

# STUDY UK GUIDE

for Student Advisors  
in Europe



The best  
possible you,  
made possible  
in the UK



STUDY  
UK

BRITISH COUNCIL GREAT  
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

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# WHY STUDY IN THE UK?



**A UK education opens doors, wherever students want to go in the world. From the world-recognised universities to the innovative teaching approach and the leading minds who deliver it, the UK has what students need to reach their potential.**

**The UK has been the preferred choice for some of the most important minds in history. One in four world leaders has studied in the UK, so if your students are dreaming of achieving big things, they can be sure they are in the right place in the UK.**





## A high standard of education

The UK's academic reputation is world-renowned. Built on a heritage that is now centuries old, the UK's approach to education applies the very latest learning theory through universities that routinely top international tables. UK universities' varied teaching methods produce successful, versatile graduates who are sought-after by employers around the world.

## World-ranked universities

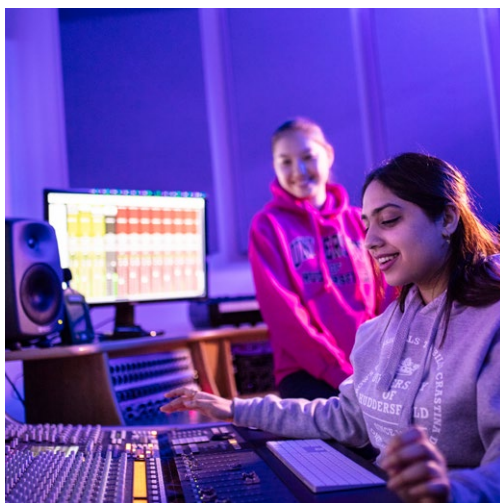
UK universities have featured strongly in world rankings ever since they began. In 2021 the Times Higher Education World Rankings honoured the UK with two of the world's top ten universities, with the University of Oxford in first place. This high quality can be found right across the country, with seven of the top 50, and 29 of the top 200 universities located in the UK.

## Quality that is government-guaranteed

The UK's 162 higher education institutions are all held to strict standards by the government, so students know they are getting the best teaching, support and resources available.

## Innovative teaching methods

UK universities combine traditional lectures with a variety of teaching techniques, designed to encourage independent thinking, problem-solving skills and self-motivation. Students studying STEM subjects work in small groups to solve real-life problems similar to those they might face in their future career, be it in the classroom, the lab or on field trips. Students in the humanities take part in active small-group seminars to discuss texts and concepts in detail.



## World-leading research

The UK is a global powerhouse in its research across all disciplines. With so many universities at the cutting edge of ideas, discoveries and emerging technologies, students graduate with insights and experience that are in high demand around the world.

The consistent high quality of education in the UK has made it a firm favourite with international students all over the world and a key part of its quality is its commitment to research. The UK's exceptional research landscape has been affirmed by its impressive place in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021, with two universities featuring in the top ten for life sciences and engineering.

The UK's field-weighted citation impact is higher than the US, Canada, Germany, Japan and Brazil, so anyone studying science in the UK can be sure they will be working alongside some of the best minds – and using some of the best technology – in the world. In the arts and humanities, the UK is ranked even more highly, with four of the top ten universities in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021 from the UK.







## Tailormade courses

It is not just the world-recognised universities that make the UK a top choice for international students. Courses in the UK are tailormade to help students get the most out of their studies. Humanities courses offer students the chance to think boldly, challenge narratives and make connections across disciplines.

From the traditional to the cutting edge – whatever they want to study, students in the UK are sure to find a course that provides them with the understanding, experience and skills they need to pursue their dream career.

## Built-in flexibility

In the UK, flexibility is built into the majority of university courses. Many universities allow students to choose from different subject 'modules', so a course programme that suits the individual student can be designed.

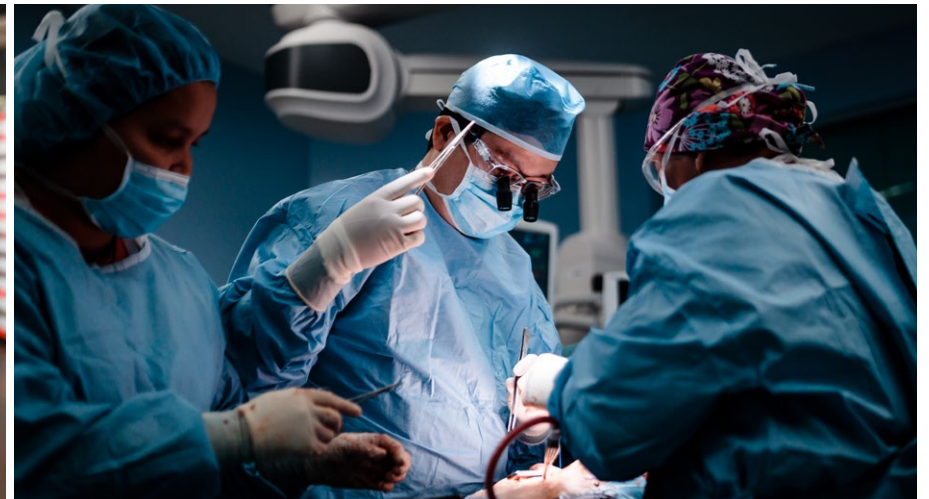
## Encouragement to think differently

The UK's education system doesn't just immerse students in their chosen subject – it is designed to help them to think differently. Throughout their studies they are encouraged to enter into discussions with their lecturers and fellow students, and be creative as well as critical as they contribute their own ideas through a blend of lectures, seminars and practical work.

## Brilliant teachers

Behind UK universities' brilliant research are brilliant thinkers – some of the best minds in their fields whom students can connect with throughout their studies. The UK higher education system is set apart by the opportunities it gives to students to work closely with academics and learn from their experience.

The impact of UK universities' supportive and inspiring teaching is evident in the feedback received from graduates. In Universities UK International's 2019 International Graduate Outcomes report, 90% of international students said they were satisfied with their learning and support experience at university. The quality of undergraduate teaching is also regularly assessed by the UK government through the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). Universities can achieve Gold, Silver and Bronze levels in the TEF, giving students the assurance of the quality of teaching they will receive.







## State-of-the-art technology

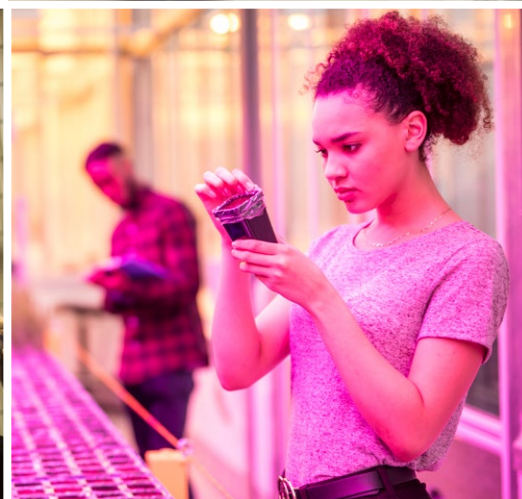
At UK universities students can develop their skills using state-of-the-art technology. With the very latest equipment and IT ready to use across a range of subjects, they can pursue their own research in some of the most sophisticated environments available anywhere.

## Research grounded in the real world

With one of the best reputations in the world for industry collaboration, academic theories from UK institutions are applied rigorously in the real world to test their relevance and impact. And the UK has a long culture of making discoveries that really do change the world – 38 per cent of Nobel Laureates who studied abroad chose to do so in the UK.

## Career opportunities

As well as connecting students with ambitious like-minded students from the UK and abroad, UK courses offer lots of ways for students to take their first steps into the world of work. UK institutions cultivate relationships both in STEM and the creative industries, allowing students to get practical experience in their field with world-leading organisations, and make connections to give their career an edge. Students can undertake work and volunteering placements, internships and opportunities to gain professional accreditation, as well as gain tailored advice through universities' dedicated careers offices. Professional careers advisors are available throughout



a course of study to give guidance on interview preparation, writing a CV and developing a skillset for a particular industry. The QS global survey of graduate employers consistently shows that UK degrees are highly valued worldwide, with UK universities topping the QS employer reputation ranking.

## Qualifying sooner

Postgraduate courses in the UK are shorter than in both the US and Australia, with many courses taking just one full year, providing value for money and ensuring that applying knowledge in the real world can begin sooner.



# CHOOSING THE RIGHT COURSE / UNIVERSITY





Higher education institutions in the UK are either degree-awarding ('recognised bodies', called universities and colleges) or non-degree awarding but provide bridging courses for entry into a degree-awarding programme ('listed bodies').

## Recognised bodies: Universities and Colleges

There are 162 universities and colleges across the UK that offer study programmes in all fields, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Recognised bodies are permitted to award students bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, as well as selected other higher education awards depending on the nature of the institution.

For a list of recognised bodies, please see [www.gov.uk/check-a-university-is-officially-recognised/recognised-bodies](http://www.gov.uk/check-a-university-is-officially-recognised/recognised-bodies)

## Listed bodies & other institutions

Whilst these institutions do not have the power to award degrees, they offer a number of vocational and bridging programmes that may lead directly to employment, a degree programme or focus on developing a specific, technical skill. For a list of listed bodies, please see [www.gov.uk/check-a-university-is-officially-recognised/listed-bodies](http://www.gov.uk/check-a-university-is-officially-recognised/listed-bodies)

## Undergraduate studies

For international undergraduates looking to kick-start their career, the UK offers far more than just a world-class education. With a wide range of learning experiences inside and outside the lecture hall or laboratory, students will graduate with the confidence, skills and knowledge to shape their future.

### UK undergraduate course types include:

- Bachelor's or undergraduate degree: BA (Bachelor of Arts), BSc (Bachelor of Science), LLB (Bachelor of Law), BEd (Bachelor of Education) and BEng (Bachelor of Engineering).
- Shorter courses: Foundation Degree, Diploma of Higher Education, Higher National Diploma, and Certificate of Higher Education.

A full-time bachelor's degree normally takes three years to complete in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and four years in Scotland. Part-time options are also available at some universities and colleges.

## Searching for a suitable course

UCAS lists more than 50,000 undergraduate courses with over 380 providers in the UK, which you and your students can search for here: <https://digital.ucas.com/search>







Subject guides also give an insight into the courses that students can study at undergraduate level, what they involve, and how to enroll: <https://www.ucas.com/explore>

Students can also use the University finder on the Study UK website to search for a course: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/find/university>

## Postgraduate studies

With the UK's exceptional academic standards, progressive teaching techniques and globally respected research practices, it is understandable that so many international postgraduates choose to study in the UK.

### UK postgraduate course types include:

- Master's degrees: MA (Master of Arts), MSc (Master of Science), subject-specific qualifications, including MEng (Master of Engineering), MFA (Master of Fine Arts), LL.M (Master of Laws), MArch (Master of Architecture), and MPhil (Master of Philosophy), which are research-led and usually designed for students to progress to a PhD.
- MBA courses
- PhDs or doctorates
- Postgraduate diplomas and certificates: Usually shorter than a master's and do not involve a thesis or dissertation.





- Professional and vocational qualifications: most awards involve practical training.

A full-time master's degree usually takes one year (taught master's) or two years (research master's) to complete. Part-time options are also available at some universities.

## Searching for a suitable course

Students can find details about postgraduate courses, master's degrees, MBA courses, PhD study options, postgraduate diplomas and certificates, law qualifications and teacher training options on the Prospects website: [www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses)

Students can also use the University finder on the Study UK website to search for a postgraduate course:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/find/university>

## Other options

As well as undergraduate and postgraduate study, the UK offers many other opportunities to international students:

- Further education: This refers to education after compulsory secondary school that is not an undergraduate or postgraduate degree. Further education institutions in the UK provide technical and professional education and training to people over the age of 16. Qualifications and training include A-Levels, apprenticeships, traineeships, vocational qualifications and entry level training.





- Foundation pathway courses: These are designed for international students to improve their English skills and develop the confidence to start undergraduate or postgraduate study. They provide the opportunity to adjust to the UK's culture and get used to university teaching.
- English language courses: As the home of the English language and with a reputation for academic excellence, the UK is the perfect destination to learn English.

## Studying for a UK degree outside the UK

Your students can also gain a UK higher education qualification in their own country. There are various transnational education (TNE) options for them to choose from, including online courses and joint degrees. To find out more about studying for a UK degree outside the UK, visit <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/find/study-options/studying-uk-degree-outside-uk> or contact your local British Council office for more information.

To find out more about course information and other UK study options, visit <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/options/find-course>



# HOW TO APPLY



# Undergraduate studies

The majority of undergraduate applications are made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). To apply through UCAS, students need to go to [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) and register their details in the application system. They can apply for up to five courses through UCAS and will be contacted by them with any offers they receive from the universities or colleges they have chosen.



# Application deadlines

## 15 October

For courses at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge and for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine, and dentistry.

## 15 January

For most undergraduate courses.

## 30 June

Late deadline for most undergraduate courses. Applications received after this deadline will automatically go into 'clearing', so applicants will not be guaranteed their first choice.

Students can always apply early and should not leave it too close to the deadline.

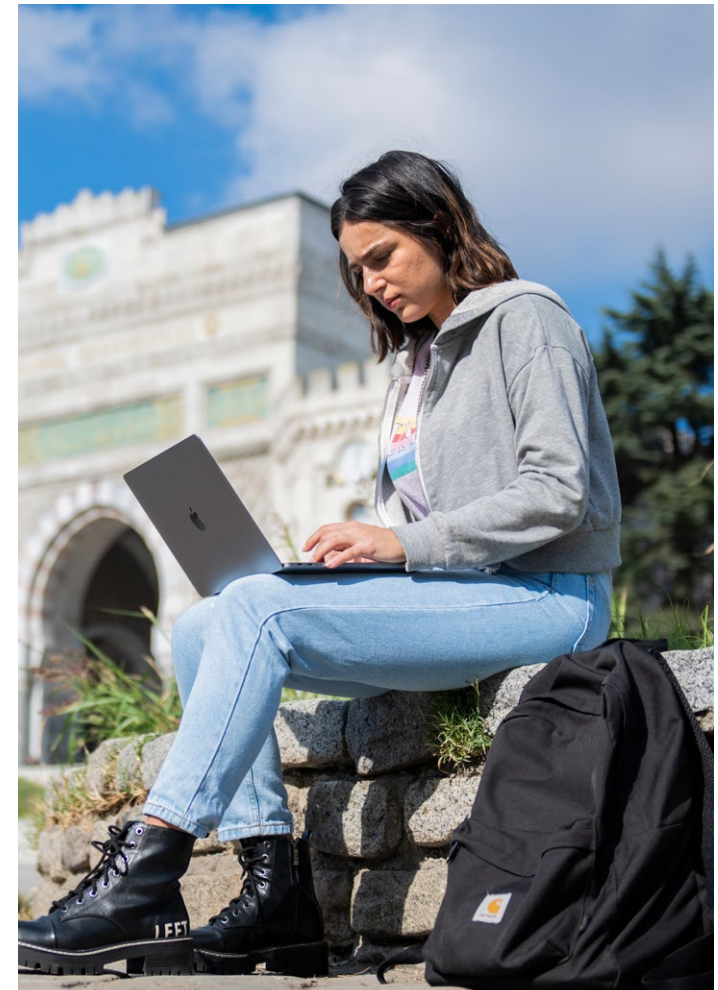


## What is Clearing?

Clearing is how universities and colleges in the UK fill any places they still have on their courses.

For more information about applying for undergraduate courses in the UK, visit <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/options/apply/undergraduate>

For more information about clearing, visit the UCAS website: [www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing](http://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing)





# Postgraduate studies

Almost all UK universities handle their own postgraduate applications and they are done directly through their websites. Not all postgraduate courses have a fixed application deadline. However, it is always best to apply early to secure the best chance of being accepted – from six months to a year before the course begins.

For more information about applying for postgraduate courses in the UK, visit <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/options/apply/postgraduate> and [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk).





## Qualifications

Applicants can check the equivalence of their country's qualifications with those in the UK by contacting the National Recognition Information Centre - [www.naric.org.uk](http://www.naric.org.uk) or by contacting the university of their choice.

## Personal Statement

The applicant will be required to provide a personal statement as part of the application. This document is the applicant's opportunity to explain why they would like to study their chosen subject, and to outline the skills and experience that make them well suited to this field.

Students should be mindful of the following things:

- The course description on the university website explains the qualifications, skills and experience it requires. The student's profile is expected to match each of these course requirements.
- Why are they interested in applying for their chosen course? They should be specific about which aspects interest them most, how they engage with the subject in the classroom and in their private reading, and how they believe the course will help them in their future ambitions.
- As well as explaining why they are academically suited to the course, students should also describe any work experience they have undertaken and any extra-curricular activities they take part in.



For more advice on writing a personal statement, please visit [www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-to-university](http://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-to-university)

Find out more information on the Study UK website <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/find/how-to-apply>

## Reference

The applicant will also be required to provide a reference as part of their application. This is usually written by a teacher or careers counsellor. It should include the following:

- The suitability of the student for their chosen subject, their attitude, motivation and commitment to studying
- The student's career goals and work experience
- The student's predicted grades
- With the student's permission, any circumstances that have affected the student's work or achievements e.g. illness, challenges with learning

For detailed advice on writing a reference for a student, please visit [www.ucas.com/advisers/references](http://www.ucas.com/advisers/references)





## Additional documents and information

All supportive education documents must be submitted to the university. These include any secondary education awards, a previous university degree/transcript and an English language certificate. For admission to certain courses such as Architecture or Fine Arts, the submission of a portfolio is also required; other courses such as Literature may require a sample of a written essay.

We advise students to contact their chosen universities directly in order to understand what their policy is on this issue and to comply accordingly.



# **VISAS – FOR EU AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

# Student visas and the Graduate Route visa

Most international students need a visa to study in the UK. Students can find out whether they need a visa to study by visiting the UK government's website:

[www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa](https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa)

EU students coming to the UK to study on a course that lasts up to six months will not need to apply for a visa and can enter through the visitor route.

## Student visa (previously Tier 4 visa)

It is likely that students will need to apply for a student visa to study in the UK, and they should check with their country's governmental information to confirm this. Most non-EU students will need a visa for all study in the UK, and EU students will need a visa for all study that lasts longer than six months. Students can check here if they need a student visa for their studies:

[www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa](https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa)

There is a charge to apply for this visa from outside the UK, the details of which can be found here:

[www.gov.uk/student-visa](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa)

For more information on the student route visa visit

[www.gov.uk/student-visa](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa)





# Applying for a visa

Students will need to confirm their identity using the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app, or, if they cannot use the app, they can contact a Visa Application Centre in their home country where their fingerprints and photograph will be taken.

The following documents must be provided when applying for a student visa:

- A current passport or other valid travel documentation
- A Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) reference number, which is provided by the UK university or college
- Original certificates showing the student's educational qualifications, including English language requirement (for study at degree level or above, the applicant must have the equivalent of level B2 of the Common European Framework of References for English language)
  - o N.B. If there is any discrepancy between the details on the CAS and the grades on academic/English certificates, a visa will not be issued.





The following documents may be required when applying for a student route visa, although this will vary depending on where the student lives:

- Evidence that the student can pay for their course and their living costs in the UK
- Written consent for the student's application from their financial sponsor if they have received sponsorship for course fees and living costs in the last 12 months

More details on each of these can be read at [www.gov.uk/student-visa/documents-you-must-provide](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/documents-you-must-provide)

## How long will it take to get a student visa?

The UK's Visas and Immigration service aims to process student visas within 15 working days. Students are recommended to prepare and apply for their visa well in advance. It is possible to make an application from up to six months before the student intends to travel.

If you need a visa quickly, you can pay extra for a priority service.

## How to apply

- The student must apply online for a student visa, at [www.gov.uk/student-visa/apply](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/apply)





- They will need to confirm their identity, either with the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app or have their fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre (to get a biometric residence permit).
- They will have to collect their biometric residence permit within 10 days of when they said they would arrive in the UK (even if they actually arrive at a later date).

For more information on applying for a student visa, go to [www.gov.uk/student-visa/apply](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/apply)

## Immigration health surcharge

To gain access to the UK's National Health Service (NHS), students are required to pay an immigration health surcharge as part of their visa application fee.

Full-time students in UK higher education holding a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) issued by an EU member state can claim a refund of the immigration health surcharge payment. To be eligible for the refund, students must not work during their studies and use their EU EHIC for medically necessary healthcare during their studies. More information is available on the following website: [www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/refunds](https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/refunds)

EU students who are coming to study in the UK for less than six months (and therefore do not require a visa) will not be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge – they can access medically necessary healthcare in the UK using their EU-issued EHIC.





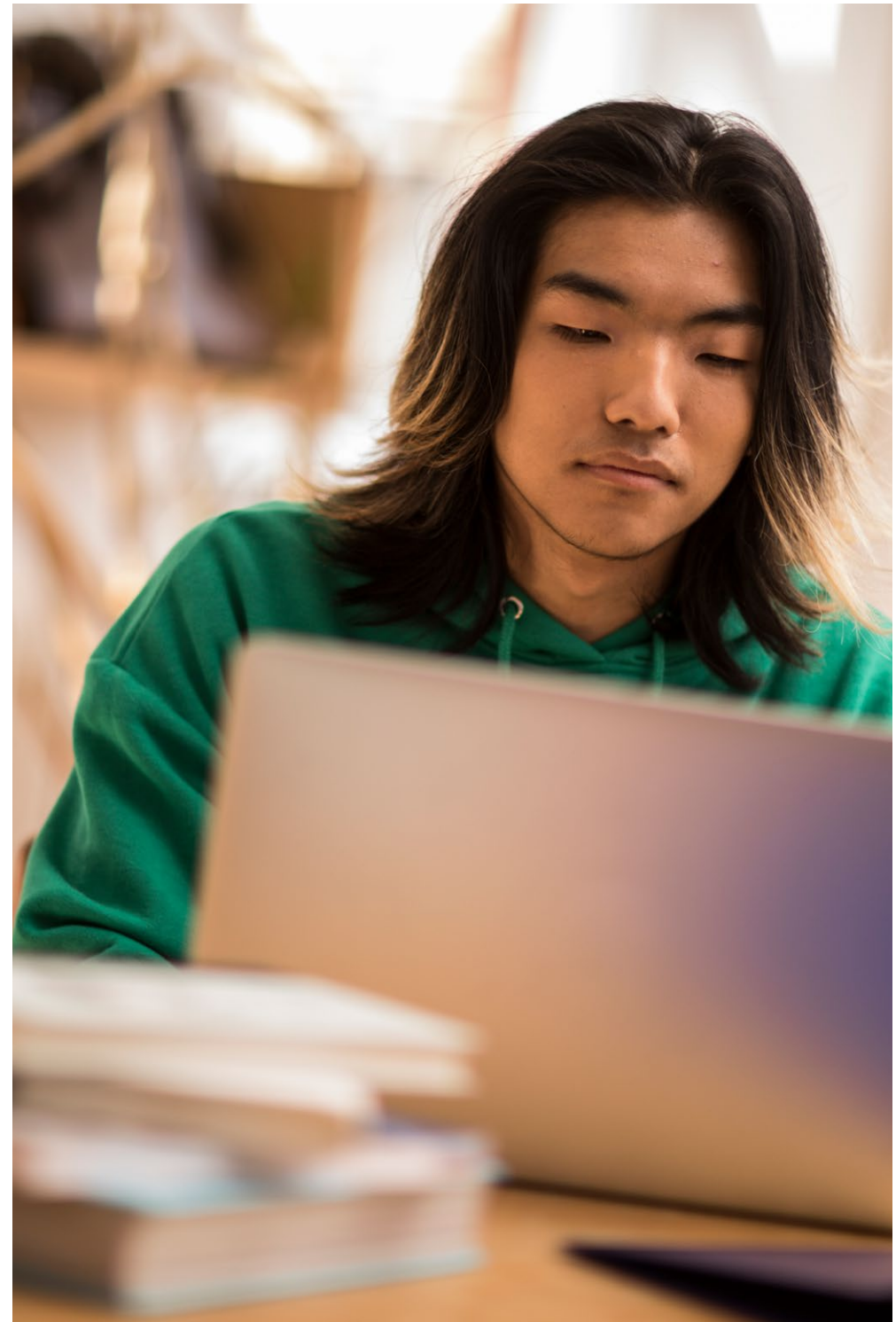
## Graduate Route

From summer 2021, if an international student has successfully completed an undergraduate or master's degree, they will be able to benefit from two years' work experience in the UK upon graduation, through the Graduate Route. If they have completed a PhD, the student will be able to stay for three years.

- Successful applicants on this route will be able to stay and work, or look for work, in the UK for two years (PhD graduates three years) at any skill level. Graduates will be able to switch into skilled work once they have found a suitable job.
- The new route will be launched in the summer of 2021, meaning that any eligible student who graduates in the summer of 2021 or after will be able to apply for the route.
- The Graduate Route will require a new visa application.
- It will include the payment of a visa fee and the Immigration Health Surcharge.

For more information, visit the Study UK website [study-uk.britishcouncil.org/after-your-studies/post-study-work](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/after-your-studies/post-study-work)

More information about working after studying can be found on the UKCISA website [www.ukcisa.org.uk](https://www.ukcisa.org.uk)



# FEES



## Course fees

Fees for UK courses vary depending on the level of study and where in the UK the student is based (as there are different rules for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales).

International students can expect to pay between £10,000 and £26,000 annually, and typically an undergraduate degree course will last for three years. Medical degrees may cost more and many UK master's degrees can be completed in one year, meaning lower living costs and faster entry into employment.

Students should check the cost of course fees with the university or college they are applying to, as universities set the fees themselves. Most often, this information will be listed on their website.





# SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING



# Scholarships and financial support

There are hundreds of scholarships, bursaries and grant schemes on offer for students who need extra support to pay for their UK course. Many institutions offer their own scholarships and bursaries – students should check the specific university's website for more information.

## Scholarships for EU students

Many universities are offering tuition support packages for EU students and exploring the possibility of offering specific scholarships for EU students, or broadening the eligibility of the current scholarships they offer. We recommend that EU students get in touch with the International Office at their university of choice to find out more.



## Scholarships for non-EU students

### GREAT Scholarships

GREAT Scholarships are for international students (non-EU) who want to study at a UK university for a one-year postgraduate course. Each scholarship offers a minimum of £10,000 towards tuition fees.

The scholarships are jointly funded by the British Council, the GREAT Britain Campaign, and participating UK higher education institutions.

Find out more here:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships/great-scholarships>





## Global scholarships

Students can apply for any of the following scholarships, provided they are appropriate for their course:

- Chevening Scholarship: Postgraduate scholarships from the UK government aimed at students with potential as future leaders: [www.chevening.org](http://www.chevening.org)
- Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan: Postgraduate scholarships for nationals of Commonwealth countries, funded by the UK government and intended to support individuals who will subsequently make a contribution to the development of their home country: <https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/apply>

## Country-specific scholarships and funding

There are many different scholarships available, some of which depend on where you are from.

For more information please check with scholarship providers in your country and visit

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships>



# STUDENT LIFE



## University accommodation

Most universities and colleges have their own accommodation office, and this should be the first place that students go to ask about accommodation. Most institutions provide accommodation for international students in a hall of residence (either full-board or self-catering) or a self-catering shared house or flat. Space is usually limited, so applications for such accommodation should be made as soon as the student has been accepted onto their course and certainly before the required deadline.

## Private accommodation

The accommodation office at each university or college may be able to help with finding private accommodation too. The office may keep lists of private accommodation available in the area, and some offices may also be able to help students arrange a booking.

The most usual type of private accommodation is a room in a house with shared facilities. Renting a furnished house or a flat is likely to be expensive, especially in city centres, but a good way for students to make this affordable is to share with other students. If students do this, they should agree beforehand with their housemates about how they will share costs.

UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs) provides more detail on finding suitable housing whilst living in the UK: [www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Looking-for-housing](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Looking-for-housing)



## Food

Food is near the top of the list of things that students might miss when they are away from home, but it can be one of the best things about living in the UK. An increasing number of UK supermarkets offer international food products, and so students will be able to source ingredients for their favourite dishes. And by living with people from all backgrounds and cultures, students often have the opportunity to try lots of different cuisines.

The restaurant scene in the UK is thriving, and increasingly diverse. Pubs are also popular social destinations for many university and college students in the UK. Students do not have to drink alcohol to go to a pub – there are lots of non-alcoholic drinks on offer, and many pubs also have food and entertainment such as karaoke, screenings of football matches, or pub quizzes (weekly events where you compete as a team).

An average weekly food shop for one costs around £20-30, although students will always find a selection of supermarkets with plenty of choice and for different budgets.

Universities often have the option of catered halls where breakfast and dinner are provided for students from Monday to Friday. It makes life a lot easier having meals ready and made when students need them, and it can be a sociable time.





## Leisure time

On campus, the students' union organises all kinds of social functions and there are many clubs and societies that students can join.

For students interested in arts and culture, the UK is packed with museums, theatres and other cultural attractions. Some of the world's largest music venues and events are in the UK, such as the O2 Arena in London and the world-famous Glastonbury Festival, but many world-renowned artists and bands also play at UK universities and colleges, and small bars and cafés often host live music and dancing.

Almost every town has a cinema with films from around the world. Hollywood releases are easy to find, but major cities also have cinemas specialising in foreign and independent films, and universities often have a student cinema that shows films on campus at student-friendly prices.

For students keen on sport, the UK offers a range of ways to explore this passion. There are clubs and societies at university for a huge range of sports, even very unusual ones! Whether it's global team sports, like football, or individual sports like athletics, students find ways to compete in and celebrate the sports they care most about alongside their studies.



## UK weather and clothing

Although UK weather is unpredictable, it is rarely extreme. In summer, the average temperature ranges from 9–18 degrees Celsius, although on occasion, it can reach above 30 degrees Celsius in a heatwave. In winter, the average is between 2 and 7 degrees Celsius, but temperatures can drop below 0 degrees Celsius. Most houses, buildings, trains and buses have good heating systems. In general, there is little difference between the regions of the UK, but you will experience more snow, rain and wind in northern and mountainous areas.

Most UK towns and cities have a large range of shops selling clothes to suit all styles and budgets. You will see all kinds of fashion at UK schools, colleges and universities, and almost anything goes. Students usually dress casually during the day – and more smartly if they're going out in the evening. Very few student bars and pubs have a dress code.

Some courses require students to wear specialist clothing for health and safety, such as protective glasses, shoes and lab coats. Some universities will provide these, while others may require students to purchase their own.

The UK is a multi-cultural place and it is common for people to wear clothing associated with their culture and religion, for example a head scarf, kippah, turban, sari or long skirt. In major towns and cities, specialist shops selling particular items of clothing are easy to find.







## Explore the UK

From bustling cities to snow-capped mountains, rolling green hills to highlands and islands, the UK is beautiful, and exploring it is a must. Its relatively small size and good transport links mean that it is possible to cover a lot of ground. Some highlights include London with its fascinating history, iconic buildings, cutting-edge fashion, theatre and food; northern cities like Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield and York, which are well known for their culture and nightlife; Scotland's stunning mix of wild beauty and buzzing cities; the stunning landscapes of Wales' national parks; and the spectacular coastline of Northern Ireland.

For more information about exploring the UK visit [www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com)



## Health and safety

With one of the best healthcare systems in the world, globally respected policing and low crime rates, studying in the UK is exceptionally safe and secure. In addition, many institutions have their own security services who patrol campuses. Universities and colleges will usually provide students with information on staying safe on campus.

The UK's NHS (National Health Service) is one of the world's most advanced healthcare systems, offering safe and modern treatment.

To gain access to the NHS, students will be required to pay an immigration health surcharge as part of their visa application fee.

Full-time students in UK higher education holding a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) issued by an EU member state can claim a refund of the immigration health surcharge payment. To be eligible for the refund, students must not work during their studies and use their EU EHIC for medically necessary healthcare during their studies. More information is available on the following website: [www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/refunds](https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/refunds)

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# Equality and Diversity in the UK

## Religion in the UK

As an open, inclusive and multi-faith society, students of all religions can expect to feel welcome in the UK and find plenty of places to practise their faith. With a history of multi-culturalism dating back hundreds of years, the UK has well-established communities representing all major religions, and a deep commitment to supporting students' religious needs on campus. Many British universities have officially-designated representatives across multiple faiths and religions who are able to introduce students to their local community.

Generally, UK universities avoid scheduling compulsory activities during religious holidays for students whose commitment to the observance of their faith would otherwise cause them to miss assessment or other activities. University policies offer flexibility to students if the observance of a religious holiday prevents a student from attending class or completing an assignment, if agreed with a lecturer in advance.





# Students with disabilities

UK universities provide excellent support facilities for students who have disabilities and other additional tailored support for students who need it. Students should contact the disability support office on campus early in the application process to ensure that the university has the resources and capabilities to meet their particular needs.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 prohibits education and training providers discriminating against disabled people. Universities are required to make reasonable adjustments to serve disabled students, so they are not at a substantial disadvantage.

There is limited funding for international disabled students, but sponsors may provide additional grants to cover extra expenses a student may need due to their disability.

# LGBTQIA+ culture in the UK

UK universities are inclusive organisations and do not discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. There are LGBTQIA+ communities at most UK universities. Some institutions offer support groups and host events for their LGBTQIA+ communities.

There are a number of laws in the UK that prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation, and universities must adhere with that law.

The UK is proud to be a very inclusive society in every way.

# USEFUL LINKS

# Useful links

To find out more about studying in the UK, here are some helpful websites:

## General information

Study UK website:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org>

Study UK Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/StudyUK.BritishCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/StudyUK.BritishCouncil)

UK Council for International Student Affairs – UKCISA:

[www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)

Office for Students:

[www.officeforstudents.org.uk](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk)

The National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom:

[www.naric.org.uk](http://www.naric.org.uk)

Find a university:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/find/university#/>

Subject finder:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/find/subjects-areas>

Sign up to the Study UK newsletter:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/newsletter>

Scholarships:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships>





## Student visas

For information and guidance:  
[www.gov.uk/visas-immigration](http://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration)

For Visa Application Centre (VAC) information:  
[www.vfsglobal.co.uk/en](http://www.vfsglobal.co.uk/en)

Study UK website:  
<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/student-visas>

## Quality Assurance / Ranking

Choosing a university:  
<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/find/choosing-university>

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:  
[www.qaa.ac.uk/en](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en)

Teaching Excellence Framework:  
[www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-students/the-tef](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-students/the-tef)

Research Excellence Framework:  
[www.ref.ac.uk](http://www.ref.ac.uk)

## Moving to the UK

Moving to the UK for study:  
[study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk](http://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk)

EU student advice:  
[study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/eu-students](http://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/eu-students)

Living in the UK:  
[study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/accommodation](http://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/accommodation)

UK Council for International Students:  
[www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)





## British Council offices in Europe

	Country website	Contact Email (*)
Bulgaria	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.bg">www.britishcouncil.bg</a>	
Croatia	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.hr">www.britishcouncil.hr</a>	
Cyprus	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.com.cy">www.britishcouncil.com.cy</a>	contact.education@cy.britishcouncil.org
Czech Republic	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.cz">www.britishcouncil.cz</a>	info@britishcouncil.cz
France	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.fr">www.britishcouncil.fr</a>	
Germany	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.de">www.britishcouncil.de</a>	studyuk.germany@britishcouncil.org
Greece	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.gr">www.britishcouncil.gr</a>	customerservices@britishcouncil.gr
Hungary	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.hu">www.britishcouncil.hu</a>	information@britishcouncil.hu
Italy	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.it">www.britishcouncil.it</a>	
Lithuania	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.lt">www.britishcouncil.lt</a>	
Malta	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.org.mt">www.britishcouncil.org.mt</a>	mt.information@britishcouncil.org
Netherlands	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.nl">www.britishcouncil.nl</a>	
Poland	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.pl">www.britishcouncil.pl</a>	warsaw@britishcouncil.pl
Portugal	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.pt">www.britishcouncil.pt</a>	
Romania	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.ro">www.britishcouncil.ro</a>	contact@britishcouncil.ro
Slovakia	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.sk">www.britishcouncil.sk</a>	info@britishcouncil.sk
Slovenia	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.si">www.britishcouncil.si</a>	
Spain	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.es">www.britishcouncil.es</a>	Education@britishcouncil.es

(\*) where no email is given, you may submit your request via the Contact Us page on the country website

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