



Study in Europe



Office of the European Union
to Hong Kong and Macao

The European Union:

28 countries*, unlimited resources and opportunities for you!

Austria

Population: 8.4 million
Capital: Vienna
www.austria.gv.at

Belgium

Population: 11 million
Capital: Brussels
www.belgium.be

Bulgaria

Population: 7.3 million
Capital: Sofia
www.government.bg

Croatia*

Population: 4.3 million
Capital: Zagreb
www.vlada.hr/en

Cyprus

Population: 0.8 million
Capital: Nicosia
www.moi.gov.cy/pio

Czech Republic

Population: 10.5 million
Capital: Prague
www.czech.cz

Denmark

Population: 5.5 million
Capital: Copenhagen
www.um.dk

Estonia

Population: 1.3 million
Capital: Tallinn
www.riik.ee

Finland

Population: 5.4 million
Capital: Helsinki
<http://virtual.finland.fi>

France

Population: 65.3 million
Capital: Paris
www.diplomatie.gouv.fr

Germany

Population: 81.8 million
Capital: Berlin
www.deutschland.de

Greece

Population: 11.2 million
Capital: Athens
www.mfa.gr

Hungary

Population: 9.9 million
Capital: Budapest
www.ekormanyzat.hu

Italy

Population: 59.48 million
Capital: Rome
www.esteri.it

Ireland

Population: 4.5 million
Capital: Dublin
www.irlgov.ie

Latvia

Population: 2 million
Capital: Riga
www.mk.gov.lv

Lithuania

Population: 3 million
Capital: Vilnius
www.urm.lt

Luxembourg

Population: 0.5 million
Capital: Luxembourg
www.etat.lu

Malta

Population: 0.4 million
Capital: Valletta
www.gov.mt

The Netherlands

Population: 16.7 million
Capital: Amsterdam
www.government.nl

Poland

Population: 38.5 million
Capital: Warsaw
www.poland.pl

Portugal

Population: 10.5 million
Capital: Lisbon
www.portugal.gov.pt

Romania

Population: 21.3 million
Capital: Bucharest
www.guv.ro

Slovakia

Population: 5.4 million
Capital: Bratislava
www.foreign.gov.sk

Slovenia

Population: 2 million
Capital: Ljubljana
<http://e-uprava.gov.si/e-uprava/en/portal.euprava>

Spain

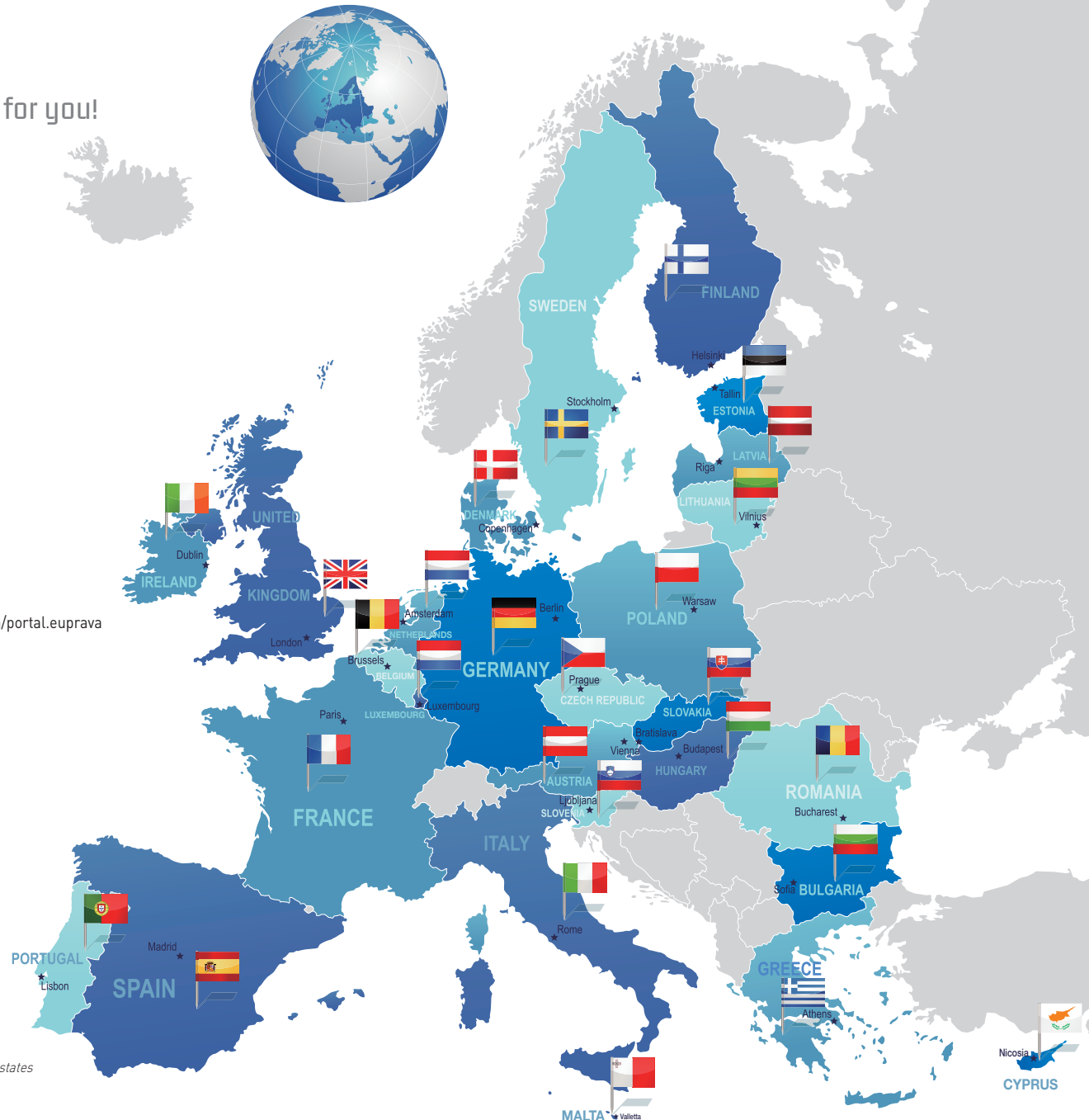
Population: 46.1 million
Capital: Madrid
www.la-moncloa.es

Sweden

Population: 9.5 million
Capital: Stockholm
www.sweden.se

United Kingdom

Population: 63 million
Capital: London
www.ukonline.gov.uk



Basic data on European Union member states

Source: Eurostat yearbook 2012

*Croatia joins the EU as of 1 July 2013

An invitation to Europe

The European Union (EU) with its 27 member States – 28 from 1 July 2013, when Croatia will join – is one of the world's most exciting destinations for students. The EU enjoys high academic standards and features a great variety of degree programmes, cutting-edge technology, advanced research facilities and an intriguing diversity of cultures, languages, and societies.

It is my pleasure to invite you to discover the European Union and the outstanding possibilities it offers for university studies in a challenging and friendly atmosphere.

Studying in the European Union is about more than gaining academic qualifications. In the EU you will discover a colourful panorama of nations, peoples, languages and cultures all united in their diversity.

This guidebook gives you useful information about studying in each of the European Union's member countries as well as about available scholarships. I trust it will help you take the first step in an exciting and rewarding journey to Europe.

More detailed information can be found by contacting any of the Consulates General of the EU Member States in Hong Kong and Macao or the academic exchange agencies listed in these pages.

I wish you every success in your further education!

Vincent Piket

Head of Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao



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Why Study in Europe?

The European Union is closer than you think.

High-quality education for students

No matter what your personal preference is – whether scientific or technical, business and economics or the arts – you can undertake your studies in the European Union (EU). With over 400 Nobel laureates and about 45% of the patent applications worldwide, Europe is a leader in academic and research excellence.

Top-ranked universities provide a broad variety of courses in every field – many of which are taught in English. In the European Union you can find higher education and training directly connected to business, industry and on-the-job work experience. The European Diplomas are recognised around the world.

Studying in the European Union costs less than you think and is a valuable investment for your future

In Europe, education is not only considered as being of paramount importance – it is also regarded as a basic right. That is why enormous effort is undertaken to ensure that the majority of Europe's more than 6,000 higher education institutions are open to anyone with the appropriate qualifications.

To help you cover the cost of studying in Europe a variety of scholarships are on offer. European universities are promoting their own internationalisation, so the number of students from abroad is rising. Already more than 200,000 students from Asia are currently studying at higher education institutions throughout the European Union.

European higher education institutions are here to help you

European higher education institutions support you throughout your study period overseas. Services may include a personalised welcome, airport transfers, induction sessions, guaranteed accommodation, mentoring, a leisure programme and everything you need to settle into your new surroundings.

Whilst many languages are spoken in the European Union, you will find that most countries offer a large choice of courses taught in English. Language tuition is available, be it intensive specialised courses, pre-seasonal programmes or short courses to master the basics of everyday conversations.

The EU Member States make every effort to simplify the delivery of visas for students. Online procedures are becoming more widely available and you can get information from your local embassies.

Enjoy the vibrant lifestyle of modern Europe and experience its rich cultural heritage

In addition to being an important centre of innovation and research, in the European Union you will discover a panorama of nations, people, languages and cultures, joined together in peaceful unity. In the European Union you can expect more than excellent education systems. You can enjoy cultural icons from across the centuries, experience many different foods, learn new languages, improve your social skills and make new friends from around the world. An education experience in the EU will broaden your horizons, open your mind and equip you to face the challenges faced by an increasingly interdependent world.

Quotes from Students

"The inter-disciplinary approach of my programme has provided me with the freedom to pursue my interests in a diverse range of topics related to history, culture, society and identity of Europe." "I have some of my fondest memories in the kitchen at the student hall in London, where I and other students from Asia, Europe, North America and Africa have come to know each other as an extended family."

Inez Siu from Hong Kong

International Masters in Economy, State & Society (IMESS), with reference to Central & Eastern Europe; 2011-13



"The Trans-cultural European Outdoor Studies programme in Europe has provided me with a solid academic foundation, as well as an outdoors experience in various parts of the world."



Wilson Cheung from Hong Kong

Trans cultural European Outdoor Studies, 2011-13

"The Erasmus Mundus experience is very rewarding. Studying in three different European countries allowed me to meet academics, fellow classmates and people from all over the world. These experiences have greatly enhanced my multicultural sensitivity and cross-cultural understanding. I hope the Erasmus Mundus spirit can be further promoted in Hong Kong."

Ada Leung from Hong Kong

European Master in Higher Education, 2007-09

"The two-year Erasmus Mundus programme on Lifelong Learning was not merely a European academic experience, but also a journey in which I met my lifelong friends, embraced diversity and appreciated differences in many aspects."

Josephine Lau from Hong Kong

European Masters in Lifelong Learning: Policy and Management, 2007-09



About the European Union



The EU was founded in 1957 with six Member States. It has grown since then to 27 countries, committed to working together for peace and prosperity. On 1 July 2013 it will have 28 Member States with Croatia joining.

For more than 50 years the EU has helped bring stability, democracy, and development to Europe whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance, and individual freedoms.

Delegations of the European Union throughout the world are part of the European External Action Service, under the authority of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The European Union is represented in Hong Kong SAR. and Macao SAR. by its Office in Hong Kong. The Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao was established in 1993. The Office serves the EU's interest as a whole. It works closely with the Consulates General of the EU Member States for representing the EU, organising joint activities and raising the EU's profile and visibility.

Higher Education in Europe

Education in the European Union is the responsibility of the individual EU member states. However, the EU has a complementary role to play: to add a European dimension to education, to help develop quality education, and to encourage life-long learning.

All across Europe, countries and universities are engaged in a process of reform named the Bologna process. The Bologna process will create a European Higher Education Area where common principles apply, making it easier and more transparent for outside partners to cooperate with European universities. The intention is to allow the diversity of national systems and universities to be maintained while improving transparency between higher education systems, as well as facilitating recognition of degrees and academic qualifications, mobility, and exchange between institutions.

The European countries are working towards a comparable three-cycle degree system:

- **Bachelor Degree (180-240 ECTS):** 3 to 4 years
- **Master Programme (90-120 ECTS):** 1 to 2 years
- **PhD Programme:** 3 or more years

The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)

60 ECTS credits measure the workload of a full-time student during one academic year. A full time student workload amounts may range from 1,200 to 1,800 hours per year. Credits can only be obtained after successful completion of the work required and appropriate assessment of the learning outcomes achieved.

Erasmus Mundus Scholarships

Erasmus Mundus is the European Union's flagship scholarship programme. It is built around three pillars — Erasmus Mundus Joint programmes and scholarships; Erasmus Mundus Partnerships between European and non-EU and associated Country higher education institutions including scholarships and fellowships for mobility at all academic levels; and the promotion of European higher education through projects to enhance the attractiveness of Europe as an educational destination and a centre of excellence at world level.

Erasmus Mundus offers funds to help set up Erasmus Mundus Courses by consortia of universities. Each consortium comprises institutions from at least three or more different EU or associated countries. International partners are also welcome as full or associate partners.

Erasmus Mundus offers scholarships to students and academics to follow Erasmus Mundus Masters or Joint Doctorates. Students must study in at least two of the institutions and will receive either a joint/double or multiple degree. Currently there are 138 Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses and 43 Joint Doctorates to choose from Erasmus Mundus also promotes and enables international institutional cooperation through partnerships between European and selected third country



institutions. Partnerships must include a minimum of 5 higher education institutions from at least 3 European countries and a number of higher education institutions from the targeted non European regions. The objective is to organise and implement structured individual mobility arrangements between the European and Third Country partners. Scholarships are available for the mobility which can be anywhere between 3 months and 3 years depending on the consortia requirements.

How does Erasmus Mundus work?

Erasmus Mundus sees special Masters courses at doctoral programmes set up by groups of universities. Each group or consortium of universities comprises institutions from three or more different EU member states. Scholarships are only available for these courses. Students study in 2 or more of the universities and receive a joint, double or multiple degrees.

An Erasmus Mundus Masters Course consists of 60 to 120 ECTS thus lasting from 1 to 2 academic years covering a wide range of academic disciplines. There are almost 140 Masters Courses to choose from.

Erasmus Mundus partnerships bring together universities from the EU and from other regions of the world. Together they offer scholarships at bachelors, masters, doctorate, post-doctorate level, and for staff. Not all academic levels are covered by all partnerships.

What is the amount of the scholarship?

All student scholarships cover tuition fees, travel and living expenses in Europe for the full duration of the course.

For Erasmus Mundus joint programmes:

For an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course, scholarship amount to approximately €24,000 (HK\$255,000) per year. The scholarships for a Masters Course range from €2,400 (HK\$25,000) for a two-week stay, to €14,800 (HK\$157,000) for a three month working assignment and cover travel and living expenses. Fellowships for doctoral candidates within an EM Joint Doctorate can range up to €129,900 for a three-year doctoral fellowship, depending on the nature of the programme.

The amounts within Scholarships under Action 2 partnerships depend on the academic level: but all scholarships cover all participation costs, travel and insurance, plus a monthly allowance of at least 1,000 euro per month.

What are the eligibility criteria and deadlines for application?

Students from all over the world who have completed the required studies for admission or scholars from outside the EU, and who lecture or conduct research, are eligible to apply for the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship.

Applications deadlines for joint Masters Courses and Doctorates are different and set by the Consortium of Universities. In general they vary from December to late February. An Erasmus Mundus Masters Course normally starts between the next August and November.

Applications periods for partnerships are similar. If you are interested you should check in each case.

How can I apply?

1. Visit http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/results_compendia/selected_projects_en.php to see the list of Masters Courses, Doctoral programmes and Partnerships that are currently offering scholarships.
2. Click the website address of the consortium/partnership to obtain specific details of the study programme you are interested in (prerequisites, application process, forms, and deadlines).
3. Apply directly to the consortium/partnership offering the course. The Consortium decides which students to admit and which students to award a scholarship on the basis of merit and transparent selection mechanisms.

How is the selection process conducted?

1. The Erasmus Mundus Consortium will select the applicant students and scholars on the basis of CVs, study and academic merits, motivation, recommendations, language skills, etc.
2. The consortium proposes a list of successful applicants for final approval by the EC Headquarters in Brussels.
3. The EC confirms this selection and assigns the grants to the consortia and partnerships.
4. The consortium will communicate to applicants if they have been accepted for the course and if they have been awarded a scholarship.

Where can I find more information?

- **European Commission**
Directorate General for Education and Culture
 E-mail: EACEA-erasmusmundus@ec.europa.eu
http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/index_en.html
- **Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao**
 19/F, St. John's Building, 33 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong
 Tel: (+852) 2537 6083 | Fax: (+852) 2522 1302 | E-mail: delegation-hong-kong@ec.europa.eu
www.delhkg.ec.europa.eu/en





Austria

Basic Information about Austria

Located in Central Europe, Austria is a naturally beautiful country with pastoral landscapes, stunning mountain vistas and timeless cities steeped in history and culture.

Austria is home to over 8 million people and shares its borders with both Germany and the Czech Republic to the North, Slovakia and Hungary to the East, Slovenia and Italy to the South, and Switzerland and Liechtenstein to the West. The official language of Austria is German.

Austria's past as a European power and its cultural environment has spawned world class artists in various art forms but most notably music. Austria has been the birthplace of many famous scientists, Nobel Prize winners and composers such as Mozart and Strauss, and their works continue to inspire.

Austria's capital city of Vienna, also described as Europe's cultural capital, ranks as one of the most attractive cities in the world and was ranked as the top city in Mercer's Quality of Living survey in 2011 and 2012. This metropolitan city has a charm, vibrancy and flair that is unique and found nowhere else.

The Higher Education System

There is a wide variety of higher educational institutions in Austria. 22 Austrian universities offer a broad range of study options for students. If you would like to study music, theatre, film, fine or applied arts, 6 Austrian Universities of the Arts offer their students creative education programmes. Austria also offers 246 degree programmes (www.fachhochschulen.at) at 20 Universities of Applied Sciences in addition to the universities.

In addition, there are 12 private universities offering top class academic education. The post-secondary sector includes Teacher Training Colleges and Institutes. Some 500 different study options are available in Austria (www.studienwahl.at). About 1/5 of students at Austrian universities come from abroad. The following academic degrees can be obtained:

- University level first stage (Bachelor's degree): Bakkalaureus, Bakkalaureus (FH)
- University level second stage (Master's degree): Magister, Magister (FH), Diplom-Ingenieur, Diplom-Ingenieur (FH)
- University level third stage (PhD): Doktoratstudien

You can find more information on the Austrian education system and Austria's participation in International Exchange programmes on the following web pages:

- www.bmwf.gv.at.
- www.oead.at

Scholarships

The Austrian government, many private institutions and some universities offer scholarships for students. Scholarships are managed by a special agency – the Austrian Exchange Service. (OeAD - Österreichischer Austauschdienst) If you are interested in studying in Austria and in financial support please visit (www.grants.at).

Studying in Austria has become increasingly popular for a rising number of students from Hong Kong and Macau. They study predominantly tourism, economics, music, languages and the fine arts. Various cooperation – and student exchange programmes (such as the EurasiaPacific UniNet) offer post-graduate and PhD-studies in Austria.

All major universities in Hong Kong and Macau enjoy cooperation agreements with partner universities in Austria. These programmes are complemented by short time summer courses and cultural exchange & language programmes.

Where can I find more information on higher education, studies in Austria and scholarship programs?

- **Austrian Exchange Service (OeAD - Österreichischer Austauschdienst)**
www.oead.at and www.grants.at
- **Eurasia-Pacific Uninet**
www.eurasiapacific.net
- **Austrian Consulate General Hong Kong**
www.bmeia.gv.at/hongkong
- **Austrian Trade Commission**
Contact: Ms Yvonne Choi | Tel: (+852) 2522 2388 | Fax: (+852) 2810 6493
E-mail: hongkong@advantageaustria.org | www.advantageaustria.org/cn/education



Belgium

Basic Information about Belgium

The Kingdom of Belgium is located in Western Europe, at the heart of the European Union. It is bounded by France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the North Sea. The country's capital is Brussels. Its population is 11 million. Belgium is a federal state with three language based parts: the Dutch speaking Flemish Community, the French Community and the small German speaking Community. Brussels is officially bilingual and in fact multilingual with English widely spoken.

The country prides itself on its medieval art cities such as Antwerp, Bruges, Ghent, Liège, Mons and Tournai. Due to its central location and its excellent transport system the other megalopolises of Western Europe such as London, Paris, or Amsterdam, are only a one or two hours train journey away. The capital Brussels is one of the world's great multicultural cities, home to the main institutions of the European Union, with a very high number of Embassies, international organisations and multinational companies, and a large and diverse expat community.

The Higher Education System

Belgium's Educational institutions, of which some date back to the Middle Ages and are amongst the oldest in the world, are known worldwide for their outstanding academic reputation. They offer the broadest scale of study subjects, ranging from bioengineering to fine arts, from aeronautics to nuclear medicine. The higher education system in Belgium is part of the so-called European Higher Education Area and comprises three 'cycles': the first encompasses Bachelor programmes, the second, Master programmes, and the third, PhDs.

There are three types of higher education institutions in Belgium: universities, university colleges and postgraduate training institutions. An ever growing number of institutions of higher learning provide programmes in English.

The Structure of University Degrees

- **Bachelor degree:** During a bachelor degree students receive a general training alongside their programme in the subject they have chosen. The first 'cycle' involves at least three years of study (180 ECT credits) and results in a Bachelor degree qualification.
- **Master degree:** A student who has obtained a Bachelor degree can immediately supplement it with a second 'cycle' of studies, i.e. a master degree, consisting of at least 60, and in many cases 120 ECTS credits. Master programmes entail interaction between teaching and research and aim to provide students with advanced knowledge and skills in a specific field. The Master programme concludes with a dissertation.
- **Advanced Master degree:** An Advanced master degree involves acquiring a specialised professional qualification. Advanced Master programmes are worth at least 60 ECTS credits and are rounded off with a Master's dissertation, which forms an important part of their assessment.
- **Postgraduate programmes:** Postgraduate programmes aim, within the framework of further vocational training, to broaden and/or consolidate the skills acquired following a Bachelor or master programme. A certificate is issued after a programme comprising at least 20 ECTS credits.
- **PhD:** A PhD is the highest qualification awarded by universities in Belgium. As well as preparing for their thesis, PhD students take a PhD training programme in order to acquire additional skills that could be useful in their subsequent career in academia or elsewhere.

Tuition Fees and Living Costs

Depending on the programme, the tuition fees are HK\$6,000 to HK \$8,500. Additional fees for non-EU students vary according to the programme. The estimated cost of living (accommodation, food, transport, utilities) is between HK\$7,500 and HK\$10,000 per month.

Useful Links

- **Studying in Belgium**
www.belgium.be/en/education/coming_to_study_in_belgium
www.topstudybelgium.be
www.belgium.be/en/education
- **Studying in Flanders and Brussels (Dutch and English speaking)**
www.studyinlanders.be
www.ond.vlaanderen.be/english
- **Studying in Wallonia – Brussels (French and English speaking)**
www.studyinBelgium.be
www.enseignement.be (in French)
- **Studying in the German-speaking Community**
www.dglive.be/en
- **Consulate-General of Belgium in Hong Kong and Macau**
 9/F St. John's Building, 33 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong
 Tel: (+852) 2524 3111 | Fax: (+852) 2868 5997 | E-mail: hongkong@diplomel.fed.be
www.diplomatie.be/hongkong



Bulgaria

Basic Information about Bulgaria

The Republic of Bulgaria is situated in the north-eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula in southeast Europe. In the north, the country borders Romania, in the south, it shares a border with the Turkish Republic and the Greek Republic, in the west, its neighbours are Serbia and Macedonia, and in the east, it looks on to the Black Sea. Bulgaria has a population of around 9 million. Its capital city is Sofia. Bulgarian is the official language.

The Higher Education System

The country's higher education system acquired a new structure at the end of 1995, when the National Assembly passed the Higher Education Law. The following multiple-level structure of academic qualifications was introduced by this law:

- Three-year education at institutes and colleges, after its completion graduates receive a higher-education certificate and a professional qualification.
- Four-year education at university, after its completion graduates receive a Bachelor's degree.
- Five or six-year course at a university, after its completion graduates receive a Master's degree.
- Three-year post-university training leading to a Doctorate.

Under the Higher Education Law, universities, specialised institutes, and colleges are classified as higher educational institutions in Bulgaria. They offer educational programmes of various types, as well as degrees, thus offering students opportunities for higher education in different ways.

Scholarships

Foreign citizens are enrolled in higher educational institutions, providing they pay 100% of the tuition fees. Tuition fee payment is waived for students studying for a doctorate and for postgraduate students in various fields accepted for a course of studies by a resolution of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers or under relevant governmental agreements.

Where can I find more information?

- **University of St. Clement of Ochrid, Sofia:** www.uni-sofia.bg
- **Paisi Hilendarski University, Plovdiv:** www.uni-plovdiv.bg
- **Saints Cyril and Methodius University, Veliko Tarnovo:** www.uni-vt.bg
- **Neophyte Rilski Southwestern University, Blagoevgrad:** www.swu.bg
- **Angel Kanchev University, Ruse:** www.ru.acad.bg
- **Thrace University, Stara Zagora:** www.uni-sz.bg



Croatia

Basic Information about The Republic of Croatia

Croatia (Hrvatska), officially the Republic of Croatia (Republika Hrvatska) is situated in south-eastern Europe at the crossroads of the Adriatic Sea and the Pannonian Plain.

Croatia borders with Hungary in the north, Slovenia in the north-west, Serbia in the north-east, Bosnia and Herzegovina in the total length of the lower part of Croatia's crescent shape, Montenegro in the extreme south, and Italy and Slovenia on the Adriatic Sea.

Croatia is classified as an emerging and developing economy by the International Monetary Fund and a high income economy by the World Bank. Traditionally, Croatia is a tourism oriented country.

Historical heritage, natural beauty and a pleasant climate make up the framework which, together with high quality accommodation, gastronomic excellence and a rich supply of activities and entertainment, enables Croatia to attract the modern-day tourist.

The most important tourism potential in Croatia is the Adriatic Sea. The unique characteristics of the seawater (crystal clear and clean) and coastline (length and indentation – approximately 1,800 km long, relatively sparsely inhabited coastline with 1,244 islands of which only 50 are inhabited) together with a mild climate, have long been recognised and used as the main comparative advantages of Croatian tourism.

Continental Croatia also has a number of tourist attractions, including towns with a rich history and striking architecture, castles, national parks, rivers, ski resorts, vineyards and thermal water springs with healing properties

Zagreb is the capital of Croatia and also the largest city in the country. It is situated in the north-west of the country, along the Sava River with a population of almost one million inhabitants. It is the political, economic, cultural and scientific centre of Croatia.

The Higher Education System

The Croatian higher education system has a long educational tradition preserved primarily through the work of its public universities, which are (in alphabetical order): J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, University of Dubrovnik, University of Rijeka, University of Split, University of Zadar and University of Zagreb.

Croatia has a binary higher education system, meaning that prospective students can choose between two types of higher education studies:

- University studies consisting of academic programmes that are conducted solely at universities
- Professional studies consisting of professional programmes conducted at polytechnics or colleges of applied sciences (exceptionally, professional programmes can also be implemented at universities).

The Bologna Process, following the Bologna Declaration of 1999, is a process aimed at harmonising the systems of higher education in Europe in order to create a European Higher Education Area. The Bologna Process aims to lead to greater compatibility and comparability of higher education systems in Europe and thereby make it easier for learners to be mobile and for institutions to attract students and scholars from other countries and continents.

The higher education system in Croatia has undergone a comprehensive reform within the framework of the Bologna Process. The Croatian higher education system is now structured according to three cycles (undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate) and higher education studies in Croatia are organised according to the system of transferable credits (ECTS), thus making it easier for international students (from Europe and beyond) to study in Croatia and have their studies recognised in their home countries.

Croatia has both public and private higher education institutions.

Most Croatian universities are public institutions. However, private university education has recently started to develop in Croatia with the establishment of three private universities and numerous colleges of applied sciences.

Regarding higher education institutions providing professional studies, the picture is more varied. Almost all polytechnics are public institutions, while most colleges of applied sciences are private institutions. Both polytechnics and colleges of applied sciences provide first and second cycle professional study programmes – these institutions differ only in the number of study programmes they provide, not in the type of programmes.

Scholarships

In order to study at Croatian higher education institutions, international students must have sufficient financial means for the duration of their stay in Croatia from personal sources or scholarships sources available in their countries or internationally.

Presently the majority of Croatian higher education institutions do not offer any scholarships or financial aid for international students. However, there are a number of scholarships available to international students through bilateral programmes administered by the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, through university bilateral agreements, through programmes such as CEEPUS, Erasmus Mundus as well as through the Erasmus programme managed by the Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes.

Where can I find more information?

- **More details about Croatia's higher education system and major universities are available at the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports:** <http://public.mzos.hr/Default.aspx>
- **For further information on scholarships:** www.mobilnost.hr or www.studyincroatia.hr



Cyprus

Basic Information about Cyprus

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean after Sicily and Sardinia. It is at the crossroads between Europe, Asia and Africa, and one of its roles is to build bridges between these continents. The island's main economic activities are banking, tourism, craft exports, merchant shipping and other services. Cyprus has a free open market economy. Over the years, the economy has gradually developed into a modern one with dynamic services, industrial and agricultural sectors, and an advanced physical and social infrastructure. The capital of Cyprus is Nicosia (Lefkosia).

Cyprus enjoys a wonderful Mediterranean climate with long dry summers from mid-May to mid-October and abundant sunshine throughout the year.

In 1960, Cyprus gained its independence while in July 1974 Turkey invaded in the Northern part of Cyprus and since then occupies 37% of the island's territory. In May 2004, Cyprus joined the European Union and became its easternmost and southernmost outpost while in January 2008, Cyprus joined the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and hence Euro (€) is the monetary unit in use. The official languages of the Republic of Cyprus are Greek and Turkish. However, English is widely spoken.

The Higher Education System

The Government policy as regards to higher education aims to fulfil the local needs for higher education and to establish Cyprus as a regional educational and research centre, a hub for international scholars and students alike. The higher education system in Cyprus is shaped by the European Higher Education Area as outlined by the Bologna Process. Higher and Tertiary Education in Cyprus consist of public and private institutions of Higher Education at University and non University level. An electronic information booklet named "Higher Education in Cyprus", in English, can be found at the electronic address: www.highereducation.ac.cy/information_booklet/files/highereducation-viviaraki.pdf. Moreover, a second electronic booklet named "Study in Cyprus" in Chinese can be found at the following link: www.highereducation.ac.cy/pdf/booklet_chinese.pdf.

The Higher Education Institutions operating legally in Cyprus are the following:

Public Universities:

- The University of Cyprus: www.ucy.ac.cy
- Open University of Cyprus: www.ouc.ac.cy
- Cyprus University of Technology: www.cut.ac.cy

Private Universities:

- Frederick University - Cyprus: www.frederick.ac.cy
- European University - Cyprus: www.euc.ac.cy
- University of Nicosia: www.unic.ac.cy
- Neapolis University - Cyprus: www.nup.ac.cy
- UCLan - Cyprus: www.uclancyprus.ac.cy

Public Institutions of Tertiary Education

- The Higher Hotel Institute of Cyprus: www.highereducation.ac.cy/en/pub-higher-hotel-institute.html (www.hhic.ac.cy)
- The Cyprus Forestry College: www.highereducation.ac.cy/en/pub-cyprus-forestry-college.html (www.moa.gov.cy/fc)
- The Mediterranean Institute of Management: www.highereducation.ac.cy/en/pub-mim.html (www.mlsi.gov.cy/kepa)
- The Police Academy: www.highereducation.ac.cy/en/pub-police-academy-cyprus.html (www.police.gov.cy)

Private Institutes of Tertiary Education:

1. A.C. American College: www.ac.ac.cy
2. Aigaia School of Art and Design: www.aigaia.com.cy
3. Alexander College: www.alexander.org
4. Arte Music Academy: www.artemusic.ac.cy
5. Atlantis College: www.atlanticcollege.com
6. C.D.A. College: www.cdacollege.ac.cy
7. C.D.A. College (Larnaka): www.cdacollege.ac.cy
8. C.D.A. College (Limassol): www.cdacollege.ac.cy
9. Casa College: www.casacollege.ac.cy
10. College of Tourism and Hotel Management: www.cothm.ac.cy
11. Cyprus College (Nicosia): www.cycollege.ac.cy
12. Cyprus College Limassol: www.cycollege.ac.cy
13. Cyprus College of Art: www.artcyprus.org
14. Cyprus International Institute of Management: www.ciiim.ac.cy
15. Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine: www.cing.ac.cy
16. Frederick Institute of Technology (Nicosia): www.fit.ac.cy
17. Frederick Institute of Technology (Limassol): www.fit.ac.cy
18. Global Colleg: www.globalcollege.com.cy
19. Intercollege (Nicosia): www.intercollege.ac.cy
20. Intercollege (Larnaka): www.intercolleges.com
21. Intercollege (Limassol): www.lim.intercollege.ac.cy
22. Internapa College: www.internapa.ac.cy
23. Kes College: www.kes.ac.cy
24. Larnaca College: www.larnacacollege.com
25. Ledra College: www.ledra.ac.cy
26. M.K.C. City College Larnaca: www.citycollege.ac.cy
27. P.A. College: www.pacollege.ac.cy
28. Susini College (Limassol): www.susini.ac.cy
29. Susini College (Nicosia): www.susini.ac.cy
30. The C.T.L. Eurocollege: www.ctleuro.ac.cy
31. The Cyprus Institute: www.cyi.ac.cy
32. The Cyprus Institute of Marketing (Nicosia): www.cima.com.cy
33. The Cyprus Institute of Marketing (Limassol): www.cima.com.cy
34. The Limassol College-T.L.C.: www.thelimassolcollege.ac.cy
35. The Philips College: www.philips.ac.cy
36. Vladimirovskaf Kafkarides School of Drama: www.satiriko.com

Scholarships

Scholarships available by the Cyprus Government can be found at www.cyprusaid.gov.cy. Moreover, scholarships are offered at times by public and private institutions of Higher Education of Cyprus, advertised in their websites.

For more information visit:

- **Department of Higher and Tertiary Education, Ministry of Education and Culture:** www.highereducation.ac.cy/en
- **Ministry of Education and Culture:** www.moec.gov.cy



Czech Republic

Basic Information about the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is a landlocked country in the heart of Europe, which boasts a unique natural and cultural wealth. The total area of the country is 78,866 square kilometres and its population is around 10.4 million people. The Czech Republic shares borders with Germany, Poland, Austria and the Slovak Republic, and its capital city is Prague. The country is a parliamentary democracy and EU member state since 2004.

Higher Education System

The Czech higher education dates back six hundred years. In 1348 Emperor Charles IV founded a university in Prague, which is the oldest academic institution in Central Europe - it is now called the Charles University. At present, the Czech higher education system includes 26 public, 2 state and 45 private institutions where nearly 390,000 students are currently enrolled, 35,000 of them being foreign students.

Higher education institutions form the highest level of the Czech education system. They offer accredited degree programmes at three levels: Bachelor, Master's and Postgraduate. The main medium of instruction is Czech, however the range of programmes offered in foreign languages (mainly in English) is expanding in order to cater for international students. Higher education is available to all applicants with a completed secondary education, who successfully pass the entrance examination. The system of entrance exams is specified individually by each institution. The deadline for submitting applications is usually set by the end of February or March.

Tuition Fees

Higher education provided at public and state institutions is free of charge for citizens of all nationalities, with the following exceptions:

- Fees for administration of admission procedures.
- Fees for extending the duration of study beyond a set time limit.
- Fees for study of an additional programme.
- Fees for study in a foreign language.

Please, note that in the near future, students of Czech public universities will most likely have to pay fees. The current government (elected in 2010) presumes that the tuition fee could reach approximately 800 EUR per academic year. Private institutions of higher education can set their own tuition fees, which differ from 1,500-11,000 EUR per year, while the specific amount depends on the relevant institution and study programme.

Scholarships

Every year, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic offers scholarships to support the studies of foreigners at public universities in the Czech Republic on the basis of government resolutions under foreign development cooperation (government scholarships) or the bilateral international agreements in the field of education (scholarships under international agreements). Information about these possibilities is available through Czech Embassies and Consulates General abroad (www.mzv.cz).

The International Visegrad Fund (<http://visegradfund.org/>) offers Master's and Postgraduate scholarships awarded to selected scholars for periods of 1 or 2 terms but only nationals of certain countries are eligible.

The South Moravian Centre for International Mobility (www.jcmm.cz) offers scholarships for foreign students in the South Moravian region of the Czech Republic. These scholarships are provided for talented students from the EU non-member states for the period of the first academic year at the universities of the region, in the follow-up Master's and Postgraduate studies in the technical field and natural sciences, in Czech language.

Some Czech higher education institutions also grant individual scholarships for excellent study results or in cases of underprivileged students.

Where can I find more information?

- **Do you need more information about studying in the Czech Republic?** www.studyin.cz
- **Do you want to visit the website of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic?** www.msmt.cz
- **Do you want to contact the Czech National Academic Recognition Information Centre?** www.naric.cz
- **Are you searching for the list of Czech Embassies and Consulates General abroad?** www.mzv.cz
- **Do you want to know more about the Czech Republic?** www.czech.cz and www.czechcenters.cz
- **Join us at Facebook!** www.facebook.com [Fanpage: Study in the Czech Republic]
- **Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Hong Kong and Macao**
Room 1204-05, Great Eagle Centre, 23 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 2802 2212 | Fax: (+852) 2802 2911 | E-mail: hongkong@embassy.mzv.cz
www.mzv.cz/hongkong



Denmark

Basic Information about Denmark

Denmark is a nation situated in Scandinavia in northern Europe. It is the southernmost of the Nordic countries and consists of the greater part of the Jutland Peninsula, as well as a number of islands in the Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea and North Sea, such as Greenland and the Faroe Islands. The country is relatively flat. The population amounts to 5.3 million people. The capital, Copenhagen – often called the Paris of the North – has an old, historical centre and a large network of pedestrian streets, bicycle paths, and parks. The official language is Danish, but most people also understand and speak English.

Denmark has much to offer. Quality of life is a characteristic feature of the Danish society combining social security, a clean environment and an attractive business climate with high standards in education and research – also in an international perspective.

The Higher Education System

Higher education institutions in Denmark can be grouped in three main types:

- Universities offering research-based undergraduate and post graduate programmes (Bachelor, Master and PhD)
- University Colleges and Specialised Colleges offering undergraduate programmes (Professional Bachelor and Diploma programmes)
- Academies of Professional Higher Education (erhvervsakademier) offering 2 - 2½ years academy profession programmes.

For more information on Danish educational system, please consult the following website: <http://en.ciriusonline.dk/education-in-denmark/the-danish-education-system/the-danish-education-system>.

Danish universities and other higher education institutions offer a wide selection of degree programmes and individual courses taught fully in English. It makes it easy for international students to find attractive study opportunities – be it as an exchange student or a full degree student.

Each institution is responsible for admission, and you can get further information about entrance qualifications, supplementary tests and the possibilities of transfer of credits from the admission offices at the institutions.

High Quality in Education

The quality of higher education is assured in many ways. It is regulated and financed by the state, and all public educational institutions are approved and evaluated on an ongoing basis. The institutions have a high degree of autonomy, but must at the same time follow the national regulations on teacher qualifications, award structures and external evaluation of their study programmes. This system is a way of setting national standards for higher education, thus ensuring high quality at all institutions.

All institutions use the European credit transfer system, ECTS, facilitating international credit transfer. Students receive certificates, diplomas or other types of documentation for all completed courses. All students finishing a full degree or a diploma programme receive a Diploma Supplement in English.

Scholarships

Denmark has launched a new scholarship programme for students from non-EU/EEA countries. Scholarships and tuition fee waivers are available for high performing students enrolling in certain study programmes. And some universities and educational institutions have their own scholarships. Contact the institution when you apply for admission. In addition, it is possible to apply for an Erasmus Mundus scholarship to do a master's degree partly at a Danish and partly at another European educational institution.

Exchange/Guest Students

Your possibilities as an exchange/guest student depend on your home institution and the chosen exchange agreement. If you are studying in countries outside the EU you should seek information about grants and scholarships at your educational institution in your own country.

Students from the EU as well as outside the EU can find links to several scholarship programmes at the EU-database Ploteus.

Where can I find more information?

- **The Ministry of Education (Undervisningsministeriet):** www.uvm.dk
- **Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Ministeriet for Videnskab, Teknologi og Udvikling):** www.videnskabsministeriet.dk
- **The government agency of Internalization of Education:** <http://en.ciriusonline.dk>
- **Ministry of Cultural Affairs (Kulturministeriet):** www.kum.dk
- **Study in Denmark:** www.studyindenmark.dk
- **Consulate General of Denmark**
Suite 2402 B, Great Eagle Centre, 23 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 2827 8101 | Fax (+852) 2827 4555 | www.hkcgkl@um.dk



Estonia

Basic Information about Estonia

Estonia, with a population of 1.3 million people, is the smallest of the three Baltic countries. A little larger than Switzerland and situated in northern Europe on the coast of the Baltic Sea, Estonia is a country of expansive old forests, plentiful lakes and rivers, clean fresh air and ubiquitous internet. As the birthplace of Skype, Estonia has cemented its image as one of the most innovative and IT-friendly countries in the world.

Estonia's Nordic culture and language share strong ties with Finland, its neighbour in the north. Sweden is Estonia's nearest neighbour in the west across the Baltic Sea, while with Latvia and Russia it shares a land border to the south and east.

The official language is Estonian but most people understand and speak English.

The Higher Education System

The Estonian higher education system consists of academic and professional higher education. Higher education is provided mainly by universities and professional institutions of higher education.

• I Cycle

The nominal length of academic bachelor's studies is usually 3 years, and the capacity of studies is ECTS* 180 credits (in exceptional cases four years and 240 ECTS credits). After graduation from bachelor's-level programmes, the bachelor's degree bakalaureusekraad, is awarded.

Depending of the subject area, the nominal length of first cycle professional higher education studies is 3-4 years (180-240 ECTS credits), after completing the studies a diploma called rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom is awarded.

After graduation from the first cycle of HE (academic or professional), students can continue in the second cycle leading to the Master's degree magistrikraad.

• II Cycle

The nominal length of master's level studies is 1-2 years and the volume of the studies is 60-120 ECTS credits, but together with bachelor's level studies not less than five years (300 ECTS credits).

In addition to the two-cycle general structure, the study programmes of medicine, dentistry, pharmaceutical, veterinarian, architectural and civil engineering training are single long-cycle studies with a nominal length of 5-6 years and a capacity of 300-360 ECTS credits.

• III Cycle

The nominal length of doctoral studies is 3-4 years after which the postgraduate research degree (doktorikraad) is conferred.

Scholarships

• DoRa allowance for International Master Students

A monthly allowance of 287 euros (for 10 months during one academic year) is awarded to foreign students studying on the Master's programmes taught in English at the Estonian universities. The student applies through the host institution. The host institution sets deadlines and selection criteria to get the allowance.

• DoRa Scholarships for International Visiting PhD Students

The scholarships cover research and study visits of 1-10 months by international PhD students to Estonian universities under recognised PhD study programmes regardless of the subject area. The selection from among the candidates will be made by the host university.

The schemes are financed from the European Social Fund.

More information: www.studyinestonia.ee/scholarships

Where can I find more information?

Further list of higher education institutions, the study programmes in English and other relevant details about study possibilities in Estonia are available at:

- www.studyinestonia.ee
- www.facebook.com/studyinestonia
- www.twitter.com/studyinestonia
- www.youtube.com/studyinestonia

Research possibilities in Estonia:

- www.researchinestonia.ee

In Chinese:

- www.studyinestonia.ee/china
- www.weibo.com/studyinestonia
- www.renren.com/studyinestonia



Finland

Basic Information about Finland

Finland is situated in northern Europe. It borders Russia in the east, the Gulf of Finland in the south, the Gulf of Bothnia and Sweden in the west and Norway in the north. The capital is Helsinki. The population of the country is 5.3 million. The official languages are Finnish and Swedish with 94% of the population speaking Finnish and 6% Swedish.

Finland is a welfare state with the aim of securing for its inhabitants equal opportunities for a good life and for the most efficient use of its resources as possible. The geopolitical location between West and East has always been reflected in the country's events and goings-on. With this combination of western and eastern influences, Finnish culture has developed into something strong and highly individual.

The Higher Education System

The Finnish higher education system consists of two complementary sectors: universities and polytechnics (also known as universities of applied sciences). The function of the universities is to conduct scientific research and provide undergraduate and postgraduate education based on it.

The Finnish Universities Act has been reformed. The universities were separated from the state and they chose to become either corporations subject to public law or foundations subject to private law. Therefore the autonomy of the universities will enlarge further, and they will have more latitude in the management of their finances. New universities were created through mergers so that at the beginning of 2010 there were 16 universities operating under the Finnish Ministry of Education.

The system of polytechnics is still fairly new. Polytechnics (universities of applied science) are multi-field regional institutions focusing on contacts with working life and on regional development. There are 25 polytechnics operating under the Ministry of Education. Polytechnic education is provided in the following fields: Humanities and Education, Culture, Social Sciences, Business and Administration, Natural Resources and the Environment, Technology, Communication and Transport, Natural Sciences, Social Services, Health and Sport, Tourism, Catering and Domestic Services.

Bachelor's (3 years) and Master's (2 years) degrees are both undergraduate degrees in Finland. Universities also confer postgraduate degrees: Licentiate (a pre-doctoral degree) (2 years) and Doctor's (4 years) degrees. Polytechnic degrees are Bachelor-level (3.5-4 years) and Master-level (1-1.5 years) degrees with a professional emphasis.

Scholarships

The Centre for International Mobility (CIMO), an organisation which operates under the Finnish Ministry of Education, offers services to encourage cross-cultural communication. CIMO administers scholarship and exchange programmes, and offers information, advisory services and publications. In addition, CIMO promotes teaching of the Finnish language and culture, and arranges summer courses in the Finnish language and culture for international students. There are various opportunities for students to study in Finland.

CIMO scholarships are mainly targeted for postgraduate students who have completed their Master-level studies. There are two types of scholarships: individual scholarships, which young researchers apply for themselves and host fellowships, which are applied by the Finnish higher education departments willing to host researchers and postgraduates. It should be noted that, in Finland, Master's programmes are not considered postgraduate studies. CIMO's undergraduate scholarships promote advanced studies of the Finnish language. Below is a list of scholarships offered by CIMO:

- Finnish Studies and Research/Scholarships for Advanced Studies of the Finnish Language at Finnish Universities
- Exchange Programmes (Erasmus Mundus, Asia-Link and Freemovers)
- CIMO Fellowships
- Finnish Studies and Research/Scholarships for Postgraduate Studies and Research at Finnish Universities

Where can I find more information?

- **Consulate-General of Finland in Hong Kong and Macao**
Room 2405-08, 24/F Dah Sing Financial Centre, 108 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.
Tel: (+852) 2525 5385 | Fax: (+852) 2810 1232 | E-mail: sanomat.hng@formin.fi
www.finland.org.hk
- www.studyinfinland.fi



france

Basic Information about France

Noted as much for its rich culture as for its illustrious scientific achievements, France is unsurprisingly one of the top education destinations for international students. In fact, in 2011, France welcomed 288,000 international students that constituted 12% of its student population, which made it the world's 4th largest host country for international students after the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia.

The Higher Education System

French degrees are granted by a comprehensive network of higher education institutions and world-famous research centres. This network comprises 77 universities, 26 PRES (*"pôles de recherche et d'enseignement supérieur"* or clusters of universities, specialized schools and research organizations), some 500 "Grandes écoles" – uniquely French institutions that cover about 205 engineering schools and 200 schools of business and management, 120 public schools of Arts, 20 schools of Architecture, as well as more than 3,000 specialized schools for specific sectors such as fashion, social work, paramedical disciplines, tourism and sports.

The French degrees awarded are based on the European system of Bachelor, Master, and PhD, expressed in credits as defined by the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

France's public universities cover the entire range of academic disciplines, from the sciences to technology to literature, languages, arts, social sciences, law, economics, management etc. Tuition

fees (in fact only registration fees in most institutions) are among the lowest in the world and are kept affordable as public institutions enjoy the financial support of the State. However, the quality of the degree programs is not compromised by low tuition fees; throughout, high international standards are maintained at all levels. In addition, French and foreign students have equal access to student benefits (social welfare and right of working) and face similar admission requirements.

Many study programs are available in English (Masters and PhDs). Please visit www.hongkong.campusfrance.org/en to get the complete and detailed list.

Research in France

An integral part of the French curriculum is the emphasis on hands-on research. More than 300 doctoral programs, in collaboration with about 1,200 research centres and laboratories nationwide, prepare students for careers in their chosen fields. France's doctoral programs have traditionally been attended by an international student community. 41% of PhD students in France today are foreigners.

France is one of the forerunners of scientific and technological innovation. It owes this standing to its research capacity and its many achievements in such fields as aerospace, transportation, electronics, telecommunications, chemistry, biotechnology, health and mathematics, successes attested to by the number of French winners of the Fields Medals and Nobel Prizes.

Tuition Fees and Living Costs

The tuition fees in France are among the lowest in the world while keeping its high quality of education. France devotes 1.4% of its GDP to higher education to guarantee the quality and the accreditation of the diplomas issued. For the tuition fees, France central government defrays a very large share of the true cost of education of public institutions (between €10,000 and €14,000 per student per year), thereby reducing the student's tuition burden (between €181 and €596 per student per year) in the universities and certain "Grandes écoles". For other schools, the prices vary. Business schools are the most expensive but still relatively cheap comparing to similar schools in other countries. The cost of living will depend on which city you are staying and the type of accommodation. Taking into account the many discounts for which students are eligible, the average monthly student budget is €1,000/month in Paris and €800/month elsewhere in the country with everything included (rent, meals, transportation, leisure...).

Please also take into account that the French government reimburses about one third of the accommodation fees per month to students.

Scholarships

Most scholarships are granted in the framework of university or institutional co-operations. Students may then contact the office of International Relations of their respective universities to get more information about the scholarships available. The French Government scholarship schemes available for students in Hong Kong include the following ones:

• **“Alexandre Yersin” Excellence Scholarships:**

This scholarship is offered by the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong for students planning to obtain a Master’s degree or equivalent in France, mainly in the following fields:

- Business / Management
- Law / Political Science / Administration
- Science / Engineering
- Design / Architecture / Urban Planning
- Hotel & Tourism Management
- Fine Arts & Creative Media
- French Studies (Language and Literature) / Sciences of Language / Education

For more information, visit the website: www.hongkong.campusfrance.org/en (Scholarships)

• **Consulate General of France – Legion d’honneur French language Scholarships:**

This scholarship is offered by the “Joint programme of the Consulate General of France in Hong and Macau and the Hong Kong Chapter of Legion d’Honneur Club”. It is offered by the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and the Chapter of Legion d’Honneur Club mainly for students of French language courses at University level. Students should register in France in a French course certified ‘Quality FLE (cf. www.qualite.fr)’. Summer courses are eligible. Students may contact their teachers of French language to get information about the scholarships available. Other scholarships including French language and academic contents are possible upon specific conditions (for example TMA scholarship in French and Law).

For more information, visit the website: www.hongkong.campusfrance.org/en (Scholarships)

CampusBourse

CampusBourses, a new bilingual search engine and database, will speed your search for financial aid.

Accessible from www.campusfrance.org, CampusBourses enables users to perform multiple-criteria searches in French or English of nearly every financial and program open to international students and junior scholars wishing to study in France. Covered are more than 500 programs from national and local government agencies, corporations, foundations, academic institutions, France’s embassies’ abroad, foreign governments and institutions and multinational organizations.

Users may search keyword or by set search criteria (nationality, discipline, level of study, type of grant etc), thus allowing them to locate programs corresponding their background and plans.

Contact Us

Campus France (Hong Kong Office)

Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau

25/F, Tower II, Admiralty Centre, 18 Harcourt Road, Central, Hong Kong

Tel: (+852) 3752 9900 or (+852) 3752 9974 | Fax: (+852) 3752 9908

E-mail: study@consulfrance-hongkong.org or campusfrance@consulfrance-hongkong.org

www.hongkong.campusfrance.org/en



Germany

Basic Information about Germany

The Federal Republic of Germany lies in the heart of Europe and is a cosmopolitan, democratic country with a great tradition and a lively present. Germany has one of the world’s strongest economies and offers an innovative research and education landscape. At the same time it has a strong creative economy and a dynamic cultural scene.

The Country: Located in the Centre of Europe

Germany is surrounded by nine neighbouring countries. Its territory encompasses roughly 357,000 square kilometres. It stretches from the North Sea and the Baltic Sea in the north to the Alps in the south. Some of the largest European rivers – the Rhine, the Danube and the Elbe – flow through Germany. German landscapes are extraordinarily varied and attractive: low and high mountain ranges, extensive lake lands, forests and roughly 2,390 kilometres of coastline.

Economy: Strong Competitor in the World Market

Germany has the largest economy in the European Union and the fourth largest in the world. Germany is the world’s third strongest exporting nation. German companies enjoy an excellent international reputation. They stand for the “Made in Germany” seal of quality, for innovation, quality and advanced technology. In addition to well-known global players, Germany’s industry-driven economy is also characterised by many world market leaders from the small and medium-sized business sector. Important industries include vehicle manufacturing, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, chemicals, environmental technology and nanotechnology. Germany is Hong Kong’s and China’s most important trade partner in Europe. At present, more than 500 German companies are located in Hong Kong.

Science and Scholarship: Innovative Education and Research Landscape

Germany is a "land of ideas". Great significance is attached to education and learning as well as research and development. There are some 390 institutions of higher education in Germany, which is the world's most attractive country for international students after the USA and the UK. Among European countries, Germany ranks first when it comes to patent registrations and is one of the world's three most innovative countries alongside Japan and the USA. A total of 68 of the 80 German Nobel laureates received the prestigious prize for achievements in natural sciences. Organisations of extra-university research, such as the Max Planck Society, Fraunhofer Society, Leibniz Community and Helmholtz Association with their hundreds of institutes, provide ideal working conditions for researchers and are internationally renowned.

Society: Lively Diversity

Germany is the European Union's most populous nation with 82 million inhabitants. They include roughly 15 million with a migrant background, some 7 million of whom are foreigners, while 8 million hold German citizenship. German society is marked by a pluralism of lifestyles and a diversity of ethnic and cultural outlooks.

Culture and Language: Rich Tradition and Creative Present

Germany is the country of Goethe, Schiller and Thomas Mann, Bach, Wagner and Beethoven. Culture traditionally has a high standing and has many facets: Germany has some 300 theatres and 130 professional orchestras as well as 630 art museums with many internationally renowned collections. With some 94,000 new books and re-issues published every year, Germany can also be counted among the great book nations. Its young contemporary painting is internationally sought-after and German cinema is also celebrating new successes in many countries around the world. Some 120 million people speak German as their native language and it is the most widely spoken mother tongue in the European Union. Approximately 17 million people worldwide are currently learning German as a foreign language in courses at institutions.

Savoir Vivre: High Quality of Life

Germany is a modern and open-minded country with high quality of life, influenced in many ways by multinational diversity. Germany offers a great deal of savoir vivre and everyday culture: German cuisine is regionally diverse and produces the highest number of three-star restaurants after France. The winegrowers of the 13 winegrowing regions rely on high-quality products and German Riesling is internationally successful. Germany is also popular as a tourist destination among numerous visitors from abroad. Tourist attractions in Germany include not only the capital city Berlin and other cultural and historical centres, but also ambitious concert series, festivals and major sporting events. Germany boasts 14 national parks, 101 nature parks and 15 biosphere reserves. Fashion and design are highly regarded and members of Germany's creative professions are as successful internationally as German architects, many of whom have specialised in the design of sustainable buildings.

Higher Education System

All over the world, German higher education institutions enjoy an excellent reputation. German degrees carry great prestige while teaching and research provide key impulses for innovation and progress. Institutions boast state-of-the-art equipment and labs to provide students with the very best conditions for successful studies

At a very competitive price, more than 390 higher education institutions offer thousands of degree programmes, making Germany's higher education landscape diverse and affordable. 111 universities, 224 universities of applied sciences as well as 56 colleges of art and music cover over 400 disciplines and, thus, offer the possibility of pursuing almost any specialisation or research project you may have in mind (www.study-in.de).

What is more: many German universities offer courses taught in English that lead to internationally recognised degrees, such as Bachelor's, Master's or PhD (www.daad.de/idp).

Today, more than 250,000 international students are studying in Germany, making it the most popular host country for students after the USA and the UK. Prominent fields of study include:

Engineering Sciences, Natural Sciences, Economics and Business Administration, Arts, Music, Architecture and Design.

Germany offers various forms of research locations: All in all, there are approximately 750 public-funded research institutions in Germany, plus research and development centres run by industrial corporations. The annual research budget is up to 69.9 billion euro (www.research-in-germany.de).

Tuition Fees and Living Costs

Germany is an inexpensive option for study compared to other popular study destinations, as public higher education institutions in Germany receive substantial state funding. As a result, German universities charge no or only very moderate tuition fees. Moreover, international students are subject to the same fees as German students. Where fees are charged, they currently range between 0-500 euro per semester which means that a full Bachelor's programme often costs as little as HK\$30,000. A Master's degree (except MBA) usually costs around HK\$20,000 and at the PhD level there are generally no fees at all. Living expenses amount to around 650-750 euro per month depending on the region.

Scholarships and Funding

The diversity of sponsoring options is unique. Alongside the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), up-and-coming scientists are also supported by numerous prominent foundations such as the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation or the VW Foundation. In addition, there are individual programmes provided by universities and extramural research establishments. Details on the programmes offered by DAAD as well as by other scholarship-awarding organisations can be found at: www.funding-guide.de and www.research-in-germany.de

Where can I find more information?

General Information on University Programmes

- www.higher-education-compass.de
- www.university-ranking.de
- www.daad.de

International Degree Programmes

- www.daad.de/idp

Summer Schools

- www.summerschools-in-germany.de

Research in Germany

- www.research-in-germany.de
- www.euraxess.de

Language, Culture and Life in Germany

- www.study-in.de

Learning German in Hong Kong

- www.goethe.de/hongkong

DAAD Information Centre Hong Kong & Macau

c/o Hong Kong Baptist University,
Room 833, 8/F, David C. Lam Building,
Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 3411 5326 or (+852) 3411 2142
Fax: (+852) 3411 2749
E-mail: daadhk@hkbu.edu.hk
<http://ic.daad.de/hongkong>

German Consulate General

21/F United Centre, 95 Queensway,
Admiralty, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 2105 8788 | Fax: (+852) 2865 2033
www.hongkong.diplo.de

Students' Quotes

"...it is indeed a great opportunity to work with international experts. Germans are renowned for being earnest and meticulous at work, this is very admirable from them." Lucia Li, Pre-departure Briefing Interview

"During my stay in Bonn I met a lot of new friends from all over the world and built up real friendship with them." Bonnie Ka-Yan, e-mail survey for last year's outgoing students

"I was impressed by the German students' earnest learning attitude during the lesson, they are attentive and responsive to teachers' questions." Jenny Law, e-mail survey for last year's outgoing students



Greece

Basic Information about Greece

Greece lies at the meeting point of three continents – Europe, Asia and Africa and consists of a mountainous, peninsular mainland jutting out into the Mediterranean Sea at the southern end of the Balkans. Due to its highly indented coastline and numerous islands, Greece has the 11th longest coastline in the world with 13,676 km. From the waters surrounding the mainland, emerge a vast number of about 6,000 islands and islets, 227 of which are inhabited.

Greece is widely considered as the cradle of Western civilization, thanks to its rich history, which dates back to ancient times. Being the birthplace of major political, philosophical, scientific ideas and inventions, which still govern and enrich our lives, Greece offers a unique experience of bridging the past with the present.

Foreign students are quickly made feel home, while they enjoy Greek hospitality and a very mild climate.

Structure of Higher Education

In Greece, Higher Education is divided into Higher University Education and Higher Technological Education.

Undergraduate Studies

- **University Education**

The university education system comprises universities, polytechnics, the Higher Fine Arts Institute and the Greek Open University. There are 22 public universities in Greece, located in various towns. University studies last in principal four years. The academic year consists of two

semesters with 13 full weeks of tuition and three weeks of examinations. The students who complete their studies receive a degree or diploma depending on the faculty in question.

- **Higher Technological Education**

The focus of the Technological Educational Institutes (TEIs) is on the absorption and transfer of scientific data into the production process. The courses are more practically oriented than the respective in universities. Studies last four years, during the final semester students may also practice their desired profession on a trial basis, with assessment. The TEIs cover specializations in the fields of graphic arts and art studies, management and economics, healthcare, applied technology, food technology and nutrition, agricultural technology and music technology.

- **Higher Training**

The higher education system also includes various institutes providing vocational training in the field of religion, arts, tourism, military and public order.

Post-Graduate Studies

In Greece post-graduate studies lead to the award of a **post-graduate diploma of specialization**. The general goal of post-graduate studies is to allow students to specialize in certain fields. Greek universities offer a total of 213 post-graduate courses; the Greek Open University offers ten post-graduate courses. On completion the students are awarded a post-graduate diploma of specialization. The post-graduate courses are open to university and TEI graduates. The candidates are chosen on the basis of a selection process or their (oral and/or written) examination results. Besides, candidates are required to know at least one foreign language. Courses last at least one calendar year.

Doctoral Studies

Doctoral studies lead to the award of a **doctorate**. The general goal of doctoral studies is high-level specialization in strategic areas of knowledge and the promotion of fundamental research in various scientific fields with a view to strengthening the country's scientific base. In the case of universities that offer post-graduate courses it is essential to have a post-graduate diploma in order to obtain a doctorate. Permission to prepare a doctoral dissertation at universities which do not offer regular post-graduate courses is granted to applicants who meet certain prerequisites. The departments themselves lay down the admission requirements.

Entry Requirements

The number of students allocated to each University and Technological Educational Institute department is being laid down annually by the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs.

The basic requirement for admission to tertiary education is possession of the Unified Lyceum graduation certificate. Foreign students can be admitted to Higher Education in Greece on the basis of foreign graduation certificate grades by submitting an application for the Faculties and the Departments preferred to the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs.

The official language of tuition is generally Greek so, with regard to their registration, candidates who are admitted either into a Faculty or a Department must also hold a certificate denoting their command of the Greek language (such a certificate is issued after relevant examinations either by the University of Athens or by the University of Thessaloniki; alternatively, the candidate should hold a 3rd level or higher certificate issued by the Greek Language Centre of Thessaloniki). Candidates who do not hold any of those language certificates, can only enrol in the next academic year of their admission to a Greek University, on condition that they will, by then, have obtained the prerequisite language certificate.

A significant number of study programmes at pre-graduate and mainly post-graduate level are offered in English.

Tuition Fees

Tuition in public universities is generally free of charge but there are some exceptions, mainly in the case of certain post-graduate programmes and studies at the Greek Open University.

Foreign students who come from countries which are not members of the European Union (non-EU students) pay fees so as to cover a small percentage of both their expenses of their studies and the books they are granted.

Scholarships

- **Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs** offers scholarships for people of foreign nationality for different kind of studies, namely under- and postgraduate, doctoral studies and research, studies of Greek language and civilization. Applicants submit their application through the Greek Diplomatic Authorities in their country. For more information please visit www.minedu.gov.gr
- **The State Scholarships Foundation (I.K.Y.)** grants scholarships for postgraduate or postdoctoral studies in Greece to all foreigners as well as scholarships for the attendance of the Modern Greek Language and Culture. The programmes for postgraduate/postdoctoral studies are announced around January/February of each year and the scholarships are offered to nationals (foreigners or of Greek origin) from: (a) The European Union member states, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, U.S.A., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan and (b) Balkans, Central or Eastern Europe (non members of the European Union), Asia, Africa and Latin America. For the programme for the attendance of seminars of Modern Greek Language and Culture applicants must be nationals of Europe, North and South America, Asia, Africa and Oceania graduated from a Foreign University in Humanities. For further information please visit: www.iky.gr
- **Non Government institutions** also offer various scholarships. For example, the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation (www.onassis.gr) offers research grants and educational Scholarships. The programme is addressed to non Greeks, full Members of National Academies, University Professors of all levels (Ph.D. holders), postdoctoral researchers (Ph.D. holders), artists, elementary and secondary school teachers of the Greek language as a foreign one, post-graduate students and Ph.D. candidates.

Where can I find more information?

- **Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs:** www.minedu.gov.gr
- **List of all Accredited Universities and Colleges in Greece:**
www.studyineurope.eu/study-in-greece/higher-education-institutions
- **Eurybase - Descriptions of National Education Systems and Policies**
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/eurybase_en.php#description
http://europa.eu/youth/studying/index_he_en.html
- **General Consulate of Greece in Hong Kong and Macau**
Room 1208, 12/F Harcourt House, 39 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 2774 1682 | Fax: (+852) 2705 9796 | E-mail: grgencon.cg@mfa.gr



Hungary

Basic Information about Hungary

Hungary is a landlocked country located at the heart of Europe. Situated in Central Europe, Hungary has always been a meeting-point of European cultures. Its capital, Budapest, is a metropolis with 2 million inhabitants and is seen by many as one of the most beautiful European cities. The country's climate is continental and is protected from excessive climatic changes and natural catastrophes.

With a population of around 10 million, Hungarian culture is unmistakable, as it combines Western European style with Eastern European spice. Hungarian is the country's official language, although English and German are taught in schools as secondary languages.

The country boasts a rich heritage that attracts people from all over the world. Hungary presents geological sites and palaeontology remains, ancient Roman ruins, relics of Turkish culture, and well-preserved buildings, providing an overview on the different styles of the history of European architecture. Eight of these sites have been declared by UNESCO to be part of the World Heritage.

Based on its rich cultural and folklore tradition, Hungary has also become a centre of not only classical and contemporary European art, music and literature, but also a site for avant-garde and experimental cultural movements.

The Higher Education System

The higher education system in Hungary has three levels. The Bachelor (undergraduate – 3 years), Master (graduate – 2 years) and PhD (doctoral – 3 years) degrees awarded by Hungarian higher education institutions are recognised in all European Union countries.

At present, Hungary's higher education system comprises 19 state-financed universities, two public universities, 9 state-financed colleges, 26 religious educational institutions and 11 colleges operated by public foundations.

Scholarships

• Hungarian Scholarship Board

HSB is responsible for submitting proposals to the Ministry of Human Resources regarding international mobility and the national policy of scholarships and grants; participating in the preparation of action plans based on bilateral agreements; defining competition criteria and nominating candidates for scholarships and grants by evaluating and ranking over 2,000 applications per year. These scholarships and grants (largely financed by the Ministry of Human Resources of Hungary) are based on a pool system as well as on bilateral educational, scientific and cultural exchange programmes with 45 countries. These international agreements enable students, postgraduates, professors, researchers and artists to widen their professional experience in Hungary.

• Study Programmes in the Balassi Institute

Hungarian language courses: They offer language courses of 60-300 lessons at all levels and with various timings (from 2*3 to 5*4 hours/week). The students of their Summer University participate in 25 language lessons per week. This is rounded up by 5-6 lectures (offered also in English) on a wide range of subjects, and cultural programmes and excursions are also offered to them. Students receive up to 20 ECTS credits for their work.

Their Preparatory Courses for University Studies are designed for young people from abroad who plan to continue their studies in a Hungarian higher education institution. The one-year course with an overall of 900 lessons starts with an intensive language course, which is later supplemented with studies in a chosen field and its terminology (specialisations offered: economics, medicine, engineering, law and humanities). Preliminary knowledge of Hungarian is not necessarily required.

Their university level curriculum in Hungarian Studies, prepared in co-operation with the University of Pécs, offers a 10-month programme for people studying Hungarian at foreign universities. 26/46/55 ECTS credit points are available for attending the course. Their one-year Translators' Course is open to people with a good command of Hungarian who plan to start a literary translator's career. Their courses are open both for self-financed students and on scholarship basis.

Where can I find more information?

- **More details about Hungary's higher education system and major universities are available at the Ministry of Human Resources' website:** www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-human-resources
- **For further information on HSB scholarships:** www.scholarship.hu



Ireland

Basic Information about Ireland

Ireland (Éire) is located on the third largest island in Europe, between the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea. Ireland, which has a large central lowland with a relief of hills and several coastal mountains, is renowned for its beautiful, unspoilt countryside. The capital, Dublin, pulsates with energy thanks to its excellent restaurants, legendary pubs, beautiful art galleries, verdant urban parks, elegant architecture plus its unique scenic location perched at the edge of the Irish Sea. Ireland has a population of approximately 4.5 million. Ireland is a native English speaking country.

Ireland is an increasingly popular destination for students from all over the world. The friendliness and hospitality for which Irish people are renowned for, contribute to the ease with which overseas students adapt to the way of life and in particular, student life.

The Higher Education System

The higher education system (third level) in Ireland is broad in scope and encompasses the university sector, the technological sector, education colleges and private, independent colleges. The institutions which fall within the first three groupings are autonomous and self governing, but substantially statefunded. Admission requirements for overseas students are determined individually by each institution and are generally based on national examination performance and English language aptitude. The following academic awards can be acquired at Irish third level institutions:

- **Higher Certificate:** two-year full-time course.
- **Ordinary Bachelor's Degree:** three-year full-time course.
- **Honours Bachelor's Degree:** normally a three- or four-year course.
- **Graduate Diploma:** designed for graduates seeking vocational reorientation – usually a one-year course.
- **Master's Degree:** either by research or through a taught programme. Normally one-two year(s) in duration.
- **Doctorate (PhD):** usually takes a minimum of three years of original research. The academic year typically runs from September to June and is divided into either two or three semesters.

Tuition Fees and Living Costs

Tuition fees in Ireland vary depending on University and Programme, but are usually in the range Euro 9,000 to Euro 20,000. Living costs inclusive of accommodation and utilities are estimated between Euro 5,000 and Euro 10,000 per year, depending on lifestyle and location.

Scholarships

Some scholarships for overseas students are available from the universities and colleges themselves. Students are advised to contact the international office of the institution of their choice directly to obtain further information.

Information on scholarships is also available at www.educationinireland.com.

Where can I find more information?

- **Education in Ireland:** www.educationinireland.com
- **Quality and Qualifications Ireland:** www.qqi.ie
- **National Framework of Qualifications:** www.nfq.ie/nfq/en
- **Irish Council for International Students:** www.icosirl.ie
- **Consulate of Ireland**
c/o Heidrick & Struggles
Suite 1408, Two Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 2527 4897 | Fax: (+852) 2824 9127 or (+852) 2519 8411
E-mail: info@consulateofireland.hk



Italy

Basic Information about Italy

Italy is located in southern Europe, in the centre of the Mediterranean. Due to its geographical location, Italy became along centuries a bridge between various cultures and civilizations. The territory of the country includes the mainland and the islands of Sicily and Sardinia, as well as some other smaller islands. Italy has a population of more than 60 millions people. The official language is Italian and Rome, the capital of the country, is also the location of the Vatican City State.

Art and culture play a very important role in a country where beauty, design, good taste and fashion are an everyday imperative and represent a synonymous of lifestyle that, combined with a high quality of University education, make Italy an ideal place for living and studying.

The Higher Education System

Italy has a very long tradition in higher education. It is the country where the first and most important European Universities were founded during the Middle-ages.

In addition to this, Italy has played an important role in European higher education reform, providing its contribution to the so-called "European Area of Higher Education", which is being implemented all over Europe.

At present, the Italian University system is made up of 89 University institutions (falling under the supervision of the Ministry of Education) which can be classified as public Universities (58), non State Universities (17), Universities for foreigners (2), higher schools specialised in postgraduate studies (6) and long distance learning Universities (6).

In addition to this, there are 4 other types of educational institutions, namely higher schools of design, fine arts, drama art and music, higher schools of "mediazione linguistica" (for language and cultural mediation), higher technical education & training (IFTs) and others institutions in a few

specific fields (e.g. archiving, diplomacy, restoration, military studies, etc.). These 4 types fall under the supervision of Ministries other than that of Education.

Undergraduate studies consist of Corsi di Laurea (CL=First Degree Courses) aimed at guaranteeing students adequate command of general scientific methods and contents, as well as specific professional skills. First degree courses last three years.

Graduate studies include Corsi di Laurea Specialistica (CLS=Specialized Degree Courses), Corsi di Specializzazione di 1° livello (CS1=First Level Specialized Degree Courses) and Corsi di Master Universitario di 1° livello (CMU1=First Level University Master's Degree Courses). The duration of the courses varies from two to three years.

Postgraduate studies include Corsi di Dottorato di Ricerca (CDR=Research Doctorate Programmes), Corsi di Specializzazione di 2° livello (CS2=Second Level Specialisation Courses) and Corsi di Master Universitario di 2° livello (CMU2=Second Level University Master's Degree Courses).

Classes are mainly held in Italian, although there is an increasing number of courses offered in English language. Students are requested to be fluent in Italian and to pass a language test prior to admission. Students can get prepared and attend language courses either at the State Universities, such as the University for Foreigners of Perugia (www.unistrappg.it) or of Siena (www.unistrasi.it), or at other private institutions authorized to issue the required certification.

To be eligible for admission students are required to hold a school qualification conferred on completion of minimum 12 years of previous schooling. Candidates may contact the Italian local diplomatic mission for further information and for official submission of pre-enrolment documents at least six months before departure. Please note that the academic year starts in October.

Tuition Fees and Living Costs

Tuition fees in public universities are between 1,000-3,000 Euros, while private Universities are more expensive and the tuition fees can be around 15,000 Euros. The living costs are estimated to be around 1,800 Euros per month (but a little bit lower in smaller cities).

Scholarships

Tuition Fees are usually low as most Universities benefit from public financial support. All international students are entitled to the same student assistance services as Italian students including scholarships, dining hall services and housing. However, the total number of foreign students is restricted.

Every University offers the services of a Tutor Office that can be contacted for inquiries on scholarships and student assistance services.

Where can I find more information?

- **Italian Higher Education:** www.study-in-italy.it
- **Ministry of Universities and Research (Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca):** www.istruzione.it
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministero degli Affari Esteri):** www.esteri.it
http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Ministero/Servizi/Stranieri/Opportunita/BorseStudio_stranieri.htm [scholarships of the MFA]
- **Consulate General of Italy in Hong Kong**
Suite 3201, 32/F Central Plaza, 18 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 2522 0033 or (+852) 2521 9677 | Fax: (+852) 2845 9678
E-mail: Culturale.hongkong@esteri.it | www.conshongkong.esteri.it



Latvia

Basic Information about Latvia

Latvia is comparatively small country in north-eastern Europe, on the east coast of the Baltic Sea and is bound by Belarus, Estonia, Lithuania and Russia. It is situated on a trade crossroads and has long since served as a bridge between Western Europe and Russia. Nearly one third of the 2.3 million people population live in Riga, the capital of the country. The landscape of the country is marked by lowland plains and rolling hills. It has an extensive network of rivers, thousands of lakes and hundreds of kilometres of undeveloped seashore lined by pine forests, dunes, and continuous white sand beaches. The official language is Latvian. The most widely used foreign languages in the country are English, Russian and German.

The Higher Education System

The system of higher education is binary. Most universities and other institutions of higher education offer both academic and professional programs. Academic higher education programs are based on fundamental and/or applied science; they lead to a Bachelors degree and Masters degree. A Bachelor's degree is awarded after three or four years of study. The Bachelors degree is considered a complete academic qualification. A Master's degree is obtained on successful completion of a second phase of academic higher education, lasting one or two years. Bachelor's or Master's degrees are not awarded in medicine or dentistry, but a degree in medicine or dentistry is equated to a master's degree. Doctoral programmes have length of 3 to 4 years at different institutions.

There are six universities and a number of other higher educational institutions in Latvia. All the universities and 32 other institutions (including 18 colleges) are state-run. In addition, there are 22 private institutions (including eight colleges), all of which are state-recognized. All the recognized institutions enjoy autonomy.

Scholarships

The Latvian higher education system is open to international students. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia offers scholarships to students and teaching staff of several countries for studies and research work in state higher education institutions, as well as for participation in summer schools. The eligible countries whose citizens can apply for the Latvian scholarship are the following: Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Greece, Belgium (Flanders Community and Belgian French Community), China, Estonia, Israel, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, and Hungary.

Where can I find more information?

- **Ministry of Education and Science:** <http://izm.izm.gov.lv/58.html>
- **Latvian Academic Information Centre:** www.aic.lv/portal/en



Basic Information about Lithuania

Lithuania is the largest of the three Baltic States. It is bound by the Baltic Sea, Latvia, Poland and the Kaliningrad Region of Russia and Belarus. The capital of the country is Vilnius. Lithuania has a population of slightly over 3 million people. The official language is Lithuanian.

From cities and towns full of historic monuments to wonderful retreats in a pristine natural environment, Lithuania has places to go and see for everyone. Officially recognized as the geographical centre of Europe and connected by numerous routes to major European cities, Lithuania can be easily reached by land, water or air.

The Higher Education System

In Lithuania, higher educational institutions provide study programmes of varying duration and levels. The institutions are of two types: universities and colleges (non-university higher educational institutions). University studies provide universal academic education, theoretical training and the highest level of professional excellence. Higher education studies in colleges are oriented towards training for professional activities, practical training covers at least one third of the study programme, in colleges, applied research is carried out.

There are 47 higher education institutions in Lithuania. There are 14 state and 9 private universities, 13 state and 11 private colleges.

Studies are conducted according to degree and non-degree study programmes. Studies can be of different intensity: full-time and part-time. They are organised in three cycles:

- **The 1st cycle:** undergraduate studies leading to a Professional Bachelor's (Profesinis bakalauras) degree (in colleges). The duration of full-time studies in colleges is usually three years and the duration of part-time studies is four years;
or
undergraduate studies leading to a Bachelor's (Bakalauras) degree and/or professional qualification (at universities). The most common duration of full-time Bachelor's studies at universities is four years, the duration of part-time Bachelor's studies is mostly five years.
- **The 2nd cycle:** graduate studies leading to a Master's (Magistras) degree. The duration of Master studies is 1.5 to two years.

University degree study programmes can be integrated, when studies of the first and second cycles are combined (e.g. in law, medical studies, etc.).
- **The 3rd cycle:** postgraduate studies leading to a Doctor's degree in science or art can be conducted by universities or universities together with research institutions.

Non-degree studies (residency, teacher training) can be conducted by universities and/or colleges.

Higher education institutions can provide joint study programmes, upon the completion of which a joint qualification degree is awarded, as well as programmes, upon the completion of which a double qualification degree is awarded. A joint qualification degree is awarded in the case where the study programme is conducted by at least two institutions of higher education, usually in different countries. A double qualification degree is awarded when the study programme meets both the requirements of the major study field and minimum requirements of another study field.

Scholarships

Education Exchanges Support Foundation, the institution authorised by the Ministry of Education and Science of Lithuania to administrate the state scholarships programme, offers scholarships within the framework of bilateral agreements on terms and conditions stipulated in them. Candidates from other countries can also apply for scholarships for Lithuanian and (or) Baltic studies at the higher education institutions of Lithuania. The scholarships can be granted for a semester or two (up to 10 months) of Lithuanian (Baltic) studies, also - for Lithuanian language and culture summer courses (3-4 weeks) in the higher education institutions of Lithuania.

Education Exchanges Support Foundation also offers Lithuanian state scholarships for full-time Master degree studies. However, this possibility is secured to the nationals of a limited number of countries.

Where can I find more information?

- **Ministry of Education and Science:** www.smm.lt/en/index.htm
- **Education Exchanges Support Foundation:** www.smpf.lt/en/statescholarships



Luxembourg

Basic Information about Luxembourg

Luxembourg is a landlocked country in western Europe bordering Germany, Belgium and France. The country is divided into two distinct geographical regions. The woody uplands of the Ardennes in the north and the fertile lowlands of the south called Bon Pays. The capital is Luxembourg. The population amounts to 0.5 million. The national language is Luxembourgish, while French is used for administrative and media purposes, although German is the main written language for the press.

The Higher Education System

• The University Sector

The University of Luxembourg was created in July 2003. The institution comprises nearly all the former existing institutions of higher education in Luxembourg.

At present, the University of Luxembourg is organised in three faculties: Sciences, Technology and Communication; Law, Economics and Finance; Languages and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education.

The University of Luxembourg offers first-degree courses leading to bachelor's degrees in the fields of law, economics, European culture studies (languages, human sciences), educational sciences, psychology, social sciences, life sciences, engineering, informatics, natural sciences and technology.

Master's degrees are also awarded. The various programmes are offered in close co-operation with foreign universities (in Belgium, France or Germany).

There are also various non-state-run initiatives offering postgraduate courses. For example, the Chamber for Private Sector Employees (Chambre des Employés Privés) organises a one-year course in collaboration with the Institute of Business Administration (of France's Université Nancy II), leading to a French postgraduate degree.

The University of Luxembourg offers students the opportunity to pursue doctoral studies under the supervision of academic staff authorised to manage doctoral theses (registration). These theses can be managed either autonomously by the University of Luxembourg or in conjunction with a co-supervisor who is also authorised to manage research resulting from a foreign research institution.

- **The Non-University Sector**

The non-university sector consists of two years' training at the further education level in a limited number of vocational areas (this selection of areas are offered by further education colleges) leading to a Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (higher technician's diploma).

Scholarships

The Centre for Educational Guidance and Counselling (Centre de Documentation et d'Information sur l'Enseignement Supérieur) provides prospective students with information about higher education courses and practical information about student life in Luxembourg. Details of courses can always be obtained by approaching institutions directly.

The International Institute allocates a number of scholarships to students. If a scholarship is sought, applicants should attach an academic reference or, if they are already employed in a profession, a reference from their employer.

Where can I find more information?

- **University of Luxembourg:** www.uni.lu
- **Ministry of National Education and Professional Training (Ministère de l'Education Nationale et de la Formation professionnelle):** www.men.public.lu
- **Honorary Consulate of Luxembourg in Hong Kong**
Suite A, 18/F, 60 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 2877 1018 | Fax: (+852) 2869 6623



malta

Basic Information about Malta

The Maltese archipelago basically consists of three islands: Comino, Gozo and Malta. Located in the Mediterranean Sea, just 93 km south of Sicily, the archipelago covers a total surface area of 316 sq. km with a population of 0.4 million. The largest island of the group is Malta, from which the archipelago takes its name. Valletta, the capital, is the cultural, administrative and commercial centre of the archipelago. The official languages are Maltese and English, but Maltese is described in the Constitution of Malta as the national language.

The Higher Education System

Higher education is mainly provided by the University of Malta.

- **University Level First Stage**

Certificates, Diplomas and Bachelor's Degrees are awarded in such fields as nursing, diplomatic studies, management, administration, law, librarian science, religious studies, arts and political and social sciences after a course lasting from one to three years. A Bachelor's (General) Degree is received in three years. A Bachelor's (Honours) Degree is received in four or five years, depending on the field of study.

- **University Level Second Stage**

The second stage leads to a Master's Degree after a period of one to two years.

Candidates must hold an appropriate first degree with at least second-class Honours. In special circumstances, candidates without an Honours Degree may be admitted after taking a one-year preparatory course and successfully passing a qualifying examination. Master's degree courses require candidates to submit a dissertation in addition to successfully completing the required courses.

• Doctorate's Degrees

Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Doctor of Law (LLD) degrees are awarded by the faculties of Medicine and Law, respectively, at the end of a 5- or 6-year course. A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree is awarded after at least 3 years of study following the award of a Master's degree. PhD candidates are required to submit a thesis after a period of research on an approved topic.

Scholarships

The higher education system of Malta is open to international students. Currently there are over 600 full-time foreign students from some 75 countries. In addition, around 300 foreign students participate in semester exchanges. At present no scholarships are available, but it is possible to enrol in higher educational institutions in Malta.

Where Can I Find More Information?

The International Office of the University of Malta (www.um.edu.mt/intoff) provides information and services regarding course requirements, accommodation, immigration, financial matters, health issues, university procedures, regulations and qualifications.

- **University of Malta, International Office:** www.um.edu.mt/intoff



Netherlands

Basic Information about the Netherlands

The Netherlands, also called Holland, is located in northwestern Europe. It is bound by the North Sea to the north and west, Germany to the east and Belgium to the south. The inland area is below sea level in some places, protected by coastal dunes and dykes. The capital of the country is Amsterdam, but The Hague is the seat of the Queen, Government and Parliament. The country has a population of 16.7 million, with a GDP of 609 billion EUR (2012 Est.) making it the 17th largest economy in the world. The official language is Dutch, while English is also widely understood and spoken.

The Higher Education System

The education system in the Netherlands is known for its high quality in education and research, its international study environment and its competitive pricing. The Netherlands has the most English taught courses after the UK.

The Netherlands higher educational system is a dual system composed of two main types of regular higher education: university education and universities of applied sciences. The universities focus on the independent practice of research-oriented work in an academic or professional setting. The universities of applied sciences are more practically oriented, preparing students directly for specific careers. Important university cities are Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Groningen, Delft, Leiden, Utrecht and Maastricht.

Universities and universities of applied sciences award both Bachelor's and Master's degrees. A bachelor's programme at a university requires three years of full-time study (180 ECTS credits) to complete, while a bachelor's programme offered by a university of applied sciences requires four years of full-time study (240 credits). Depending on the discipline, Master's programmes at universities, universities of applied sciences and institutes for International Education last one to two years (60-120 ECTS credits). Doctorate (PhD) programmes are only offered at universities and last at least four years.

Tuition Fees and Living Costs

Depending on the programme, the tuition fees for non EU residents amount to approximately HKD50,000 to HKD150,000 per year. Apart from this, the living costs (inclusive of accommodation, food, transport and utilities) are estimated between HKD9,000 to HKD13,000 per month.

Scholarships

- **Huygens Scholarships Programme (HSP)**

The HSP programme is aimed at talented students who want to come to the Netherlands in the final phase of their Bachelor's studies or during their Master's studies. Study in the Netherlands can include research and/or practical training. However, HSP scholarships cannot be awarded to finance PhD studies in the Netherlands. Part of the total budget is reserved for students following programmes in Dutch studies. The HSP programme is administered by Nuffic.

More information is available at www.nuffic.nl/hsp or hsphuygens@nuffic.nl

Where can I find more information?

- **Netherlands Education Support Office China:** Director: Marrik Bellen (mbellen@nesochina.org)
www.nesochina.org
- **Study in Holland:** comprehensive information on various aspects of study in the Netherlands.
www.studyinholland.nl
- **Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education:** www.nuffic.nl
- **Online database of English-taught study programmes in the Netherlands (more than 1,450 programmes):** www.nuffic.nl/ispacsearch
- **Database of scholarships for study in the Netherlands:** www.grantfinder.nl
- **Full listing of all higher educational institutions in the Netherlands:** www.internationalstudy.nl
- Room 2402B, 24/F Great Eagle Centre, 23 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 2599 9200 | Fax: (+852) 2868 5388 | Email Consular Matters: china-ca@minbuza.nl
Email General Information: information@netherlands-cg.org.hk | www.hollandinhongkong.org



Poland

Basic Information about Poland

Poland is situated in Central Europe. It is bound by the Baltic Sea, Belarus, the Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Slovakia and Ukraine. The country is mostly part of the Great European Plain, while to the south, the plain rises to the Carpathian and Sudeten Mountains. There are 38.2 million inhabitants in the country. The official language is Polish. The capital of the country is Warsaw.

The Higher Education System

At present there are a total of 121 state higher educational institutions and not less than 210 non-state higher educational institutions in Poland, which offer a very wide range of different courses and programmes (private schools of higher education must receive permission to operate from the Ministry of National Education; they acquire a legal status when registered by the Minister of National Education). Among the higher schools, there are both university-type and non-university type (professional education) institutions. State and non-state higher professional (vocational) schools train students in professional specialisations and prepare them for specific professions by including 15-week internships and school practice in the mandatory curriculum.

Graduates of higher professional courses are awarded the title of Bachelor of Arts/Science or Engineer (Bachelor of Engineering) after 3 to 4 years of study. Graduates of university-type higher educational institutions are awarded the title of magister (Master of Arts/Science) or its equivalent after taking standard 5-year MA/MSc level courses or 1.5 to 2-year complementary MA/MSc level

courses (intended for holders of the professional title of Bachelor of Arts/Science or Engineer received either at university-type institutions or institutions of higher professional education).

The academic degree of doktor (Ph.D.) is awarded to a person who has passed his/her doctoral examinations and submitted and defended a doctoral dissertation (holding the title of magister or its equivalent is a necessary condition for successively obtaining the doktor's degree).

Scholarships

Persons interested in studying in Poland are welcome to contact respective Polish higher educational institutions in order to obtain detailed information on the conditions of admission and the courses and programmes which they offer to foreign students.

Where can I find more information?

- **Study in Poland:** www.studyinpoland.pl
- **Consulate General of the Republic of Poland**
Room 2506 Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 2840 0779 | Fax: (+852) 2596 0062



Portugal

Basic Information about Portugal

Portugal is a modern nation leading the world in areas such as the production and use of clean energies, the development of technologies for critical information systems and the invention of innovative fabrics and footwear. Did you know that Portugal invented bullet-proof shoes?

Portuguese is the third most widely spoken European language after English and Spanish and one of the major languages of the world playing an important role in international relations as a working language of the European Union and its Latin American equivalent Mercosul. It is the mother tongue of around 230 million people globally and an official language in Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, East Timor, and Macau in China.

Portugal's attractions are manifold including a vibrant culture, outstanding food and wine, exceptional natural beauty and architectural marvels, the latter a product of a long, rich cultural history. A mild sunny climate, clean air, one of the lowest costs of living in Europe, and a tradition of welcoming foreigners, has made the country a popular tourist destination. The capital Lisbon, a white gleaming jewel of a city, is a treasure house of architecture, museums and restaurants and much more, all built on seven hills which allow for many great sea and city views.

Located at the far south-west of Europe, Portugal spreads out in series of islands into the Atlantic Ocean which forms its longest border. This location has provided not just a wonderful climate but the impetus to search out the far corners of the world. This was the first European country to find a sea route to Asia. Its long and continuous trading connection with China through its trading post in Macau is unparalleled among nations.

The Higher Education System

Higher education in Portugal is divided into two subsystems: university education and polytechnic education. Tuition fees at public universities and polytechnics are low and moderate at private universities. The two systems of higher education are linked and it is possible to transfer from one to the other. It is also easy to transfer from a Portuguese university to another university in Europe and vice-versa as European universities use a similar grading system based on the amount of work a student has to do to achieve a course outcomes. University institutions award bachelor, master and doctorate degrees while polytechnic institutions award only bachelor and master degrees.

Scholarships

Grants for master and doctorate degrees as well as post-doctorate grants, sabbatical grants, grants for scientific career development, enterprise doctorate grants and training grants at international organizations are provided by Foundation for Science and Technology (<http://alfa.fct.mctes.pt>), under the Ministry of Education and Science.

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (www.gulbenkian.pt) finances projects aiming at promoting Portuguese contemporary art abroad and international artistic exchanges.

Camões – Institute for Cooperation and Language

Acting under the oversight of Portugal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Camões Institute (IC) is the institution responsible for promoting Portuguese language and culture outside of Portugal. In order to pursue this objective, IC is signatory to a variety of cooperation agreements with foreign higher educational institutions offering a range of scholarship programmes for Portuguese and foreign students, e.g. Portuguese Language and Culture Summer Courses Programme, Annual Portuguese Language and Culture Courses Programme, Fernao Mendes Pinto Programme, Research Programme, Pessoa Programme, Vieira Programme, Protocol between Camões Institute and Eça de Queiroz Foundation, Protocol between Camões Institute and National Cultural Centre. The rules and deadlines for applications are published every year on the IC's website: www.instituto-camoes.pt

Where can I find more information?

- **Foundation for Science and Technology (Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia):** www.fct.mctes.pt
- **Office for International Relations for Science and Higher Education (Gabinete de Relações Internacionais da Ciência e do Ensino Superior):** www.fct.mctes.pt/grices/ncp
- **Directorate-General of Higher Education (Direção Geral do Ensino Superior):** www.dges.mctes.pt/dges/pt
- **Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian):** www.gulbenkian.pt
- **Camões – Institute for Cooperation and Language (Camões- Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua):** www.instituto-camoes.pt
- **Consulate General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong**
Rua Pedro Nolasco da Silva, No. 45, Macau
Tel: (+853) 2835 6660/1/2 or (+853) 2835 6632 | Fax: (+853) 2835 6658 | E-mail: mail@macau.dgacp.pt



Romania

Basic Information about Romania

Romania lies in the central south-eastern part of the European continent. Romania is the ninth largest country of the European Union by area, and has the seventh largest population of the European Union with 22.5 million people. Romania borders Bulgaria, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, and Serbia, and shares part of the Black Sea coast. The capital is Bucharest, which has a population of over 2.5 million inhabitants. The official state language is Romanian.

The Higher Education System

In Romania, higher education is provided at educational and research institutions, universities, institutes, academies, conservatories and university colleges. The state higher education system in Romania comprises 106 state higher educational institutions with 324 departments and over 30 private higher educational institutions.

Undergraduate Education

Undergraduate education provides two types of programmes:

- **Short-term University Education:** (2-3 year programme provided by university colleges): courses leading to a diploma certifying the completion of studies at a college and the passing of a relevant examination.
- **Long-term University Education:** (4-6 year programmes provided by universities, academies and conservatories): courses leading to a university diploma (equivalent to a first degree).

Graduate Education

Graduate education offers specialization or an extension of the education provided in universities. Graduate study programmes include:

- **Advanced Studies:** (1-2 years) for university graduates; graduates are awarded a degree diploma.
- **Master Studies:** (1-2 years) for university graduates.
- **Graduate Academic Studies:** (2-3 years) organized by graduate study schools attached to universities or functioning as autonomous units; the studies are organized on an inter-disciplinary basis aimed at increased professional specialization.
- **Doctoral Studies: (4-6 years)** (4-6 years) offered by universities and research institutes accredited as such; the doctoral courses are organized as day courses or night courses. The academic title of doctor granted by the institution is validated by the National Council for the Attestation of Academic Titles, University Diplomas, and Certificates.
- **Continuing Education University Courses:** lasting no more than one year, and addressed to certain employment categories for those without a university diploma.

Scholarships

Citizens from abroad may also be accepted to study on the basis of scholarships granted by Romania under bilateral agreements through the competent authorities in their countries or on the basis of scholarships and grants offered by other states or by international organizations.

Where can I find more information?

- **Consulate General of Romania in Hong Kong & Macao**
Unit 1603-1605, 16/F Tower Two, Lippo Centre, 89 Queensway, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 2523 3813 | Fax: (+852) 2523 3815 | E-mail: hkm@romcongen.com.hk
- For more information please access the website of the **Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports from Romania:** www.edu.ro



slovakia

Basic Information about Slovakia

The Slovak Republic (increasingly referred to as Slovakia), is a landlocked country at the centre of continental Europe, bound by Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Ukraine. In the north and northeast, Slovakia is flanked by the Carpathian Mountains. Hilly terrain takes up over 33% of the country's territory. Slovakia has a population of 5.4 million. The official language is Slovak, and Hungarian and Czech are widely spoken as well. The country's capital is Bratislava which lies on the river Danube close to the Austrian border just 60 km from Vienna.

The Higher Education System

Slovakia has public, state-financed, and private higher educational institutions. In all, 19 public institutions of higher learning, including nine traditional universities, three technological universities, three institutes of art and music, one institute of economics, one university of veterinary medicine, and one agricultural university, are in operation at present. The state-financed institutions include two military academies, one police academy, and one university of medicine. Under Slovakia's current Higher Education Law, its institutions of higher learning offer three levels of higher education: the first level ends with the award of Bachelor's degree (Bakalár) to graduates; the second level gives a full higher education in three degrees – Master (Magister), Engineer (Inžinier), and Doctor of Medicine (Doktor Medicíny); and the third level is completed with a Doctorate (Doctorate or PhD).

Scholarships

Establishment of the National Scholarship Programme for the Support of Mobility of Students, PhD Students, University Teachers and Researchers was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2005. The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic is funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic is intended to support mobility of foreign students, PhD students, university teachers and researchers to stay at Slovak universities and Slovak research organizations.

The following types of scholarships are available:

- Scholarships for foreign university students to take part in master's (graduate) study over a period of one to two semesters (from 5 to 10 months) at Slovak universities
- Scholarships for foreign PhD students to undertake a portion of their PhD studies over a period of 1 to 12 months at Slovak universities or research institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences
- Scholarships for foreign university teachers and researchers over a period of 1 to 12 months to carry out teaching or research at Slovak universities, research institutes, or nongovernmental organisations on the basis of an invitation

Where can I find more information?

- **SAIA – Slovak Academic Information Agency (Slovenská akademická informacná agentúra):** www.saia.sk/en

On this webpage you can find the "International Student's Guide to Slovakia" and also other links to useful websites including the full list of Slovak universities.

- **Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic:** www.minedu.sk
- **Honorary Consulate of Slovak Republic in Hong Kong**
11/F, Milo's Industrial Building, 2-10 Tai Yuen Street, Kwai Chung, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 2484 4568 or (+852) 2484 4321 | Fax: (+852) 2484 4567 or (+852) 2480 5846
E-mail: slovakconsulatehk@milos.com.hk



slovenia

Basic information about Slovenia

Slovenia is a country in southern central Europe bordering Italy to the west, the Adriatic Sea to the southwest, Croatia to the south and east, Hungary to the northeast, and Austria to the north. Because Slovenia lies at the crossroads of the Alps, the Mediterranean, the Pannonian Plain and the Dinaric Mountain Range, through the centuries, the individual Slovenian regions have developed various forms of economic activity, ways of life and cultural creativity. Slovenia has a population of 2 million people and the official language is Slovene. The capital of the country is Ljubljana, it is the largest city as well as the political, administrative, economic, educational and cultural centre of Slovenia.

The Higher Education System

Over the last fifteen years higher education in Slovenia has undergone several legislative and structural changes, rapid institutional development and a significant increase in student numbers.

The higher education reform in 2004 introduced a three-cycle structure according to the Bologna process guidelines. The first cycle has a binary system of academic and professional study programmes leading to the first cycle degree (180-240 ECTS, 3-4 years). The second-cycle offers masters courses (60-120 ECTS, 1-2 years). The third-cycle comprises doctoral studies (180 ECTS, 3 years).

Higher education institutions are universities, faculties, art academies and professional colleges. There are forty-two higher education institutions which cover all fields of study: three public universities, incorporating forty-five faculties and three art academies, one public faculty and thirty-eight private higher education institutions (two of them are universities). Under certain conditions, private higher education institutions can also offer state co-financed courses.

The academic year begins in October and lasts until the end of September in the following year. It is divided into two semesters: the winter semester usually runs from October to January and the summer semester from February to the middle of June.

Scholarships

- **The Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes** – CMEPIUS is managing scholarships awarded by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. Another organisation – Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund was established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia with the aim of providing opportunities for the international mobility of students and researchers. The Fund provides scholarships and study loans for tuition, living expenses or other costs for Slovene and foreign citizens.

For more information, see: www.cmepius.si/en or www.sklad-kadri.si/en

- **Courses of Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language**

The Centre for Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language promotes the understanding of the Slovene language, literature and culture on an international scale. The scholarships are provided mostly for lectureship in the Slovenian language.

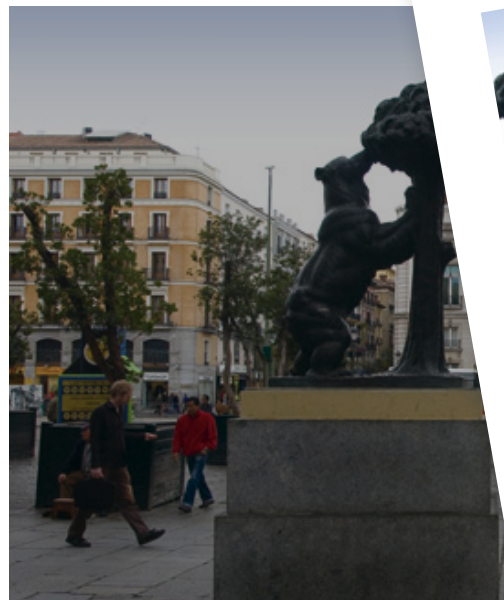
For more information, see www.centerslo.net/index.asp?LANG=eng

Where can I find more information?

- **Honorary Consulate of Slovenia in Hong Kong**

9/F, Fu Hing Building, 10 Jubilee Street, Central, Hong Kong

Tel: (+852) 2545 2107 | Fax: (+852) 2543 4669



Spain

Basic Information about Spain

Together with Portugal and Andorra, Spain makes up the geographical unit of the Iberian Peninsula, located at the south-western edge of Europe. Spain also has two large archipelagos, the Canaries and the Balearics, and a series of smaller islands and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla in the north of Africa. Its total surface area, 506,030 sq. km, places Spain among the world's 50 largest countries. Spanish territory in the peninsula covers 493,514 sq km, the Balearics 4,992 sq. km, the Canaries 7,492 sq. km and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla 32 sq. km. Spain's population is above 46 million. By sex, 51% of the populations are women and 49% are men. By age, 15.5% are below 16, 43.3% between 16 and 44 and 41% over 45.

The landscape is extraordinarily varied, ranging from desert-like areas to lush, green pastures, where mountains, valleys, rivers and beaches produce a wide variety of microclimates, which also contributes to its extraordinary beauty. Spain experiences all four seasons and has a generally temperate climate. Its location makes it one of the warmest countries in Europe and generally in winter temperatures are mild.

Spain's unique culture is the product of a heritage enriched by the many external influences which it has been subjected to over the course of its long history. The geographic location of the Iberian Peninsula makes it a natural bridge between the cultures of the north and south of Europe, America, Africa and the East. The vicissitudes of history have made it a meeting point for many different cultures, creating a rich and diverse cultural legacy in which an intense past is evident.

Spain is a parliamentary monarchy. The King, as Head of State, symbolizes its unity and permanence, acting as arbiter and moderator of the functioning of the institutions and as the country's highest representative in its international relations. The 1978 Constitution recognized and guaranteed the right to self-government of the nationalities and regions of the Spanish nation, and the solidarity between them all. Spain has 17 Autonomous Communities, and two Autonomous Cities, Ceuta and Melilla, in the north of Africa.

Spain's great cultural diversity is reflected in the variety of the languages spoken in the country. The official language is Spanish. Some Autonomous Communities have their own languages, such as Catalan, Valencian, Galician and Euskera, which are also official in their respective regions. The Spanish language has been in constant expansion since the sixteenth century. At the end of the nineteenth century there were some 60 million speakers.

A century later, with almost 400 million speakers, Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world, after Chinese Mandarin. It is the official language of some twenty countries and is one of the three languages that are regularly used as official languages by international organizations. Spain is also one of the most popular destinations for learning Spanish as a foreign language, particularly in the case of English speakers from the United States and Asia who want to learn Spanish, and students from other European Union countries.

The Higher Education System

Since the adaptation of the Spanish university system to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), the structure of university studies in Spain now comprises three cycles: bachelor's degrees (in Spanish, Grado), master's degrees, and doctoral degrees. The bachelor's and the master's degrees are taught in the following areas of knowledge: Arts and Humanities, Experimental Sciences, Health Sciences, Social and Legal Sciences, Engineering and Architecture.

- **1st Cycle: Bachelor's Degree**

The bachelor's degree (grado) replaces the old qualifications of undergraduate diplomas and degrees. To obtain a bachelor's degree, students must earn a total of 240 ECTS credits over four academic years (including an end of degree dissertation). Students must enrol for a minimum of 9 credits and a maximum of 90 in each academic year.

- **2nd Cycle: Master's Degree**

Master's degrees comprise between 60 and 120 ECTS credits, spread over one or two academic years. Official master's studies aim to prepare students for academic, professional or research work and lead to the award of the master's degree which is valid in all countries that are members of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). Students will be admitted on master's programmes in accordance with the assessment criteria stipulated for the degree in question. The universities' Commission for the Coordination of University Degrees establishes the procedures and criteria for admission to master's programmes.

- **3rd Cycle: Doctoral Degree**

Doctoral studies in Spain provide advanced training in research techniques. They are divided into two cycles: a study period requiring the student to obtain at least 60 credits (which may form part of the master's degree), and a research period, which leads up to the presentation and defence of the PhD thesis. The duration of the doctoral programme varies, but it usually takes between three and four years, counting the study period, the research period and the preparation of the thesis.

- **ECTS credits**

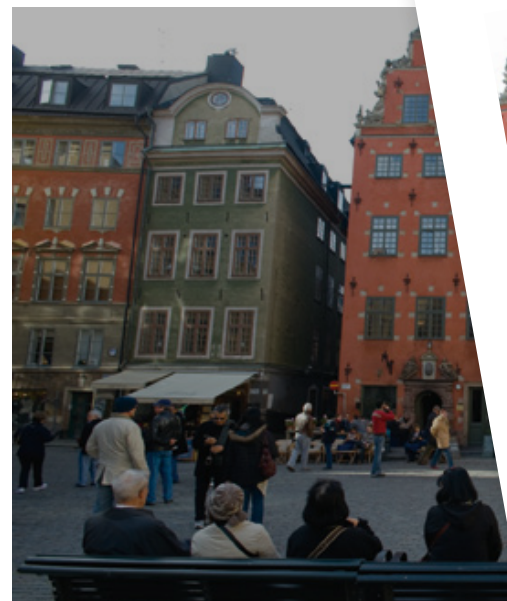
ECTS credits (ECTS = European Credit Transfer System) are the standard adopted by all the universities in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) in the process of convergence between Europe's higher education systems. ECTS credits are based on the work completed by the student, and cover hours of class, self-study, written work, and practical. An ECTS credit represents 25 hours of study. A student studying full-time is expected to obtain 60 ECTS credits in an academic year.

Scholarships

Spain offers a great variety of scholarship programmes to foreign students and specialists. Among the most important ones are the scholarship programmes of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación) through the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional) – Programas de Becas MAEC-AECI. Other ministries and administrative and territorial entities (Autonomous Communities, local organisms, etc.) or private companies also offer programmes.

Where can I find more information?

- **Scholarships of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MAEC) – Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID):** www.becasmae.es
- **Financial Assistance Opportunities, Scholarships and Donations of the Ministry of Culture:** www.mcu.es/becasAyudasSubvenciones/inicioBecasAyudasSubvenciones.html
- **Ministry of Education Scholarships:** www.educacion.es/educacion/becas-y-ayudas.html
- **Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade Scholarships:** www.mityc.es/es-ES/AyudasPublicas/Paginas/Turismobecas.aspx
- **Scholarships - Spain:** <http://becas.universia.net/es/index.jsp>



Sweden

Basic Information about Sweden

Although a small nation, Sweden has fostered many internationally known enterprises such as Ericsson, Volvo, IKEA and H&M. Sweden is a world leader in IT-sector as well as in environmental technology, engineering, medicine and biotechnology. Sweden is the land of the Nobel prizes and has its fair share of laureates. Sweden is also known for its open and liberal society with strong democratic roots. The Swedes are internationally oriented and speak English very well.

Swedish institutions of higher education offer more than 500 Master's programmes taught in English. These are available to qualified international students with a Bachelor's Degree or the equivalent in Business, Engineering, Law, Natural Science, Social Science and other subjects.

Swedish universities are renowned for their investigative research and independent thinking, and this reputation is cemented with a rigorous quality control and nationally certified degrees. Sweden has one of the most ambitious educational evaluation in Europe, aimed at maintaining this competitive edge.

Sweden has three universities in top 100 and eleven in top 500 of the 2010 edition of the Academic Ranking of World Universities compiled by Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

Swedish universities and university colleges are active partners in a wealth of international exchange networks. As such, they have the services and infrastructure it takes to make foreign students feel at home.

Studying in Sweden is different. Swedish universities have an open climate, with strong focus on work group. This will give valuable skills for the future. The global market values ambitious, innovative and perceptive team players. Swedish universities foster these qualities through a forward-thinking culture where you're close to the latest ideas and trends.

Swedish master's degree programs offer unusual opportunities to turn theory into practice. Many programmes also cooperate closely with the industry, offering students the possibility to mix studies and practical work. This gives distinct advantages over peers when entering the job market.

Study in Sweden - Swedish Institute

Address: Box 7434, S - 103 91 STOCKHOLM
www.studyinsweden.se

Main Field of Study:

- Banking / Finance / Trading / Accounting
- Business / Management / Economics
- Design
- Engineering
- Human and Social Sciences / Political Sciences
- Information Technology / Telecommunications
- Medicine / Health
- Sciences (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, etc)

The Higher Education System

Qualifications

- **Offered Degrees:** Masterexamen - Degree of master (1-2 years)
- **Admission:** Bachelor's degree or equivalent, Proficiency in English (e.g. TOFEL / IELTS - test)
- **Course Duration:** 1-2 years
- **Tuition Fees:** Tuition fees typically range from SEK 70,000-200,000 (HKD 75,000-220,000) per year. Check your chosen university's webpage for more information.
- **Language of Instruction:** English

Strong Points of the Institution

- The Swedish institute is a public agency established to increase knowledge of and interest in Sweden worldwide.
- The Swedish Institute provides updated information about study opportunities in Sweden. In the academic year 2010/2011 around 40,000 foreign students studied in Sweden.

Where can I find more information about Sweden?

- **The Swedish Institute:** www.sweden.se
- **National Agency for Higher Education:** www.hsv.se
- **International Programme Office for Education and Training:** www.programkontoret.se
- **Association of Swedish Higher Education:** www.suhf.se
- **Consulate General of Sweden**
Room 2501, 25/F BEA Harbour View Centre, 56 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 2521 1212 | Fax: (+852) 2596 0308



United Kingdom

Basic information about the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is a country and sovereign state situated off the northwest coast of Europe.

The United Kingdom is a political union made up of four constituent countries: England, Scotland, Wales (Great Britain) and Northern Ireland. Each has its own distinctive history, landscape and modern culture. The capital city is London. The two official languages in Britain are English and Welsh, English being the most widely spoken. Scottish Gaelic is also spoken in some parts of Scotland. The United Kingdom has a highly industrialised economy and the sixth-largest gross domestic product in the world. It is the third most populous state in the European Union. There are more than 3,000 educational institutions that welcome international students.

The Higher Education System

Undergraduate Study

Degrees are the most popular undergraduate qualification in the UK. They are academic courses, usually studied over three years in England, Northern Ireland and Wales, or four years in Scotland (where the title master's degree may be awarded).

- **University International Foundation Year** courses help to bridge any gaps between qualifications already held and the ones needed to begin a degree course at a UK university.

Postgraduate Study

- **Pre-master's Courses** can last from one term to a complete academic year and cover academic study, cultural instruction and language training. Many courses will guarantee progression onto a master's course at a particular university.
- **Postgraduate Certificate or Diplomas (PG Cert/Dip)** are one-year taught postgraduate courses that don't usually involve research. They're often accepted as professional qualifications in the relevant field, such as education or management, giving you a fantastic head start in your chosen career.
- **Taught Master's (MA, MSc, LLM, MEd etc)** courses generally last for one year and consist of two elements: you will complete a number of modules and produce a dissertation from original research.
- **Research Master's (MRes, MPhil)** is a master's degree by research. You will devote the entire year to research. Your final mark will be determined by the quality of your dissertation.
- **Master of Business Administration (MBA)** is a specialist business taught master's course. It's the best-known and most popular postgraduate qualification.
- **Doctorate (PhD)** will take you three to four years to complete, during which you'll be working on a single research project.
- **New Route PhDs** include taught elements as well as a research project and give you the opportunity to undertake interdisciplinary study.

Scholarships

There is a wide range of scholarships available for international students to study in the UK, ranging from school education to PhD study. Key scholarships and sources of information follow.

- British Chevening Scholarships are administered by the British Council for students studying for a Master's degree. Further information can be obtained from www.chevening.com.
- Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme (ORSAS) is intended for students of full-time postgraduate research study only and available for all subjects. Further information and list of universities participating in this scheme can be obtained from www.orsas.ac.uk.
- A number of UK universities participate in the EU's Erasmus Mundus scholarships programme. This enables successful international applicants to study for masters programmes in more than one country of the EU.

Where can I find more information?

- Other scholarships can be found at the Education UK page at www.educationuk.org.hk or www.britishcouncil.org.hk/scholarships.
- **Consulate General of United Kingdom in Hong Kong**
1 Supreme Court Road, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 2901 3000 | Fax: (+852) 2901 3040 | E-mail: information@britishconsulate.org.hk
www.britishconsulate.org.hk



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Tel: (+852) 2537 6083 | Fax: (+852) 2522 1302
E-mail: delegation-hong-kong@ec.europa.eu | www.delhkg.ec.europa.eu/en