

Study UK

Guide for students

2024/2025



Please note that all information in this guide is accurate as of August 2024.

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Study UK



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

Study UK



Discover yourself in the UK

You will discover so much about yourself, here in the home of the English language. We're one of the world's most popular study destinations; with a welcoming, inclusive way of life, outstanding academic standards and rich traditions that will inspire you to think independently, be creative and truly grow as an individual. It's why our graduates are progressing further and being promoted quicker than peers educated elsewhere.

And with new friends, new experiences and some of the world's greatest cultural events waiting for you, you'll make memories that last a lifetime.

The UK has inspired some of the finest minds in human history, and now it can inspire you.

For centuries, the planet's most inventive and creative thinkers were taught at universities in the UK. And today, our country's rich traditions of critical thinking and problem-solving are taught alongside the most cutting-edge and modern approaches to learning in the entire world.

That means that the UK is the perfect place for you to be creative. Our universities have one of the most diverse subject offerings in the world and we'll give you the support and space you'll need to be imaginative, ambitious and to think differently. And all while receiving a prestigious education that is built on the most solid of historical foundations.

Celebrated figures in science, politics, art and literature have all benefited from this exceptional standard of teaching. Thirty eight per cent of Nobel Laureates and one in four world leaders have been shaped by their studies in the UK.

You will be given space in other ways, too. Studies in the UK aren't aren't confined to the classroom or lecture theatre. Regular field trips, visits and excursions will accelerate your learning by applying it to real world situations. By studying and problem-solving with friends you will learn how to challenge each other's ideas, enjoy constructive debate and gain an unbeatable understanding of how lessons and theories can be translated into working practice. This critical and intellectual approach to education will give you so much more than just a competitive edge among your peers. It will fire your imagination and widen your personal experiences too.

World-class education

The UK has inspired some of the greatest minds in history. Now, let it inspire you with a university degree full of exciting possibilities. A UK education will introduce you to fresh ideas, new perspectives, and a transformative teaching style that elevates your learning.

As a global leader in academia, the UK is home to four of the world's top ten universities and 25 more in the global top 200. With its diverse subject offerings and rich traditions of critical thinking, over one in three UK undergraduates achieve a first-class degree. Many celebrated figures in science, politics, art, and literature have thrived here, and one in three Nobel Laureates have studied in the UK. You'll be encouraged to push boundaries, express your opinions, and develop your intellectual capabilities.

UK degrees are designed to the highest academic standards, incorporating field trips, visits, and practical experiences that connect learning with real-world applications. Through collaborative problem-solving and constructive debate, you'll gain an exceptional understanding of how academic knowledge translates into innovative practice.

Studying in the UK, the home of English—the global language of science, diplomacy, and international business—will not only earn you a prestigious degree but also give you a competitive edge and help you grow as a creative and talented individual.

Great student experience

You will never forget your time studying here, with great experiences and friendships that will last a lifetime.

There are so many things to discover here as you study. Everywhere you go, from the breathtaking scenery of our national parks to the dazzling nightlife of our cities, you and your new friends will get to experience the very best in music, art, theatre, film and literature.

The UK has given the world superstars from Hamlet to Harry Potter, The Beatles and The Rolling Stones to Adele and Ed Sheeran. We're a world leader in fashion, too - with Alexander McQueen, Vivienne Westwood and Stella McCartney all learning their trades in UK universities.



Whether you're the type who wants to get muddy at Glastonbury Festival, or someone who keeps things refined at the Royal Opera House – you can be sure to find the things which will truly make your heart sing.

Great universities that give you space to grow

With its global reputation for research and academic excellence, the UK is the ideal place to discover your talents and advance your career. Known for its innovation, the UK has been at the forefront of science, culture, finance, and more, from the Industrial Revolution to the invention of the World Wide Web.

This culture of innovation will inspire you to excel in your studies. You'll benefit from learning from some of the brightest minds in the world, gaining insights and experience that are highly valued globally. UK postgraduate programs maintain exceptional standards while often being shorter and more affordable than those elsewhere. Studying here will not only enhance your life and career prospects but also provide a significant competitive edge in the global job market.



Flexible and high quality education in the UK

Whether you're seeking undergraduate, postgraduate, English courses, or other study options, we can help you find the right fit. UK courses are designed to help you maximize your learning quickly, with thousands of options available to match your passions.

UK universities offer flexible programs, allowing you to choose from various subject modules and tailor your course to your interests.

Postgraduate courses in the UK uphold high academic standards and are often shorter than those in the US and Australia. Many prestigious MBA programs can be completed in just one year, providing excellent value and allowing you to apply your education to the real world sooner.



Getting started with your UK university application

Choose your subject:

Consider your interests, strengths, academic background and career goals.

Research and shortlist institutions and courses:

1. Do your research on schools' profiles, inspection reports etc.
2. Check each institute's entry requirements to ensure you are eligible.



[Scan to explore institutions and subjects](#)



Undergraduate and postgraduate courses:

- Do your research - check out websites like Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) to search for inspection reports and rankings of individual institutions' subject expertise and research capability.
- Check each institution's requirements to make sure you qualify.
- Consider affordability of tuition fees and living costs.

(If applicable) Language schools :

1. Choose an accredited language school
2. [Attend an English course in preparation for next stage](#)



Apply to the UK institutions of your choice:

1. Be clear about the entry requirements and follow the application procedures.
2. Apply on Universities and College Admissions Service (UCAS) for undergraduate and foundation programmes.



[Scan to apply](#)



Offers and next steps



Receive official results from the university

Receive more than one unconditional/ conditional offer:

Receive no offer:

Enter the Clearing stage or submit your applications for a different course.



[Scan](#) to find out more about clearing.

Decide on your university and course considering academic and non-academic factors:

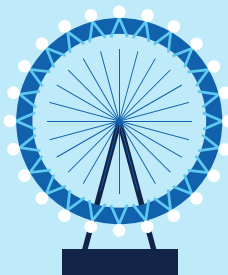
If you have a conditional offer:

1. Accept the offer.
2. Meet the conditions before the deadline.
3. Receive the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) and other necessary documents.

If you have an unconditional offer:

1. Accept the offer.
2. Receive the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) and other necessary documents.

Apply for your UK visa three months before your course starts, and get ready for the exciting journey and experience of studying in the UK!



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 around every corner, you will graduate with the confidence, skills and knowledge to shape your future.

UK undergraduate course types include:

- **Bachelor's or undergraduate degree:** BA (Bachelor of Arts), BSc (Bachelor of Science), BEd (Bachelor of Education) and BEng (Bachelor of Engineering). A full-time bachelor's degree normally takes three years to complete (four in some cases). Part-time options are also available at some universities and colleges.
- **Shorter courses:** Foundation Degree, Diploma of Higher Education, Higher National Diploma, and Certificate of Higher Education.

Search for your course

There are more than 50,000 undergraduate courses available in the UK. [Scan](#) the QR to help you choose the course that is right for you.



Postgraduate studies

With our exceptional academic standards, progressive teaching techniques and globally respected research practices, it's easy to see why so many international postgraduates choose to study in the UK.

Some UK postgraduate course types include:

Master's degrees

- M.A (Master's of Arts)
- M.Sc (Master's of Science)
- M.Eng (Master's of Engineering)
- M.FA (Master's of Fine Arts)
- LL.M (Master's of Law)
- M.Arch (Master's of Architecture)
- M.Phil (Master's of Philosophy)
- MBA (Master's of Business Administration)

Subject specific qualifications are research-led and usually designed for students to progress to a PhD.

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



PhDs or doctorates

Postgraduate diplomas and qualifications: are usually shorter than a master's courses and do not involve a theses and dissertations.

Search for your postgraduate course

[Scan](#) the QR to visit the prospects website, which has details of posgraduate study options.



Other study options

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

Further education refers to education after secondary school that is not an undergraduate or postgraduate course. 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 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 reputation for academic excellence, the UK is the perfect place to learn English.

Studying for a UK degree outside the UK

Did you know you can gain a UK higher education qualification outside the UK? There are various transnational education (TNE) options for you to choose from, including online courses, articulation pathways and joint degrees.

To find out more about course information and other UK study options, [scan](#) the QR.



Apply for undergraduate studies

Most undergraduate applications are made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). To apply through UCAS, go to www.ucas.com to register your details in their system. You can apply for up to five courses through UCAS and you will be contacted with any offers by your chosen universities or colleges.



www.ucas.com

Application deadlines

Stay informed and check the UCAS website regularly for the latest dates and deadlines. Clearing usually opens in the first week of July, with vacancies listed in their search tool, and typically closes by the third week of October.

For up-to-date information on deadlines, [scan](#) the QR.



What is Clearing?

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

Clearing opens on 5 July 2024. Vacancies are displayed in the UCAS search tool and the process will close on 21 October 2024.

You can apply for a course using the clearing process if you're not already holding an offer from a university or college, and the course still available.

You can use Clearing if:

- You're applying after 30 June.
- You didn't receive any offers (or none you wanted to accept).
- You didn't meet the conditions of their offers.
- You've paid the multiple choice application fee.
- You've declined your firm place using the 'decline my place' button in your application.

Useful tips for applying through Clearing:

- Ask for advice from your teachers and counsellors.
- See what courses are available by using the search tool on UCAS and check entry requirements.
- Consider different courses of subjects.
- Directly contact universities or colleges you're interested in.
- Add your Clearing choice in your application.

Please check the UCAS website for the most up to date dates and deadlines.

[Watch](#) this on how to apply for your undergraduate and postgraduate courses.



For more information about clearing, [scan](#) the QR to visit the UCAS website.



[Scan](#) the QR for more information about applying for undergraduate courses in the UK.



Apply for postgraduate studies

Many UK universities handle their own postgraduate applications and you can often apply directly through their websites.

Many postgraduate courses do not have fixed application deadlines. However, it is always best to apply early to make sure you have the best chance of being accepted – ideally, six months to a year before your course of choice begins.

For more information about applying for postgraduate courses in the UK, visit:



[Study UK website](https://www.studyuk.co.uk)



[Prospect website](https://www.prospect.ac.uk)



What you will need when applying to UK universities and colleges

- Your qualifications
- Personal statement
- Additional documents and information

Your qualifications

Check how your country's qualifications compare to those in the UK. [Scan](#) the QR code to access and contact the National Recognition Information Centre.



Personal statement

You will be required to provide a personal statement as part of your application to study at a UK university. This document is your opportunity to explain why you would like to study your chosen subject, and to outline the skills and experience that make you well suited to this field.

Here are some tips:

- The course description on the university website will explain the qualities, skills and experience it requires. Be sure to explain how you match each of these requirements as you write your statement.
- State why you are applying for the course. Be specific about which aspects interest you most, and how you believe the course will help you in your future ambitions.
- As well as explaining why you are academically suited to the course, also describe any work experience you may have – or any extra curricular activities you take part in.

[Scan](#) the QR for more advice on writing a personal statement.



[Scan](#) the QR to get more information on the Study UK website.



Additional documents and information

While UCAS can send results on your behalf (including the International Baccalaureate) for most international qualifications, you may need to send proof of those results yourself.

You should check with your chosen university, to understand what their policy is on the additional documents and information. You may be required to provide proof in the form of certificates or transcripts.



Student visas

Most international students will need a visa to study in the UK. Finding out whether you need a visa to study is easy – simply [check the UK government's website](#) using the QR.



Student visa (previously Tier 4 visa)

It is likely you will need to apply for a student visa to study in the UK, and you should check with your country's governmental information to confirm this.

The application fee for this visa is £490 if applied for outside the UK, and the same amount applies for extending or switching to a student visa from within the UK. Scan the QRs for more information.



[GOV.UK website.](#)



[Study UK website.](#)

eVisa

An eVisa is a digital record that confirms your immigration status and the conditions under which you are allowed to enter or remain in the UK. To access your eVisa, you will need to create a UKVI account. Switching from a physical document to an eVisa does not alter your immigration status or the terms of your permission to enter or stay in the UK.

By 2025, you will be able to use your eVisa for travel to the UK without the need for a physical document, except for your passport, which must be registered to your UKVI account. However, until the end of 2024, you must continue to carry your physical document when traveling if you have one.

[Scan](#) the QR for most updated information.



[Scan](#) the QR to watch the video that explains what an eVisa is.



What you will need to apply

When you apply for your Student visa you must provide:

- A current passport or other valid travel documentation
- A Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from your course provider.

You may be asked for additional documentation too depending on the country you're applying for, and circumstances.

[Scan](#) the QR for more information on what you will need.



How to apply

If you are applying from within the UK, you can explore extending an existing student visa or switching to a different type.

[Scan](#) the QR for more information on applying for a student visa.



How long will it take to get my visa?

You are recommended to prepare and apply for your visa well in advance. You can make an application up to six months before you intend to travel. If you need a visa quickly, you can pay extra for a priority service.

Apply to stay and work in the UK after graduating

Graduate route

The UK's Graduate route welcomes international students to apply to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, upon graduation. International students who have successfully completed an undergraduate or master's degree can apply to stay in the UK for up to two years after their studies. PhD graduates can apply to stay for up to three years.

[Scan](#) the QR to find more information on visa payment and the immigration health surcharge.



[Scan](#) the QR to find more information about the Graduate route on the Study UK website.



[Scan](#) the QR to find out more information about working after your studies.



Money, budgeting and scholarships

Course fees

Fees for UK courses vary depending on your study level and where in the UK you are studying (as there are different rules for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales).

International students can expect to pay between £11,400 and £38,000 annually for tuition, with undergraduate degrees typically lasting four years in Scotland and three years in the rest of the UK.

Always be sure to check the cost of course fees with the university or college you are applying to. Most often, this information will be listed the universities' websites.



Living costs

The cost of living varies, according to where in the UK you decide to study. London and other big cities are more expensive than other areas, for example. But depending on your location, you should budget between £1,300 and £1,400 per month for living costs in London, and between £900 and £1,300 per month for other parts of the UK, covering rent, bills, entertainment, and other expenses.

The institution where you choose to study will be able to advise you on more detailed local costs of living and where to shop locally. [Scan](#) the QR to access the UKCISA international student budget calculator.



The National Union of Students card and the International Student Identity Card offer great student discounts in many shops, restaurants and businesses. Scan the QRs to find out more about these cards.



[Totum](#)



[ISIC](#)

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. Check the universities' websites for more information.

GREAT scholarships

GREAT scholarships are for international students 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.

[Scan](#) the QR to find out more.



Other scholarships

You can also apply for some of these post-grad scholarships should you meet the criteria:

- **Chevening Scholarships:** postgraduate scholarships from the UK government aimed at students with potential as future leaders. [Scan](#) the QR to find out more.



- **Commonwealth Scholarships 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. [Scan](#) the QR to find out more.



Country-specific scholarships and funding

There are many different scholarships available, some of which depend on where you are from. [Scan](#) the QR to find out more.



Living in the UK

University-owned accommodation

Most universities and colleges have their own accommodation office, and this should be the first place you 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 you have been accepted on your course and certainly before the required deadlines.

Private accommodation

The accommodation office at your institution should be able to help with this, too. The office may keep lists of private accommodation available in the area, and some offices may even help you arrange a booking. Do check in with them for more information.

The most common 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, and can be quite difficult to secure. A good way of making this affordable is to share with other students. If you do this, make sure you agree beforehand on how you will share costs.

Food

Food is often near the top of the list of things we miss when away from home. But food can be one of the best parts of living in the UK. Your time at university offers you a great opportunity to build a positive relationship with food and cooking, to create some interesting, delicious meals and to really enjoy yourself.

On average, a month's food expenses amount to about £155 in London and £116 in the rest of the UK. You'll find a range of supermarkets offering plenty of options to accommodate different student budgets.

An increasing number of UK supermarkets offer international food products, so you will always be able to get together with friends and cook the food you love. By living among people from all backgrounds and cultures, you can also try out new and different cuisines. So why not ask your flat mates for a few tips, and learn to make some quick and easy dishes from different cultures?

Living in catered halls at university typically includes breakfast and dinner from Monday to Friday, with at least some meals provided during the weekend as well, since cooking facilities are often limited. It's advisable to check with your specific accommodation for details.



Leisure time

On campus, the students' union organizes social functions, and there are numerous clubs and societies to join. The UK is rich in arts and culture, with museums, theatres, and attractions to explore.

The restaurant scene is diverse, and pubs are popular social spots where you can enjoy non-alcoholic drinks and activities like karaoke, football match screenings, and pub quizzes.

The UK hosts major music venues and events, including the O2 Arena and Glastonbury Festival. Many universities also feature live music and small venues, and most towns have cinemas showing both mainstream and independent films, often at student-friendly prices.

For sports enthusiasts, the UK offers a range of options to pursue your passion. With a strong sports culture and top athletes, you can engage in various sports, from global team games to individual competitions, alongside your studies.



UK weather and clothing

UK weather is unpredictable but rarely extreme. Be sure to check the weather and temperature ranges in the areas you're considering moving to, as the climate can vary widely across the UK. Dress in layers to adjust to changing conditions, and always carry an umbrella.

UK towns and cities offer a wide range of clothing shops to suit all styles and budgets. Students typically dress casually during the day, with jeans and t-shirts being common, and more formally for evenings out.

Some courses require specialist clothing for safety, such as lab coats and protective glasses, which may be provided by the university or need to be purchased.

The UK's multicultural environment means you'll see a variety of cultural and religious attire, including headscarves, kippahs, turbans, saris, and more. Major cities have specialist shops offering diverse clothing options, particularly Asian and Middle Eastern styles.



Four seasons in the UK

There are various ways to query the weather in the UK. Smartphones come with their own weather query tools. Two authoritative UK weather forecast networks recommended are the Met Office and BBC Weather.



Spring

Spring usually begins at the vernal equinox, around March 20 in the northern hemisphere. The weather in Britain is slightly dry in spring.



Summer

The British summer calendar includes three months in June, July and August, from the day of the summer solstice around June 21. It is also the longest day of the year.



Autumn

Autumn in the UK starts around the autumnal equinox on September 22 and lasts until November. The season is characterized by increasingly cooler temperatures, especially noticeable in the mornings and evenings. As autumn progresses, the weather becomes more unpredictable, with frequent rain and wind in the latter half of the season.



Winter

Winter begins at the winter solstice, around December 22 in the Northern Hemisphere. The winter solstice marks the shortest day of the year, after which the days start to lengthen.

Explore the UK

From bustling cities to snow-capped mountains, rolling green hills to highlands and islands, exploring is a must. Its relatively small size and good transport links mean that you can see a lot while you are here. Some highlights include London with its fascinating history, iconic buildings, cutting-edge fashion, theatre and food; northern cities like Manchester and Liverpool, which are well known for their famous football clubs and great 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.

[Scan](#) the QR to find more information about exploring the UK.



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 safe and secure.

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, you will be required to pay an immigration health surcharge as part of your visa application fee.

The UK has a trustworthy police force, and many institutions have their own security services patrolling campuses. Your institution will usually provide you with information on staying safe on campus.



Religion in the UK

As an open, inclusive and multi-faith society, students of all religions can expect to feel welcome in the UK, along with plenty of places to practise their faith. With a history of multi-culturalism dating back hundreds of years, we have well-established communities representing all major religions, and a deep commitment to supporting students' religious needs on campus.

We are proud to be an inclusive society, and it is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of their race, nationality or religion.



Further information

Useful links

[Scan](#) the QR to read more about studying in the UK, and what opportunities you will find here.



[Scan](#) the QR code to access the student guide on choosing an education agent.



Social media

 <https://www.facebook.com/StudyUK.BritishCouncil>



 <https://www.instagram.com/StudyUK.BritishCouncil/>





<https://twitter.com/StudyUKBritish>



www.linkedin.com/showcase/study-uk-british-council/



<https://www.youtube.com/user/StudyInTheUK>



https://www.tiktok.com/@studyuk_britishcouncil



<https://open.spotify.com/user/fuz79snssaf2ilftqbapdent>



<https://weibo.com/educationuk>



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