

Education Pathways for Foreign Families

Singapore is consistently ranked among the world's top education systems, offering a wide range of schooling options for foreign children—from public schools to international and private institutions.

This guide helps parents understand:

- The types of schools available
- Student Pass requirements
- Parent stay options
- Key timelines and planning considerations

1. Local Government Schools

Who Are They Suitable For

- Children who can adapt to a local academic environment
- Families seeking lower tuition fees
- Long-term residents or PR applicants

Key Features

- Curriculum by Singapore Ministry of Education (MOE)
- Strong academic discipline
- Multicultural environment
- Limited foreign student slots

Admission Process

- Foreign students must take the Admissions Exercise for International Students (AEIS)
- Entry subject to vacancies
- High competition

Student Pass Requirement

- Required for foreign students
- Issued after school admission confirmation

Cost (Approximate)

- SGD 7,000 - 12,000 per year (varies by level)

2. International Schools

Who Are They Suitable For

- Families planning short- to medium-term stay
- Children transferring from overseas education systems
- Parents who prefer international curricula

Common Curricula

- IB (International Baccalaureate)
- British (IGCSE / A-Levels)
- American
- Australian
- European systems

Key Features

- English-based instruction
- Easier admission process
- Higher fees
- Diverse international student body

Student Pass Requirement

- Required for non-resident children

Cost (Approximate)

- SGD 20,000 - 45,000 per year

3. Private Education Institutions (PEIs)

Who Are They Suitable For

- Older students (secondary, pre-university, diploma)
- Students seeking alternative pathways
- Families prioritising flexibility

Key Features

- Smaller class sizes
- Flexible entry points
- Foundation courses and bridging programmes
- Not part of MOE system

Student Pass Requirement

- Required
- School must be ICA-approved

Cost (Approximate)

- SGD 10,000 – 25,000 per year

4. Student Pass (STP) – Key Requirements

Foreign students must hold a Student Pass (STP) unless exempted.

Eligibility Requirements

- Offer letter from an ICA-approved school
- Full-time enrolment
- Valid passport
- Proof of funds
- Residential address in Singapore

Application Timeline

- Apply after school acceptance
- Processing time: 2-6 weeks

Validity

- Typically matches the course duration
- Renewable subject to attendance and compliance

5. Can Parents Stay in Singapore?

Yes, depending on circumstances.

Parent Stay Options

- Dependant Pass (DP) – if parent holds EP / PR
- Long-Term Visit Pass (LTVP) – usually for one parent
- Short-term Visit Pass – limited duration

Only one parent is typically allowed to stay under LTVP for a child on Student Pass.

6. School Admission Planning Timeline

Timeframe - Action

9-12 months

Research schools & curriculum

6-9 months

Submit applications

3-6 months

Secure offer & apply Student Pass

1-2 months

Housing, medical, logistics

7. Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Applying for Student Pass before school acceptance
- Underestimating waitlists
- Choosing a school misaligned with long-term plans
- Ignoring parent stay limitations
- Late planning

8. How We Assist Families

We support families with:

- School pathway advisory
- Student Pass preparation
- Parent visa planning
- Relocation coordination
- Long-term PR strategy

All applications follow ICA guidelines and are handled carefully.