ROSEMOUNTS INSTITUTE
WELL-BEING › SKILLS › CAREERS

The Rosemounts Asia Study Guide 2027

Bachelor's and master's study in Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and the UAE, for Indian families

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Part 1. Start here

1. How to use this guide

This guide is for families weighing a bachelor's degree in Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong or the UAE after Class 12, and for graduates weighing a master's there. It's the third of our study-abroad guides, after the *Europe Study Guide 2027* and the *West Study Guide 2027*, and it follows the same pattern.

Every destination gets the same sections, so you can lay them side by side: what it costs, how an Indian student gets in, how to apply for 2027, what the visa asks for, what happens after graduating, and which universities appear in the latest QS ranking. Each one ends with a point families tend to miss.

Checked on 19 November 2026. Hong Kong's fees jump sharply for 2027, Singapore raises its work-pass salary bar from January, Korea rewrote its job-seeker visa in late 2025, and the University of Tokyo has closed its old English-taught degree and is opening a new one. Every figure here comes from a government or university page, listed at the end. Before you pay a fee or book a flight, open the official page again and check the number yourself.

Rupees. We've converted at about S$1 = ₹72, ¥100 = ₹59, ₩1,000 = ₹70, HK$1 = ₹12 and AED 1 = ₹25.5, the mid-market rates on 18 and 19 November 2026. Your bank or forex card will charge a little more, and rates move. Read the rupee figures as a sense of size, not a quote.

Rankings. University ranks come from the QS World University Rankings 2027, published on 18 June 2026. QS is a private company, and its ranking leans heavily on reputation surveys. It's a fair place to start a list. It tells you very little about whether a particular course suits a particular student.

2. Choose the course before the place

These five are not one "Asia". Singapore and Hong Kong teach in English and sit close to home, and Hong Kong's fees for 2027 come close to Australia's. Japan and Korea charge far less, but most of their degrees are taught in the local language. The UAE is the nearest of all, with Indian, British, American and Emirati universities in the same few cities, and no general right to stay and work after graduating.

So the order matters. Decide what the student wants to study and why. Then look for the places that teach it well, in a language the student can learn in, at a cost the family can carry for the whole degree.

Three questions settle most of it:

1. **What does the student want to study, and do they know why?** If the answer is vague, sort that out first. Our *Career and University Guide 2027* covers it, with three ways of looking at options: T-shape Career™, Career Clusters© and Career Fusion™.
2. **Will the student study in English, or learn a new language?** In Japan and Korea this decides almost everything else: which universities, which deadlines, how many hours the student may work, and which jobs are open later.
3. **What can the family afford for every year of the degree?** Add each year's fees, living costs, flights and insurance, in rupees. Then ask how the family would manage if the first job after graduating took longer to come than hoped.

3. The five at a glance

These are the figures for a student starting in 2027, as published in November 2026. Living costs are each university's or government's own estimate. In Singapore, Hong Kong and Dubai real costs can run higher.

Destination	Bachelor's length	Tuition a year (one example)	Living costs (official estimate)	Work during term	Stay after graduating
Singapore	Usually 4 years	S$21,400 at NUS for Computing with the government Tuition Grant, about ₹15.5 lakh (S$39,700, about ₹28.7 lakh, without it)	S$11,750 a year with campus housing (NUS), about ₹8.5 lakh	Up to 16 hours a week	A one-year pass to look for work, then an employer's work pass
Japan	4 years	¥535,800 at a national university, about ₹3.1 lakh; ¥1,690,000 at Waseda's English-taught SILS, about ₹9.9 lakh	¥105,000 a month on average, about ₹62,000	Up to 28 hours a week, with permission	Up to one year to look for work
South Korea	4 years	About ₩12.2 million for engineering at Yonsei (2026), about ₹8.6 lakh; KAIST's scholarship covers full tuition	Universities ask for a bank balance of about ₩20 million, about ₹14 lakh	10 to 25 hours a week, by Korean or English level	Up to 3 years on a job-seeker visa
Hong Kong	4 years	HK$230,000 at CUHK to HK$280,000 at HKU (STEM) for 2027/28, about ₹27 lakh to ₹33 lakh	Up to HK$50,000 a year plus a hall place (HKU), about ₹6 lakh plus	Temporarily free of limits for full-time students	24 months to stay and work, no job offer needed
UAE	3 or 4 years	AED 81,250 at Khalifa University before scholarships, about ₹21 lakh; IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi charges JEE qualifiers IIT Delhi's own fee	Set by each university	Only with a government work permit	No general right; a short visit visa to job-hunt for some graduates

Master's degrees are offered in all five, usually over one to two years.

4. The 2027 calendar

For a start in 2027. Singapore, Hong Kong, the UAE and most English-taught programmes in Japan and Korea begin in August or September. Japanese-taught degrees begin in April, and Korean universities also take students in March.

Date	What happens	Where
25 November 2026	HKU's first-round deadline (12 noon, Hong Kong time) and HKUST's priority-round deadline. Both take later applications on a rolling basis	Hong Kong
16 December 2026	NUS opens applications for August 2027	Singapore
7 January 2027	CUHK's regular-round deadline (its advance round closed on 12 November)	Hong Kong
7 to 12 January 2027	Waseda SILS early admission for September 2027	Japan

Date	What happens	Where
13 to 28 January 2027	Waseda SILS regular admission	Japan
14 January 2027	KAIST's deadline for autumn 2027, 6 pm Korea time	South Korea
15 February to 11 March 2027	Applications outside Japan for the June EJU, the entrance test most Japanese-taught degrees use	Japan
17 February 2027	NUS applications close	Singapore
March 2027	Yonsei's Underwood International College runs its round for autumn 2027 (dates to be confirmed)	South Korea
25 March 2027	KAIST announces admissions	South Korea
April and May 2027	The Embassy of Japan's next MEXT scholarship round is expected, going by the 2026 dates	Japan
20 June 2027	EJU, first session of 2027	Japan
August to September 2027	Most courses begin	All five

The UAE has no shared deadline. Each university sets its own, and IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi fills its places for Indian students through JEE (Advanced) and JoSAA.

Part 2. The five destinations

5. Singapore

At a glance	
Tuition	Set by each university. NUS charges new international undergraduates S$21,400 a year for Computing, Engineering or Humanities and Sciences if they take the Ministry of Education's Tuition Grant (about ₹15.5 lakh), and S$39,700 a year for Computing without it (about ₹28.7 lakh)
Living costs	NUS estimates S$11,750 a year including campus housing (about ₹8.5 lakh)
Visa costs	S$45 to apply for the Student's Pass and S$60 when it's issued, plus S$30 for a multiple-journey visa if needed (about ₹7,600 to ₹9,800)
Work during term	Up to 16 hours a week at approved institutions; full-time in official vacations
After graduating	A one-year Long-Term Visit Pass to look for work. Working needs an employer's work pass
Course length	Bachelor's: usually four years. Master's by coursework: often one year
Main intake	August

Getting in after Class 12

Apply directly to each university. NUS asks CBSE and ISC students for a good pass in five subjects including English, and asks for no SAT, no JEE and no English test. Students from state boards must also send an SAT, ACT or AP score.

There's a catch for students in Class 12 now. NUS says applicants sitting the CBSE or ISC exams in the year they apply can't be considered for Dentistry, Law, Medicine or Nursing. Those courses need final results, which means applying the year after Class 12.

The Tuition Grant cuts the fee by nearly half, and it comes with a bond: the graduate must work for a Singapore entity for three years after graduating.

Getting in for a master's

Apply to each department. Coursework master's cost far more than a bachelor's with the grant: NUS lists S$74,120 for the whole Master of Computing (General Track) for August 2026 entry, about ₹54 lakh. Research master's and PhDs have their own scholarships, and each department sets its own deadline.

Applying for 2027

NUS takes applications for August 2027 from 16 December 2026 to 17 February 2027, with an application fee of S$20 for international qualifications. CBSE and ISC students then upload their final results when the boards declare them. NTU and SMU set their own windows, so check each.

The visa, and after graduating

The student applies online for the Student's Pass, through the university, between two and three months before the course starts. The student can work up to 16 hours a week during term, and full-time in official vacations, as long as the university is on the government's approved list.

After graduating, there's no post-study work visa as such. A graduate of a Singapore university can apply for a one-year Long-Term Visit Pass to stay and look for work, but can't work on it. A job needs an Employment Pass, and the bar rises in January: for new applications from 1 January 2027, the minimum salary is S$6,000 a month at age 23 or younger (about ₹4.3 lakh), rising with age, and S$6,600 in financial services. The applicant must also pass a points test called COMPASS.

Universities in the QS World University Rankings 2027

- National University of Singapore (NUS), 10
- Nanyang Technological University (NTU), 12
- Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), 266
- Singapore Management University (SMU), =411

Worth knowing

The Tuition Grant's three-year bond deserves a family conversation before the offer is accepted, not after. It suits a student who wants to start a career in Singapore. It weighs on one who wants to come home, or go on to a master's elsewhere, straight after graduating. Ask the university for the bond terms in writing, including what is owed if it's broken, and add that figure to the plan.

6. Japan

At a glance	
Tuition	National universities charge a standard ¥535,800 a year (about ₹3.1 lakh) plus ¥282,000 to enrol (about ₹1.7 lakh). The University of Tokyo charges undergraduates ¥642,960 (about ₹3.8 lakh). Private universities charge more: Waseda's English-taught SILS is ¥1,693,000 in the first year, including enrolment (about ₹9.9 lakh)
Living costs	International students spend ¥105,000 a month on average (about ₹62,000), with rent averaging ¥57,000 in Tokyo
Visa costs	₹500 for Indian nationals applying in India, plus the visa centre's service charge
Work during term	Up to 28 hours a week with permission from immigration; up to 8 hours a day in long vacations
After graduating	A six-month visa to keep looking for work, renewable once, so up to a year
Course length	Bachelor's: four years. Master's: two years
Main intake	April for Japanese-taught degrees; September for most English-taught ones

Getting in after Class 12

There are three routes, and they hardly overlap.

Japanese-taught degrees. Most degrees in Japan are taught in Japanese. At the University of Tokyo, the only English-taught bachelor's programme for years was PEAK, and its FAQ said all other courses were in Japanese. These degrees usually start in April, and many ask for the EJU, the Examination for Japanese University Admission, which includes a Japanese-language paper and is held in New Delhi. A student on this route needs strong Japanese before applying, which usually means years of study.

English-taught degrees. A smaller set of programmes teach entirely in English, mostly starting in September. Waseda runs English-based degrees at six of its schools, including its School of International Liberal Studies (SILS). The University of Tokyo closed PEAK to new students after September 2026 and opens the UTokyo College of Design in September 2027: a five-year bachelor's and master's taught entirely in English, with 100 places. Its first applications closed on 5 November 2026. Each programme sets its own requirements, so read its application guide.

The MEXT scholarship. The Japanese government pays for selected Indian students to study in Japan. For undergraduates it covers tuition, ¥117,000 a month (about ₹69,000) and return air fare, with a preparatory year of Japanese for those who need it. Indian students apply through the Embassy of Japan. The 2027 round has closed: undergraduate applications ran from 23 April to 25 May 2026. Going by those dates, the round for 2028 should open around April 2027.

Getting in for a master's

National universities charge the same ¥535,800 a year for most master's degrees. Some graduate schools teach in English: Waseda's science and engineering faculty, for example, runs English-based graduate programmes. For a research degree, find a professor whose work fits and write to them before applying. The MEXT scholarship for research students closed for 2027 on 15 May 2026; the next round should open around April 2027.

Applying for 2027

For an English-taught September 2027 start, Waseda's SILS takes early applications from 7 to 12 January 2027 and regular applications from 13 to 28 January, with results on 13 April. For a Japanese-taught April 2028 start, the June 2027 EJU is the one to aim for: overseas applications run from 15 February to 11 March 2027, and the test is on 20 June.

The visa, and after graduating

The university applies to Japanese immigration for a Certificate of Eligibility, and the student takes it to the visa centre in India. For Indian nationals applying in India, the visa fee is ₹500, unchanged even though Japan raised its fees for most nationalities in July 2026. Work needs separate permission from immigration, and then allows up to 28 hours a week, or 8 hours a day in long vacations.

After graduating, a student still looking for a job can change to a "Designated Activities" status for six months, renewable once. That gives up to a year. A job offer then leads to a work visa.

Universities in the QS World University Rankings 2027

- University of Tokyo, 39
- Kyoto University, 64
- Osaka University, 95
- Institute of Science Tokyo, =97
- Tohoku University, 102
- Nagoya University, 156
- Kyushu University, 171
- Hokkaido University, =179
- Waseda University, =201
- Keio University, =213

Worth knowing

An English-taught degree gets a student into Japan. Staying on to work is another matter. The job-hunting visa lasts a year at most, and a graduate who can work in Japanese has far more employers to approach in that year than one who can't. A student who wants to stay on should treat Japanese as a second subject from the first week, whatever the degree is taught in. A student who doesn't want to learn it should ask whether Japan is the right choice at all.

7. South Korea

At a glance	
Tuition	Set by each university, per semester. Yonsei's 2026 fees for international students are ₩6,218,000 for the first semester of engineering and ₩6,004,000 after that (about ₹8.6 lakh a year); its English-taught Underwood International College is ₩8,416,000 for the first semester (about ₹11.7 lakh a year). KAIST's scholarship covers full tuition for admitted international students
Money for the visa	No national figure. Universities ask for a bank certificate: at least ₩20 million at Korea University (about ₹14 lakh), at least US$20,000 at the University of Seoul (about ₹18.7 lakh)
Visa costs	Set by the Korean embassy; apply through the visa centre with the university's admission papers
Work during term	With permission: undergraduates with the required Korean (or English, on English-taught courses) can work 25 hours a week on weekdays and without a limit at weekends and in vacations; without it, 10 hours a week
After graduating	A D-10 job-seeker visa of up to 3 years in total
Course length	Bachelor's: four years. Master's: two years
Main intake	March and September

Getting in after Class 12

Apply directly to each university, and check the teaching language first. Many degrees are taught in Korean and ask for a TOPIK level, the Korean language test. A few routes are in English. Yonsei's Underwood International College teaches in English. KAIST says English is its official language and that understanding written and spoken English is essential for admission.

KAIST deserves a close look from science and engineering families. Every admitted international student who ticks the scholarship box on the application gets the KAIST Scholarship: full tuition for eight semesters, ₩350,000 a month for living costs (about ₹24,500) and health insurance, as long as the student keeps a grade average of 2.7 out of 4.3 after the first year. KAIST's own estimate puts a year's cost after the scholarship at about ₩3.4 million (about ₹2.4 lakh), food and a shared room included.

Seoul National University is planning a new undergraduate division for international students only, from autumn 2027. Watch its website for details.

Getting in for a master's

Apply to each graduate school. Yonsei's 2026 graduate fee for international students in engineering is ₩7,711,000 a semester (about ₹5.4 lakh), plus a one-time admission fee of ₩1,028,000. The Global Korea Scholarship (GKS) runs a separate round for master's and doctoral students; watch the Study in Korea website and the Korean embassy for it.

Applying for 2027

KAIST's regular round for autumn 2027 runs until 14 January 2027, 6 pm Korea time, with results on 25 March. Yonsei's Underwood International College lists its autumn 2027 round for March 2027, with dates to be confirmed. The 2027 Global Korea Scholarship for undergraduates has closed (the embassy round ran in September 2026); the next opens around September 2027, for 2028.

The visa, and after graduating

The student visa is the D-2. The university issues the admission papers, and the student applies through the Korean visa centre in India with the bank certificate the university asked for.

A D-2 student can't work until immigration grants a part-time work permit. The hours depend on language. Undergraduates with TOPIK level 3 (first and second year) or level 4 (third and fourth year) can work 25 hours a week on weekdays, and up to 30 at some universities, with no limit at weekends and in vacations. On English-taught courses, a score such as TOEFL iBT 71 or IELTS 5.5 counts instead. Without the language level, the limit is 10 hours a week.

After graduating, a student can move to the D-10 job-seeker visa. Since 29 October 2025 it allows up to three years in total, granted up to a year at a time, where the limit used to be two years in six-month steps. A job offer then leads to a work visa such as the E-7.

Universities in the QS World University Rankings 2027

- Seoul National University, 38
- Yonsei University, 42
- Korea University, =52
- KAIST, 65
- POSTECH, 106
- Sungkyunkwan University, 108
- Hanyang University, 155

Worth knowing

In Korea the language decides money as well as study. It sets how many hours a student may work, and it widens the list of employers a graduate can approach while on the D-10. A student on an English-taught course who reaches TOPIK level 4 by the third year leaves with far more choice than one who doesn't. Build the language classes into the plan from the start.

8. Hong Kong

At a glance	
Tuition	Set by each university, for non-local students. For 2027/28: HKU HK$280,000 for STEM (about ₹33 lakh) and HK$250,000 for other faculties (about ₹30 lakh), HK$590,000 for medicine and dentistry; HKUST HK$260,000 (about ₹31 lakh); PolyU, HKBU and CityU HK$240,000 (about ₹29 lakh); CUHK HK$230,000 (about ₹27 lakh)
Living costs	HKU estimates up to HK$50,000 a year (about ₹6 lakh), plus HK$17,290 to HK$37,940 for a hall place (about ₹2 lakh to ₹4.5 lakh)
Visa costs	HK$330 when the visa is issued (about ₹3,900). The university acts as sponsor
Work during term	For now, full-time non-local students are exempt from the usual limits and may take part-time work
After graduating	IANG: 24 months to stay and work, with no job offer needed if the graduate applies within six months
Course length	Bachelor's: four years. Taught master's: often one year
Main intake	September

Getting in after Class 12

Apply directly to each university through its international admissions route. Hong Kong universities accept CBSE and ISC results. HKU has a page and an admissions-standards brochure for Indian students, and runs a scheme for CBSE and CISCE students with strong achievements outside the classroom. CUHK lists the CBSE and ISC certificates among the qualifications it considers. Meeting the minimum doesn't guarantee a place.

Getting in for a master's

Taught master's degrees are self-funded and usually last a year. HKUST, for example, charges HK$350,000 (about ₹42 lakh) for its MSc in Economics in 2027/28. Research degrees are different: the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme funds doctoral students, and its 2027/28 applications close on 1 December 2026.

A full-time taught master's from a Hong Kong university also leads to the 24-month IANG visa, which is why some families look at Hong Kong for a one-year master's after an Indian bachelor's.

Applying for 2027

The early rounds are close. HKU's first-round deadline is 25 November 2026 at 12 noon, Hong Kong time; applications after that are reviewed on a rolling basis until 25 August 2027. HKUST's priority round closes the same day, and it takes applications on a rolling basis until 30 June 2027. CUHK's advance round closed on 12 November 2026, and its regular deadline is 7 January 2027. Applying early is sensible, but later applications are still read at all three.

The visa, and after graduating

The university sponsors the student visa, and the Immigration Department says processing normally takes about six weeks once it has all the documents. Ordinarily, non-local students may work only on campus (up to 20 hours a week) and in the summer. Since November 2023 for postgraduates, and November 2024 for undergraduates, full-time non-local students have been temporarily exempt from those limits. "Temporarily" is the government's word, so check the current position before counting on part-time income.

After graduating, the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG) give 24 months to stay, with no other conditions, to a graduate who applies within six months of graduating. No job offer is needed at that stage. Extensions need a job at graduate level.

Universities in the QS World University Rankings 2027

- University of Hong Kong (HKU), 11
- Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), 18
- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), 33
- Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), 50
- City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK), =52
- Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU), 216

Worth knowing

Fees are rising fast. Hong Kong's public universities have raised non-local fees for 2027/28 by up to 26%, about 41% in total since 2023/24, and HKU's medicine fee for non-local students more than doubles to HK$590,000. Ask each university what happens to the fee in later years. CUHK, for instance, says any yearly change for the 2027 intake will be capped at 3%. Put the answer in the four-year budget.

9. United Arab Emirates

At a glance	
Tuition	Set by each university. Khalifa University charges AED 2,500 a credit hour for a bachelor's, which it puts at AED 81,250 a year (about ₹21 lakh) before scholarships. American University of Sharjah charges AED 55,438 a semester for a full load in 2026/27, AED 110,876 a year (about ₹28 lakh). The University of Birmingham Dubai charges AED 162,203 a year for Computer Science from September 2027 (about ₹41 lakh)
Living costs	Set by each university. A shared room at Khalifa University is AED 10,000 a term (about ₹2.5 lakh)
Visa costs	The university sponsors the student residence visa; fees vary by university and emirate
Work during term	Only with a work permit from the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation
After graduating	No general post-study work visa. A 60 to 120-day visit visa to look for work is open to graduates of the world's top 500 universities. Top graduates of UAE universities may qualify for a 10-year Golden Visa
Course length	Bachelor's: usually four years; three at some UK branch campuses. Master's: one to two years
Main intake	August or September

Getting in after Class 12

The UAE has three kinds of university, and Indian families meet all three.

Indian institutions. IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi admits Indian students living in India through JEE (Advanced) and the JoSAA counselling portal, not through its own entrance test. JEE (Advanced) students pay the tuition they would pay at IIT Delhi's New Delhi campus, with the rest waived, and receive AED 2,000 a month (about ₹51,000). Other Indian universities run campuses in Dubai too.

Campuses of foreign universities. British, Australian and other universities teach in Dubai and elsewhere. The University of Birmingham Dubai, for example, says its graduates receive the same Birmingham degree as students in the UK.

Emirati universities. Khalifa University, the UAE University, the American University of Sharjah and others admit international students directly. Khalifa offers international undergraduates scholarships of up to the full tuition fee, depending on grades.

Getting in for a master's

Apply to each university. Khalifa University charges AED 5,000 a credit hour for a master's (about ₹1.3 lakh a credit hour) and offers graduate scholarships; ask the department for the terms in writing.

Applying for 2027

Each university sets its own deadlines for August or September 2027. For IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi, the route for students in India is JEE (Advanced) 2027 and then JoSAA.

The visa, and after graduating

The university sponsors the student's residence visa. A student can work only with a work permit from the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation; ask the university what else it requires before taking a job.

After graduating, there's no general right to stay and work. A graduate needs an employer to sponsor a work visa. Two routes help some graduates. Graduates of the world's top 500 universities, on the ranking the UAE Ministry of Education accepts, can get a 60, 90 or 120-day visit visa to look for work without a sponsor; the visa fee starts at AED 200 (about ₹5,100), plus VAT. And graduates of UAE universities with a grade average of at least 3.5 (from universities the ministry classes as A) or 3.8 (class B), within two years of graduating, may qualify for a 10-year Golden Visa.

Universities in the QS World University Rankings 2027

- Khalifa University, 147
- United Arab Emirates University, 217
- American University of Sharjah, =258
- University of Sharjah, =283
- Abu Dhabi University, 348
- Ajman University, 397

Worth knowing

A branch campus is only as good as its approvals. Since 2025, India's UGC recognises degrees from a foreign university's campus abroad only if the campus is approved both where it stands and in the university's home country, and it doesn't recognise degrees delivered through franchise arrangements. Before accepting a place at any branch campus in the UAE, ask whether the degree is identical to the home campus degree, and ask to see both approvals.

Part 3. Before you pay, and after you graduate

10. Checks before you pay anything

- **Will the course lead to a student visa?** In Singapore the Student's Pass is for full-time study at approved institutions. In Japan the university must apply for the Certificate of Eligibility. In Korea the university issues the admission papers for the D-2. In Hong Kong the university sponsors the visa. In the UAE the university sponsors the residence visa. Ask the university to confirm it in writing for the exact course.
- **Will the degree count back in India?** See the next section, and read it twice if the course is medicine, law, architecture, pharmacy or nursing, or if the campus is a branch of a university based in another country.
- **What language is the course taught in, all the way through?** Ask whether every year is taught in English, and whether compulsory language classes come with it.
- **Who is advising you, and how are they paid?** Many universities abroad pay agents a commission for each student. It's a fair question to ask any adviser, and a good one won't mind.
- **Is anything "guaranteed"?** A guaranteed visa, job or residence is a warning sign. Governments decide those, and they change them.
- **What's the full cost, in rupees, for every year?** Ask for fees for all years in writing, including any yearly increase, and add living costs. Then add a margin, because rupee rates move against you as often as for you.

11. Coming back to India: will the degree count?

Most students who go abroad come back at some point, for a job, a further degree or a government exam. For that, the foreign degree may need an equivalence certificate.

Since April 2025, these come from the UGC under its Recognition and Grant of Equivalence to Qualifications Obtained from Foreign Educational Institutions Regulations, 2025, through an online portal. (The Association of Indian Universities issued them before.) In short:

- The foreign institution must be recognised in its own country.
- Degrees from a foreign university's campus in another country can be recognised, if that campus is approved both where it stands and in the university's home country. This matters most in the UAE.
- Degrees delivered through franchise arrangements aren't recognised.
- Joint or dual degrees run with an Indian university under UGC rules don't need a certificate.
- Professional qualifications, such as medicine, pharmacy, nursing, law and architecture, are outside these rules. Their own councils decide.

Medicine needs its own check. To practise in India after a foreign medical degree, the National Medical Commission's 2021 rules ask for a course of at least 54 months taught in English, a 12-month internship at the same foreign institution, a further supervised internship of 12 months in India, and India's licensing

exam. Ask the university, in writing, how its course and internship meet the NMC's rules before you pay anything.

12. Talking it through

Picking a destination gets easier once the course is clear, and the course gets easier once you're clear about the student. That's the question underneath all of this: who is this young person, what do they care about, and what kind of work would suit them?

The VIP+™ Career and Life Design Program starts there, with values, interests, personality and skills, and then looks at the options, at home and abroad, that fit. It won't predict an admission, a rank or a salary, and nobody honest can. The full fee and what it includes are shared on request, with no obligation.

To talk it through, WhatsApp us on +91 73022 22330 with one line: which class is your child in?

Sources

All pages opened and checked on 19 November 2026.

Rankings and exchange rates

- QS World University Rankings 2027 (Top Universities)
- Mid-market rates, 18 and 19 November 2026 (BookMyForex): Singapore dollar, Japanese yen, Korean won, Hong Kong dollar, UAE dirham

Singapore

- National University of Singapore: undergraduate tuition fees, AY2026/2027, application dates, Indian Standard 12, CBSE and ISC, Indian Standard 12, state and other boards, living costs and Master of Computing fees
- Tuition Grant Scheme (Ministry of Education)
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