

Study in the Philippines

DXB → MNL • Manila, Philippines



The Philippines offers international students English-medium education, comparatively affordable study options and access to a diverse range of universities across Southeast Asia. The country is particularly known for programmes in medicine-related fields, nursing, engineering, business, computing, hospitality and aviation.

AT A GLANCE

Quick Facts

TUITION FEES

PHP 30,000 – 100,000 / year
(public), **PHP 100,000 – 300,000 / year** (private)

LIVING COST

PHP 25,000 – 60,000 / month
(excluding tuition)

TEACHING LANGUAGE

English (alongside Filipino)

WORKING WHILE STUDYING

No general right to work on a Student Visa

WHY PHILIPPINES

Why Study in the Philippines?

- ✓ English widely used in higher education, with programmes, textbooks, examinations and administrative services in English
- ✓ Tuition and daily living expenses can be lower than in many Western destinations
- ✓ Public and private universities in Metro Manila and cities such as Cebu, Davao, Dumaguete, Baguio and Iloilo
- ✓ Established sectors in healthcare, business-process services, IT, hospitality, maritime studies and aviation
- ✓ Many programmes include practical training, laboratory experience or internships
- ✓ A society influenced by Asian, Spanish and American history, known for hospitality, regional diversity and a large English-speaking population

COSTS

Tuition & Living Cost

Philippine institutions normally charge by unit or by semester, with additional laboratory, miscellaneous, international-student and development fees. For broad planning purposes:

INSTITUTION OR PROGRAMME	APPROXIMATE ANNUAL TUITION
Public universities	PHP 30,000 – 100,000 for many programmes
Private universities	PHP 100,000 – 300,000 for many programmes
Specialist, medical, dental and aviation programmes	Often substantially higher

These are indicative ranges rather than guaranteed fees. International-student surcharges and one-time charges can be significant.

Official examples illustrate the variation: UP Diliman lists undergraduate tuition for foreign students at PHP 1,500 per unit, plus miscellaneous, laboratory and Educational Development Fund charges, while Ateneo de Manila's published 2026 college example for 20 units shows PHP 110,691 tuition, plus basic and other fees, for a total above PHP 136,000 for the term. Some medical schools charge additional international or out-of-state fees on top of tuition and application charges.

Applicants must obtain a complete written quotation from the institution showing tuition, miscellaneous charges, international fees, laboratory costs, deposits and expected annual increases.

WHAT YOU NEED

Entry Requirements

Bachelor's programmes

Applicants normally need:

- ✓ A recognised secondary-school qualification equivalent to Philippine senior high school completion
- ✓ Required grades and prerequisite subjects
- ✓ Official transcripts and graduation certificate
- ✓ Passport and birth certificate
- ✓ Evidence of English proficiency where required
- ✓ Entrance examination, interview or portfolio for selected programmes
- ✓ Authenticated or apostilled documents according to the institution's instructions

Master's programmes

Applicants normally need:

- ✓ A recognised bachelor's degree in a relevant field
- ✓ Official degree certificate and transcripts
- ✓ English-language evidence where required
- ✓ CV, statement of purpose and references
- ✓ Professional experience, entrance test or interview for selected programmes

Doctoral programmes

Applicants generally need a relevant master's degree, strong academic record, research proposal, references and a suitable research or supervisory match.

Medicine and dentistry

International applicants may need additional documents, including a Certificate of Eligibility for Admission from CHED. Medical applicants may also need a suitable pre-medical degree, NMAT result, police clearance, medical evidence and authenticated financial-support documents. Requirements vary by school and nationality.

Language Requirement

English is widely used in Philippine higher education, alongside Filipino. Universities set their own requirements, and evidence of English proficiency is required where the institution or programme specifies it.

Student Visa Process

9(F) Student Visa

The standard 9(F) Student Visa is generally for a foreign national who:

- ✓ Is at least 18 years old
- ✓ Will study at a university, college or seminary authorised to enrol foreign students
- ✓ Has been admitted to a course above high-school level
- ✓ Has sufficient financial means to support the proposed studies

Special Study Permit

A Special Study Permit (SSP) may apply where the student does not qualify for a 9(F) visa, including certain applicants below 18, non-degree students, short courses lasting less than one year, trainees, interns and some aviation students. An SSP is a permit attached to an appropriate immigration status; it is not the same as a full Student Visa.

Typical 9(F) process

The exact route depends on nationality, country of residence, institution and instructions from the responsible Philippine representation. In some cases, the student receives a 9(F) visa through a Philippine embassy after the required authority is issued. In other authorised cases, the student may enter with the appropriate temporary status and apply for conversion to 9(F) in the Philippines. A typical process includes:

- 1 Obtain admission from a Bureau of Immigration-accredited school.
- 2 Receive the official Notice of Acceptance and institutional endorsement.
- 3 Complete any CHED eligibility or endorsement required for the programme.
- 4 Prepare passport, application forms, photographs and civil-status documents.
- 5 Obtain apostilled or authenticated police clearance and medical documents where required.
- 6 Provide proof of sufficient financial support and an affidavit or sponsorship evidence.
- 7 Submit the visa application through the institution, Bureau of Immigration e-service or Philippine embassy route specified for the applicant.
- 8 Attend a personal appearance, interview or biometrics appointment if requested.
- 9 Pay the applicable immigration and consular fees.
- 10 Complete visa implementation, registration and ACR I-Card formalities as instructed.

Common documents

Common documents may include:

- ✓ Valid passport
- ✓ Police clearance
- ✓ Completed application forms and photographs
- ✓ Medical certificate and chest X-ray where required
- ✓ Original Notice of Acceptance
- ✓ Affidavit and evidence of financial support
- ✓ Academic certificates and transcripts
- ✓ CHED Certificate of Eligibility for Admission for applicable medicine or dentistry cases
- ✓ Birth certificate
- ✓ Proof of payment or enrolment when requested

Document and fee requirements are representation-specific and can change. Applicants should follow the current checklist from the responsible Philippine embassy and Bureau of Immigration rather than relying on a generic list.

Popular Courses

Popular study areas include:

Medicine and pre-medical sciences

Nursing and allied health sciences

Dentistry, Pharmacy and Medical Technology

Computer Science, Information Technology and Cybersecurity

Data Science, Software Engineering and Information Systems

Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics Engineering

Business Administration, Management and Entrepreneurship

Accounting, Finance, Economics and Marketing

Hospitality, Tourism, Culinary Arts and Hotel Management

Aviation, Aeronautical Engineering and Pilot Training

Maritime Studies and Marine Engineering

Architecture, Interior Design and Multimedia Arts

Education, Psychology and Social Sciences

Agriculture, Environmental Science and Fisheries

The Philippine Doctor of Medicine is normally a graduate-entry professional programme. Applicants generally complete an appropriate bachelor's or pre-medical degree before applying and may need the National Medical Admission Test (NMAT). International applicants can face additional eligibility, documentation and professional-recognition requirements. Before enrolling, students must confirm that the medical qualification will be recognised in the country where they intend to practise.

Popular Universities

The following institutions are widely considered by international applicants. This is not a definitive ranking.

- University of the Philippines: science, engineering, business, humanities, law, health and research
- Ateneo de Manila University: business, social sciences, humanities, science and management
- De La Salle University: business, engineering, computing, economics and education
- University of Santo Tomas: health sciences, engineering, business, architecture and humanities
- Mapúa University: engineering, architecture, computing and technology
- Silliman University: health sciences, nursing, business, arts and environmental studies
- University of San Carlos: engineering, business, science, architecture and humanities
- Cebu Institute of Medicine: medical education
- Saint Louis University: engineering, health sciences, business and education
- Far Eastern University: business, health sciences, technology and education
- University of the East: dentistry, business, engineering and computer studies
- Asian Institute of Management: MBA, management, entrepreneurship and executive education
- Lyceum of the Philippines University: hospitality, tourism, business and international studies
- PATTS College of Aeronautics: aviation, aeronautical engineering and air-transport studies

Only institutions authorised by the Philippine Bureau of Immigration may accept foreign students for the relevant Student Visa process.

Ready to study in the Philippines?

From choosing a Bureau of Immigration-accredited school to CHED eligibility and your 9(F) Student Visa file, our counsellors guide every step of the journey.

+44 7442 978718 · +971 58 275 0963

info@edu-consultancy.com

www.edu-consultancy.com