Estimated Cost of Living in Belo Horizonte

The information below is intended to provide international students with a general estimate of the cost of living in Belo Horizonte.

The figures provided are for reference only and may vary depending on the type of housing chosen, eating habits, transportation needs, and each student's lifestyle.

1. Housing

Housing typically accounts for the largest portion of monthly expenses. Costs can vary considerably depending on the neighborhood, the type of property, and the number of people sharing the space.

As a reference for the Pampulha area and nearby neighborhoods:

Shared room: approximately R$ 700.00 (US$ 136) to R$ 1,100.00 (US$ 214) per month;
Private room in a shared apartment: approximately R$ 1,000.00 (US$ 195) to R$ 1,500.00 (US$ 292) per month;
Private apartment or studio: approximately R$ 1,500.00 (US$ 292) to R$ 2,500.00 (US$ 486) or more per month.

It is important to check for any additional expenses not included in the rent, such as building maintenance fees, water, electricity, gas, internet, and other charges.

2. Meals

2.1 University Restaurant (RU/Bandejão)

UFMG has university restaurants (RU), commonly known as Bandejão, which offer meals at subsidized prices to students.

For students who are regularly enrolled and do not receive other subsidies, the standard price for a discounted meal is R$ 5.60 (US$ 1.09) per meal, for both lunch and dinner.

Assuming two meals a day for approximately 22 days a month (excluding weekends, when the university cafeteria is closed), the estimated monthly cost would be: **approximately R$ 246.00 (US$ 48) per month.**

Please note: Students who arrive in Brazil without a CPF and need to apply for one after their arrival may not have immediate access to the student discount at the University Dining Hall.

For the discount to apply, the student must be regularly enrolled, and their CPF must be properly registered and up-to-date in the UFMG system.

Therefore, until this information is in order, the student may have to pay the full price of the meal: R$ 17.50 (US$ 3.41), without the student discount.

For this reason, students arriving in Brazil without a CPF should factor in this potential additional expense when planning their budget for the first few weeks of their stay.

2.2 Other Restaurants on Campus

In addition to the University Restaurants, there are other restaurants and food establishments on campus and in the vicinity of UFMG.

Prices vary depending on the establishment and the type of meal. In general, you can find:

- Meals priced by weight;
- Meals with a fixed price.

As a reference, the cost of a a meal may rand between R$ 30 and R$50 (US$ 6–10).

2.3 Groceries and Other Food Expenses

It is also important to consider expenses for groceries, snacks, medication, cleaning and personal hygiene supplies, school supplies, and meals eaten outside the University Dining Halls.

A general estimate would be approximately:

R$ 300–500 (US$ 58–97).

3. Transportation

The standard fare for public buses in Belo Horizonte is approximately **R$ 6.25 (US$ 1.22) per trip.**

Assuming two trips/day × 22 days: **approximately R$ 275 (US$ 54) per month.**

This amount may be lower or higher depending on where the student lives and how often they use public transportation.

UFMG offers a free internal bus service for all students who are regularly enrolled or affiliated with UFMG.

3.1 Free Transportation on Sundays and Holidays

In Belo Horizonte, certain regular and supplemental bus routes **offer free rides on Sundays and holidays.**

4. University Sports Center (CEU)

The University Sports Center (CEU) is UFMG's sports and recreation facility, located on the Pampulha Campus.

The CEU provides facilities and opportunities for sports and recreational activities.

For students, the standard membership fee is:

- R$25 (US$ 4.86) per semester for students who do not receive financial aid from Fump;
- R$ 10 (US$ 1.95) per semester for certain categories of students receiving financial aid;
- Free for students in the category corresponding to the highest level of financial aid.

Considering the standard fee of **R$25/semester** divided over six months: **approximately R$ 4.00 (US$ 0.78) per month.**

5. Phone and Internet

Students should also factor in the cost of a cell phone plan in Brazil.

A general estimate would be: approximately R$ 50–100 (US$ 10–19) per month**.**

It's worth noting that UFMG and the University Housing Office provide free Wi-Fi to students who are regularly enrolled at the University.

6. Estimated Monthly Expenses

Below are two examples to help with financial planning.

6.1 Average Estimated Cost of Living for Students

Expenses	Monthly estimate
Housing	US$ 253 / R$ 1,300
Food and Grocery	US$ 78 / R$ 400,00
University restaurant	US$ 48 / R$ 245,00
Transportation	US$ 54 / R$ 275,00
Cell Phone Internet Plan	US$ 15 / R$ 75,00
Estimated total:	Approximately US$ 450 / R$2.300 per month

Be mindful of initial expenses: It's important to keep in mind that your first few months in Belo Horizonte may involve higher costs than the months that follow. Some initial expenses may include:

- Rental deposit or security deposit;
- Advance rent payment;
- Temporary housing;
- Documentation and service-related procedures: CPF, CRNM, SIM card, and cell phone plan;
- Transportation costs during the first few days;
- Purchase of basic household items.

7. Conclusion

As a general guideline, international students can expect to spend **approximately US$ 370 to US$ 526 (R$ 1,900 to R$ 2,700) per month** to cover basic living expenses in Belo Horizonte.

This amount can vary considerably depending on each student's choices regarding housing, food, transportation, and lifestyle. It is recommended that students plan their finances before arrival and set aside additional funds for unexpected expenses, especially during the first month of their stay.

In addition, some currencies are difficult to exchange in Belo Horizonte, so bring part of your money in cash—preferably reais, dollars, or euros, since some foreign currencies are not accepted or may be harder to exchange in Brazil—as most document processing fees cannot be paid by card. Money can be exchanged at airports, at Banco do Brasil—which is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and has several branches in Belo Horizonte—and at currency exchange bureaus.

Note: The figures shown are for the 2026/2 season.

Av. Antônio Carlos, 6627, Pampulha - Reitoria - Anexo -Térreo
Belo Horizonte - MG, Brasil - CEP 31270901
+55 31 3409.4401, info@dri.ufmg.br, www.ufmg.br/dri