K12 ACADEMICS — INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERIES

Studying in Albania

A guide for international students & families — how Albanian higher education works, the student visa and residence permit, very affordable tuition, English programs, and work.

K12 ACADEMICS

Find Your Community

2026 EDITION

ABOUT K12 ACADEMICS

The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

VERY AFFORDABLE, ENGLISH-FRIENDLY, ADRIATIC

Albania is a fast-rising, **very affordable** study destination on the Adriatic, with **low tuition and living costs**, a growing set of **English-taught programs** (especially at private universities, often without IELTS), and a friendly, safe atmosphere. It's an EU candidate, not a member. Non-EU students use Albania's **online e-Visa (Type D) and a residence permit**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Albania is an EU candidate (not a member); degree recognition abroad varies, so verify it. Rules, tuition, and funds change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with Albanian immigration (e-Albania), your university, and the Ministry of Education**.

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STEP 01 OF 10

Understand Why Students Choose Albania

WHAT TO KNOW

Albania offers **very low tuition and living costs, growing English-taught programs (often without IELTS), a safe and welcoming atmosphere, and a beautiful Adriatic setting** — with a largely online, student-friendly visa process.

BY THE NUMBERS

Very affordable	English programs	Online e-Visa
tuition & living	often no IELTS	student-friendly

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Albania's **very low costs and easy English access** against its EU-candidate status (verify recognition) — for budget-focused students, it's among Europe's most accessible options.

GOOD TO KNOW

Albania's **online e-Visa system** means much of the process can be done without visiting an embassy — a real convenience.

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STEP 02 OF 10

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Albania's leading public institutions are the **University of Tirana** (the largest and oldest, 1957) and the **Polytechnic University of Tirana** (engineering, architecture). Private universities — **Epoka, University of New York Tirana (UNYT), European University of Tirana (UET), Metropolitan Tirana (UMT)** — offer many **English-taught programs**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Univ of Tirana	Polytechnic	Private
largest & oldest	engineering	Epoka, UNYT, UET (English)

HOW TO HELP

Choose between **affordable public universities** (Tirana, Polytechnic) and **private universities** (Epoka, UNYT, UET), which offer more English-taught programs — confirm accreditation.

GOOD TO KNOW

English-taught programs are concentrated at private universities (Epoka, UNYT, UET) — though they cost more than public Albanian-medium study.

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STEP 03 OF 10

Get the Visa & Residence Permit

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU students apply for a **Type D student visa** using Albania's **online e-Visa system** (with your acceptance letter; apply ~3 months ahead; some applicants attend biometric verification). After arriving, register and apply for a **temporary residence permit within 30 days**. EU/EEA students are visa-exempt.

BY THE NUMBERS

Type D e-Visa	~3 months ahead	Residence permit
online	apply early	within 30 days

HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **Type D visa via the online e-Visa system** with your acceptance letter (about 3 months ahead), then apply for your **residence permit within 30 days** of arrival.

WATCH OUT

Apply for the visa **~3 months before your start date** — and don't miss the 30-day residence-permit deadline after arrival.

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STEP 04 OF 10

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to universities**. Your **high-school/prior diploma must be recognized (equivalence) by the Ministry of Education**, and documents **legalized/apostilled and translated** (into English or Albanian). English programs typically require **B1 (or a waiver for prior English-medium study)**. Deadlines run **June–September** for an October start.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly	Diploma recognition	English
to universities	by the Ministry	B1 or waiver

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly**, arrange **diploma recognition (equivalence)** and legalized/translated documents, and note English programs often need only **B1 or a waiver** — no IELTS in many cases.

GOOD TO KNOW

Your prior diploma must be **recognized by the Ministry of Education** — start this early, with apostilled, translated documents.

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STEP 05 OF 10

Plan for Tuition & Funding

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition is **very affordable**: public universities charge international students roughly **€1,000–2,500/year**, while private universities (especially English-taught) charge more (**~€3,000–7,000/year**). Scholarships are available at some universities.

BY THE NUMBERS

Public	Private (English)	Scholarships
~€1,000–2,500/yr	~€3k–7k/yr	at some universities

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **low public tuition** (or a private English program's higher fees) plus very low living costs, and pursue scholarships where offered.

GOOD TO KNOW

Albania has **some of the lowest total costs in Europe** — both tuition and living are very affordable.

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STEP 06 OF 10

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa/permit you must prove **sufficient funds** — commonly around **€5,000** — plus **health insurance** (roughly €100–500/year), proof of accommodation, and a legalized criminal-record certificate. Confirm the exact amount, as it can change.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds	Insurance	+ criminal record
~€5,000	~€100–500/yr	legalized

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** (~€5,000), **health insurance**, accommodation proof, and a legalized criminal-record certificate — all required for the visa and permit.

GOOD TO KNOW

You'll need a **legalized criminal-record certificate** (issued within ~6 months) — arrange it early.

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STEP 07 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Programs are taught in **Albanian** or, especially at private universities, in **English**. English programs typically ask for a **B1 certificate** (or waive it for prior English-medium study). Some Albanian helps daily life, but you can study fully in English.

BY THE NUMBERS

Albanian or English	English	Some Albanian
by university	B1 or waiver	helps daily life

HOW TO HELP

Confirm your program's language, provide a **B1 English certificate (or use a waiver)** where required, and pick up some Albanian for daily life.

GOOD TO KNOW

Many English programs **don't require IELTS** — a B1 certificate or prior English-medium study often suffices.

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STEP 08 OF 10

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, **apply for your residence permit (within 30 days), confirm insurance, and set up banking**. Living costs are among Europe's lowest (€250–500/month), and Tirana offers affordable housing (on- and off-campus) and a lively student scene.

BY THE NUMBERS

Residence permit	Very low costs	Tirana
within 30 days	€250–500/mo	affordable & lively

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **residence permit, insurance, banking** — and enjoy Tirana—s affordable housing and vibrant student life.

GOOD TO KNOW

Tirana offers **affordable on- and off-campus housing** and a lively student scene — a big draw.

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STEP 09 OF 10

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

International students are generally permitted to **work part-time during their studies** (subject to the rules), which helps with experience and expenses in a low-cost country.

BY THE NUMBERS

Work	Helps	Studies first
part-time allowed	experience & costs	the priority

HOW TO HELP

You can generally **work part-time** during your studies — confirm the current rules — which, given Albania's low costs, can meaningfully help with expenses.

GOOD TO KNOW

Confirm the **current student work rules** with your university — they depend on visa/permit terms.

10 STEP 10 OF 10

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

After completing your studies, you can apply for a **work visa/permit to stay and gain professional experience** in Albania, provided you find a qualifying job. Growing sectors include tourism, IT, and business.

BY THE NUMBERS

Post-study	If you find	Growing
work visa/permit	a qualifying job	tourism, IT, business

HOW TO HELP

Plan for a **post-study work permit** if you want to stay, target Albania's growing sectors, and use your Bologna-aligned degree for opportunities in the region — confirming current rules.

GOOD TO KNOW

Albania lets graduates **stay and work** if they find a qualifying job — confirm current conditions, which can change.

QUICK REFERENCE

Studying in Albania: The Essentials

A snapshot — Albania is an EU candidate (not member); verify degree recognition, and confirm details with Albanian immigration, your university, and the Ministry of Education.

The system

University of Tirana (largest) and Polytechnic University of Tirana (public); private universities (Epoka, UNYT, UET, UMT) offer many English-taught programs; Bologna-aligned.

Visa & permit

Non-EU students apply for a Type D visa via the online e-Visa system (~3 months ahead), then a temporary residence permit within 30 days of arrival; EU/EEA students are visa-exempt.

Tuition

Very affordable: public universities ~€1,000–2,500/year for international students; private (English-taught) ~€3,000–7,000/year; scholarships at some universities.

Money & language

Prove ~€5,000 plus health insurance, accommodation, and a legalized criminal record; Albanian or English programs (English often B1 or a waiver — frequently no IELTS).

Work & after

Students may work part-time; a post-study work permit lets graduates stay and work if they find a qualifying job (tourism, IT, business growing).

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