



International Student Relations

University of the Philippines Los Baños

ISR's Guide to Cost of Living in the Philippines

PART 1: Moving in Essentials 🔍

STUDYING IN THE PHILIPPINES



Students from different parts of the world choose to study in the Philippines for several reasons. One of the best reasons is the affordable tuition for high-quality of education.

Philippine universities offer wide-range of academic programs that are also credited in other countries. In addition, the language of instruction is mostly in English.

While earning their degrees, foreign students also experience the warm hospitality, and culture of the Filipino people while living and studying in the Philippines. Even when far away from their home countries, UPLB international students can always find support from their colleagues and from the UPLB International Student Relations (ISR).



WHAT YOU NEED



Moving away from home requires living adjustment which entail expenses. Here are some of the basic needs you need to cover when studying in the Philippines.

VISA CONVERSION

i Temporary Visitors Visa (9A) holders must convert to Student Visa (9F) to legally pursue their studies in the Philippines.

₱ **ESTIMATED COST: ₱18K - 26K**

- Visa Conversion (9A TVV to 9F)
- Visa 9A TVV update for 1 month (arrival)
- ACR i-card
- Miscellaneous fees

!! IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Conversion fee is subject to change depending on the situation or arrival status of the applicant. Transportation fee is excluded.

DOCUMENTS

Every international student's journey starts with legal documents. Here are the requirements and fees to anticipate.

MEDICAL CLEARANCE

i One of the requirements for visa conversion is a medical certificate with "fit to study" remarks and negative drug test result, from a level 3 hospital.

₱ **ESTIMATED COST: ₱2.8K - 6K**

- Laboratory
- Physical Check-up

!! IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Fees may vary depending on the chosen hospital. Transportation fee is excluded.

HOUSING IN LOS BAÑOS



Students have an option to choose an accommodation inside and outside campus.

UP STUDENT HOUSING

i The Office of Student Housing under the Office of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs manages 9 dormitories. These dormitories only offer shared rooms (from 4 to 6 pax)

₱ **ESTIMATED COST: ₱800 - 2K**

- Room Rental (per month)
- Utility Bills (per month)

!! **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- Beddings and appliances are not included in the accommodation.
- Fees vary depending on the appliances the tenant will bring and utilize inside the room.
- With curfew
- Shared rooms only (no single room occupation)

SOLO APARTMENT

i Apartments for solo living are available around the campus vicinity.

₱ **ESTIMATED COST: ₱5K - 8K**

Rent only (per month)

!! **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- Beddings and appliances are not included
- Utility bills are not usually included
- There are rental units inside and outside campus

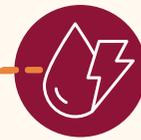
SHARED APARTMENT

i Living with limited number of housemate is an option if you want to lower the cost of rent and utility bills.

₱ **ESTIMATED COST: ₱2.5K - 8K**
Rent only (per month)

!! IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Beddings and appliances are not included
- You may have to find your own housemate to share the apartment with
- Fees may vary depending on the number of house occupants
- There are rental units inside and outside campus



UTILITY BILLS

ELECTRICITY

₱ **ESTIMATED COST: ₱200-500**
For UP-managed dorms (per month)

₱ **ESTIMATED COST: ₱1K - 1.5K**
Metered consumption (per month)

WATER

₱ **ESTIMATED COST: FREE**
For UP-managed dorms (per month)

₱ **ESTIMATED COST: ₱500 - 1K**
Metered consumption (per month)

INTERNET

₱ **ESTIMATED COST: ₱1K-2K**
Service fee for outside the campus housing management

!! IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Free internet access is provided for UPLB students and employees within the campus premises.





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PART 2: Daily Expenses 🔍

GETTING THE BASIC NEEDS

Getting the basic needs while living in your new environment could be difficult when you don't know where to go, how to get them, and how much you need to prepare. Here's a guide on how you can get your basic needs.



FOOD ITEMS

GROCERIES

i There are two major places to do your grocery shopping. Supermarkets are located in malls and commercialized areas. The most local choice is going to the *palengkes* for more cheaper option.

₱ ESTIMATED BUDGET:
₱4,000 up to ₱5,000 per month

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The grocery expenses will depend on the type of food, brand, quantity, and establishment.

Filipinos love to eat, and there are many places you can go to if you want to shop for cooking or dig in with readily prepared meals.

PREPARED MEALS

i Home-style cooked meals can be easily spotted around the campus. It is mostly more affordable than what restaurants offer.

₱ ESTIMATED BUDGET:
₱75.00 to ₱100.00 per meal
₱1,575.00 to ₱2,100 per week

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
Prices may vary depending on the type of the purchased meal.



HYGIENE

The Philippines is a tropical country, and the weather will surely make everyone sweat. Good hygiene is key to staying fresh and feeling your best.



TOILETRIES

i Usual toiletries include bath soap, shampoo, hair conditioner, deodorant, razor, toothpaste, and toothbrush

₱ **ESTIMATED BUDGET:**
₱675.00 to ₱1000.00 per month

!! **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**
Prices may vary depending on the brand, quantity, and store.



LAUNDRY

i Self-service and Full-service laundry are available around Los Baños.

₱ **ESTIMATED BUDGET:**
₱35.00 to ₱70.00/kilo of general clothes

!! **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**
Prices may vary depending on the brand, quantity, and store.

TRANSPORTATION

Various transportation options are available to get around Los Baños and nearby places to help you get your basic needs.

PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES

i Jeepney, bus, tricycle, motortaxi, and pedicab can get you around to do your errands.

₱ **ESTIMATED BUDGET:**
JEEP: ₱11.00 to ₱13.00 - minimum fare
BUS: ₱24.00 to ₱65.00
TRICYCLE: ₱20.00 to ₱80.00
MOTOTAXI: ₱50.00 to ₱100.00

!! **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**
Fare prices depend on the distance.