range from \$8 to \$53 per semester, depending on the union.

Literature and textbooks

The required reading is often extensive and students usually have to buy their own books as library copies are limited. Teachers also prepare and hand out their own compendiums. On average, students can expect to spend \$110 per month on books in an academic term. With some subjects such as law and natural sciences, this figure is likely to be higher. Many student unions organize book sales where students can buy used textbooks cheaply.

Living expenses

In addition to university fees, you will need to cover your living expenses during your study period, which amount to approximately \$1200 per month. This is a requirement for acquiring a residence permit

POST-STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Working in Sweden after your studies depends very much on the subject you have studied. Students that have secured a job when their student permit expires can easily change this into a work permit. Also, unlike Great Britain or Australia, there is no set quota for work permits for foreign citizens. The current [labor shortage list](#) can give you an indication of which skills are in demand.

<http://www.sweden.se/eng/Home/Work/Get-a-job/Labor-shortage-list/>

Learning Swedish is the most important thing if you are looking for a job in Sweden. Getting involved in activities arranged by the University and the Student Union will give you a good opportunity to network and make the contacts that might help you find a job or internship. Swedes are very helpful and easy going and Swedish companies have been known to have a comfortable working environment.



CANADA

CANADA

BACKGROUND

Canada is a bilingual country & a community of immigrants. Canada has a long history of innovation, from the invention of the telephone, insulin, the pacemaker, the Canadarm (a mechanical manipulator that launches or retrieves satellites in space), to, more recently, the BlackBerry™. The antiviral drugs AZT and 3TC, the leading medication against AIDS, were identified in Canada. Informed sources claim a "dramatic turnaround" in Canada's research and development circles recently, with many of the world's leading scientists coming to the country or returning now that there is more money for their work. The Canadian government recently announced an investment of \$779 million to support projects at 69 Canadian universities, colleges, hospitals, and not-for-profit research institutions.

ECONOMY

Canada has the ninth largest economy in the world, is one of the world's wealthiest nations, and is a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and G8. The Canadian economy is dominated by the service industry, which employs about three quarters of Canadians. Canada is unusual among developed countries in the importance of the primary sector, with the logging and oil industries being two of Canada's most important. Canada also has a sizable manufacturing sector, centered in Central Canada, with the automobile industry especially important. As of December 2010, Canada's national unemployment rate stood at 7.6%, following the 2007-2010 global financial crisis.

International trade makes up a large part of the Canadian economy. In 2009, agricultural, energy, forestry and mining exports accounted for about 58% of Canada's total exports. Machinery, equipment, automotive products and other manufactures accounted for a further 38% of exports in 2009. The United States is by far its largest trading partner, accounting for about 73% of exports and 63% of imports as of 2009.

Canada has considerable natural resources spread across its varied regions. As an example, in British Columbia the forestry industry is of great importance, while the oil and gas industry is important in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador. Northern Ontario is home to a wide array of mines, while the fishing industry has long been central to the character of the Atlantic Provinces. Canada has mineral resources of coal, copper, iron ore, and gold. These primary industries are increasingly becoming less important to the overall economy. Only some 4% of Canadians are employed in these fields, and they account for 6.2% of GDP. However many, if not most towns in northern Canada, where agriculture is difficult, exist because of a nearby mine or source of timber. There are also many secondary and service industries that are directly linked to primary ones. For instance one of Canada's largest manufacturing industries is the pulp and paper sector, which is directly linked to the logging industry. Canadian companies are increasingly playing important roles in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Africa.

EDUCATION IN CANADA

The education system in Canada includes both publicly-funded and private schools, from community colleges/technical institutes, universities and university colleges.

Education is a provincial responsibility under the Canadian constitution, which means there are significant differences between the education systems of the different provinces. This does mean that different universities have different policies, exams – and standards – for admission, and you will need to research these individually at the universities which interest you.

UNIVERSITIES

As Canadian responsibility for education lies with the provinces, there is no federal ministry of education or accreditation system. This is handled instead through membership of the [Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada \(AUCC\)](#). Currently, there are 94 universities with membership of the AUCC.

In brief:

- Degrees follow the bachelor/master/doctorate system (taking an average of three or four years to bachelor level), equivalent to those in the USA/UK. If you opt for a three years bachelors degree, to earn an honours degree you must study a fourth year. Masters level study may only be accessed with an honours degree.
- The chance to study in English, French or through both languages together.
- Cutting edge technology and research labs
- Tuition fees range from C\$8,000 to C\$26,000 per year depending on the programme.

Canada offers a wealth of higher education options and life-enriching opportunities at its universities. These institutions are diverse - varying in size and programs - and are located across the country. We recommend the following universities:

- [University of Toronto](#)
- [University of British Columbia](#)
- [McGill University](#)
- [McMaster University](#)
- [University of Alberta](#)
- [University of Victoria](#)
- [University of Montreal](#)
- [Dalhousie University](#)
- [Simon Fraser University](#)

APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR ADMISSION INTO CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES

As noted above, each university in Canada has its own policy regarding admission. First: identify which universities in Canada offer the program which interests you via the programme at www.educationau-incanada.ca.

Secondly: Click on the name of the university in the program list. Search on 'admissions information for international students' to find out further admissions information, or email the Registrar of the university, giving precise information on which programme you are interested to apply. You will also need to add that you are Kenyan, have taken KCSE, and your grades in each subject. Information you may wish to request could include the application procedures, deadlines, scholarships which may be available and their deadlines, information on any other related courses, forms to complete and their requirements for your desired course.

Some professional programmes, e.g. engineering, medicine, law, veterinary medicine,

are studied at undergraduate level (rather than at postgraduate level as in the US). Admissions standards are very high and places are limited. Check with the Registrar, and with the university website firstly whether additional pre-entry tests e.g. LSAT (for law), DAT (for dentistry) are needed, and their dates.

In general, Canadian universities accept KCSE for admission. However places are competitive. Global universities, e.g. McGill and others may well be expecting A grades in most subjects for admission. Deadlines vary by university, but you should allow at least eight months for your application to be agreed. International students tend to arrive to start in the September and January semesters. Many universities have adopted rolling admissions, where they assess applications as they arrive, - but if you are planning to apply for funding in any way, or to apply for graduate programmes, applications as early as possible are vital.

When applying, you should then arrange for your school to send an official transcript of your complete high school record, together with a certified photocopy of your KCSE certificate(s) and/or Candidate Statement to the university.

For example, this is admissions advice offered by McGill University

Admission decisions are based on your academic record, as well as performance in prerequisite courses, depending on the program.

All required marks are taken into consideration in determining admission, including those for failed or repeated courses. To form a basis for admission for a science-based program, science and mathematics courses normally must have been completed within the last five years. In addition, some programs take other information into consideration in making admission decisions (for example, the audition for Music or the portfolio for Architecture).

Generally speaking, extracurricular activities are not significant in the admission decision, although they are an important factor in the awarding of certain entrance scholarships.

IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES

IN ORDER TO ENTER CANADA AS A FOREIGN STUDENT YOU WILL LATER NEED A STUDY PERMIT AND A TEMPORARY RESIDENT VISA. THE INFORMATION BELOW WAS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF WRITING (MAY 2011) BUT YOU NEED TO CHECK ITS ACCURACY VIA THE CANADIAN EMBASSY, NAIROBI (WWW.KENYA.GC.CA).

Step 1: Collect the documents you need to apply.

- Proof of acceptance (the letter of acceptance from the university, original copy) • Proof of identity (a valid passport, plus two passport photos with your name and address on the back) • Proof of financial support. You must prove that you can support yourself while you are in Canada. You can prove that you have sufficient funds by showing some of the following:

- o proof of a Canadian bank account in your name if money has been transferred to Canada;
- o your bank statements for the past four months;
- o a bank draft in convertible currency;
- o proof of payment of tuition and accommodation fees;

- o a letter from the person or institution providing you with money; and
- o Proof of funding paid from within Canada if you have a scholarship or are in a Canadian-funded educational program.

The following table shows the minimum amounts that you will need (May 2011).

Number of persons	All provinces except Quebec	Quebec
Single student	Tuition plus \$10,000 for a 12-month period (or \$833 per month)	Tuition plus \$11,000 for a 12-month period (or \$917 per month)

- Letter of explanation

Step 2: Complete the application for a Study Permit.

Step 3: Include the correct Processing Fee to apply for a Study Permit. The rate for processing an application for a study permit is \$125.00 Cdn. This fee cannot be refunded if your application is refused or if you decide to withdraw your application. Check how this may be paid in Kenya with the office where you submit your application.

Step 4: Now check your documents are complete, and are signed.

Step 5: Supply additional information or documents when requested by the Visa Office.

For Kenyan residents this includes a medical examination. This may only be conducted by a very few, specially registered, doctors (at time of writing in Mombasa, Kisumu and Nairobi). It may take up to three months for this examination to take place and for the results to be processed. Plan ahead.

Police Certificates/Certificate of Good Conduct:

If you have not already done so when submitting your application, a visa officer may request a police certificate to help verify your admissibility to Canada. Persons who have committed or been convicted of a crime or offence may be prohibited from entering Canada. Police agencies may do a criminal or security background check. These checks may be done for anyone 18 years of age and over applying for a Study Permit.

When you apply for your Study Permit, there is no guarantee of acceptance. You should not take any final steps, such as purchasing plane tickets or quitting your job, until your Study Permit is approved.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

We do not have any information on scholarships for Kenyan students wishing to study in Canada at undergraduate level. We therefore advise the following research:

- Contact the Kenyan Ministry of Education (or the Cultural Attaché of the Canada embassy in Nairobi) for information on possible Canadian scholarships for Kenyan nationals, and their eligibility criteria.
- Visit the Study in Canada website www.educationau-incanada.ca
- Visit the AUCC's Information for international students webpage www.aucc.ca/scholarships
- There are a growing number of institutions that offer entrance scholarships for international students. Information can be obtained through the Registrar or Financial Aid Office of the

university that you wish to attend. Plan ahead as deadlines are early.

Useful resources to research possible scholarships:

<http://www.scholarships.gc.ca/noncanadians-en.html> www.educationau-incanada.ca www.aucc.ca/scholarships www.cbie.ca to download the publication *Awards for Study in Canada*

The cost of study in Canada is between \$4,500-\$16,000 for undergraduate study and \$5,200-\$11,000 for graduate studies. These are much lower than US, UK fees and slightly lower than Australia fees.

Kenyan students can apply for scholarships offered by various sources, but note that these are very rare and thus there is intense competition for the international student scholarships. Students can generally only work half-time (20 hrs) during study time and fulltime during holidays; therefore attempting to pay your way through your studies will not be possible.

Scholarship truths:

While grades and extracurricular activities are the basis for many scholarship decisions, there are numerous scholarship types that cater to a wide spectrum of students. For example, some scholarships are “regional” (applicants need to originate from a particular town or area) while others can be more select and designated for a specific applicant (someone with a disability or a certain cultural background).

Do I always need to apply?

Most scholarships require an application, but some are designed to be an automatic consideration, with no application necessary. A number of universities across the country, for example, provide automatic entrance scholarships for students with high school averages above 80 percent, and the amount available is often calculated on a sliding scale depending on your marks.

The website www.ScholarshipsCanada.com is a comprehensive scholarship portal and provides a large searchable database of scholarships with well over 60,000 individual awards, and studentawards.com is another free scholarship search service devoted to helping students locate financial assistance.

<http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/country/canada.htm> gives information on various scholarships and awards available for various levels of education.

WORKING IN CANADA

There are new ways to gain Canadian work experience during and after your studies. There are also permanent immigration options for international students who have graduated from post-secondary programs in Canada.

For full information about your options, please visit the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) website at www.cic.gc.ca/study.

WORK IN CANADA DURING AND AFTER YOUR STUDIES

You can work while you study and after graduation through a number of work-permit programs for international students. Working in Canada can provide a source of income while you study, give you valuable work experience, help you make business

contacts for the future, and even allow you to immigrate after your graduation.

Working on campus

If you have a valid study permit, you may be able to work on the campus of the institution you attend without a work permit. You can work for the institution itself, or for a private business located on the campus.

Working off campus

To work off campus, you must have a work permit. Through the Off-Campus Work Permit Program, you can work part-time during regular academic sessions (20 hours per week) and full-time during scheduled breaks, such as winter and summer holidays, and spring break. You can work in any occupation, and you can change employers whenever you like.

To qualify for the program, you must have a valid study permit and be a full-time student at a recognized postsecondary educational institution. For a list of participating institutions in the Off-Campus Work Permit Program, visit www.cic.gc.ca/institutions. Check with your institution to make sure the program that you choose is eligible.

WORKING AFTER GRADUATION

The Post-Graduation Work Permit Program allows you to gain Canadian work experience after you have completed your studies in Canada. This can help you apply to become a permanent resident of Canada. To qualify, you must have graduated from a public or private institution that grants degrees recognized by the province or territory. These institutions may include a university, college or CEGEP. Work permits under this program are valid for the length of your study program, up to a maximum of three years. For example, if you graduate from a four-year degree program, you could be eligible for a three-year work permit. If you graduate from an eight-month certificate program, you would be eligible for a work permit that is valid for up to eight months. You must apply for a post-graduation work permit within 90 days of receiving written confirmation from your educational institution that you have met the requirements for completing your academic program. With this permit, you can work in any occupation and change employers anytime you wish. According to a 2003 survey compiled by the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the cost of postgraduate study for foreign students in Canada is considerably lower than in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

Research tools

<http://www.educationau-incanada.ca/educationau-incanada/index.aspx> - the most comprehensive website from which much of this chapter was drawn. Also a link to search for specific programmes offered at different universities.

http://www.aucc.ca/index_e.html - represents the 94 universities in Canada. It is a very useful and comprehensive website.

www.studycanada.ca

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/study.asp> - Citizenship and Immigration Canada official website - visas and permission to work

http://www.aucc.ca/publications/stats/enrol_e.html - Enrolment rates at different universities

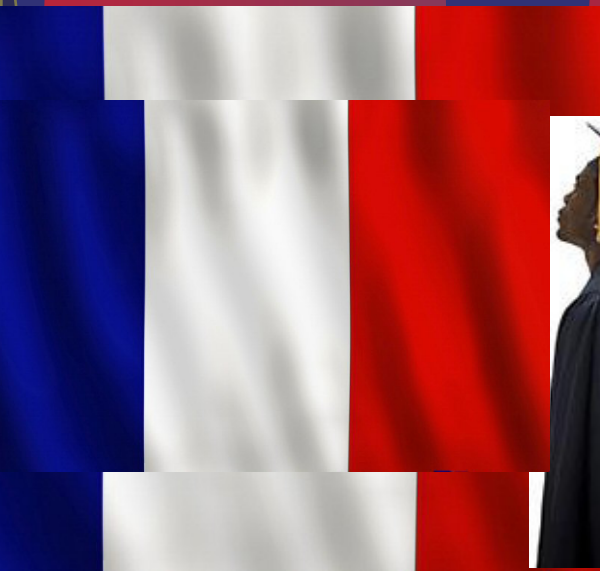
www.cicic.ca

Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials – to research whether a specific Canadian degree will be recognized on return to Kenya.

Things to consider: We have not yet found information on any funding for undergraduate scholarships for Kenyan students to study in Canada.

- However, if you are able to fund this study yourself, reliable sources suggest that Canada is a cheaper place to study & live than US/UK.
- Each university has different application procedures/standards in Canada. You will not be able to submit a standard application. Start your research/applications early.
- However, for those who have concentrated mainly on academic activities during their time at high school, many universities are selecting on only academic grounds (not the extracurricular activities so sought by US colleges.)

FRANCE



FRANCE

BACKGROUND

France is the third most popular host destination for international students with most international students congregating in France's largest, most progressive and most sought-after study abroad city destination, Paris. While francophone North African countries make up the bulk of international students, the number of Asian and European students has been steadily increasing in recent years.

To find out more, In Nairobi, the « Centre de Ressources », within the Alliance Française, provides information on scholarships, curricula, formalities and requirements for registering at a French university. Here you can also find useful current information and tips that will help you plan your studies in France. The Centre de Ressources is open to the public from Monday to Friday, from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm.

Also visit

<http://about-france.com/study.htm>

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/>

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

France has 83 state universities, 5 Catholic universities and a large number of private "institutes", some of which award degrees. France can claim one of the world's first universities, La Sorbonne, founded in Paris in the 13th century. Compared to other countries, France has an unusual and complex system of higher education, a dual system of: "Universités" and "Grandes Ecoles"; the latter accepts less than 5% of students and requires very competitive selection entry exams. Long degree courses are offered in universities, grandes écoles, and other specialized schools. They are divided into three successive levels based on a common European architecture:

- Licence (L1, L2, and L3): the equivalent of a bachelor's degree is awarded after three years of university study.
- Mastère: the equivalent of a master's degree is awarded to undergraduates who have completed a further two years of study.
- Doctorat: the equivalent of a PhD is awarded after 3 more years of research to graduates possessing a European Master and who have successfully defended a thesis or dissertation.
- Besides Grandes Ecoles and Universities, there are University Technology Institutes (UTI) and also Higher Technician courses can be found either in Lycees or Universities. The curriculum usually consists of 3 years of technical courses with a 6 month vocation training and practice in an international firm. NOTE you do not qualify with a degree after completing a course at a UTI.

The French Higher Education system has developed good links with the private sector. Most courses include a training period in a French company, which frequently leads to permanent employment. French universities benefit from close links with local industries and the experience of a foreign professional environment is always an asset for an international student. As a result, France attracts many students from abroad every year.

Grandes Ecoles

These relatively small and highly selective schools provide a cosseted higher education to the nation's future elites - tomorrow's "haut fonctionnaires" (senior civil servants), leaders of industry, top military brass, top politicians, engineers, physicists and others.

Grandes Ecoles cover the fields of Engineering and Science, Business and Management.

Course length varies from 3 to 5 years

The most prestigious and famous grande ecole is Ecole Polytechnique or "X"; established during the French Revolution in 1794, and later became a military school under Napoleon in 1804. It relinquished its military status to become a public higher educational institution in the 1970s, although it is still under the control of French Ministry of Defence today.

The Grandes Ecoles are distinguished by their:

- Great autonomy - every year they test and implement numerous innovations, concerning admission, educational methods, internships, research and international relations;
- Human scale (300 to 4000 students);
- Rigorous selection;
- Long-track programs (5 years);
- Both internal and external faculty members;
- Flexible educational programs;
- Strong links with industry and business, enabling them to constantly adapt their programs and to meet its needs;
- International activities: numerous networks, agreements, double degrees.

At least half of France's 40 largest companies are run by graduates of just two schools, the École Polytechnique, which trains the country's top engineers, and ENA, the national school of administration.

In addition to Grand Ecoles there are others. This guide will focus on guiding you through the application process for French Universities and not Grand Ecoles.

Step 1: COURSES TAUGHT IN FRENCH – OR IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE?

- Kenyan applicants (like those from outside the European Union) seeking admission must follow a special admission procedure, known as DAP (demande d'admission préalable).
- As part of the DAP procedure, applicants must demonstrate their proficiency in French, either by passing a language test (TCF-DAP), or by earning a diploma in French as a foreign language (DELF). This can be done at Alliance Francaise in Nairobi. The DAP process begins in January of each year and follows a very strict timeline.
- You will need to be certified to DELF B2 level (Alliance Francaise, Nairobi) which will take between 1.5 - 2 years.
- To enroll in the third year of an undergraduate program (L3), in a master's or doctoral program, or in a grande école, students must meet the French-proficiency standards set by individual educational institutions.
- For programs taught in English, demonstrated French proficiency may be waived though some institutions may require applicants to demonstrate a minimum level. Ensure you do your research well in advance.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.ciep.fr/en/tcfdap/index.php#0> or

http://ressources.campusfrance.org/catalogues_recherche/diplomes/en/fle_en.pdf

STEP 2: IS YOUR ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION SUFFICIENT TO BE ADMITTED AT A FRENCH UNIVERSITY?

- As an applicant holding a Kenyan secondary-school diploma wishing to enroll in the first or second year of undergraduate study at a French university, you are required to complete the DAP as described above.
- You are also required to complete a page describing your motivations: why you want to study in France, in the specified institution and region; why the specific course; and where do you see yourself in the future.
- Like in other higher learning institutions in the world, French universities have no caps on student numbers, except in certain courses such as Medicine.

There are no officially recognized equivalences between French degrees and foreign degrees. Institutions make independent determinations of equivalence. The institution may also give credit for the applicant's professional experience.

STEP 3: COST

- All international students, whether or not they receive additional financial aid, enjoy the same low tuition rates as French students at universities and other public institutions. At the time of publishing this guide, this was approximately €174 per year.
- For the more competitive institutions, the cost ranges from €200 to €500 per year.
- The exception being some private Business Schools or the ultra-prestigious Grandes Ecoles which can exceed €12,900 a year.
- Accommodation expenses in towns, especially private lodging, vary from € 300 to € 600 per month. In the university residence halls, the expenses vary from € 100 to € 150 per month.
- Food, transportation and pocket money would amount to between € 350 and € 500 per month.
- The cost of compulsory medical insurance is approximately € 130 to € 715 per year depending on your age.

STEP 4: CHOOSE YOUR INSTITUTION

Those who study in France will find themselves in one of the world's leading destinations for foreign students, with more than 245,000 international students choosing to study there every year. This is due to the fact that throughout France one finds educational institutions of very high quality in every field. There are 'all-time' favourite universities in France that have attracted students for time and are internationally renowned for being great institutions. Within a given field of study, you will find a wide variety of curricula and programs. That variety is one of the strong points of the French educational system. We recommend the following universities:

- College of France
- University of Bordeaux I University of Lyon I
- University of Montpellier II
- University of Paris VI
- University of Paris VII
- University of Toulouse II
- Sciences Po, Paris
- [Being your institution and program research with this one-stop university website: http://www.campusfrance.org/en/](http://www.campusfrance.org/en/)

STEP 5: FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The French Government funds more than 20,000 students each year through its scholarships. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France has devised two types of Scholarship Programs to help both foreign as well as native French students to pursue their goals. These prominent scholarship programs are known as the Programme Eiffel and Programme Major. Scholarships under the Programme Major can only be availed by eligible French candidates whereas Programme Eiffel is open to all overseas and foreign students who want to pursue higher education by making use of scholarships in France. Sometimes, the French Ministry of Education can make exceptions and occasionally grant scholarships to international students. However, the availability of funds plays a vital role in deciding on the implementation of such plans.

You will come across plenty of scholarships in France that aim at helping students from across the globe. France is especially preferred by students because of its excellent colleges and universities. In France, students will be offered Academic as well as Athletic Scholarships along with financial aid. Scholarships for the disabled, underprivileged youth as well as children are granted by the French government.

Prominent Scholarships in France:

1. Ile De France Scholarships:

This is offered by a special Scholarship Division of the French Embassy. This financial assistance in France is especially meant for students pursuing Masters' Degree in Paris.

2. Thales and Ministry of External Affairs Scholarships:

This foundation offers financial assistance and academic scholarships in France to mostly Management and Engineering Students.

3. Research and Post -Doctoral Grants:

The illustrious Thales Company has established special scholarships in coalition with the Ministry of External Affairs to provide Eiffel Grants for PhDs in Law, Economics, Engineering, Management, Technology and Software. Other Scholarships in France are derived from programs such as International Hermes Fellowship Programme in Humanities and Social Sciences along with Rotary Clubs, INRIA, INSERM, CNRS and Ministry of Research.

The CampusBourses search engine allows users to find information on grants for study, research, internships or travel, available from a variety of sources: French governmental and international institutions, the European Union, local government organisations, corporations, foundations, and higher education institutions. The

Embassy of France in Kenya offers scholarships to study in France only at post-graduate level. These scholarships are mainly awarded to the Kenyan members of staff in national universities and research institutes who want to develop their academic qualifications in agreement with their employer and with the support of French scientific networks. A few scholarships can also be awarded to those working in the private sector or in the public service sector in a co-funding framework.

The programme funds PhD student's upkeep in labs in France (three months per year on a three or four year period) and also covers travel, registration fees in the university, access to affordable student housing, health insurance as well as French language courses at discount rates at Alliance Française de Nairobi.

The annual Master scholarships cover travelling, registration fees in the university, access to affordable student housing and health insurance over the training period in France (where academic year is from September to June) as well as living expenses up to 4 months. Applying for a scholarship from the Embassy of France in Kenya is possible only through annual calls (2011 call closed on March 15th) - http://www.ambafrance-ke.org/IMG/pdf/2011_French_Scholarships-2.pdf

Other links to possible funding include:

<http://www.afterschoolafrica.com/2011/03/masters-phd-scholarships-for-kenyan.html>

WORKING DURING YOUR STUDIES

- Foreign nationals holding a titre de séjour temporaire marked "étudiant" (student visa) can carry out paid professional activities in France, without a work permit.
- Work is incidental to studies, and should not exceed 884 hours annually. This translates to part-time employment (19.5 hours per week) during the academic year and full-time during vacations.

STEP 6: HOW TO APPLY

- Unlike CommomApp in USA and UCAS in UK, there is no central clearing system in France. Applicants must apply to each university separately.
- For prospective Kenyan students: for enrolment as a first-year undergraduate, you must apply through the French Embassy (DAP) and indicate there which university(s) you are applying to.
- To enrol directly in the third or higher levels of university, apply directly to the university.

POST STUDY EMPLOYMENT

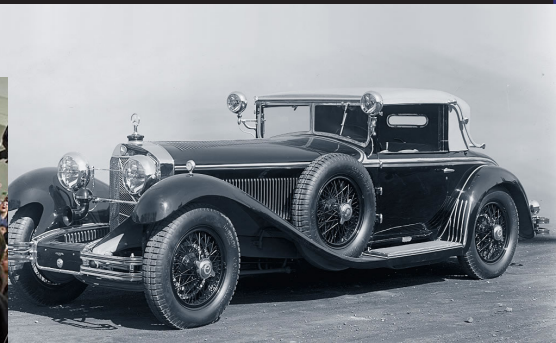
- Generally post-study work opportunities for non-EU nationals in this economic climate are not encouraging.

USEFUL RESOURCES

www.campusfrance.org

www.ciep.fr/en/tcfdap/index.php

www.french-property.com/guides/france/public-services/higher-education



GERMANY

GERMANY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Germany is a republic. It is situated in the heart of Europe and shares its borders with more neighboring countries than any other European state - 9 in total. Of the 82 million inhabitants, some 8 million come from abroad; this means that almost 10 percent of the population is of foreign origin. There are over 200,000 foreign students in Germany. In Western Europe, German is the mother tongue of almost 100 million people, and is the most widely spoken language in the European Union. Germany's powerful industry and the increasingly global activities of companies are lending more and more weight to the German language, even at international level. Germany is the third largest funder of research and development globally.

To find out more, look first at these websites.

- www.deutschland.de/en
- www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/453.0.html
- www.statistikportal.de/en
- www.campus-germany.de/english/4.html
- www.germanizer.com



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Germany has two main types of higher education institutions:

- Research universities (Universitäten and Technische Universitäten), which offer undergraduate, professional and doctoral programmes; and
- Universities of applied sciences (Fachhochschulen) which offer practice-oriented Bachelors and Masters degrees. Degrees from Fachhochschulen, while very suited to the needs of employers, are often perceived as less prestigious, and less appropriate if a student wants to continue to study at a higher level (doctoral level or to work in research or as an academic).

Germany also offers some outstanding research institutes outside universities, e.g. Max-Planck-Institutes, Helmholtz Research Centres, Fraunhofer Institutes. For a full list see <http://nairobi.daad.de/institutions.php>

Degrees conferred by German universities:

- **Bachelor's degree** (B.A., B.Sc., Bachelor of Engineering, etc.): This is the first-level of academic degree recognised on the international job market. Bachelor's degree programmes teach students the fundamentals of their subject of study in six to eight semesters (three to four years). Once you have received your bachelor's degree, you can enter professional life or continue studying for the second-level academic qualification – the master's degree. However as a Kenyan student entering with KCSE before any study in Kenya, you would first need to attend and pass a year of preparatory Studienkolleg, adding a further year to your undergraduate studies.
- **Master's degree** (M.A., M.Sc., Master of Engineering, etc.): This is the second-level of academic qualification you can receive from a German university. If you wish to enter a master's degree programme, you are required to have a bachelor's degree (or equivalent academic qualification). Master's degree programmes last an additional two to four semesters (one to two years). After you receive your

master's degree, you can enter professional life or continue studying for the next academic qualification – the doctoral degree.

A broad range of study possibilities is offered in German Universities, with over 400 different courses of study in all. German universities are autonomous and centred on research and teaching. There are a number of German Universities amongst the top 200 in the world, here are a just a few we recommend:

[University of Göttingen](#)

[University of Munich](#)

[Ruprecht Karl University of Heidelberg](#)

[Technical University of Munich](#)

[University of Freiburg](#)

ECONOMY

Germany has the largest national economy in Europe. It is one of the G8 countries, and the world's second largest exporter. The service sector forms 70% of Germany's economy, with industry the next 29% and agriculture around 1%. Most of the country's products are in engineering, especially in cars, machinery, metals, and chemical goods. Germany is the leading producer of wind turbines and solar power technology in the world.

UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In opting to study in Germany, you have several decisions ahead before you may narrow down your choice of courses/universities.

Step 1: Courses taught in German – or in another language?

Although most courses at German universities are taught in German, several courses – international courses - are now also offered in English. For the latter, proficiency in German is not always required for admission, but is highly recommended for daily life. As will be seen below, many of the websites targeting international students are written only in German. Life will not be easy if you have not first learnt a good level of German language, whichever language you decide to study in.

Students wishing to study in German must first take, and pass, an advanced language proficiency test (Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache), Test DaF. (<http://www.testdaf.de/index.php>) or in English

<http://www.sprachnachweis.de/sprachnachweis/>

Step 2: Is your academic qualification sufficient to be admitted at a German university directly?

[For an undergraduate degree course:](#)

For applicants with Kenyan qualifications [if you have passed KCSE but have not studied at all at a Kenyan university:](#) Minimum of C+ required (but this grade is not a guarantee for admission, in particular depending which subject you wish to study!), language proficiency (see above) and one year preparatory school "Studienkolleg" (www.studienkollegs.de) in Germany (generally free of charge; language of instruction: German), followed by an assessment test for entrance to university

[Or if you have KCSE](#) and at least one year of successful studies at a recognized Kenyan university you may apply to study directly at undergraduate level. If your desired course

is in English (ie an international course): Refer to individual university requirements

Research the entry requirements of the course in which you are interested via the university website. Advice and guidance on meeting the criteria are available from Studiumberatung (Student Guidance) at the relevant university.

Clarify which documents your university will require. This is likely to include KCSE certificates and transcripts, German language test certificates (including Test DaF), and authenticated translations of certificates, performed by approved translators. Scans and colour photocopies are not accepted; in general German universities require 'beglaubigte Kopien' – authenticated certificates, with original seals and signatures.

Studienkolleg – one year preparatory courses

<http://www.studienkolleg.de/main/faq.php>

In the 1950s/60s it was recognized that many international students coming to German universities experienced the same kind of difficulties. These were not language difficulties alone, but also where the subject matter which had not been covered, or had been covered in less depth, or in a different way in their home country. As a result students applying from many countries where their final school exams (e.g. KCSE) are not assessed as the same standard as the German Abitur, have to register to study for a year at the preparatory Studienkolleg, before applying to study their chosen subject.

Before acceptance at the preparatory Studienkolleg, you must first pass the Aufnahmeprüfung (acceptance test) to check that your German language skills are sufficient. This test covers basic levels 1 and 2 (ie Grundstufe 1 and Grundstufe 2), though it is of help if you have also studied beyond this at intermediate level. The test covers: grammar; reading comprehension; listening comprehension; writing; and a test where you read a passage in which half of the words are deleted. Your task is to fill in the gaps with an appropriate word (in German).

Students who pass the Aufnahmeprüfung are then accepted onto a Studienkolleg in their area of intended study (e.g. T – technical, mathematical and scientific subjects

M – biology, medicine and pharmacy

W – economic and social sciences e.g. Law

G – humanities, history, German language and literature, philosophy

S – other languages and literary options beside German

The final examination, Feststellungsprüfung, then examines both orally and in writing on your subject knowledge. Passing the Feststellungsprüfung in a specific discipline only offers access to courses in that field.

Once you have passed the Feststellungsprüfung you may apply to study your chosen subject at university. Some subjects of study (e.g. Medicine, Pharmacy) offer only competitive limited places (Zulassungsbeschränkt), and in these subjects both your achievements in Kenya and on the preparatory course will be taken into consideration in your application.

Step 3: Check your financial status: How will you finance your stay in Germany?

Some courses at the public universities are free of charge. Those which charge tuition

cost approximately Euros 500 per semester (6 months). Budget for a monthly spend of Euros 700 minimum to cover your upkeep. Check for funding options (www.funding-guide.de and <http://nairobi.daad.de>). However in general there is very little (no) funding for undergraduate studies in Germany.

Step 4: Choose your course, starting your research with the following contacts (available in English):

- www.higher-education-compass.de
- www.study-in.de/en/
- www.studienwahl.de
- www.daad.de/international-programmes
- www.university-ranking.de

For further inquiries: studying_in_germany@daad.de

Which is the best university for my field of study?

Each year, the Center for Higher Education Development (CHE) publishes Germany's most comprehensive ranking of higher education institutions. This multidimensional ranking uses up to 40 different indicators to provide a differentiated and detailed view of the strengths and weaknesses of German higher education by subject areas.

This is complemented by a research ranking published every autumn to provide specific information on the research contribution of German higher education institutions. On the CHE website <http://www.che-consult.de/cms/?getObject=508&getLang=en> you can find out about the top-ranked German universities in every subject area. An alternative is to check DAAD's English-language version of the CHE results at www.university-ranking.de.

Step 5: Contact the International Office at your chosen university for application details (via the home page of the university)!

Some universities require you to apply through the central body "uni-assist" (www.uni-assist.de). Check here <http://www.uni-assist.de/uni-assist-mitglieder.html> whether you apply via uni-assist or directly to the university for your choice of subject.

Step 6: Apply for a visa to Germany with the admission letter from the university (Confirm additional visa requirements at the German Embassy in Nairobi)!

Step 7: In case of further questions, please visit the DAAD Regional Office in Nairobi. <http://nairobi.daad.de/> or email info@daadafrica.org

Restricted subjects: Numerus Clausus Fächer

University admission is handled very differently in Germany as compared to Kenya. While an Abitur (German KCSE), regardless of grade, offers the right to study many subjects at a university of your choice, there are certain, high demand subjects, in which competition is very rigorous. These include: Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Studies. These are called Numerus Clausus subjects, and places to study there are allocated centrally, on a highly competitive basis by the ZVS – or sometimes, for foreign applicants, by the school directly. For German applicants, 20% of places are allocated to those with the highest marks, 20% to those who have waited longest for a place – and have the highest marks of those waiting a similar amount of time, and 60% according to the university's own criteria. Furthermore

other universities have individual restrictions on access to some very popular courses at their school (local numerus clausus).

You are strongly advised to check the situation for your individual subject choice BEFORE enrolling for Studienkolleg, and to be aware that many highflying German students wait several years for a study place in numerus clausus subjects. <http://www.hochschulstart.de/>

APPLICATION DEADLINES

The German academic year is divided into two semesters. The official semester dates are: Winter Semester: October 1 — March 31, and Summer Semester: April 1 — September 30. The application to admission must be submitted by January 15 each year for the summer semester (beginning on April 1) and by July 15 for the winter semester (beginning on October 1).

Students from outside Germany may now apply to several universities with only one set of documents through the Application Services for International Students (uni-assist, www.uni-assist.de). For a fee, assist will verify whether your application is complete and that the necessary formal requirements are met. Applications are then forwarded by them to the respective universities.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

All the listed programmes have been screened by DAAD and, as a rule, share the following characteristics:

- They offer internationally recognised degrees
- They are accredited, or have an accreditation pending
- They are taught solely or primarily in English (or another major foreign language e.g. French, Italian)
- They have an internationalised curriculum with study periods abroad and/or have ties with international guest lecturers and universities
- They include professional coaching and counselling for international students inside and outside your specific area of study

<http://www.daad.de/international-programmes>

The programmes are offered in many subject disciplines from International Economics to Power Engineering and Sustainable Energies to Civil Engineering. Most include compulsory work placements, many in other countries, - but note, you would need to speak the language of the country fluently to perform well on such a work placement!

In any case we advise extensive research and caution enquiring of the admissions officers of statistics and employment destinations of former graduates of these courses, clarifying hidden costs for Kenyan students (e.g. visas/placements when studying in a third country) and which options/placements will be possible with your language level, before application/enrolment.

LINKS WITH KENYA

Germany has close political and economic links with Kenya. The Federal Republic of Germany was the first country to recognize the newly independent Kenya. Nowadays, Germany is one of the biggest global development donors to Kenya. German tourists

form a significant proportion of those coming to Kenya. And while import and export between Kenya and Germany are ranked relatively low in global ratings (position 94 and 95 respectively), a new German trade delegation is soon to be opened in Nairobi to assist with this work.

COST OF LIVING AND TUITION

Tuition fees used to be unknown in Germany. But the situation has changed over recent years. Now, some federal states charge tuition fees for first degree (undergraduate) courses, such as Bachelor's, Diploma, or Magister programmes. As from the winter semester 2006/2007 you will, depending on your federal state and university, pay fees of around 500 Euros per semester. This is still very modest compared to other countries.

FINANCE AND LIVING EXPENSES

The cost of living depends largely on your personal spending habits as well as on the location of your university. In general you will need more money in the major cities, such as Hamburg and Munich or in the student towns in the south of Germany, whereas smaller university towns especially in the East are less expensive. You should calculate at least 700 Euros per month for general living expenses, including rent, food, clothing, study materials, public transport, health insurance, leisure activities, personal everyday items, etc. The following average values provide a rough indication of the breakdown of costs: 30% of the budget will be used for rent, 20% for board, 10% for clothing, laundry and personal hygiene, 10% for travel, and 5% for study materials. The remainder is used for miscellaneous costs. You will be able to find assistance and advice on all questions relating to economic/ financial, social health and cultural issues from the student service ("Studentenwerk") by going to the following websites:

- www.studentenwerke.de

PART-TIME WORK IN GERMANY NON-EU CITIZENS (I.E. KENYANS)

In general non-EU students may work, alongside their studies, for 90 full or 180 half days per year. Anybody wishing to work longer must first obtain approval from the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur fuer Arbeit) and the Immigration Authority (Auslaenderbehoerde) in their region.

- o If you are working in an area of high unemployment you are unlikely to get permission to work beyond these initial 90 days. Exception: Jobs as a student or graduate assistant may exceed the 90-day limit. But the Foreigners Authority must always be informed.
- o Independent or freelance work is not allowed.
- o Participants of language courses and preparatory courses may only work with the approval of the Immigration Authority and the Federal Employment Agency – and then only in the semester vacation.
- o To learn more, see: http://www.internationale-studierende.de/en/prepare_your_studies/financing/jobbing/

POST STUDY EMPLOYMENT

Foreign graduates of German universities may stay in Germany and look for a job there. They have one year to find a position that is appropriate to their qualification. If an appropriate job offer is made, the Federal Employment Agency will carry out a priority check (to ensure that no other persons with priority - i.e. Germans or EU citizens - can take up this job offer). After this, the graduates may receive a residence permit for the

pursuit of gainful employment. In addition, foreign graduates may while, looking for a job, take on temporary jobs to maintain themselves (living expenses). They require approval for this from the Foreigners Authority and, in most cases, from the Federal Employment Agency as well.

ACCOMMODATION

Unlike in many countries, international or newly arrived students are not automatically allocated accommodation. In some places it is not hard to find a place to stay, but in many towns and cities this can be an exhausting undertaking, so please calculate enough time. It is strongly recommended to start looking for a place to live well before the semester begins. Once lectures have started, most of the rooms already have been taken.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING OPTIONS

Germany offers several wonderful opportunities to build strong academic backgrounds to students from across the world. There are many organizations that offer financial support in the form of scholarships in Germany. The magic phrase in Germany is 'promotion of talent' and here "talent" doesn't have to be restricted by boundaries of intelligence or exceptional athleticism.

In Germany you will find several government as well as non-government organizations that have set up several schemes so that even foreign students can qualify for educational grants in Germany. Scholarships in Germany are offered in almost all fields of education. You can avail scholarships in Medicine, Engineering, Home-Sciences, as well as Legal and Commerce studies in this country. The foundations offering scholarships in Germany not only offer financial support but also guide its recipients in the matters of optimum utilization of their scholarships. You will find that Germany encourages students to complete their post-graduate studies so that they can find jobs in Germany itself. Scholarships for Research and PhD are widely prevalent in Germany. To increase your chances of qualifying for Scholarships in Germany try to actively participate in some of the extracurricular activities arranged by your educational institution.

The eminent foundations that offer scholarships in Germany expect the recipients to be thoroughly devoted towards making correct use of their financial aids. A list of the most reputed scholarship foundations of Germany is given below-

- DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst)
- Heinrich Boll Foundation
- Friedrich Ebert Foundation
- Fulbright Commission
- Friedrich Naumann Foundation
- Otto Benecke Foundation
- Hans Bockler Foundation
- Hanns Seidel Foundation
- Konrad Adenauer Foundation

DAAD have a comprehensive database of scholarship/funding opportunities for study in Germany. In general there is no funding for undergraduate studies, though this situation may change. There is a range of funding for postgraduate students, postdoctoral studies, artists/architects, university lecturers, research trips and even

visits by university choirs/music groups.

<http://www.daad.de/stipendien/en/index.en.html?land=64>

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER...

Length of study to first degree

Kenyan students studying in Germany directly after KCSE are required to take at least one year's Studienkolleg before embarking on a first degree of between three and four years' study. It is therefore at least four, more likely five years' study to achieve the first Bachelor's degree.

Chances of employment after graduation

As may be seen above; Germany is a major industrial power. Its unemployment rate 7.1% is considerably lower than the Eurozone average (9.9%, April 2011, see Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency). However, international students report that it is now far more difficult to find part-time work as the unemployment levels in the local community have risen. This is likely to impact on prospects for employment post-graduation. Direct trade links between Germany and Kenya (except for development and tourism) are relatively low.

Learning German

While some, international, courses do not require you to learn German for your taught courses, we strongly advise you to invest time and effort into getting your language as good as it can be. This is not only key for e.g. seeking a flat, being interviewed by flatmates, going to the doctors, shopping, calling a plumber, etc but also for academic-related issues e.g. choice of research project, performance on work placements, access to books in the university library, and for employment – e.g. access to part time work and chances of success in finding work post-graduation.

Learning at Goethe-Institut

The official cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Goethe-Institut, has a global network and among other activities, offers excellent German language courses up to the level required by German universities. You are advised to contact them as soon as possible. Their offices also offer access to German newspapers and reference materials.

<http://www.goethe.de/nairobi>

Useful resources

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) represents Germany's universities and promotes international university links with Germany. It offers an independent, free service, helping research studies in Germany and supporting with the application process. This is a highly recommended first point of contact - <http://nairobi.daad.de>. Also the DAAD's international website for students from all countries in the world, offers more information and useful leaflets. <http://www.daad.de/>

Self Assessment International is a research tool for students interested in studying a technical subject at one of the nine technical universities in Germany. It offers the chance to take a free 90-120 minute test on-line, to assess your mathematical and problem solving skills, to find out about yourself and the requirements of studies and to receive feedback. Unlike SAT tests this is voluntary and is used only for you to self assess whether you are ready for study in Germany. It is also possible to assess your German language skills for study, on the same website.

<http://www.global-assess.rwth-aachen.de/testmaker2/>

German embassy in Nairobi <http://www.nairobi.diplo.de/Vertretung/nairobi/en/Startseite.html>

Deutsches Studentenwerk run a website for international students, in English, http://www.internationale-studierende.de/en/prepare_your_studies/. This website also links to an overview of the tuition fees payable at universities in different regions of Germany (see Studienfinanzierung, Studiengebuehren).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

http://www.studyabroad.com/pages/sitecontent/student_guide_two.aspx THES

INDIA



INDIA

Please note that it has been more difficult to secure definitive information study in India than for other countries in this guide. If you are seriously interested to explore study in India, we recommend that you start early, and having read and researched as much as you can independently, that you email Edcil, the Indian government commercial enterprise dealing with this field, at placement@edcil.co.in with your queries.

Their website http://edcilindia.co.in//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=23&Itemid=52 will be a useful first contact point.

India has the second largest higher education network in the world, and is a popular and reasonably priced destination for international students.

With 343 universities and 17000 colleges, India offers a wide choice of programmes. Many Indian universities teach in English, though the most commonly used languages in higher education in India are Hindi and Marathi. With 66 distance education institutions – and 11 universities only offering distance education, India has an extended distance education network. The Indra Gandhi Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, is one of the largest open universities in the world, running distance learning programmes and catering to over one million students worldwide.

ECONOMY

India has the tenth largest economy in the world, despite 37% of the population living below the poverty line (2011). The major industries in terms of employment are: agriculture (52%), services (34%), industry (14%). Sectors strong in the economy include: telecommunications, textiles, chemicals, food processing, steel, transportation equipment, cement, mining, petroleum, machinery, information technology, pharmaceuticals.

India's top trading partners are United Arab Emirates, China, United States, Saudi Arabia and Germany. The unemployment rate is 9.4%

Higher Education in India

In the Indian system, as in Kenya, higher education starts after twelve years of initial education. The first degree, the Bachelors, is obtained after three years study in the case of liberal arts, commerce, and four years in the case of most professional degrees e.g. Engineering (four and half in case of medicine and five/six years in case of law).

To find out more on what, in general, is included in different subject disciplines, please see: <http://www.ugc.ac.in/studyindia/programs/pdesign.html>

To research which programmes may be studied at which university please see: <http://www.ugc.ac.in/studyindia/programs/ugp.html> To link to a list of many institutions <http://www.ugc.ac.in/studyindia/inst/index.html>

Masters' programs are usually of two years duration. For precise information on these see <http://www.ugc.ac.in/studyindia/programs/structure.html#modern>

Application Procedure

- Consultation Service: The government of India provides a consultation service for international students through Education Consultants of India (Ed.CIL). Information about the Indian education system, cost of education, duration, visa, accommodation facilities – and support with lodging an application, negotiating for a place - is available from them, though this may be on a commercial basis. (www.edcil.co.in)

The academic year in India is normally from July to June. Students should therefore start research early, and be well started on their research on Indian universities/programmes by November/December preceding their intended entry. They would then be identifying appropriate courses and university/Institution by January and could submit the admissions application by the February deadline.

However if you hope to study a highly competitive subject, such as Medicine, please note the additional requirements below, which might well mean that it would be useful to start 18 months in advance. The situation is unclear, and would need to be researched clearly with Edcil India.

KCSE is recognized as an admissions qualification for Indian universities, without need for a preparatory/foundation year as in many other countries. The basic entry qualification for non-competitive courses is at least 5 passes at A B or C. However elite institutions and high-demand courses will be requiring far more than this, including e.g. an entrance exam in many subjects, and for Medicine agreement from the Indian Ministry to give a place to a foreign national.

Medicine

The Indian government limits the number of medical places which may be taken by foreign nationals. At AIIMS, one of the nation's top medical schools, this global total each year is 5 places. Competition is thus very high. Foreign nationals who wish to be considered for admission to the M.B.B.S. Course against the five reserved seats for foreign students should apply to the Government of India through diplomatic channels (i.e. through nomination via the Kenyan Ministry of Education or the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

Indian students applying for Medicine complete first a PreMed year (it is not clear whether this is at a university or as part of their secondary school studies.) They then need to gain 50% in each of the selected subjects to be recognized as a potential candidate for the medical school entrance exam.

Having been recognized as a potential candidate, they then need to take a multiple choice test – in English or Hindi - covering the subjects of their PreMed year. Only the very best students are selected. It is not clear whether international students who are nominated by their government also need to take this test, but is likely. Please note that there are many colleges in India which help prepare one for this entrance test – in-depth preparation would be important.

In general, interested international students can request Application Forms and apply directly via Ed.CIL. The following documents will also be needed.

1) Attested copies of your KCSE certificates along with two copies of passport size photograph.

2) Copy of valid passport.

3) Enclose a non-refundable processing fee/registration fee - through a demand draft drawn in favor of "Educational Consultants India Ltd." payable at New Delhi.

Address your queries to:

Head (Placement & Secondment)
EdCIL (India) Limited
Ed.CIL House
18-A, Sector-16A
Noida-201301 Phones: 0091-120 -2515281; 0091-120 -2512001-06
Fax: 0091-120-2515372
Email:placement@edcil.co.in

website : www.edcilindia.co.in

LIVING IN INDIA

Accommodation

All Indian institutions provide hostel accommodation for international students in the hostels located on campus. If they wish, the students may also stay outside, in private accommodations and rented flats. Healthcare Most Indian institutions have their own campus clinics, where students are treated for ailments like fever, cough, cold, etc. If the students wish, the institutes can also help the students get medical insurance.

Finance

Indian Universities offer education at a more affordable cost than any other recognised universities in the world. The average cost of studying in India is almost a quarter of that charged in western universities.

Living expenses (food and other) in India are about USD 100-150 a month.

SCHOLARSHIPS

If you are an Indian citizen, please bear in mind that there are over a hundred scholarships each year for Non Resident Indians (or of the Diaspora). For further information see www.edcilindia.co.in – Admission Schemes.

The Government of India provides scholarships to international students. For current information visit www.educationsupport.nic.in The details below are correct at time of writing (June 2011). Scholarship offers are sent annually to the Kenyan Ministry of Education (<http://www.education.go.ke/Home.aspx?department=1>) through the Indian embassy in Nairobi. If you find it difficult to find the relevant contact person at the Ministry of Education, we also suggest contacting the Cultural Attache at the Indian Embassy, Nairobi for further information.

10.1 Some of the Scholarships are:

10.1.1 General Cultural Scholarship Scheme (GCSS)

Scholarships are awarded under this scheme (GCSS) annually to international students belonging to certain Asian, African and Latin American countries for

undergraduate, postgraduate degrees and for pursuing research at Indian universities. However, scholarships for medical studies for MBBS, BDS or for medical research leading to a Ph.D. degree are not offered under the GCSS scheme. Kenyan citizens are eligible to apply.

10.1.2 Cultural Exchange Programme

Every year The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) administers scholarships international students according to the terms and conditions of the Cultural Exchange Programme signed between the Government of India and the Government of the respective country for studying, training and research in various fields. At present India has a Cultural Exchange Programmes with Kenya.

10.1.3 Commonwealth Fellowship Plan

Scholarships and fellowships are offered annually under this scheme to candidates from Commonwealth countries mainly for postgraduate studies, though a few awards may be made available for undergraduate studies in those disciplines for which adequate facilities may not exist in the applicants' country.

10.1.4 Apasaheb Pant Scholarship Scheme

Under this scheme one scholarship is offered to a Kenyan national to pursue studies at the postgraduate level, preferably in the field of Economics or International Relations at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Apart from the usual dues, economy class air-fare is also provided.

MEDICAL TESTS

All foreign students coming to India need to undergo a medical test for HIV/AIDS. It appears that students who are HIV positive may not be granted a residence permit. We advise you to discuss this with us at Equity Group Foundation before submitting your paperwork should this be a concern to you.

Resources

<http://www.indiaedu.com/study-india/>

<http://www.ugc.ac.in/studyindia/index.html>

www.education.nic.in

www.ugc.ac.in

Education Consultants in India (an enterprise of the Government of India)

www.edcilindia.co.in

http://india.gov.in/overseas/study_india/scholarships_international.php

<http://www.indiaacademic.com/>

Commercial online test preparation and testing company

<http://www.hcinairobi.co.ke/>

Indian High Commission in Nairobi

Things to consider:

o In common with many other countries, India requires prospective students to take a HIV/AIDS test. Its details must be disclosed before the residence permit may be obtained.

o The climate in India differs a great deal from region to region. Do research the range of climate and weather conditions where you are considering studying.

o While there are several institutions offering world class education in India, the quality standard is not uniformly high everywhere. Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science, National Law Schools, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Delhi University are well regarded. However we recommend extreme caution before finally enrolling in a college in India. It is wise to check the accreditation details, nature of the college (e.g. public or private), the infrastructure, teaching staffs and others before admission.

Things to consider: This is a comment from an Indian student on a newsgroup discussing the pros and cons of study in India or abroad (ie outside India). They may be biased, but this is one person's perspective.

"Entry is very difficult to a good institute even if one has good marks, due to competition and nepotism. The system is examination oriented and everything is based on final examination. This has further good and bad points, but that is how Indian universities work. Libraries are poorly maintained and it is often difficult to get the books. Overseas accreditation is poor and further study if required becomes difficult and one has to do exams to qualify to enter a good institute overseas. The horizons remain limited and the focus is to please the teachers. Study is not oriented to real life and very theory based. I am not talking about IT education here. At the Indian examination systems like to find what a student does not know!!"



CHINA (THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA)

China is one of four ancient civilizations in the world, with a splendid culture and long, long history.

China, in the past five years alone has established a strong local presence in Kenya, particularly in the telecoms infrastructure, automobile, battery, food and beverage markets. Kenya's presence in China is also increasing with an estimated 500 Kenyans, most of whom are students, reside in China. China is clearly the next growth engine for most multinational corporations, mostly due to the country's overall rise on the world stage as an economic power. Learning one of the Chinese languages, while incredibly challenging, is one big step on the road to international business success in the modern world – and there's no better way to learn the language than going straight to the source.

While China is certainly the land of opportunity, capitalizing on this fact is not simply a matter of learning the language. It is also about knowing the intricacies of the culture and forming networks, or *guanxi*. In addition to the experiences you'll have as a student in China, you can also benefit greatly from your new cultural perspective and your extended and diverse networks. If you are preparing for a medium-term life in China or the Chinese marketplace, then a degree in China is a good place to start.

Foreign students in China

China has an established practice of sending many students abroad. Recently however, there has been a shift from an outward to an inward shift in student mobility. China intends to become a net importer rather than an exporter of students and has been on the rise as a popular place to study abroad for many years now. The number of foreign students in China was 260,000 in 2010 – an all time high. It is anticipated that Chinese Universities will soon be as diverse as universities in top international student destinations – USA and UK – with increased benefits of networking and multi-cultural awareness.

A video of a Kenyan studying in China:

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNQr8p3rWd8>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6SHdOH9j7g&feature=related>

Language

There are also several major linguistic groups or dialects within the Chinese language itself. The most spoken varieties are Mandarin (spoken by over 70% of the population) and Cantonese (spoken predominantly in Hong Kong). Although English is taught to primary school goers, few Chinese can maintain a conversation in English even in the larger 1st tier cities.

Working whilst studying - Although there are a lot of students who do part-time jobs in China, according to Chinese law, a student visa does not make you eligible to work while you are studying (except for course-related internships).

For more information please visit:

<http://www.study-in-china.org/>

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

China has the biggest university system in the world. And Business is not the only reason you should consider studying in China. In the past, a very large proportion of foreign students in China have been short-term visitors, typically enrolled on language courses but nowadays that trend is changing. Foreign students are studying in universities in China not only for Chinese language, but also for undergraduate, master and PhD programs. Like most countries in the world, China's university education is as follows:

- **Associate degree: 2-3 years**
- **Bachelor Degree: 4-6 years (Medical Course 5 years plus one year internship)**
- **Master's Degree: 2-3 years**
- **PhD: 3 years**

The majority of universities in China are public. Private universities account for 15% of the nation's higher education institutions. Private institutions tend to have lower admissions requirements for students. Loosely speaking only students who are not offered a place at a public university opt to attend a private university. The general consensus is that the development of private universities in China is still in its infancy and in future, they will play a more prominent role in China's higher education

Chinese universities divide their year into two semesters and generally start the school year in September, which is similar to European universities, but unlike North America or Australia's universities. A small number of universities have enrollments during spring (April). If it's an advanced degree (Bachelors/Masters), students generally only have one opportunity to enroll in a year.

The Chinese put a great deal of importance in education, often investing all that they have in extra tuition and holiday classes, to ensure their (one) child gets into one of the country's prestigious universities. Therefore, once admitted, the competition is fierce. It follows that when applying to top universities in China, such as Peking University and Tsinghua University, admission is limited and extremely competitive. You must be well-informed, well-prepared, and very determined to work very hard to gain admission.

RECOMMENDED UNIVERSITIES

The [C9 league](#) - The C9 League is an association of nine top Chinese universities. Of these, we are recommending five institutions that are amongst the world's top 200 universities:

1. **Peking University**
 2. **Tsinghua University**
 3. **Nanjing University**
 4. **University of Science and Technology of China**
 5. **Zhejiang University**
- All these universities are public.**

Bear in mind...China has a regimented system. If you opt to study nuclear-physics and one-year into the program decide you are more interested in human beings, chances of you being able to switch are few and far in between.

Do I have to speak Chinese?

Yes, Learning Chinese language is a requirement when you apply to any national or public university in China. However, different academic departments have their own Chinese language requirements. Departments such as engineering and computer

sciences have a lower Chinese language requirement compare to management and law.

But remember, Chinese language proficiency is also an important requirement in applying for any Chinese Government Scholarship (see step 1).

Choosing a University in China

In opting to study in China, you have several decisions ahead before you narrow down your choice of courses/universities.

While it is technically true that the world does not revolve around Beijing or Shanghai, it can sometimes appear as if it does. Not only are they 1st tier cities (Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou and Chengdu) economic centers, they are also cultural hubs. In 1st tier cities you can be assured that there's something to do on the weekends, whether you're into live music, theater, art galleries, traditional culture or modern, there is always something going on and you'll never be at a loss for something to do. Beijing is the capital of China and has become the major city for foreigners to study, live and work in China. The country's two most prestigious institutions can be found in Beijing, [Peking University](#) and [Tsinghua University](#).

Step 1: Courses taught in Chinese/Mandarin – or in another language?

Most courses at Chinese Universities are taught in Chinese. There is a standardized test to measure Chinese proficiency for international students - the HSK (Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi) test or the Chinese Proficiency Test. HSK test is an important reference to certify your Chinese skills and also one of the most important considerations for university admission in China. It is also an important requirement in applying for any Chinese Government Scholarship. If you want to attend any of the recommended universities and have no command of Chinese, you will need to take the college preparatory courses (for Chinese language) for one to two years before pursuing major studies.

Some Chinese universities have English-medium taught courses, in which case there is no need to be HSK certified. These include mainly business, management, medical, and engineering courses. However, these programs will be harder to secure funding for and are not on our recommended list of universities in China. Visit www.chinauniversitystudy.com for more information.

One of the main advantages of enrolling at a university in China over a western country is the opportunity to study Chinese. Not only Chinese language but Chinese history, Chinese art and Chinese culture as well.

Approach China in phases...

Don't put all your eggs in one basket by going to China without knowing any Chinese. You can enroll at the Confucius Institute based at the University of Nairobi and obtain your language certificate before you depart or spend less time in China in preparatory language classes. At the time of publishing this guide, the cost was Ksh 50,000* for one year.

Step 2: How will you finance your stay in China?

The cost of a year of study is as follows (tuition fees for international/English-medium taught courses are slightly higher by around 25%):

	Items	Expenditures (USD)
Tuition Fee	BA	1700-3200
	BSc	1800-4100
	Medical Degree	2550-6300
Accommodation		700-2500
Food		500-1000
Insurance		100
Others		1000

Step 3: Choose your course, starting your research with the following contacts (available in English)

- Individual university websites will have the most up to date and comprehensive information. Avoid using any of the course/university search engines, they are primarily for English-taught programmes in institutions that are not on our recommended list.

You can even start learning Chinese online for free! www.mandarinnetwork.com

SCHOLARSHIPS

International students may apply for Chinese Government Scholarship (CGS) or Beijing Government Scholarships (BGS) for Universities in Beijing (follow the link to view the application form – visit the embassy to ensure you are completing the correct form). <http://en.csc.edu.cn/uploads/%E6%9D%A5%E5%8D%8E/%E4%B8%AD%E5%9B%BD%E6%94%BF%E5%BA%9C%E5%A5%96%E7%94%B3%E8%AF%B7%E8%A1%A8.pdf>.

The scholarships are categorized into full scholarships and partial scholarships. According to official statistics, over the years, the government of China has granted fully comprehensive scholarships (CGSs) to more than 200 Kenyans, most of who study in China for five to eight years. This year, China has increased the number of scholarships from 30 to 64 (source). Recruitment and management of all Chinese government scholarships is carried out by the [China Scholarship Council](#). In addition, individual institutions offer scholarships to exceptional candidates. The general consensus is that China has more scholarships on offer than other top international student destinations, UK & USA.

Government Scholarships

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships reward over 700 academically talented and financially needy students annually. The very competitive program is designed to prepare the next generations for international collaboration and instill a more global viewpoint. Awards are up to \$7,000.

Study Abroad Organizations

The School for International Training is one of the leading study abroad providers. SIT Asia Fund specifically awards students scholarships based on academic record, interest in Asian studies and demonstrated financial need.

The Beijing Language and Culture Study program through the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) gives students a thrilling opportunity in a once forbidden city. Applicants for the program are immersed in a fast-paced language program in which they are also surrounded by the culture of China

Post- study opportunities

The global economy has plunged, yet China's economy continues to grow. But despite China's exponential economic growth, the job market still has not been strong enough to absorb all the new (local) graduates that local universities are pumping out. Like most places in the world right now, the likelihood of finding a job in China within 3 months after graduating is slim and we envisage it as harder for non-Chinese nationals. With this in mind, it is recommended that you do plenty of research about your university and its global reputation as it is likely you will need to find work outside China. It could be worth your while to check with local employers in the field you plan to study in to what extent they would be willing to employ a graduate of a Chinese University.

If you wish to stay within China, smaller inland cities or 2nd tier cities are becoming increasingly popular for foreigners to settle in. They are smaller, less-polluted, have tighter-knit foreign communities and are cheaper. Not to mention there is less-fierce competition for jobs!

Wherever you decide to settle down, your academic learning from a degree in China will be considerable. Nevertheless, there are some points you should consider.

- In order to secure a job using your Chinese, you're going to have to be pretty good. Basic conversational skills and "knowing the culture" are the first step. But finding a good China job relies much more on your actual skill set than your language skills per se. All things equal, job searching in China will be similar to what it is in Kenya.
-
- It follows that a decent job in China or elsewhere is best attained by using Chinese to augment a pre-existing skill set. While the language alone won't procure much in the way of employment, Chinese should give a competitive advantage to individuals who already have existing qualifications such as an engineering degree, a background in biochemistry, or experience in the financial sector.
-
- Furthermore, in addition to a competitive degree and Chinese proficiency, you have to have mastered the art of networking. Networking in China is known as 'Guanxi', and it is an important concept to understand if one is to function effectively in Chinese society. In China, 'who you know' is as, if not more, important than 'what you know'.
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- This blog-post lists some china-focused careers that you may wish to search around: <http://www.aimeebarnes.com/2009/05/19/falling-in-love-with-chinaand-your-career/>

Resources

o CUCAS - China's University & College Admission System, is the official online portal for international students applying to China's universities. It is set up to help international students study in China and is the only online platform authorized by China's universities to directly receive international applications for study in China. All

the information you need to make a decision about studying in China is available for free on this website - <http://www.cucas.edu.cn/>

o Worlin Education is the biggest English website for international students going to China to study English Medium programs -<http://www.chinauniversitystudy.com/>

o Chinese Universities often host exhibitions at Kenyan universities. The most recent exhibition was hosted by Nairobi University, over 2 days and had over 16 Chinese universities represented. Check the local newspapers and events websites to not miss out.

Final Thoughts

China is a beautiful country and Beijing is an amazing city – most people either love it or hate it, anything in-between is not common. You have to be prepared for everything to study and live in China. Tolerance is very important as Chinese culture is far removed from what we are used to seeing in Kenya, so have an open mind. Chinese tend to be very curious about foreigners to the limit that they may stare and even attempt to touch you, but no harm is meant. Lastly beware, English is not enough. Learn Chinese!

Hong Kong Hong Kong is fast-becoming a strong competitor to the United States and other English-medium higher education systems. With globally respected universities and researchers, English as the medium of instruction and China on its doorstep, Hong Kong is uniquely placed as a study destination in the current era of internationalization. Universities to look out for: [University of Hong Kong](#) and [Hong Kong University of Science and Technology](#).

AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Australia is a young country – part of the “New World” – and a country that is growing very quickly. Australia’s inhabitants enjoy a standard of living that is equal, if not greater, than most countries in Europe and North America. With just 21 million people on an island that is 4 times the size of Europe, Australia does not suffer from problems of over-crowding. In fact most of the population lives in the 4 big cities – Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth – but even these cities are amazingly spacious, relaxed and thankfully free of many of the stresses of big cities worldwide. Australia is a multi-cultural society. The big cities are hugely diverse with immigration from all corners of the world. In fact one in four people was born outside of Australia. This means, as a foreigner in Australia you will not feel in any way “outside” the Australian society.

ECONOMY

The Australian economy is one of the real success stories of the past 50 years. There is a big middle class and good work opportunities for most. Unemployment levels are very low. Indeed in most cities there is virtually no unemployment when we look at the situation for young people and international students. Australians often say, if you are not working, it’s only because you don’t want to work!

Did you know?

There are three times zones in Australia: Eastern, Central and Western.

EDUCATION

Australia is one of the world’s leading education and training providers. There are over 400,000 students from 200 countries studying in Australia each year! Higher education is predominantly offered through one of the 41 Australian Universities. Australian universities are broadly recognised in many areas. In fact, the Times Higher Education (THES, 2010) rankings placed seven Australian universities in the World’s Top 100 Universities in 2010. Australians enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world - without the expensive price tag. An average international student in Australia will spend about \$390 a week on accommodation, food, clothing, entertainment, transport and telephone. Remember, though, that this figure depends on your location, lifestyle and even your course. You should seek further information on living costs from your institution. As a guideline, the cost of study is generally lower than that for the USA, and the UK, and slightly higher than Canada’s.

As an international student, you must pay your tuition fees up-front. Aside from tuition fees, some institutions may also charge for other student costs, such as library, laboratory or sports facility costs. Excursions, books and stationery are other costs to consider, and your course may also require specific essential materials, such as lab coats or photographic supplies.

Typical Study cost (2010 figures):

- **University Foundation Studies** \$10000 to 15000 a year such as university entrance, preparatory and bridging courses
- **Undergraduate Bachelor Degree** \$15000 to \$36000 a year such as courses in arts,

business, economics and law

- **Laboratory-based Bachelor Degree** \$15000 to \$36000 a year such as science and engineering courses

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing off-campus accommodation is very popular with international students and ranges between \$80 – \$260 a week.

INSURANCE

International students studying in Australia must have adequate arrangements in Australia for health insurance. Australia has a special system of health care cover for international students. This is called Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) and you are required to have this for the duration of your student visa in Australia.

SCHOLARSHIPS

While most international students in Australia are full-fee paying students, another option is to apply for a scholarship. Kenyan students can apply for scholarships offered by the Australian Government, education institutions and a number of other organizations. Note that there is intense competition for the international student scholarships offered in Australia. As a result, the majority of international students in Australia are full-fee paying students.

Students can generally work half-time (20 hrs per week) during study time and fulltime during holidays. Family and dependants of students may also work, either half-time or full time. This again may make it a better choice than the US for undergraduates who are cash strapped or need to work and study. Once you complete your studies, it is also much easier to apply for and get Australian Permanent Residency than it is obtain US Permanent Residency (Green Card)

The Australia Awards are comprised of two streams: an achievement stream that targets the best and brightest students, researchers and professionals to come to Australia and for Australians to do the same offshore; and a development stream that builds capacity in developing countries.

Scholarships are offered by the Australian Government (www.AustraliaAwards.gov.au), education institutions and a number of other organisations. They cover various educational sectors, including vocational education and training, student exchanges, undergraduate and postgraduate study and research. Australian Government scholarships are not available for international students undertaking English language training specifically in Australia. However, there are several English language training scholarships offered by Australian institutions.

For information on scholarships use the Scholarships Database. It provides an accurate and reliable list of all scholarships supplied by Australian-based organisations, institutions and government bodies to international students studying or planning to study in Australia on a student visa.

International and charitable organisations offer scholarships for international study. You must apply for these scholarships in your home country, not in Australia.

The Association of Commonwealth Universities website provides a scholarships guide for Commonwealth postgraduate students offered by Governments, Rotary International, World Bank, World Health Organisation, Asian Development Bank, United Nations, Rockefeller Foundation and other organisations.

Below is a list of additional links where you can access information on scholarships:

<http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/country/australia.htm>

[http://www.studyabroaduniversities.com/ScholarshipDetails.aspx?Scholarship=Australian%20Leadership%20Awards%20\(ALA\)%20Scholarship&ScholarshipId=17](http://www.studyabroaduniversities.com/ScholarshipDetails.aspx?Scholarship=Australian%20Leadership%20Awards%20(ALA)%20Scholarship&ScholarshipId=17)

[http://www.studyabroaduniversities.com/ScholarshipDetails.aspx?Scholarship=Australian%20Development%20Scholarships%20\(ADS\)%20&ScholarshipId=16](http://www.studyabroaduniversities.com/ScholarshipDetails.aspx?Scholarship=Australian%20Development%20Scholarships%20(ADS)%20&ScholarshipId=16)

You may also decide to research the scholarship opportunities at the following universities, which we recommend:

- **Australian National University**
- **University of Melbourne**
- **University of Sydney**
- **University of Adelaide**
- **University of Queensland Australia**
- **University of New South Wales**
- **Monash University**

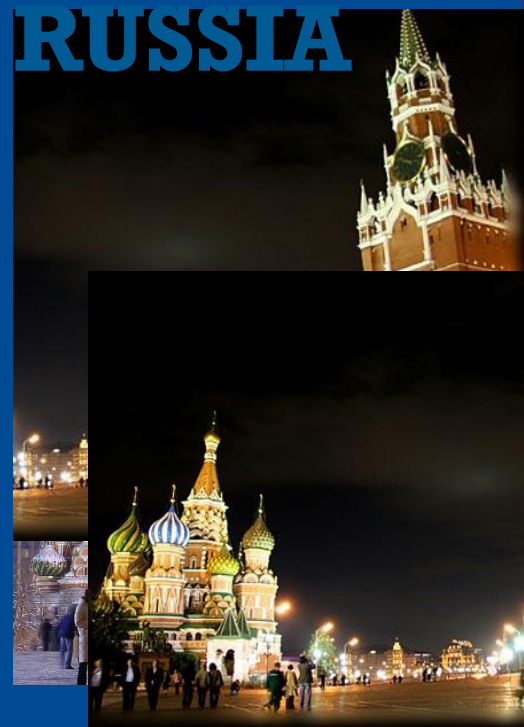
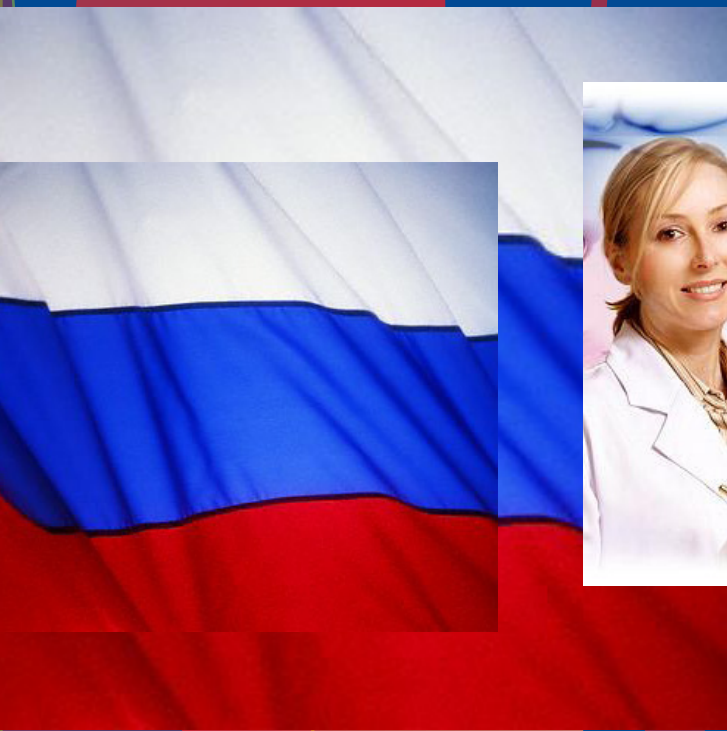
WORKING POST-STUDY IN AUSTRALIA

Working post-study has become increasingly difficult in many countries, and more recently in Australia. The Australian Government skilled migration program targets young people who have skills, an education and outstanding abilities that will contribute to the Australian economy. International students with Australian qualifications account for about half the people assessed under the skilled migrant program. For up-to-date information on the program, visit the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's website.

RESOURCES

- The Australia Government study in Australia website - <http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/en>. This website provides you with information about courses, institutions, studying and living costs, the application process, visa requirements and much more
- The Australia Government's Department of Immigration and Citizenship has a comprehensive website that provides current information on the visa application process <http://www.immi.gov.au/students/students/573-3/>

RUSSIA



RUSSIA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over 150 million people in the Russian Federation speak Russian. It remains the unofficial language of a majority of the former Soviet republics. Russian is one of the five official languages of the United Nations. It is the 5th most widely spoken language in the world. Do bear in mind that the Russian Federation is just ONE country of what used to be the USSR. If you are keen to consider studying through the Russian language, it is worth also researching the other options, for example, in Belarus, Latvia, Ukraine, Georgia, etc.

ECONOMY

The Russian Federation has the eleventh largest economy in the world. It is particularly rich in oil, gas, coal and precious metals. Alongside the growing service sector (62% of GDP in 2010), manufacturing (34%) (especially defense-related, and automotive industries) and agriculture (4.2%) are significant sectors. Areas in which it has particular strengths include mining and extractive industries producing coal, oil, gas, chemicals, and metals; machine building from rolling mills to high-performance aircraft and space vehicles; defense industries including radar, missile production, and advanced electronic components; shipbuilding; road and rail transportation equipment; communications equipment; agricultural machinery, tractors, and construction equipment; electric power generating and transmitting equipment; medical and scientific instruments.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

There are two kinds of higher education in the Russian Federation:

- o **Non-university level higher education** (educational programmes not leading to academic degrees); Educational institutions for non-university level higher education are generally known as Tekhnikums or Uchilishcha, and the newer College. This article does not cover non-university level higher education.

- o **University level higher education** (educational programmes leading to academic degrees).

UNIVERSITY LEVEL HIGHER EDUCATION

Universities: must offer tuition at all levels in a wide range of natural and social sciences and the humanities, and be a leading research and methodological centre in its areas of activity. Universities include: Universities for Humanities and Sciences; Pedagogical Universities (former Pedagogical Institutes); Medical Universities (former Medical Institutes); Agricultural Universities (former Agricultural Institutes); Technical Universities (former Polytechnic and Specialized Institutes);

Academies: must offer tuition at all levels in a single major area of science, technology, or culture, and be a leading research and methodological centre in its area of activity.

Institute: independent higher education institutions, offering tuition/conducting research at all levels in a number of fields of science, technology, and culture.

At present, the system of university level higher education comprises of 590 state higher education establishments. Around 3.7 million students were enrolled at them in

1999/2000.

There are also municipal higher education establishments run by local and regional authorities, as well as non-state higher education establishments run by private, public, and religious organizations. In the last few years about 350 non-state higher education institutions, mostly private ones, have been set up and licensed by the Ministry. This private sector is still expanding and is particularly active in such fields as Law, Management, and Finance. Most of them are small institutions, only a few of them have their own premises and facilities.

Since 1992, Russian higher education has had a multi-level structure, and higher education institutions may confer the following degrees and diplomas:

- o **Intermediate Diploma** (awarded to students who complete at least two years of compulsory, basic courses in the given specialism, and wish to leave university at that point, without continuing to the Bakalavr);
- o **Bakalavr Diploma** (a total of at least four years of study), modeled on a Bachelor's degree;
- o Specialist Diploma (five to six years of study);
- o **Magistr Diploma** (six years of study), modeled on a Masters.

The Bakalavr Degree

The Bakalavr degree is conferred after at least a four-year course of study. Bakalavr programmes can cover all disciplines except medicine. The function of the Bakalavr degree is to provide a more academically rather than professionally oriented education. The Bakalavr degree is a prerequisite for admission to Magistr studies. Each Bakalavr programme contains an initial compulsory element, with advanced courses then covering professional and specialized education, field work and practical experience. Examinations must be taken and passed at the end of each semester. The State final attestation includes the defense of a thesis prepared over a period of four months and State final examinations

The Specialist Diploma

The traditional qualification of Specialist Diploma opens access to professional practice (e.g., to engineers, teachers, chemists, etc.), and it is also the traditional prerequisite for admission to doctoral studies. The qualification of Specialist Diploma is conferred after studies lasting five to six years. Students are required to take and to pass examinations at the end of each semester. The State final attestation for a Specialist Diploma covers the defense of a project or a thesis and State final examinations.

The Magistr Degree

A Magistr programme takes at least a further two years with greater research focus than the Specialist Diploma. The license to conduct Magistr studies is only granted by the Ministry to those higher education institutions with sufficient adequate academic staff and facilities. Access to Magistr studies is open to the holders of the Bakalavr degree. Those holding a Bakalavr degree in the same specialism as their proposed Magistr undergo admission procedures (examinations, interviews, etc.) set by their chosen university. Those wishing to pursue a Magistr programme in another field of study must pass an additional test covering the content of the Bakalavr programme. Each Magistr programme comprises part taught course, part independent research. Magistr studies are examined by defense of a dissertation and the passing of State final examinations.

The university level higher education curriculum stipulates thirty-six weeks of study a year. The total workload of a student should not exceed fifty-four hours a week including class work and independent studies. A student's total workload of class work is, on average, twenty-seven hours a week (for the Magistr programme, fourteen hours a week). The academic year begins on 1 September and ends at the beginning of June. Specialist and Magistr Diplomas entitle their holders to be admitted to doctoral study programmes.

Medical Sciences

Studies in the medical sciences take:

- five years in dentistry and pharmacy;
- six years in medicine;

In order to be admitted to the medical professions, the holders of university level higher education diplomas must then undertake further in-depth professional training:

- o one-year course programme (called the internatura) or
- o two- to three-year course programme (called the ordinatura).

Training in the internatura or the ordinatura takes place on the premises of the best hospitals, clinics, and research medical institutes. Graduates from the internatura or ordinatura are awarded certificates that specify their specialization areas and entitle them to exercise their professions independently.

University admissions for Russian nationals

For Russian nationals admission to higher education establishments is competitive. We give the following information as background, for, while the procedures are different for international students, this helps inform on the level of competition and the tests to which your application may be submitted.

The selection is based on entrance examinations, school leaving certificates, interviews, etc. The entrance examinations are the major component of the selection procedure. The number of tests and subjects examined vary by institution. The subjects and their contents that are selected for entrance examinations should correspond to the subjects and their contents taught in secondary general schools. Higher education institutions, therefore, may choose subjects for the entrance examinations from the following list: History, Social Sciences, Russian Language and Literature, Foreign Languages, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, etc.

Admission depends on the grades obtained in the entrance examinations and on the number of places available. For candidates with identical examination results, the decision for admission may be based on the school leaving certificate. The number of applications may be several times higher than the capacity of the faculty, depending on the reputation of the institution and on the general interest in the subject. In 1995, only 40 percent of the total number of applicants were enrolled in higher education institutions. In the Russian Federation, a person is permitted to apply to only one educational institution at a time.

After the changes of the early 1990's, higher education institutions have been authorized to allocate a portion of their places to fee-paying students. Since competition for these places is not as high as for the places financed by the state, admission requirements may be lower, and students may be admitted with lower grades.

Application procedures to Russian universities for international students receiving government scholarships

This section focuses on admission for international students, (including Russian nationals living abroad), who come to study in Russia with scholarships of the Government of the Russian Federation. It does not apply to those applying to Russian institutions on a self-funded basis, for which procedures are more liberal.

There is a legal cap on the total number of foreign citizens and Russians resident abroad admitted to federal public educational institutions at the federal budget funds' expense at ten thousand people a year.

Russia admits foreign citizens and Russians resident abroad to its higher education as a means of offering development assistance. It is envisaged that during the whole period of studies such foreign students regardless of their academic performance will be awarded with public scholarships and provided with accommodation in residence halls under similar conditions to Russian nationals. (See below under Scholarships for further information on this).

Step 1

Consider, how good are your language skills? The official language of instruction in all Russian universities is Russian, which is also written in the Cyrillic alphabet.

To join any university a candidate must take (and pay for) a foundation course which takes 7-9 months. In this they learn the Russian language and some subjects related to your main degree course. The course costs around \$1600 (excluding living costs), though it is likely this is covered for scholarship students.

(A small minority of courses are run in English. Some, e.g. Medicine at Voronezh State Medical Academy are run through English

in years 1-3, but then will switch tuition to Russian in years 4 and beyond, as any tuition in clinics or interaction with patients will need to take place in Russian. Some Masters courses are being run for the first time in September 2010 in both English and Spanish at Patrice Lumumba University of People's Friendship. To find out more visit <http://en.russia.edu.ru/interbd/rudn/1853/>)

Step 2

How good are your grades at KCSE? Are they an average of A or B, in which case you may be eligible to apply for one of 25 Russian government scholarships? Find out more about these via the Kenyan Ministry of Education and/or the Cultural Attaché at the Russian embassy in Nairobi.

Step 3

What subject do you want to study, and at which university? To research study in Russian institutions we advise you pay a visit to the Nairobi offices of Kenruss (see below), to the Russian embassy in Nairobi, and also research via the Ministry's website (<http://en.russia.edu.ru/>). Further, this is a link to the websites of around twenty of the most popular Russian universities. <http://www.eurograds.com/russia.html#visa>

Step 4

If admitted, would this degree entitle you to practice straightaway on return? If you are wanting to apply for a registered profession e.g. Medicine, Engineering, do check via the professional body (e.g. Kenya Medical Practitioners Board, Engineers Registration

Board) whether there are additional procedures to go through before a Russian degree in this field may be recognized for practice in Kenya. What are they? Does this impact on your decision?

Step 5

What do you need to do to apply to study this subject at this institution? To learn how to enter a higher educational institution you are interested in, get in touch with the enrolling board of this higher educational institution (or colleagues at Kenruss). The contact information of the officer in charge for enrolment of overseas students can be found in the database "Education in Russia for Foreigners" (<http://en.russia.edu.ru/>). Most probably you will have to fax or e-mail the following papers:

- a copy of your KCSE certificate/slip with the list of subjects taken and grades received (translated into Russian or English);
- a copy of your national passport valid for at least 1 and a half years;
- two passport photos
- a questionnaire which they will provide

The educational institution then decides on your application. (This process may also be done via Kenruss, in which case a fee of 8500 Ksh is payable).

Step 6

If you receive an admission letter, you then need to certify your school documents at the Kenyan Ministry of Education. These are then to be taken to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for legalization. They are then to be translated and legalized by the Russian Embassy.

Step 7

On receipt of your admission letter the educational institution files an official invitation for you so you may obtain a visa. In general it takes around 3 to 5 weeks to gain an official invitation, and its cost is about 40 USD. Citizens of the countries for whom a visa is needed may enter into the Russian Federation upon submission of a regular student visa. This visa is issued by a diplomatic mission or a consulate of the Russian Federation.

A regular student visa may be issued to a foreign citizen on the basis of an invitation for entry to the Russian Federation filed in accordance with federal law.

Perceived subject strengths The standard of education at Russian state universities is amongst some of the most academic in the world.

Research tools

Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation's website: Education in Russia for Foreigners. This is a key website from which much of the information in this guide was drawn.

<http://en.russia.edu.ru/about/1063/>

Kenruss Ltd (www.kenruss.org) is a Nairobi-based official representative of several Russian universities. It offers support in processing applications and gaining visas, etc, on a for-profit basis. Much of this booklet is drawn from their information.

Russian universities accredited by the Russian Ministry of Education <http://www.russianenic.ru/english/cred/spisok.html>

Links with Kenya

Since independence over 4000 Kenyans have graduated from universities in Russia. It is claimed that of 5000 doctors in Kenya, every third was trained in Russia. Traditionally Kenyans have gone to Russia to study Engineering, Medicine, Aviation and IT.

Financials

The costs pre-departure	
Registration fee	500 KSh (if applying via Kenruss)
Admission fee	800 KSH (via Kenruss)
If admitted	
Legalisation fee	100/page
Russian Embassy	\$45
Medical checkup	at cost
Visa fee	\$80
Translation fee	500/page
Bond towards year 1 fee, payable on receipt of visa	\$400
On arrival	
Ticket to Moscow	
Internal travel beyond Moscow	\$100
Annual medical insurance (Russian)	\$100-\$200
Preparatory course (excl accom)	\$1600
Monthly food/upkeep costs	\$250
Accommodation – varies, c 900/year	\$900

The costs pre-departure Registration fee 500 KSh (if applying via Kenruss) Admission fee 800 KSH (via Kenruss) If admitted Legalisation fee 100/page Russian Embassy \$45 Medical checkup at cost Visa fee \$80 Translation fee 500/page Bond towards year 1 fee, payable on receipt of visa \$400

On arrival Ticket to Moscow Internal travel beyond Moscow \$100 Annual medical insurance (Russian) \$100-\$200 Preparatory course (excl accom) \$1600 Monthly food/upkeep costs \$250 Accommodation – varies, c 900/year \$900

Tuition – varies by course and school, language of tuition (more expensive in English), and whether accommodation included. For a year of Medicine, in Russian, without accommodation, reckon on about \$2600

Cost of living and tuition

Choosing accommodation. The two most common forms of accommodation for students are home stays with Russian families and student accommodation. Many families in Russia host foreign students in their flats for extra money. This is an extremely affordable option for students and can be a great way to improve your language skills fast, and learn more about Russian culture and family life. If you would rather meet many Russian and international students, then student accommodation might be a better choice.

Scholarship and funding options

Kenyan candidates who have gained mean grades of A or B in KCSE are qualified to apply for scholarships offered by the Government of the Russian Federation. Up to 25 scholarships are offered each year. To find out more on available scholarships, procedures and what they cover, please enquire as early as possible at the Kenyan Ministry of Education, or alternatively c/o the Cultural Attaché at the Russian embassy to Kenya, in Nairobi.

<http://www.studyabroaduniversities.com/Scholarships-for-Study-in-Russia.aspx> gives examples of government scholarships which Kenyans qualify for as well as a number of study abroad organizations that offer scholarships to international students including Kenyans. You will realize that it takes standing out to acquire some of the scholarships so you really need to convince the admission's board that you're worth having in their school.

<http://www.advance-africa.com/Russia-Government-Scholarships.html> has information on scholarships for people in the public sector who wish to pursue undergraduate, masters and PhD education in Russia

<http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/country/russia.htm> which elaborates more on government scholarships and study abroad organizations as well as private funding

You may also decide to Google various top schools in Russia to determine whether they offer scholarships. These include, but are not limited to.

Things to consider

Topics covered in your degree. Kenyan students do travel to Russia to study Medicine for example. However anecdotal evidence suggests that, despite the academic quality of their degree, their integration into the Kenyan medical establishment on return is often not easy. One medical practitioner noted that, despite their high quality training, as Russian patients face different diseases to those in Kenya, his Russian-qualified colleagues had not been exposed during training to the key medical issues facing Kenyan doctors today, - e.g. treatment of HIV, malnutrition, TB, malaria. They also had not received the opportunities to practice surgery gained in Kenya. As a result he knew of several Russian-trained doctors who had needed a further 2 years experience in the Kenyan system on return until they felt confident practicing in the Kenyan context.

Medical fitness

Before receiving the student visa students need to take a general medical checkup including tests for TB, hepatitis and HIV. It is not clear what the situation is should you test positive in any of these tests. This would be a matter to explore early with the visa section at the embassy or with colleagues at Kenruss who will have more information.

Chances of getting a job

We have no information on this point, however this would be a useful topic to research yourself, via your institution, before making decisions on study in Russia. Students may take up part-time employment in their spare time. Job opportunities are available on campus and through general employment agencies. The issue of work permits for foreign students is discussed with the relevant higher education institution and with the local authorities.

Numbers of international students

A few Russian universities have very large numbers of international students (e.g. Peoples Friendship University of Russia www.rudn.ru has 5000 international students from 138 countries in its 25000 strong student body.) However this is not the case everywhere, and you may think it important to check relative numbers of international students before applying.

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In addition to a focus on academic excellence and achievement, the Equity Group Foundation education program provides mentoring, leadership development; and career and college counseling, to help students succeed in secondary school and beyond.



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