SAHIN
TOURS AND TRAVEL
EXPLORE WITH US

STUDY ABROAD GUIDE 2025/26

Your Guide to Studying Abroad from Africa



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A Message from Our Team

Why we made this guide

Every year, thousands of students from East Africa travel abroad for university — and many of them navigate the process alone, making avoidable mistakes that cost them time, money, and in some cases their place at university.

This guide is based on the real questions our clients ask us. Which countries are realistic? What do things actually cost? How do scholarships work? What does the visa process involve? We have included specific figures and honest assessments — not the generic advice you can find anywhere online.

Şahin Tours & Travel is based in Kampala with a representative physically in Ankara, Turkey. We have helped students from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and across East Africa access universities in Turkey, Cyprus, Poland, and Hungary. We handle the application, the visa, the flights, and the arrival — and we stay in contact after the student lands.

David Kafuko & the Şahin Tours Team
Kampala, Uganda | Ankara, Turkey



Quick Facts

4+
Destinations covered — Turkey, Cyprus, Poland, Hungary

6
steps from application to arrival

200+
Universities we work with

2 offices
Kampala and Ankara

24hrs
response time on all enquiries

100%
visa application support included

Inside

Everything you need to know about university admissions, tuition costs, visa requirements, scholarships, and life as a student abroad.

Message from the Rector Quick Facts	02
Destination Comparison	04
Turkey Universities	06
Cyprus Universities	9
Poland Universities	12
Hungary Universities	15
Our 6 Step Process	18
Documents You Will Need	20
Frequently Asked Questions	23

01

DESTINATION COMPARISON





How the four destinations compare

	Turkey	Cyprus	Poland	Hungary
Tuition per year	$2,000–$6,000	$3,500–$8,000	$2,500–$6,000	$3,000–$7,000
Living costs/month	$400–$600	$600–$900	$500–$700	$500–$750
Language of study	Turkish / English	English	English / Polish	English / Hungarian
EU-recognised degree	Partly	Partly (N. Cyprus)	yes	yes
Scholarship available	Turkiye Burslari	Limited	Limited	Stipendium Hungaricum
Best for	Wide range	Medicine, Business	Medicine, Dentistry	Medicine, Engineering

Figures are indicative. We provide exact costs when we assess your specific application.

02

Turkey





🇹🇷 Turkey 200+ universities

Direct flights from Entebbe · On-the-ground support in Ankara.

Turkey has over 200 universities and receives more international students than almost any country outside the UK or USA. Tuition is 40–70% cheaper than comparable European universities, there are direct flights from Entebbe and Nairobi, and we have a representative based in Ankara who is there when you arrive.

Why Turkey?

- Tuition from $2,000–$6,000/year
- English-taught programmes across all major fields
- Turkish government scholarships available — covers tuition, accommodation, and a monthly stipend
- Direct flights to Istanbul from Entebbe and Nairobi
- Our Ankara representative provides support from the day you arrive

Costs at a glance Tuition:

$2,000–$6,000/year | Accommodation: $150–$350/month | Food & living: $200–$300/month Estimated total: $5,000–$12,000/year

Popular programmes:

Medicine, Engineering, Business, Architecture, Computer Science, Law, Tourism

Scholarship

Turkiye Burslari The Turkish government scholarship covers full tuition, dormitory accommodation, a monthly stipend (~$400), and health insurance. Application opens in January each year — deadline is typically February. We help clients prepare the application from November.

> *Visa Requires acceptance letter, proof of funds (~$300–500/month), accommodation confirmation, and health insurance. Processing: 4–6 weeks. We prepare the full application.*

Our advice:

Apply for Turkiye Burslari first. If awarded, tuition, accommodation, and a monthly allowance are all covered. Contact us in November to start preparing.

03

Cyprus





Cyprus European degrees in English · Mediterranean lifestyle · Accessible costs

Cyprus offers a European-standard degree taught entirely in English, in a safe and welcoming Mediterranean country. Northern Cyprus in particular has a large, established East African student community. The degree is internationally recognised and the cost of living is manageable.

Why Cyprus?

- Degrees taught entirely in English — no language barrier
- European-accredited programmes recognised internationally
- Large East African student community — you will not be starting from zero
- Strong for Medicine, Business, Law, and Engineering
- Safe island environment with a warm climate

Popular programmes:

Medicine, Dentistry, Business, Law, Engineering, Nursing, Computer Science, Education

Costs at a glance Tuition:

$3,500–$8,000/year | Accommodation: $250–$450/month | Food & living: $300–$450/month Estimated total: $7,000–$15,000/year

Visa Type D student visa.

Requires acceptance letter, proof of funds, accommodation confirmation, health insurance, and police clearance. Processing: 4–8 weeks. We handle both Republic of Cyprus and Northern Cyprus applications.

Our advice:

Northern Cyprus universities frequently offer partial scholarships at the time of application — 20 to 50% tuition reductions. Apply early to access the best offers. We negotiate on your behalf.



04

Poland





Poland

EU member · English programmes · Outstanding for Medicine & Dentistry

Poland is one of Europe's best-kept secrets for international students. As an EU member, Polish degrees carry the same recognition as German or French qualifications. Tuition is a fraction of Western Europe, living costs are among the lowest in the EU, and a Polish student visa is a Schengen visa — giving you access to 26 countries.

Why Poland?

- EU member — degree recognised across Europe and worldwide
- Tuition from $2,500–$6,000/year — among the lowest in the EU for English programmes
- Medicine and Dentistry graduates can practice across the EU
- Living costs $500–$700/month — far lower than Germany, France, or the UK
- Schengen visa — travel freely across 26 European countries while you study

Popular programmes:

Medicine (6 years), Dentistry, Pharmacy, Engineering, Business, Computer Science, Architecture

Costs at a glance Tuition:

$2,500–$6,000/year (Medicine: $10,000–$15,000/year) | Accommodation: $200–$400/month | Food & living: $300–$400/month Estimated total (non-medical): $6,000–$12,000/year

Visa Schengen Type D student visa.

Requires acceptance letter, proof of funds (~€500/month), accommodation confirmation, health insurance, and police clearance. Processing: 4–8 weeks.

Our advice:

If you are considering Medicine or Dentistry, Poland is one of the most cost-effective routes to an EU-recognised medical degree in the world. Apply at least 8 months before your intended start date.







05

Hungary





Hungary Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship · Strong for Medicine · Central Europe

Hungary has one of the most generous government scholarship programmes for African students — the Stipendium Hungaricum covers full tuition, accommodation, and a monthly allowance. It is open to students from Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. Outside the scholarship, Hungary is strong for Medicine, Engineering, and Veterinary Science with EU-accredited English programmes.

Why Hungary?

- Stipendium Hungaricum: fully funded — tuition, accommodation, and monthly allowance covered
- EU member — degree recognised across Europe and internationally
- Semmelweis University (Budapest) is one of Europe's most respected medical universities
- Budapest is one of Europe's most beautiful and affordable capital cities
- Lower cost of living than Western Europe — $500–$750/month

Popular programmes:

Medicine (6 years), Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Engineering, Business, Computer Science, Architecture

Costs at a glance

With Stipendium Hungaricum: tuition and accommodation covered — personal costs only ($200–$400/month) Without scholarship: Tuition $3,000–$7,000/year (Medicine: $12,000–$18,000/year) + $500–$750/month living

Scholarship — Stipendium Hungaricum Covers

full tuition, free dormitory accommodation, monthly stipend (~$170–200), supplementary health insurance. Open to students from Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. Application deadline: typically January–February for September intake. Apply through your country's Ministry of Education or the Hungarian Embassy. We help with motivation letters and document preparation.

Our advice:

Contact us by November if you want to apply for Stipendium Hungaricum. The motivation letter is the most important part — we help clients write letters that are specific, honest, and stand out.



“Visa Schengen Type D student visa. Same requirements as Poland. Processing: 4–8 weeks.

06

Our 6-Step Process





How it works — from first contact to first day of university

1. Initial Consultation : You contact us by WhatsApp, email, or the website. We discuss your academic background, preferred country, budget, and timeline. No commitment required.

2. University & Programme: Selection We identify the best-fit universities and programmes for your profile — with tuition costs, entry requirements, and honest assessments of each option.

3. Application Submission: We prepare and submit your application — personal statement, transcripts, language certificates, and all supporting documents. We handle communication with the university.

4. Offer & Acceptance: Once you receive an offer we guide you through accepting it, paying the deposit, and obtaining your official acceptance letter — the document needed for the visa.

5. Visa Application: We prepare your full student visa application. We have a strong success rate across all four destinations.

6. Arrival & Settlement: We coordinate flights and airport transfer. Our Ankara representative is available for Turkey arrivals. We stay in contact after you land.

07

Documents *you* Will Need





Start gathering these early — some take weeks to obtain

Academic Documents

- Secondary school leaving certificate (O and A Level or equivalent)
- Official academic transcripts — certified copies
- Proof of English proficiency (IELTS, TOEFL, or university test)

Identity & Personal

- Valid passport — minimum 18 months remaining validity
- Birth certificate
- Police clearance certificate (required for visa — allow 2–4 weeks to obtain)

Financial Documents

- Bank statements for the last 3–6 months
- Sponsorship letter if someone else is funding your studies
- Proof of scholarship if applicable



Start gathering these early — some take weeks to obtain

Application Documents

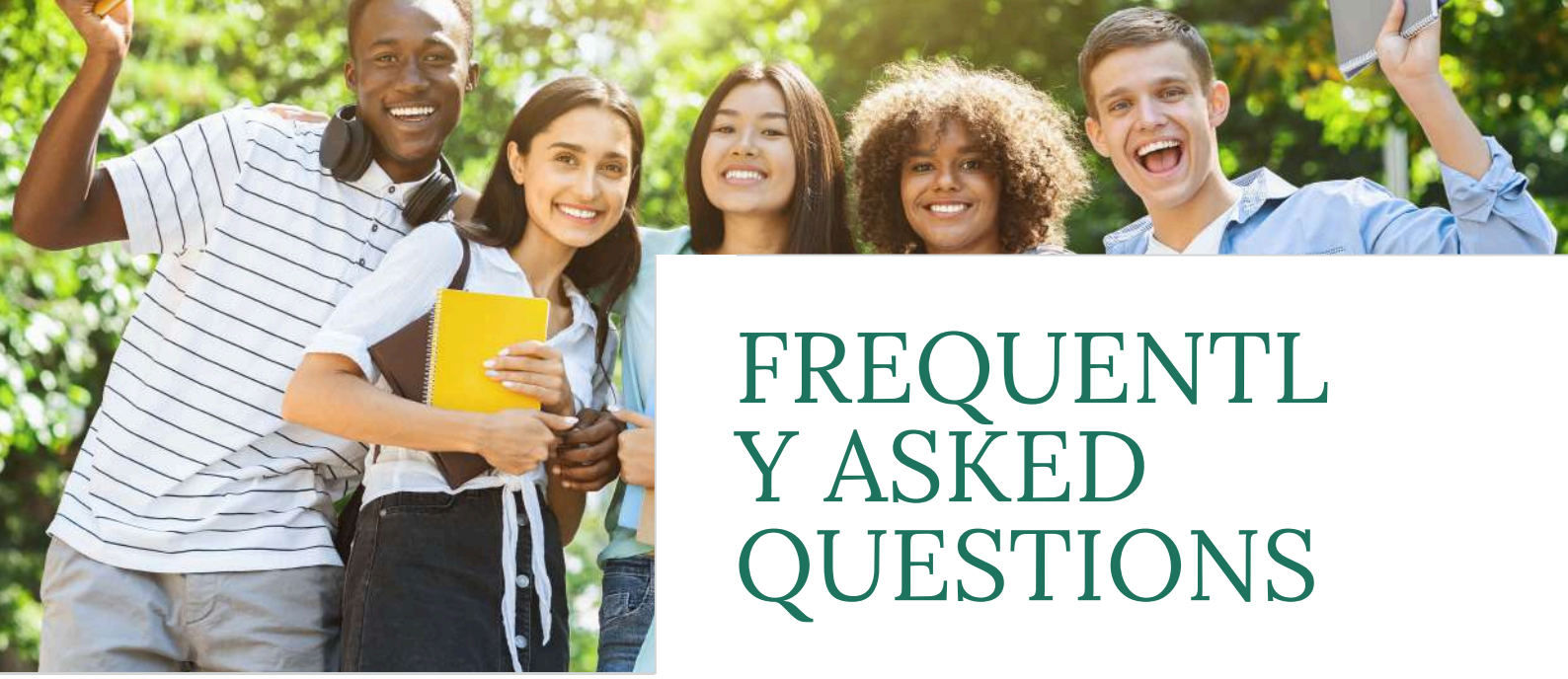
- Personal statement / motivation letter
- Reference letters from teachers or employers
- CV (for postgraduate applications)

We review every document before anything is submitted. Document errors are the most common reason applications are delayed or rejected.

08

Frequently *asked* Questions





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need IELTS? Not always. Many universities in Turkey and Cyprus accept students without IELTS and run their own English test. Poland and Hungary generally require IELTS 5.5–6.0 for English programmes. We advise case by case.

Can I work while studying? Turkey allows part-time work after your first year with a work permit. EU countries (Poland, Hungary) allow up to 20 hours per week during term time with a valid residence permit.

What if my visa is refused? We prepare applications carefully to avoid this. If a refusal happens we analyse the reason, address it, and reapply. Most refusals are due to documentation gaps, not disqualifying factors.

How long does the process take? Typically 3 to 5 months from first contact to visa approval. We recommend starting at least 6 months before your intended intake, especially for September.

What is included in your service fee? University selection, application submission, offer management, visa preparation, and arrival coordination. University application fees and visa fees are paid directly and separately. We give a full cost breakdown before you commit.

Do you handle accommodation? Yes. We assist with dormitory applications and can recommend private options near your university.

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Ready to start your application?

Contact our team today. Tell us which country interests you, your qualifications, and your timeline. We will come back to you within 24 hours with university options, estimated costs, and a clear picture of what the process involves.

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