

TOP 10 STUDENT CITIES:

**EVERYTHING YOU
NEED TO KNOW**



QS

Sponsored by Arden University

Arden University strives to make higher education more accessible, engaging and beneficial than ever. They currently offer more than 50 versatile programmes across a wide range of fields from certificates to an MBA. They are the first online distance learning university to launch in the UK, making them uniquely good at what we do.

Studying online is ideal if you need to fit studies around other commitments such as full-time work or family. Wherever you are in the world, Arden's online degrees let you gain your degree on your terms.

If you're looking to study your degree in London, they also have three modern study centres located in Ealing, Tower Hill, and Holborn, each of which is easily accessed by public transport.

A look into the best student cities

Choosing where to study your master's degree can be tricky. For some, finding a city that has top ranked universities might be their priority, while for others it might be job opportunities.

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



This infographic reveals the top 10 best student cities in the world. We'll be exploring what makes these cities popular among postgraduate students.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. London | 7. Zurich |
| 2. Munich | 8. Sydney |
| =3. Seoul | =9. Paris |
| =3. Tokyo | =9. Montreal |
| 5. Berlin | =9. Boston |
| 6. Melbourne | |

Understanding the data



Top Ranked Universities

Based on the top 1,000 universities featured in the QS World University Rankings 2022.



Cost of Living

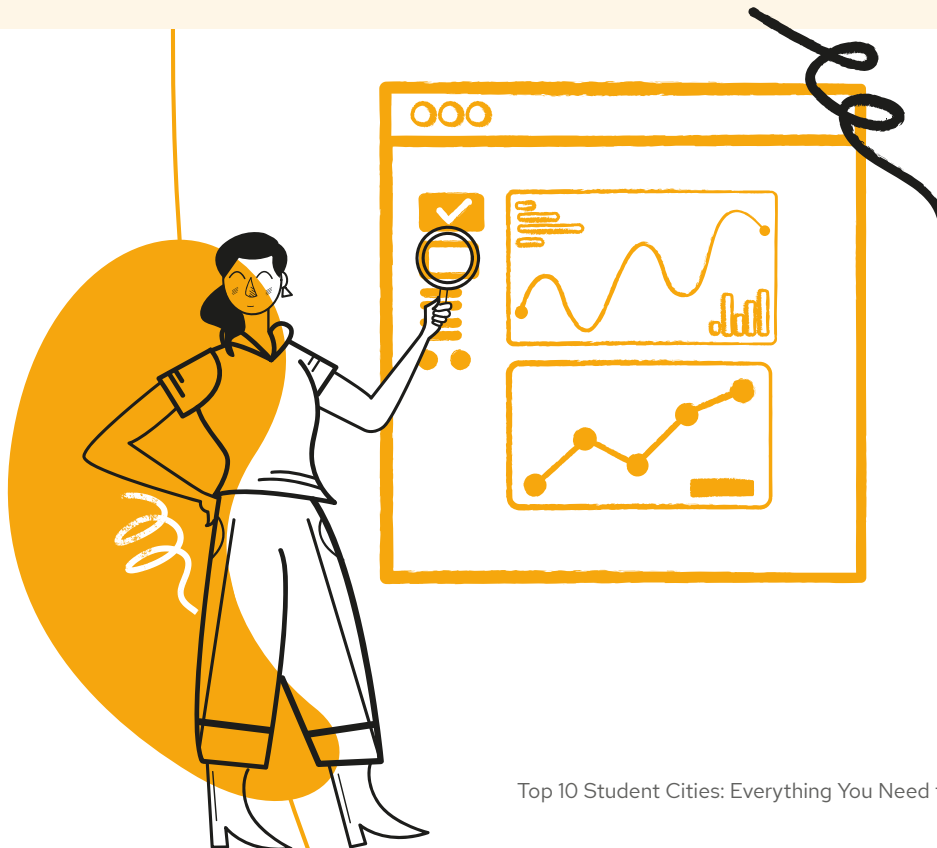
Transport: This is the average price for a monthly public transport pass.*

Grocery List: This consists of 1kg of chicken fillets, 1L of milk, 12 eggs, 1kg of tomatoes, 1kg of cheese, 1kg of apples, 1kg of potatoes and a 500g loaf of fresh white bread.*

Accommodation: The average price for a single bedroom apartment in the city centre.*

Big Mac: According to the Big Mac Index

* According to Numbeo in July 2021.





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 2022. The data is gathered from the universities that submitted their data to QS.



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](#).



More Info

Weather: According to [Holiday Weather](#).

1 London

Home to many of the best libraries, museums, art galleries, nightclubs and theatres in the UK, London is also the hub of many competitive professional sectors. Of course, the UK's capital is also home to some of the country's most prestigious universities, attracting students from all around the world.

Visas



Working while studying:

On a Tier 4 student visa, students can work full-time during vacations and up to 20 hours per week during term time.

Working after graduation:

By switching their Tier 4 student visa to a graduate visa, international students will be able to stay in the UK for an additional two years after graduation, provided they've successfully completed their course.

International student ratio:

49%



Tuition fees:

US\$21,200

Avg. cost per year



Top-ranked universities:

Imperial College
London



Cost of living:

Transport: **US\$77**
(per-month)



Accommodation: **US\$1,200**
(per-month)

Big Mac: **US\$4.65**



Groceries: **US\$49.50**
(per-week)

Scholarships:



Commonwealth Scholarship
Commission in the UK



More info:

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

Popular food: **Fish and chips**

Language: **English**

Popular sport: **Football**



2 Munich

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

Visas



Working while studying:

EU citizens have full opportunities to work while studying in the city with very few limitations and restrictions. However, non-EU citizens are restricted to working for 120 days (or 240 half days) during the school year.

Working after graduation as an EU citizen:

Student visa not required.

Working after graduation as a Non-EU citizen:

Non-EU students will need a student visa. Those who want to work in Germany after graduating from a German university will be able to extend their residence permit for up to 18 months to find work relating to their studies.

International student ratio:

25%



Tuition fees:

US\$100

Avg. cost per year



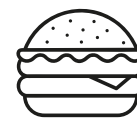
Cost of living:

Transport: **US\$68**
(per-month)



Accommodation: **US\$1,553**
(per-month)

Big Mac: **US\$5.20**



Groceries: **US\$38.80**
(per-week)

Top-ranked universities:



Scholarships:



More info:

Weather: Munich has cold winters and mild to pleasantly warm summers - varying from -1 to 18 degrees.

Popular food: **Schweinshaxn**

Language: **German**

Popular sport: **Football**



3 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.

Visas



Working while studying:

Student visa holders can visit the immigration office to apply for a part-time job permit. Once this permit has been granted, students can work up to 20 hours per week during term time and for as long as they like during university holidays.

Working after graduation:

After graduation, international students are only eligible to work full-time in South Korea if they obtain a visa for professors, have a bachelor's degree in natural sciences and engineering, or have a master's degree in a humanities subject from a Korean university.

International student ratio:

12%



Tuition fees:

US\$6,300

Avg. cost per year



Top-ranked universities:



SEOUL
NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY



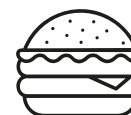
Cost of living:

Transport: **US\$48.80**
(per-month)



Accommodation: **US\$903**
(per-month)

Big Mac: **US\$4.10**



Groceries: **US\$50**
(per-week)

Scholarships:



KFAS
Korea Foundation for
Advanced Studies



Ministry of Education
National Institute for
International Education

More info:

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

Popular food: **Kimchi**

Language: **Korean**

Popular sport: **Yutnori**



3 Tokyo

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

Visas



Working while studying:

Student visa holders can work up to eight hours per day for up to 28 hours a week during school holidays. To do this, students will need to obtain permission from the Ministry of Justice.

Working after graduation:

Graduates can stay in Japan and look for a job after finishing their university course for a maximum of one year with a visa status of 'designated activities'.

International student ratio:

9%



Tuition fees:

US\$8,400

Avg. cost per year



Top-ranked universities:



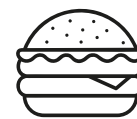
Cost of living:

Transport: **US\$98**
(per-month)



Accommodation: **US\$1,413**
(per-month)

Big Mac: **US\$3.95**



Groceries: **US\$48.70**
(per-week)

Scholarships:



Otsuka Toshimi Scholarship Foundation

More info:

Weather: Tokyo has a humid subtropical climate with wetter summers and drier winters - varying from 5 to 26 degrees.



Popular food: **Sushi and Ramen**

Language: **Japanese**

Popular sport: **Baseball and Sumo**

5 Berlin

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

Visas



Working while studying:

Non-EU citizens are restricted to working for 120 days during the school year.

Working after graduation as an EU citizen:

Student visa not required.

Working after graduation as a Non-EU citizen:

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.

International student ratio:

20%



Tuition fees:

US\$200

Avg. cost per year



Top-ranked universities:



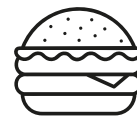
Cost of living:

Transport: **US\$97.50**
(per-month)



Accommodation: **US\$1,129**
(per-month)

Big Mac: **US\$5.20**



Groceries: **US\$33.70**
(per-week)

Scholarships:



More info:

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

Popular food: **Currywurst**

Language: **German**

Popular sport: **Football**



6 Melbourne

Melbourne is considered the cultural capital of Australia. Known for a love of sports and nightlife, you won't be left wanting for entertainment. It is also notable architecturally as one of Australia's best-preserved cities.

Visas



Working while studying:

International students in Australia on a valid student visa can work for up to 20 hours per week during term time. There is no limit on the number of hours an international student can work during school vacations.

Working after graduation:

After graduating, students can apply for a temporary graduate visa which allows students to live, work and study in Australia for up to four years after finishing their course.

International student ratio:

40%



Tuition fees:

US\$25,000

Avg. cost per year



Top-ranked universities:



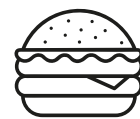
Cost of living:

Transport: **US\$116**
(per-month)

Accommodation: **US\$1,282**
(per-month)

Big Mac: **US\$4.97**

Groceries: **US\$33.70**
(per-week)



Scholarships:



More info:

Weather: Melbourne 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.

Popular food: **Chicken Parma**

Language: **English**

Popular sport: **Cricket**



7 Zurich

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

Visas



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.

Working after graduation as an EU citizen:

Not required.

Working after graduation as a Non-EU citizen:

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

International student ratio:

30%



Tuition fees:

US\$2,000

Avg. cost per year



Top-ranked universities:

ETH zürich



University of Zurich^{UZH}

Cost of living:

Transport: **US\$93**
(per-month)



Accommodation: **US\$2,146**
(per-month)

Big Mac: **US\$7.50**



Groceries: **US\$82.20**
(per-week)

Scholarships:



More info:

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

Popular food: Zurich
Geschnetzeltes or fondue

Language: German

Popular sport: Skiing



8

Sydney

Sydney, Australia's biggest city, tends to evoke images of beaches, surfing and partying. While Sydney may be famed for its nightlife and lifestyle, it is also an academic, bohemian and creative city.

Visas

Working while studying:

International students in Australia on a valid student visa can work for up to 20 hours per week during term time, and there is no limit on the number of hours an international student can work during university holidays.

Working after graduation:

Depending on the length of your course, your visa will grant you one to three extra months following your studies.



International student ratio:

41%



Tuition fees:

US\$26,000

Avg. cost per year



Top-ranked universities:



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



UNSW
SYDNEY



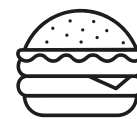
Cost of living:

Transport: **US\$160**
(per-month)

Accommodation: **US\$1,950**
(per-month)

Big Mac: **US\$4.98**

Groceries: **US\$33.25**
(per-week)



Scholarships:



More info:

Weather: 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.

Popular food: **Chicken Parma**

Language: **English**

Popular sport: **Cricket**



9 Paris

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

Visas



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 (120 eight-hour days) as long as you have a valid residency permit. During term time you can work up to 19.5 hours per week and during university holidays you can work full-time.

Working after graduation as an EU citizen:

Not required.

Working after graduation as a non-EU citizen:

The APS scheme entitles graduates of French master's-level degree programmes to apply for a further one-year, non-renewable, temporary residence permit, which allows graduates to work in any job up to 60 percent of a normal working week. Alternatively, non-EU citizens who have a work contract and are paid at least one and a half times the minimum wage are eligible to work full time.

International student ratio:

18%



Tuition fees:

US\$2,100

Avg. cost per year



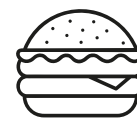
Cost of living:

Transport: **US\$89.10**
(per-month)



Accommodation: **US\$1,463**
(per-month)

Big Mac: **US\$5.21**



Groceries: **US\$51.90**
(per-week)

Top-ranked universities:



Scholarships:



More info:

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

Popular food: **Steak and Frites**

Language: **French**

Popular sport: **Football**



9 Montreal

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

Visas

Working while studying:

If you're a full-time university student, you will be able to work unlimited hours on campus and up to 20 hours per week off campus during term time. During university holidays, there is no limit to the number of hours you can work, provided you meet the conditions.

Working after graduation:

Upon graduation, an international student may apply for a work permit under the Post-Graduation Work Permit Program (PGWPP). This PGWPP may be issued based on the length of the study programme for a minimum of eight months up to a maximum of three years.



International student ratio:

30%



Tuition fees:

US\$14,400

Avg. cost per year



Top-ranked universities:



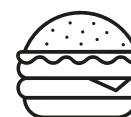
Cost of living:

Transport: **US\$71**
(per-month)

Accommodation: **US\$1,027**
(per-month)

Big Mac: **US\$5.52**

Groceries: **US\$42.70**
(per-week)



Scholarships:



More info:

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

Popular food: **Bagels**

Language: **French**

Popular sport: **Hockey**



9 Boston

Boston is the capital and the largest city of the US state of Massachusetts. Known for its famous baked beans, the Boston Marathon, Fenway Park and the bar from Cheers, Boston is also home to some of the world's most prestigious schools – including MIT and Harvard University.

Visas



Working while studying:

Students with an F-1 or M-1 visa can work on-campus and in specified training programmes. Once you have completed your first academic year, you may be able to work off campus by enrolling on a work experience programme, such as the OPT, CPT or the STEM Optional Practical Training Extension.

Working after graduation:

After graduation, you may be able to apply for a variety of work visas, such as the curricular practical training (CPT), optional practical training (OPT), academic training (AT) or the H-1B. These visas are temporary, but you may be able to renew them when they come to an end, or apply for a Green Card.

International student ratio:

25%



Tuition fees:

US\$50,700

Avg. cost per year



Top-ranked universities:



Cost of living:

Transport: **US\$90.60**
(per-month)



Accommodation: **US\$2,588**
(per-month)

Big Mac: **US\$6.20**



Groceries: **US\$44.90**
(per-week)

Scholarships:



CITY of **BOSTON**

More info:

Weather: In Boston, the summers are warm but often cloudy and the winters are very cold and wet. Across the year, the temperature ranges from -5 to 32 degrees.

Popular food: **Clam Chowder**

Language: **English**

Popular sport: **Basketball**





What's next?

Now that you have more information about what it's like to live in some of the top student cities, it's time to start meeting universities from around the world. Starting your research can seem overwhelming, but we're here to help.

Join us at our student events for the opportunity to meet with global universities, business schools and graduate schools. You'll get to learn more about the admissions process and what each school offers. Our events are the perfect place to kick-start your study abroad journey.



Additional resources



If you're looking for additional information on topics such as scholarships, rankings, online learning and more, then take a look at our other free guides and tools:

- [Rankings 101: How to use rankings to choose what to study](#)
- [Your student visa guide: Top 10 study destinations](#)
- [Your complete guide to applying for an MBA](#)
- [A comparative guide: business masters vs MBA](#)
- [MBA salary trends: What employers want](#)
- [MBA skills trends: What employers want](#)
- [Your complete guide to applying for a masters degree](#)
- [Our favourite global scholarships and how to apply for them](#)
- [Your ultimate guide to choosing a university](#)
- [Your guide to online learning](#)
- [GMAT or GRE: which test should I take?](#)
- [MBA ROI calculator](#)

Find and apply to our QS World Merit [Scholarships](#).

If you're looking to attend a virtual or in-person event in your city, head over to our university and business school events pages and see what events we have coming up.

 **TOPUNIVERSITIES**

[Events](#)

 **TOPMBA**

[Events](#)



Thank you

for reading our guide!

We hope it'll help you choose the right study abroad destination for you.