

TOP ASIAN DESTINATIONS FOR INDIAN STUDENTS · #1 OF 6

Study in China

Eligibility · Cost · Language · Courses · Post-Study Work · Scholarships

Best known for	Affordability, MBBS/medicine, engineering, expanding English-taught programs
Typical annual cost (tuition + living)	₹4.5L – ₹8L (MBBS); varies for other courses
Language of instruction	English-taught programs widely available at MOE-listed universities; Mandarin (HSK) for Chinese-taught tracks
Post-study work	No open PSW visa; graduates need a Chinese employer sponsor and Foreigner Work Permit (Z visa) — Category B1 typically needs 2 years' post-degree experience, though some cities pilot exceptions for top-university masters/PhD grads
Flagship scholarship	Chinese Government Scholarship (CSC) — full tuition, housing/subsidy, insurance, monthly stipend

Eligibility

- MBBS: NEET-UG qualification is mandatory under NMC's FMGL Regulations 2021; minimum 50% in PCB (40% for reserved categories), though top institutions ask for 60–70%; age 17–25 at admission.
- General UG/PG: Class XII (or Bachelor's for PG) with good academic standing; English proficiency (IELTS/TOEFL) for English-taught programs; HSK Level 3–4 for Chinese-taught programs.
- Only the ~45 Ministry of Education-listed universities produce MBBS degrees recognized for India's NExT licensing exam — non-listed/private colleges carry real recognition risk.

Cost breakdown

- MBBS: Tuition ₹3L–6L/year; hostel & living ₹1.5L–2.5L/year; full 6-year course (with 1-year internship) totals roughly ₹25L–45L.
- Cheaper MBBS options cited include Nantong University, Ningxia Medical University, and Shihezi University.
- General courses: CSC-funded stipends run RMB 2,500 (UG) to RMB 3,500/month (PhD) for scholarship holders; self-funded tuition varies widely by university and city.

Popular courses

- MBBS/Medicine (the dominant draw for Indian students — 45+ universities teach it in English)
- Engineering (mechanical, civil, computer science)
- Business, international relations, Mandarin/China studies

Post-study work

- China has no blanket post-study work visa; the standard route is a Z visa tied to a specific employer and job offer, gated by a points-based Foreigner Work Permit system (Category A/B/C).
- A 2017 policy eased rules for graduates of Chinese and top overseas universities to convert directly to work visas without prior overseas experience, but enforcement varies by city and has tightened again through 2026 (e.g., Shanghai's salary thresholds for A/B-class visas rose sharply this year).
- Bachelor's-only graduates generally still need 2 years of post-graduate work experience abroad before qualifying for a standard China work visa, unless a local pilot program applies.

Job options & career outlook

- For MBBS graduates — the majority of Indian students in China — the standard path is to return to India after the 6-year course (incl. 1-year internship) and clear the NExT licensing exam, since practicing in China itself requires separately clearing local requirements and a Z visa.
- For engineering/business/general graduates wanting to work in China, hiring is gated by the point-based Foreigner Work Permit system: Category A (high-end talent, fewest restrictions), Category B (professional talent — the B1 route needs a bachelor's degree plus 2 years' related work experience), and Category C (restricted by quota/sector).
- Foreign-invested enterprises in Shanghai, Beijing, and Shenzhen pay well above the national average — tech and finance roles in Shanghai commonly run RMB 18,000–30,000/month — but hiring of fresh foreign graduates without prior experience remains the exception rather than the rule.
- Students who return to India after a Chinese degree (particularly overseas STEM/business returnees generally) report a meaningful salary premium over India-only degree holders once established, though this varies widely by field and employer.

Accommodation

- University dormitories are the default and often mandatory for international students in the first year — shared rooms (2–4 students), basic amenities, meals available at extra cost; hostel fees run roughly RMB 4,000–10,000/year for MBBS programs.
- Off-campus options include private hostels/youth hostels (¥100–300/night for short stays) and shared apartments split among roommates — a popular way to cut costs once students are familiar with the city.

- A studio or one-bedroom private apartment off-campus typically costs the INR-equivalent of ₹18,000–60,000+/month depending on city, with medical-university towns (Nantong, Ningxia, Shihezi) running well below Beijing/Shanghai rates.

Social life & student community

- Language is the single biggest adjustment outside MOE-listed English-taught programs — daily life, signage, and casual socializing skew heavily Mandarin even when coursework is in English.
- MBBS programs draw large, tight-knit Indian cohorts (9,000+ Indian students were enrolled in Chinese MBBS programs in a recent academic year), so most students have an active Indian peer network from day one, including informal mess/mealshare groups and festival celebrations (Diwali, Holi) organized by student associations.
- Indian food is generally accessible near universities with sizeable Indian student populations, though selection thins out in smaller cities.

Scholarships

- Chinese Government Scholarship (CSC) — Type A (embassy), Type B (university), or Type C (bilateral); full tuition, accommodation/subsidy, insurance, and stipend.
- Provincial/municipal government scholarships and individual university tuition waivers, often for strong CSCA or HSK scorers.

Other relevant details

- Language barrier is the most cited adjustment challenge outside MOE-listed English programs.
- Visa policy (Z visa thresholds, apostille requirements) has changed multiple times through 2026 — always verify current rules before committing.

Verify before you apply

Visa and post-study work rules change often, and several changed more than once during the 2026 cycle. Tuition and living figures are indicative. Always confirm current terms with the official immigration source and the university before making a decision.

Explore China. Discover your possibilities.

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