

# Study Difficulty Index 2026: International Student Visa Barriers

Comparative analysis of entry barriers across 12 major destination countries

## Study Difficulty Index 2026: Comparative Heatmap

Barrier scores by country and dimension (1 = easy, 10 = very difficult) – 12 major destinations



Difficulty

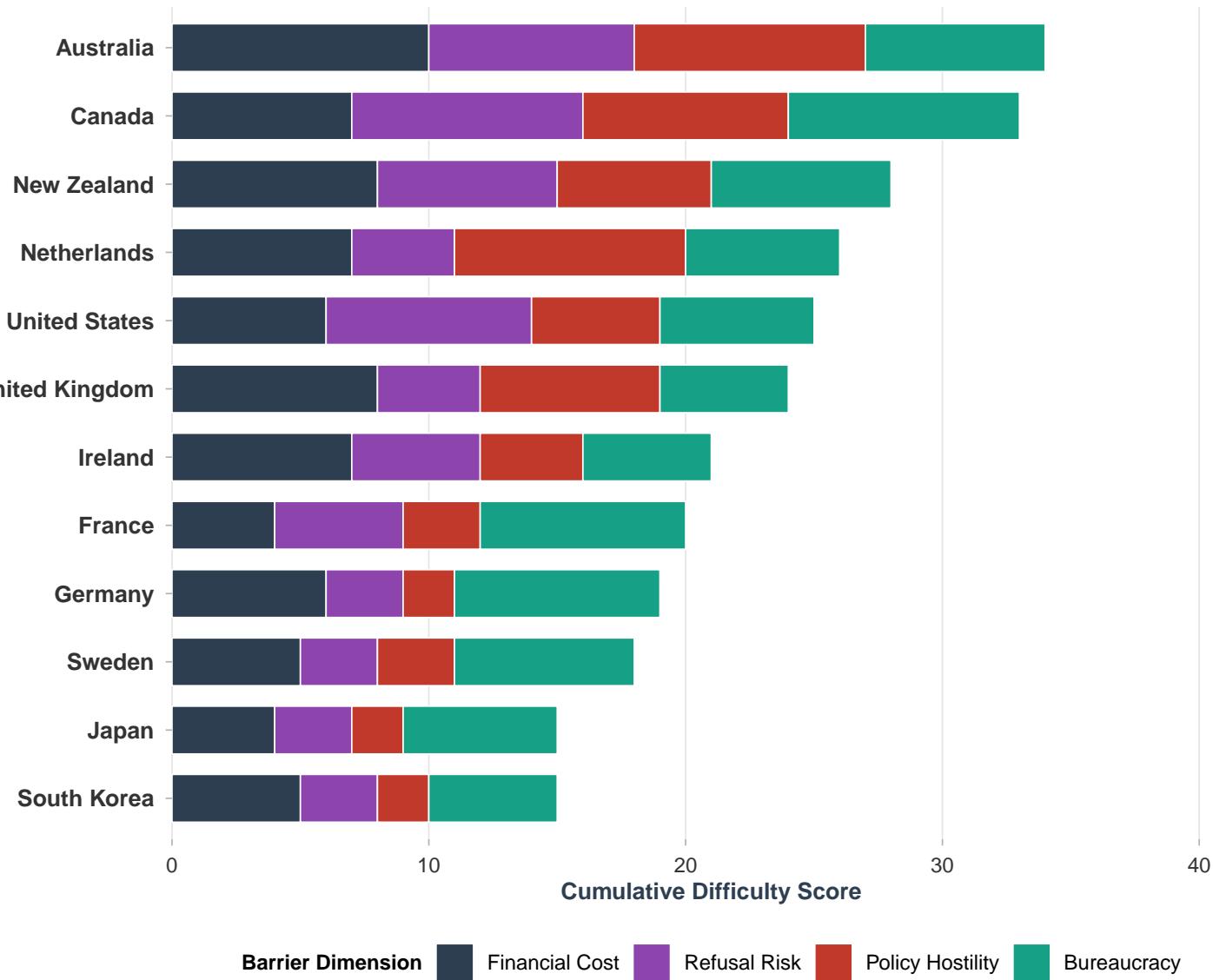
High

Medium

Low

## Study Visa Difficulty: Component Breakdown

Contribution of each barrier dimension to overall difficulty



Sources: Home Affairs Australia, IRCC Canada, UKVI, IND Netherlands, INZ, US State Dept, Campus France, German Foreign Office, StudyKorea, JASSO Japan, INIS Ireland, Migrationsverket Sweden (2025/26).

Financial Cost: fees + funds. Refusal Risk: rejection rates. Policy Hostility: caps, bans. Bureaucracy: paperwork.

Left: Dimension scores (1–10) for each country. Right: Cumulative contribution of each barrier type.

Sources: Official immigration authorities of each country (January 2026). See methodology notes for full scoring criteria.