K12 ACADEMICS — INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERIES

Studying in Bahrain

A guide for international students & families — how Bahrain's higher education works, the student visa, English-medium study, and RCSI's Irish medical degree onshore.

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.

ENGLISH-MEDIUM, AN IRISH MEDICAL DEGREE ONSHORE, TAX-FREE

Bahrain's standout draw is **RCSI Medical University of Bahrain** — a constituent of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, delivering an **Irish medical degree onshore** (same curriculum and exams as RCSI Dublin, with a Dublin mobility option) — alongside the public University of Bahrain and English-medium private universities. Add a tax-free income and a safe, cosmopolitan Gulf setting. Your **university facilitates your student visa**. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or medical-licensing advice. Bahraini rules, tuition, and requirements change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with your university, the GDNPR, and the Higher Education Council**.

1

STEP 01 OF 10

Understand Why Students Choose Bahrain

WHAT TO KNOW

Bahrain offers **an Irish medical degree onshore (RCSI), English-medium teaching, a tax-free income, and a safe, cosmopolitan Gulf setting** — with strong healthcare training and regional (GCC/MENA) career links.

BY THE NUMBERS

RCSI	English-medium	Safe Gulf
Irish medical degree onshore	+ tax-free	GCC/MENA links

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Bahrain's **RCSI medical route and English-medium options** against generally higher medical tuition — for a globally respected medical degree in the Gulf, it's distinctive.

GOOD TO KNOW

RCSI Bahrain students sit the **same exams as RCSI Dublin** and can do a **mobility exchange to Dublin** — a genuinely international medical education.

2

STEP 02 OF 10

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

The flagship for international students is **RCSI Medical University of Bahrain** (Medicine, plus Nursing & Midwifery and postgraduate study). Alongside it are the public **University of Bahrain** and English-medium private universities — **Ahlia University, Applied Science University (ASU), AMA International, and the Royal University for Women**. Fees are approved by the **Higher Education Council**.

BY THE NUMBERS

RCSI Bahrain	University of Bahrain	Ahlia / ASU / others
medicine (flagship)	public	private, English

HOW TO HELP

Choose **RCSI Bahrain** for a world-class Irish medical degree, or the University of Bahrain / an English-medium private university for other fields — confirming accreditation.

GOOD TO KNOW

For medicine, RCSI Bahrain is the standout; for broader English-taught study, several **accredited private universities** are options — verify accreditation.

3

STEP 03 OF 10

Get the Student Visa

WHAT TO KNOW

As a non-resident, you must comply with the requirements of the **General Directorate of Nationality, Passport and Residence (GDNPR)**. Your **university's student services facilitates the student visa** (RCSI, for example, submits applications to immigration). Apply **early (visas can take two months or more)**; a recent law change means **applying before arrival** is important.

BY THE NUMBERS

GDNPR	University	Apply early
issues the student visa	facilitates it	2+ months; before arrival

HOW TO HELP

Let your **university's student services facilitate the GDNPR student visa**, and apply **early** (allow two months or more; apply before arrival).

WATCH OUT

Apply **well before arrival** — a recent immigration-law change adds extra steps if your visa isn't approved before the semester starts.

4

STEP 04 OF 10

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to your chosen university**. RCSI Bahrain offers **5-year and 6-year medical programs**, requires the **Casper situational-judgement test**, and needs **English proficiency (IELTS)** plus 12 years of schooling with biology, chemistry, and physics/maths. Other universities have their own requirements and deadlines.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly	RCSI	5/6-year
to each university	Casper test + IELTS	medical programs

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** to your university — for RCSI, prepare the **Casper test**, English (IELTS), and science subjects, and choose the 5- or 6-year medical program.

GOOD TO KNOW

RCSI applicants must sit the **Casper test** (a fee applies) — plan for it alongside your application.

5

STEP 05 OF 10

Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

WHAT TO KNOW

Medical tuition (RCSI) is **set annually and approved by the Higher Education Council**; the fee you enter on remains for the rest of your studies. To confirm acceptance, RCSI requires a **non-refundable deposit of US$10,000**. Scholarships are available at RCSI and other universities — check each institution.

BY THE NUMBERS

RCSI fees	Deposit	Scholarships
HEC-approved, fixed on entry	US$10,000 (non-refundable)	per university

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **medical tuition** (RCSI's fee is fixed at your entry rate) plus the **US$10,000 deposit**, and check RCSI and other universities for scholarships.

GOOD TO KNOW

RCSI's **entry-year fee stays fixed for your whole program** — useful for planning; the $10,000 deposit is non-refundable.

6

STEP 06 OF 10

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

You'll show you can fund tuition and living, pay the required **deposit and visa fee**, and arrange **health insurance**. Bahrain has **no personal income tax**. Confirm the exact requirements and fees with your university and the GDNPR.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds	Deposit + visa fee	No income tax
tuition + living	+ insurance	in Bahrain

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds**, the deposit and visa fee, and **health insurance** — confirm the exact figures with your university and the GDNPR.

GOOD TO KNOW

Requirements vary by university — follow your institution's and the GDNPR's official checklist.

7

STEP 07 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Teaching is **in English** at RCSI and many private universities, so you prove English (e.g., IELTS; English-language qualifications are valid for two years). North-American-educated and English-curriculum students may be exempt. Arabic is the national language; some Arabic helps daily life.

BY THE NUMBERS

English	IELTS	Arabic
RCSI & many private	valid 2 years	helps daily life

HOW TO HELP

Prove **English proficiency** (IELTS, valid two years; exemptions for English-curriculum students), and pick up some Arabic for daily life.

GOOD TO KNOW

At RCSI, **English is the medium of instruction** — language is rarely a barrier for study.

8

STEP 08 OF 10

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After your visa, **arrange housing, complete registration, and set up banking and insurance**. Note that some universities (including RCSI) **don't provide university housing**, so budget for private accommodation. Bahrain is compact, safe, and cosmopolitan, with a tax-free income.

BY THE NUMBERS

Housing	Registration + banking	Compact
often private (no uni housing)	set up	safe & tax-free

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **housing (often private), registration, banking, insurance** — in a compact, safe, tax-free Gulf kingdom.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some universities (RCSI included) provide **no on-campus housing** — arrange private accommodation and budget accordingly.

9

STEP 09 OF 10

Understand RCSI & Mobility

WHAT TO KNOW

RCSI Bahrain shares the **same curriculum and examinations as RCSI Dublin**, and its **Mobility Programme** lets students study for a period at the alternate campus (Bahrain–Dublin, and vice versa). Clinical training takes place at major teaching hospitals (BDF, King Hamad, Salmaniya).

BY THE NUMBERS

Same curriculum	Mobility Programme	Teaching hospitals
as RCSI Dublin	Bahrain–Dublin	BDF, King Hamad

HOW TO HELP

Take advantage of RCSI's **shared Dublin curriculum and Mobility Programme**, and its strong **hospital-based clinical training** — a genuinely international medical education.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **Mobility Programme** lets you study part of your degree in Dublin — a distinctive RCSI Bahrain advantage.

10 STEP 10 OF 10

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

An RCSI medical degree is **internationally respected**; for medicine, verify recognition and pass the licensing exam where you'll practice. To work in Bahrain after study, you'll need an employer-sponsored work permit. Confirm the current post-study pathway.

BY THE NUMBERS

RCSI degree	Medicine	Work
internationally respected	verify recognition	employer-sponsored

HOW TO HELP

Leverage your **internationally respected degree** (RCSI especially), verify medical recognition/licensing where you'll practice, and plan for an employer-sponsored work permit if you want to stay.

WATCH OUT

For medicine, **verify recognition and pass your target country's licensing exam** — the essential step to practice.

QUICK REFERENCE

Studying in Bahrain: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm with your university, the GDNPR, and the Higher Education Council.

The system

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain (a constituent of RCSI Dublin, delivering an Irish medical degree onshore), the public University of Bahrain, and English-medium private universities (Ahlia, Applied Science University, AMA International, Royal University for Women).

The visa

Non-residents comply with GDNPR requirements; the university's student services facilitates the student visa (apply early — two months or more — and before arrival, per recent immigration-law changes).

Tuition & scholarships

Medical fees (RCSI) are Higher-Education-Council-approved and fixed at your entry rate; a non-refundable US$10,000 deposit confirms acceptance; scholarships are available at RCSI and other universities.

Money & language

Show proof of funds plus the deposit, visa fee, and insurance; no personal income tax; English is the medium at RCSI and many private universities (IELTS, valid two years).

RCSI & after

RCSI Bahrain shares RCSI Dublin's curriculum, exams, and Mobility Programme, with clinical training at major hospitals; the degree is internationally respected — verify recognition and licensing where you'll practice.

YOUR BAHRAIN JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Find Your Community.

Explore our other Studying in [Country] guides, Top Universities by Country, and country guides — among **1,297 free resources**.

tools.k12academics.com →

K12 ACADEMICS

k12academics.com
© 2004–2026 K12 Academics