COMPARE YOUR **STUDY ABROAD** OPTIONS

SIX DESTINATIONS, ONE SMART DECISION

GRADSTAR
Global Education

Study Abroad 2026

Compare Popular Study Destinations

The only one-page reference Indian students need before choosing their study destination

DOWNLOAD PRINT DECIDE

THE **MASTER COMPARISON** TABLE

SIX COUNTRIES. EVERY FACTOR. ONE TABLE.

	Australia	UK	Germany	Finland	New Zealand	China
Intakes	Feb / Jul / Nov	Sep / Jan / May	Oct / Apr	Sep / Jan	Feb / Jul	Sep / Mar
Primary Intake	February	September	October	September	February	September
App Deadline	Oct-Nov	May-Jun (PG)	May 31 (Uni-Assist)	Jan 2016	Nov-Dec	Mar-Apr
IELTS Minimum	6.0-6.5	6.0-7.0	6.0-6.5	6.0-6.5	6.0-6.5	5.5-6.0
Avg Tuition/Year	AUD 20K-45K	GBP 12K-30K	€0-€3K (public)	€0-€15K	NZD 22K-38K	USD 2K-10K
Living Cost/Month	AUD 1,800-2,500	GBP 1,200-1,800	€800-1,200	€700-1,000	NZD 1,500-2,200	USD 400-800
Top Scholarship	Australia Awards	Chevening / GREAT	DAAD	Finnish Govt	NZ Excellence	CSC Govt
Scholarship Deadline	Jun-Jul	Nov / Feb-Apr	Oct-Nov	January	Oct-Nov	Apr 2030
Visa Type	Subclass 500	Student Visa	National Visa	Residence Permit	Student Visa	X1/X2 Visa
Visa Processing	~42 days	~3 weeks	6-12 weeks	4-8 weeks	~4 weeks	2-4 weeks
Post-Study Work	2-6 years (ASD)	2 years (PSW)	18 months	Up to 1 year	3 years (PGWRV)	Limited
PR Pathway	Strong	Moderate	Strong	Moderate	Strong (2026 rules)	Limited
Medium of Instruction	English	English	German / English	English	English	English / Chinese
Part-Time Work	48 hrs/fortnight	20 hrs/week	120 days/year	25 hrs/week	20 hrs/week	Limited
Best For	Career + PR	Prestige + Speed	Low Cost + Quality	Affordable Europe	Work + PR	Budget + Culture

DESTINATION **SNAPSHOT** CARDS

QUICK PROFILES: KNOW BEFORE YOU APPLY

AUSTRALIA

- 43 universities | 6 in global top 100
- February is the power intake, 65% of international students choose it
- New 2026 rule: Genuine Student (GS) statement replaces the old GTE
- Best courses: Engineering, Nursing, IT, Business, Education
- GradStar edge: We handle GS statements and Subclass 500 applications end-to-end

UNITED KINGDOM

- 24 Russell Group universities | Rankings respected globally
- September intake = UCAS deadline January 31 for UG; May-June for most PG
- May intake growing at Queen Mary, Brunel, Kent, and Northumbria
- Best courses: Law, Finance, Data Science, Public Health, MBA
- GradStar edge: We match you to the right Russell Group vs non-Russell Group pathway

GERMANY

- Free or near-free tuition at most public universities
- APS certificate mandatory for Indian students; takes 6-8 weeks
- Uni-Assist deadline: May 31 for Indian applicants (October intake)
- Best courses: Engineering, Computer Science, Automotive, MBA
- GradStar edge: We manage your APS process and Uni-Assist application

DESTINATION **SNAPSHOT** CARDS

QUICK PROFILES: KNOW BEFORE YOU APPLY

FINLAND

- Joint application via Studyinfo.fi closes January 16 each year for the September intake
- Tuition-free public universities for EU/EEA; non-EU pay €8K-€15K
- English-taught Master's programs are growing rapidly
- Best courses: Technology, Education, Environmental Science, Design
- GradStar edge: We track Studyinfo.fi deadlines and rolling admissions year-round

NEW ZEALAND

- Two structured intakes: February (primary) and July (secondary)
- 2026 proposed rules: A Level 9 Master's degree may offer a direct PR pathway
- Among the fastest student visa processing in the world
- Best courses: Agriculture, Marine Science, Hospitality, IT, Healthcare
- GradStar edge: We identify programs with direct PR pathways for your field

CHINA

- Most affordable study destination on this list
- CSC Government Scholarship: fully funded, deadline April 30
- The September intake has 10x more programs than the March intake
- Best courses: Medicine (MBBS), Engineering, Business, Chinese Language
- GradStar edge: We navigate CSC scholarship applications and X1 visa documentation

WHICH **DESTINATION** IS **RIGHT** FOR YOU?

ANSWER THESE FOUR QUESTIONS HONESTLY AND FOLLOW THE PATH.

What is your budget for tuition per year?

Under ₹5 lakhs
→ Germany or China

₹5-15 lakhs
→ Finland or New Zealand

₹15-30 lakhs
→ Australia or UK

How important is post-study work and PR to you?

PR is my top priority
→ Australia or New Zealand

I want 2 years of work experience, then return
→ UK or Germany

PR is not my main focus
→ China or Finland

When are you ready to apply?

Ready now (June-Aug 2026)
→ Australia Nov 2026/Feb 2027 or UK Sept 2026/Jan 2027

Ready in 3-4 months
→ Germany Oct 2026 or NZ Feb 2027

Already late, need fastest entry
→ China Sep 2026 (rolling) or NZ Jul 2026

What field do you want to study?

Engineering / Tech
→ Germany, Australia, Finland

Business / MBA
→ UK, Australia, China

Healthcare / Nursing
→ Australia, New Zealand, UK

Research / PhD
→ Germany, Finland, China

Budget MBBS → China

NOT SURE? THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR.

Our counselors at GradStarGlobal have helped thousands of Indian students find the right destination-intake-scholarship combination, for free.

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🧮 GPA Calculator: *The International Guide to Major-Specific GPA Conversion.pdf*

GRADSTAR Global Education

STOP COMPARING. START APPLYING.

Every week you delay a scholarship window closing or a seat filling up.

GRADSTAR
Global Education

YOUR DREAM UNIVERSITY IS WAITING.
WE'LL HELP YOU GET THERE.

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