Checklist: Requirements for Foreign Students Studying in South Africa

This checklist outlines the key requirements from the South African Department of Home Affairs for foreign students who wish to study in South Africa.

- Valid passport (at least 30 days after intended study period, with blank pages).
- Official letter of admission from a South African institution.
- Study visa application submitted at South African Embassy/Consulate (before arrival).
- Proof of financial means to cover tuition fees and living expenses.
- Medical aid cover valid in South Africa for the duration of studies.
- Recent medical and radiological (X-ray) reports.
- Police clearance certificate from country of origin (if over 18).
- Proof of accommodation in South Africa (homestay, dorm, private housing).
- Parental/guardian consent if under 21 years old.
- Yellow fever vaccination certificate (if required by country of origin).
- Apply at least 6–8 weeks before intended travel date.
- Renew study visa before it expires if studies are extended.
- Maintain attendance and academic progress (institutions may report to Home Affairs).
- Study visa generally allows part-time work only (up to 20 hours per week).

For the latest and official information, visit the Department of Home Affairs: https://www.dha.gov.za