



Choosing a Study Destination: What You Need to Know

A look into the best student cities

Deciding which city you want to get your masters degree can be tricky. For some, finding a city that has top ranked universities might be most important, while job opportunities after graduation might be more important for someone else. here is no perfect formula to use when deciding where to study. It all depends on what you want to achieve with your degree and what you want to get out of your experience abroad.

It's important to consider a variety of different factors when making your decision.

To help, we've created this small infographic based on the most common criteria students look at while choosing their postgraduate degree.

- #1 London
- #2 Tokyo
- #3 Melbourne
- #4 Montréal
- #5 Paris
- #6 Munich
- #7 Berlin
- #8 Zurich
- #9 Sydney
- #10 Seoul

Understanding the data

To help you better understand the data, you should know that:

Top Ranked Universities

Based on the top 100 universities featured on [QS World University Ranking 2018](#)

Cost of Living

Transport: This is the average price for a monthly public transport pass.*

Grocery List: The grocery list consists of 500g of boneless chicken, 1L of milk, 12 eggs, 1kg of tomatoes, 500 g of cheese, 1k of apples, 1kg of potatoes, Bread for 2 people.*

Accommodation: The numbers showed are the average price for single furnished studios of 45 m2.*

* According to [Expatistan](#) which was last checked on April 2018.

Big Mac: According to the [Big Mac Index](#)

Tuition Fees

This is the cost for undergraduate international students and it represents the average price in USD for one year, according to [QS World University rankings](#).

International Student Ratio

This has been sourced from the [QS World University Ranking 2018](#). The data is gathered from the universities that submitted their data to QS

More Info

Weather: According to [Holiday Weather](#)

Scholarships

There are many scholarships opportunities through the universities themselves and through many organisations. These are the most generic scholarships, according to [Top Universities scholarships](#)

#1

London

Home to many of the best libraries, museums, art galleries, nightclubs and theaters in the UK, and the hub of many of it's most competitive professional sectors, London has more to see and do than you'll have time to get to - even if you stay long enough to complete a PhD.

STUDENT VISA

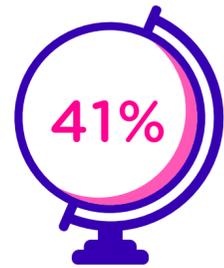
EU citizens: Not required

Non-EU citizens:

Provided you have studied a course of at least 12 months in length, your Tier 4 visa should expire four months after your course completion date

Working while Studying:

The maximum amount of part-time work you can do during term time is 20 hours per week if you are studying a course at or above UK degree level



International Student Ratio

Tuition Fees

Avg. cost per year



Scholarships



Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK



CHEVENING

Top ranked universities



Cost of Living (\$USD)

Transport (per-month)



Accommodation (per-month)



Big Mac



Grocery List (per-week)

More Info



The summers are short and partly cloudy. Rainfall is fairly regular, occurring throughout the year - varying from 4 to 20 degrees



Fish & Chips



English



Football

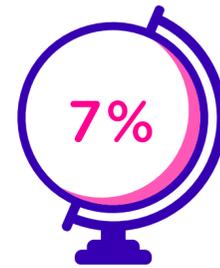
#2 Tokyo

Away from the main highways and the non-stop turnover of new gadgets in Akihabara (“electric town”), there are more tranquil pleasures to be enjoyed: shrines and temples, traditional gardens and teahouses, noodle bars and fresh sushi.

STUDENT VISA

International student visa:
You can stay in Japan and look for a job after graduating from university for a maximum of 360 days with a visa status of “Designated Activities”

Working while Studying:
“Student” visa holders can work up to 8 hours per day when school is not in session. If you would like to engage in part-time work, you need to obtain permission from the Minister of Justice.



International Student Ratio

Tuition Fees

Avg. cost per year



Scholarships



Otsuka Toshimi Scholarship Foundation

Top ranked universities



Cost of Living (\$USD)

Transport (per-month)



Accommodation (per-month)



Big Mac



Grocery List (per-week)



Tokyo has a humid subtropical climate weather with wetter summer and drier winters - varying from 5 to 26 degrees



Sushi and Ramen



Japanese



Baseball and Sumo

#3

Melbourne

Melbourne is considered to be the cultural and multicultural capital of Australia. Melbourne's locals are known for their love of sport, and you won't be left wanting in terms of nightlife. It is also notable for being one of Australia's best-preserved cities architecturally.

STUDENT VISA

International student visa:

Depending on the length of your course, your visa will be granted with 1 to 3 months once you finish your studies

Working while Studying:

International students in Australia on a valid student visa can work for up to 20 hours per week while school is in session, and there is no limit on the number of hours an international student can work during recognized school vacations.



International Student Ratio

Tuition Fees

Avg. cost per year



Scholarships



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Australia Awards Scholarships and Fellowships



Australian Government
Department of Education and Training

Australia Research Training Program (RTP)

Top ranked universities



Cost of Living (\$USD)

Transport (per-month)



Accommodation (per-month)



Big Mac



Grocery List (per-week)

More Info



the city has been described as having four seasons in one day - but it can still be enjoyed all year round - varying from 10 to 21 degrees



Chicken Parma



English



Cricket

#4

Montréal

Montréal is the biggest city in the French-speaking province of Quebec. It is widely cited as the cultural capital of Canada, Montréal boasts a unique combination of European sophistication and American pizzazz, which gives it a buzz few other places can match.

STUDENT VISA

International student visa:
Upon graduation, a foreign student may apply for a work permit under the Post-Graduation Work Permit Program. Under this program, the work permit may be issued for the length of the study program, up to a maximum of three years.

Working while Studying:
It is possible to work in Canada, while you are a student, under different visa categories.



International Student Ratio

Tuition Fees

Avg. cost per year



Scholarships



FONDATION
PIERRE ELLIOTT
TRUDEAU
FOUNDATION



International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international



Top ranked universities



Cost of Living (\$USD)

Transport
(per-month)



Accommodation
(per-month)



Big Mac



Grocery List
(per-week)



Montreal has a semi-continental climate, with a warm, humid summer and a very cold and severe winter - varying from -9 to 21 degrees



Bagels



French



Hockey

#5

Paris

If student life in Paris appeals to you, there is no shortage of great universities to choose from, including 17 public institutions (with varying specializations) and several prestigious grandes écoles. As a result, the city has a large and diverse student community, which goes a long way to guaranteeing the continued vibrancy of its long-established intellectual and creative culture

STUDENT VISA

EU citizens: Not required

Non-EU citizens:

the APS scheme entitles graduates of French Masters-level degree programmes to apply for a further one year, non-renewable temporary residence permit, which allows you to work in any job up to 60% of a normal working week

Working while Studying:

As an international student with a study visa in France, you can take on 964 hours of paid work in a single year as long as you have a valid residency permit.



International Student Ratio

Tuition Fees

Avg. cost per year



Scholarships



Erasmus+

Top ranked universities



Cost of Living (\$USD)

Transport (per-month)



Accommodation (per-month)



Big Mac



Grocery List (per-week)

More Info



The summers are short, comfortable, and partly cloudy and the winters are very cold, windy, and mostly cloudy - varying from 5 to 20 degrees



Steak and Frites



French



Football

#6

Munich

Munich is often voted one of the world's most livable cities and is home to the two highest ranked universities in Germany.

STUDENT VISA

EU citizens: Not required

Non-EU citizens:

Students from non-EU countries who wish to work in Germany after graduating can extend their residence permit for up to 18 months to find work relating to their studies.

Working while Studying:

EU citizens have full opportunities to work while they are studying in the city with very few limitations and restrictions. However, non EU citizens are restricted to working for 180 days during the school year.



International Student Ratio

Tuition Fees

Avg. cost per year



Scholarships



Top ranked universities



Cost of Living (\$USD)

Transport (per-month)



Accommodation (per-month)



Big Mac



Grocery List (per-week)

More Info



Munich has cold winters, and mild or pleasantly warm summers - varying from -1 to 18 degrees



Schweinshaxn



German



Football

#7

Berlin

Cities don't get much trendier than Berlin, which easily competes with the likes of London and New York in terms of the cool factor. It goes without saying that this tolerant, multicultural and creative city is known for being a great place for students - and it helps that it's also a relatively inexpensive place to live

STUDENT VISA

EU citizens: Not required

Non-EU citizens:

Students from non-EU countries who wish to work in Germany after graduating can extend their residence permit for up to 18 months to find work relating to their studies.

Working while Studying:

Non EU citizens are restricted to working for 180 days during the school year.



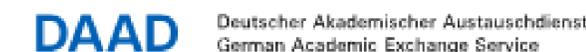
International Student Ratio

Tuition Fees

Avg. cost per year



Scholarships



Top ranked universities



Cost of Living (\$USD)

Transport (per-month)



Accommodation (per-month)



Big Mac



Grocery List (per-week)

More Info



Berlin has a continental climate with cold winters, hot summers and fairly mild autumns and spring - varying from -1 to 18 degrees



Currywurst



German



Football

#8

Zurich

Switzerland's largest city, Zurich is well-known as one of the world's major financial centers. The cost of living, as in Switzerland in general, is high, but for international students this may be offset by the country's relatively low tuition fees.

STUDENT VISA

EU citizens: Not required

Non-EU citizens:

After graduation you can remain in Switzerland for six months to look for work, on the same basis as Swiss graduates.

Working while Studying:

International students can take up part-time work for up to 15 hours a week during the semester and they can work full-time during holidays, but only after they have been living in Switzerland for at least six months.



International Student Ratio

Tuition Fees

Avg. cost per year



Scholarships



Top ranked universities



University of Zurich ^{UZH}

ETH zürich

Cost of Living (\$USD)

Transport (per-month)



Accommodation (per-month)



Big Mac



Grocery List (per-week)



The climate is moderate with no excessive heat, cold or humidity - varying from 0 to 19 degrees



Zurich Geschnetzeltes or fondue



German



Skiing

#9

Sydney

The name of Australia's biggest city tends to evoke images of beaches, surfing and drinking. While Sydney may be famed for its party lifestyle, like many cities famous for their nightlife, it is also bohemian, creative, and intellectual.

STUDENT VISA

International student visa:

Depending on the length of your course, your visa will be granted with 1 to 3 months once you finish your studies.

Working while Studying:

International students in Australia on a valid student visa can work for up to 20 hours per week while school is in session, and there is no limit on the number of hours an international student can work during recognized school vacations.



International Student Ratio

Tuition Fees

Avg. cost per year



Scholarships



Top ranked universities



UNSW SYDNEY



THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Cost of Living (\$USD)

Transport (per-month)



Accommodation (per-month)



Big Mac



Grocery List (per-week)

More Info



Sydney enjoys a sunny climate with mild winters and warm summers, perfect for making the most of the outdoors - varying from 13 to 23 degrees



Chicken Parma



English



Cricket

#10

Seoul

One of the world's 'megacities', with a population of over 10.5 million (25.6 million in its metropolitan area), the South Korean capital is home to around 40 universities.

STUDENT VISA

International student visa:

You're only eligible to work full-time in South Korea after graduating if you seek a visa for professors, have a Bachelor degree in Natural Sciences and Engineering or a Masters degree in a humanities subject from a Korean university.

Working while Studying:

If you are a Student visa holder and confirmed by the person-in-charge of the international students of your school, you may apply for a part-time job permit to the immigration (branch) office and engage in the job once granted the permit.



International Student Ratio

Tuition Fees

Avg. cost per year



Scholarships



National Institute for International Education

Top ranked universities



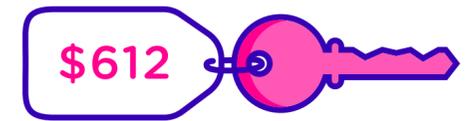
SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Cost of Living (\$USD)

Transport (per-month)



Accommodation (per-month)



Big Mac



Grocery List (per-week)

More Info



Seoul has relatively cool and sometimes quite mild winters, varying from -4 to 24 degrees



Kimchi



Korean



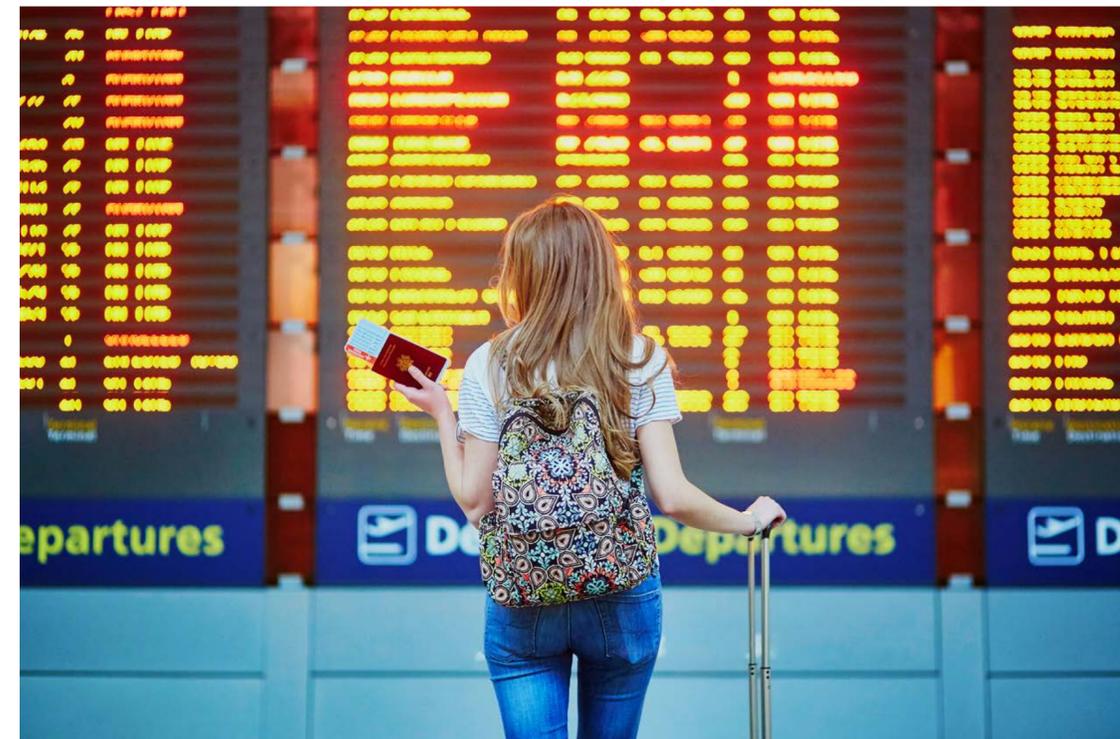
Yutnori

What's next?

Now that you've gotten more information about what it's like to live in some of the top student cities, it's time to start thinking about finding the right school for you. Starting your research can seem overwhelming, but we're here to help!

Join us at the QS World Grad School Tour for the opportunity to meet with graduate schools from around the world, and learn more about the admissions process and what each school offers. This event is the perfect place for you to kick off your study abroad journey.

[Find us in a city near you!](#)



Thank you

Thank you for viewing our guide!

We hope you've gained some useful information to consider when choosing your next study destination!

If you have any questions about the e-book or would like to provide feedback, please email: events@qs.com

