

# A guide to studying in the UK for international students



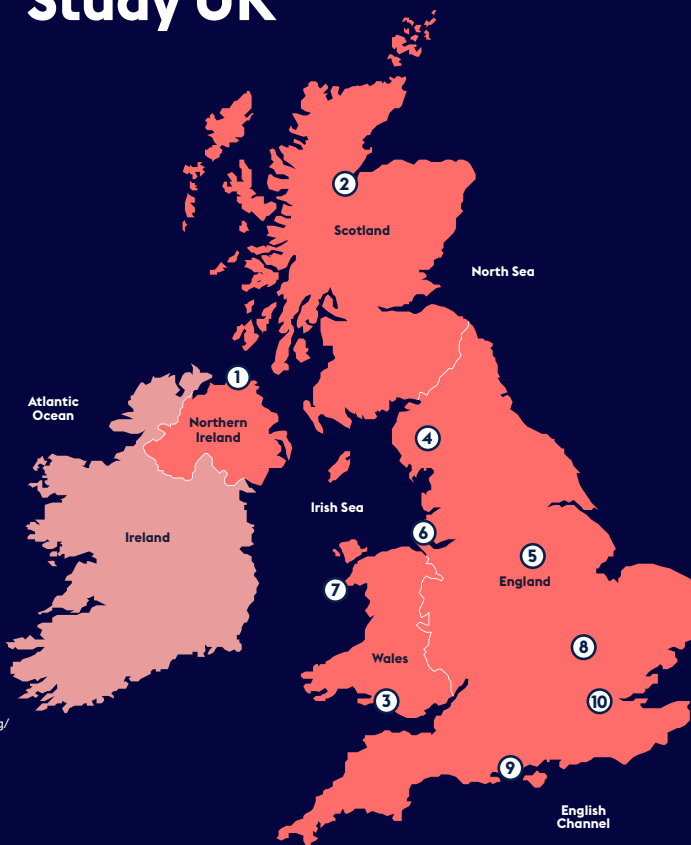
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<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/>

# 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.





**Why study  
in the UK?**

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.



Like them, you'll be inspired to push your imagination as far as you possibly can, and to view the world in unique and life-changing ways. Because in the UK, your teachers will encourage you to express your opinions, your ideas and to develop your own interests and intellectual abilities.

You will be given space in other ways, too. Unlike in other countries, studies in the UK 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.

## **A world-class education**

A UK education is your bridge to the world, and to a bright and successful future.

Academics and employers across the globe admire and respect the formidable reputation of the UK's education system, and our graduates are among the most employable in the entire world. In fact, the majority of international students who have studied in the UK report a significant competitive edge over peers educated in other countries. They are progressing further, being promoted quicker, and earning more because of the prestigious education they have received in the UK.

That's because our universities and colleges consistently top world rankings. Two of the world's top three universities, and 27 more are in the top 200 best global institutions for learning (QS Top Universities, 2025).

What's more, the UK's higher education system is held to strict and exacting standards by the UK government, so you can be certain to get the very best in teaching, support and educational resources.

The UK is one of the most popular study destinations in the world. Over 700,000 students from other countries are currently studying here, and so you'll make all kinds of friends and learn about hundreds of other cultures. All in the home of the English language.

This is a chance to discover the very best in yourself. You will gain the knowledge, skills and insights which are in extremely high demand, all across the globe. It is also your opportunity to develop your personal interests, to learn about other cultures and experiences and to forge new and important friendships.

## **A great student experience**

Studying in the UK offers more than a world-class education – it's a life-changing experience. From iconic music scenes and rich literary heritage to vibrant multicultural cities and breathtaking natural landscapes, the UK invites you to explore, connect, and grow. Whether you're enjoying the nightlife in London, hiking in the Scottish Highlands, or discovering diverse global cuisines, every day brings something new. You can make lifelong friends, join exciting clubs and societies, and feel part of a welcoming community that celebrates individuality and creativity. The UK offers unforgettable memories – and a future full of possibility.

And 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.

And as we're the nation that invented football, tennis, rugby, golf, cricket and so many other games – don't forget that the UK is also home to some of the greatest experiences that sport can offer. So whether it's cheering on Manchester City or Liverpool in the English Premier League, or watching a singles final with your friends at Wimbledon, you'll find opportunities and experiences here like nowhere else on earth.



## Great universities that give you space to grow

With a global reputation for research and academic excellence, the UK is the perfect place to discover your talents. And by studying here, you'll feel confident and ready to make great leaps forward in your life and chosen career.

The UK is one of the world's most innovative countries and has consistently been at the forefront of science, culture, finance, politics and more. We are the birthplace of many world changing events, from the Industrial Revolution to the invention of the World Wide Web – and our small country continues to exert enormous global influence.

This impressive culture of innovation and invention will inspire you to get the very best out of your own studies. And as our teachers are among the brightest in the world, studying here is an opportunity to draw from a wealth of experience and learn from the very best.

This education will enable you to transform your life and career, giving you experience and insights that are in high global demand. And as our intensive postgraduate programmes maintain this exceptional standard of education, while often being shorter than those in other countries, choosing to study for a postgraduate degree in the UK can quickly transform their prospects in an effective and affordable way.





**Find a study  
option that's  
right for you**

Whether you are looking for undergraduate, postgraduate, English courses or other study options, we can help you find the right course for you.

Courses in the UK are tailor made to support you in getting the most from your studies as quickly as possible. There are thousands of courses for you to choose from – no matter what you're passionate about, the UK is a fantastic place to pursue your interest.

In the UK, flexibility is built into the majority of our courses. Many universities allow you to choose from different subject 'modules', so you can build a course programme that suits you, specialising as you go for a perfectly tailored experience.

Postgraduate courses in the UK maintain our exceptional academic standards, and while some are shorter than those in the US and Australia, many of our prestigious MBA degrees take just one year to complete. This allows you to get excellent value for money in your studies and means you can begin applying your education to the real world a lot 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 universities' 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.



# 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:**

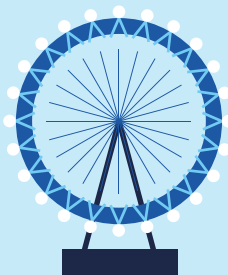
**If you have a conditional offer:**

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

UCAS lists more than 50,000 undergraduate courses with nearly 300 providers in the UK. You can use the course and university finder on the Study UK website to find the right one for you: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/plan-studies/choosing-university-college>

You can also search via UCAS: <https://digital.ucas.com/search>

Their subject guides also give you an insight into the courses you could study at undergraduate level, what they involve, and how to enroll: <https://www.ucas.com/explore/search>



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.

The UK is world renowned for its academic excellence and is the global leader in [quality of research](#). What's more, many UK master's degree programmes can be completed in just one year, offering great value for money and allowing you to move on with your career more quickly.

Studying for a postgraduate degree in the UK can transform your career.

### Master's degrees

A master's degree is a second-level qualification, which is almost always completed on the basis that you have completed an undergraduate degree.

If studying for a master's related to your undergraduate degree subject, you will be able to gain a deeper knowledge and level of understanding in that field. Some people, though, opt to go in a completely different direction and move into a field that they haven't studied - or formally studied - before. If you are planning on studying something vastly different from your undergraduate studies, check what the requirements are on individual university websites, or speak with their admissions teams.

There are two main types of master's degrees: taught and research.

Some common master's degrees include:

- MA (Master of Arts) in a wide range of arts or humanities subjects.
- MSc (Master of Science).
- A range of subject-specific qualifications including MEng (Master of Engineering), MFA (Master of Fine Arts), LLM (Master of Laws), MArch (Master of Architecture), and more.
- Courses leading to an MPhil (Master of Philosophy) qualification are research-led and often designed for students to progress to a PhD.

Note that some Scottish universities offer an undergraduate degree called a Scottish Masters of Arts which is completed over three or four years. This shouldn't be confused with a postgraduate master's.



## **MBA courses**

Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree is an internationally recognised qualification which gives you the skills you need for a successful management career.

## **PhDs or doctorates**

A Doctor of Philosophy, or doctorate (PhD/DPhil), is the highest academic level a student can achieve. These degrees are very demanding and often lead to careers in academia (as a lecturer or researcher, for example). Most students will complete a master's degree before progressing to a PhD, although this isn't always necessary - especially within scientific subjects.

## **Postgraduate diplomas and qualifications**

Postgraduate certificates and diplomas allow students to study something new or build on the skills and knowledge they have already gained during their undergraduate degrees. They are usually shorter than a master's and do not require you to prepare a thesis or dissertation.

## **Professional and vocational qualifications**

These qualifications help you improve or gain skills for specific jobs. Most awards involve practical training. This gives you the opportunity to experience a job first-hand.

## Conversion courses

A conversion course is a vocational postgraduate qualification usually taken by graduates who want to change their subject area following on from their first degree. Often students do this to develop more professional skills. For example, you could study history for your undergraduate degree and do a law conversion course to begin your career as a lawyer.

## Search for your postgraduate course

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



## Other options for you

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

### **Further education:**

This refers to education after 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.

### **Boarding schools:**

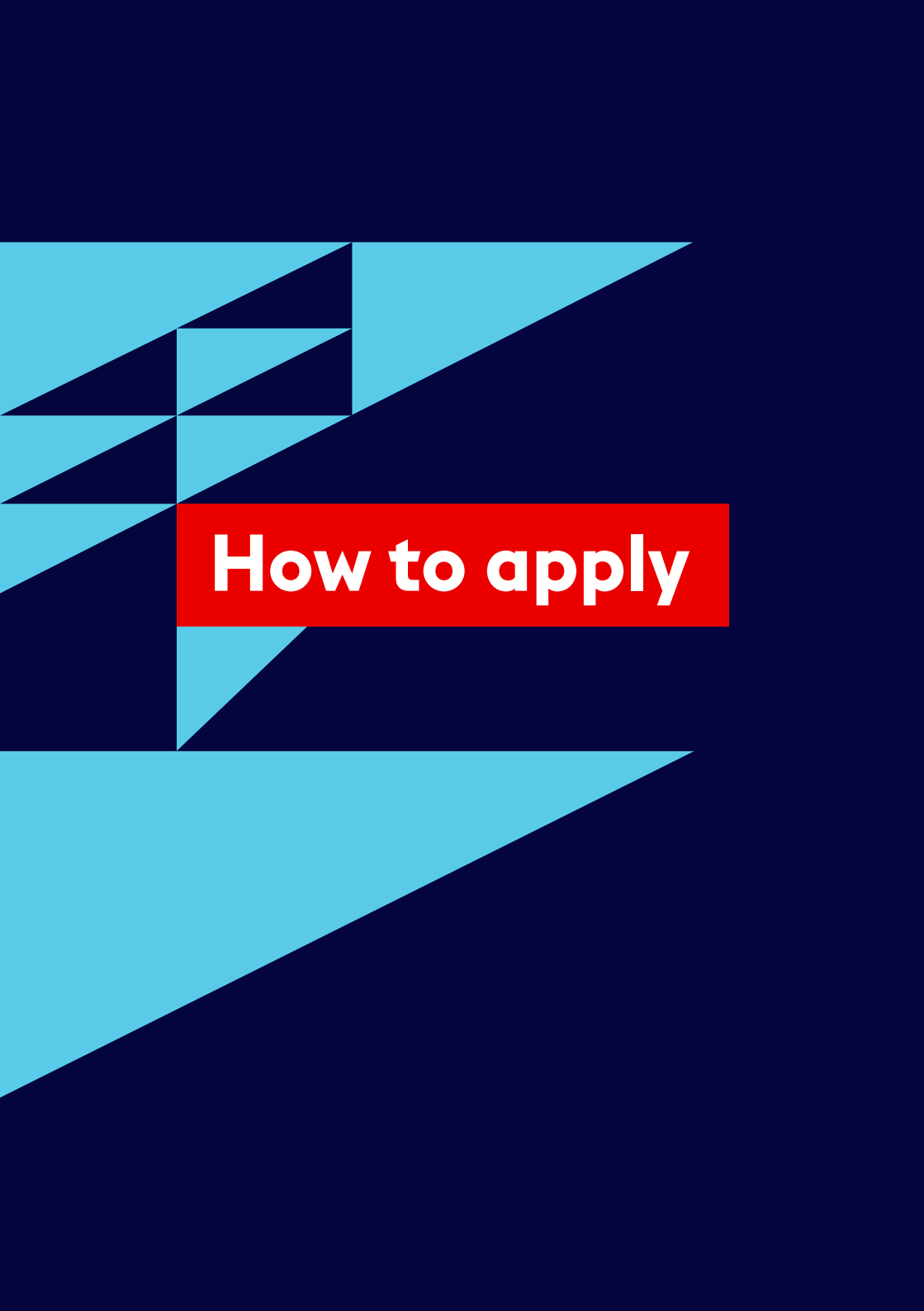
A boarding school is a residential school where pupils live and study during the school year. There are approximately 500 boarding schools across the UK.

# 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.





**How to apply**

# Undergraduate studies

## 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](http://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](http://www.ucas.com)

## Application deadlines

### Mid October

For courses at the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge and for most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine, science and dentistry.

### End of January

For most undergraduate courses.

### 30 June

Late deadline for most undergraduate courses. Applications received after this deadline will automatically go into “clearing”, so you will not be guaranteed your first choice.

While you will be able to apply after the January deadline right up until 30 June, it is better to apply early.

## What is Clearing?

Clearing is how universities and colleges in the UK fill any places they still have on their courses. From early July to mid October, you can apply for a course using Clearing if you're not already holding an offer from a university or college, and the course still has places.

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](#).



## 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](#)



[Prospects website](#)



# What you will need when applying to UK universities and colleges

## Your qualifications

You can check the equivalence of your country's qualifications with those in the UK by contacting the UK National Information Centre – <https://www.enic.org.uk/>



## 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**

## 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 route visa to study in the UK, and you should check with your country's governmental information to confirm this.

It costs £558 per applicant. If you want a priority or super-priority service, it will cost more.

Please note: you must register with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) and apply for an eVisa. For a step by step guide to applying for your visa, you can visit: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/student-visas>



[Study UK website](#)

# 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. You can find more information about the Graduate route on the Study UK website.

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 studies](#).





# **Money, budgeting and scholarships**

# 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

No matter which country you're from, the UK is an affordable study destination. Knowing what kinds of costs you can expect will help you to plan your finances.

The cost of living varies, depending on where in the UK you decide to study. London and other big cities are more expensive than other areas, for example. But depending on where you study you should expect to budget from between £1,500 and £1,700 per month in London and between £1,100 and £1,500 in the rest of the UK per month to cover your rent, bills, entertainment and other living costs.



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. You can use the UKCISA international student budget calculator to help you plan your budget: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/How-much-will-it-cost-to-study-in-the-UK>

The National Union of Students card and the International Student Identity Card offer great student discounts in many shops, restaurants and businesses. You can find out more about these cards at <https://www.totum.com/campaigns/wearetotum> and <https://www.isic.org/get-your-card>



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## Scholarships and financial support

There are often funding options available for international students who want to study in the UK. These range from part-funding, for example paying part of your fees, to full-funding which covers programme fees, living expenses, and return flights to the UK.

You can search our database of scholarships at <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding> and check with individual university websites for institution-specific opportunities.

### 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](#).



### Global scholarships

You can apply for any of the following scholarships, provided they are appropriate for your course.

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: 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](#).



The background is a solid blue color. On the left side, there is a geometric pattern composed of several triangles in two shades of blue: a medium blue and a dark navy blue. These triangles are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, with some pointing towards the center and others away from it. A bright red rectangular box is positioned in the center-right of the image, containing the text "Living in the UK" in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

**Living in the UK**

# 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 usually organises all kinds of social functions and there will be many clubs and societies that you can join.

If you are interested in arts and culture, you will find the UK packed with museums, theatres and other cultural attractions just waiting to be discovered.

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. You don't have to drink alcohol to go to a pub – you will find lots of non-alcoholic drinks on offer, and many pubs also have food and entertainment such as karaoke, football match screenings, or pub quizzes (weekly events where you compete as a team).

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 will have a cinema with films from around the world. Hollywood releases will be 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.

If you love sport, the UK offers a range of ways to explore your passion. We're fanatical about every kind of sport here, and many of our athletes and clubs lead the world. Whether it's global team sports, like football, or individual sports like athletics, you will find ways to compete in and celebrate the sports you care most about alongside your studies.



## UK weather and clothing

Although UK weather is unpredictable, it is rarely extreme. Wear several layers so that you can put them on or take them off as the weather changes, and always carry an umbrella.

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 – jeans and t-shirts are fine – and more smartly if you're going out in the evening. Very few student bars and pubs have a dress code.

Some courses require you to wear specialist clothing for health and safety. For example, if you are in a science laboratory, you may need to wear protective glasses and a white lab coat. Some universities will provide these, while others may require you to purchase your 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, you will find specialist shops selling clothing from around the world, particularly Asian and Middle Eastern clothing.



# 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.

In winter the average is between 2 and 7 degrees Celsius (36–45 degrees Fahrenheit), but temperatures can drop below 0 degrees Celsius (36 degrees Fahrenheit). 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.



## 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, and globally respected policing, studying in the UK is exceptionally 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.

Find out more at [www.nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk)



In a country with low crime rates, your safety is also key. Universities often have on-campus security and run safety briefings and orientation sessions to help you settle in with confidence. And a wide range of support is available to you, from our community police, to charitable and community organisations that can support you with your mental health, wellbeing, finances, accommodation, legal issues and more.

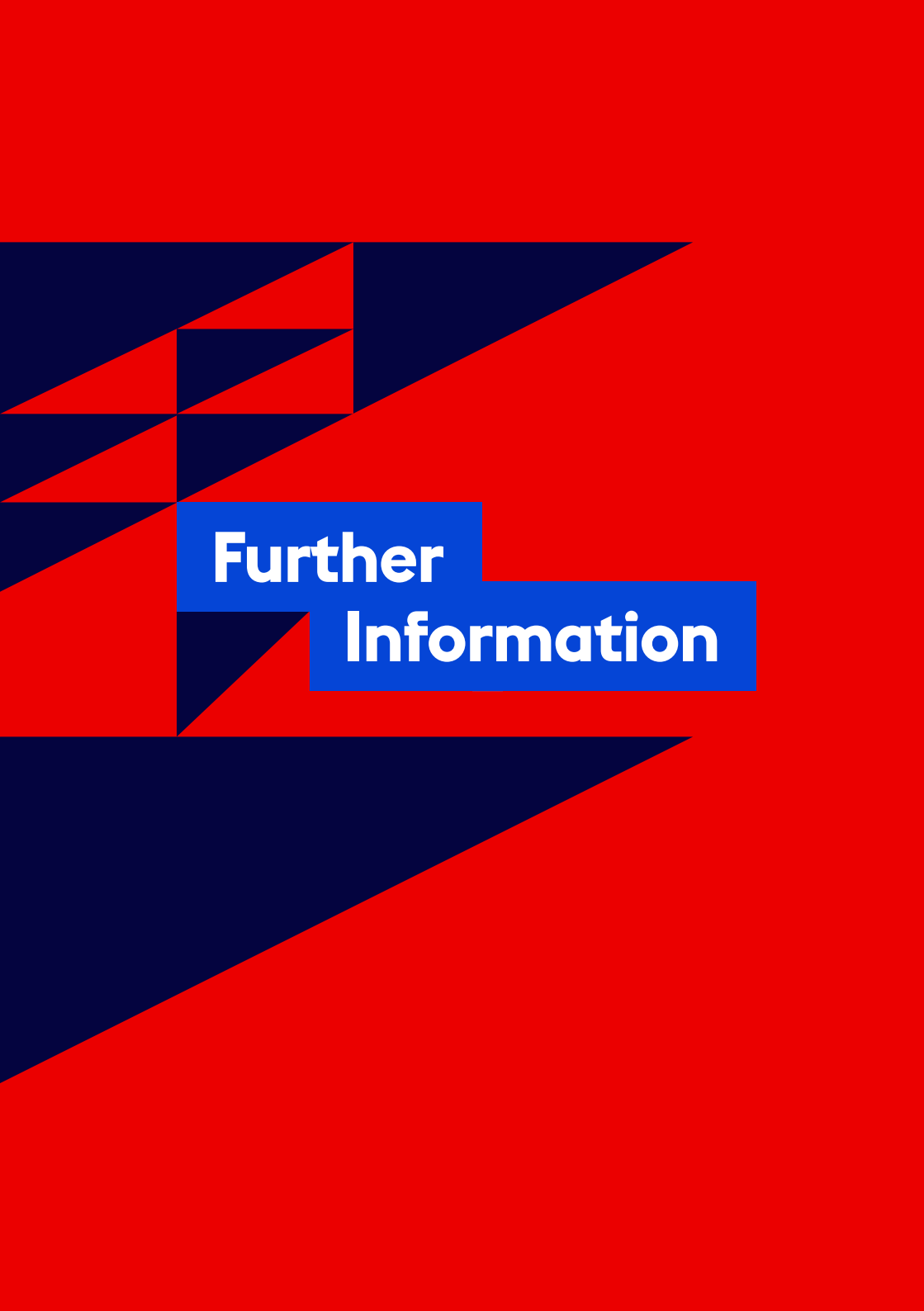


## Religion in the UK

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**

## Further information

### Key resources

#### Explore Study UK

Discover more about studying in the UK, including study options, student life and the opportunities available to you.

[https://linktr.ee/BritishCouncil\\_StudyUK](https://linktr.ee/BritishCouncil_StudyUK)



#### Choosing an education agent

Read our student guide to help you understand what to consider when choosing an agent.

<https://study-uk.shorthandstories.com/study-uk-a-student-guide-to-choosing-an-education-agent/>



### Planning your move to the UK

Find practical information to help you prepare for studying and living in the UK.

#### Moving to the UK

Information and guidance to help you prepare for your move.

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



#### EU student advice

Guidance and information for students from the EU.

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/eu-student-advice>



## Student visas

### UK visa information

Official information and guidance about UK visas and immigration.

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration>



### Visa Application Centre information

Find information about Visa Application Centres and the application process.

<https://www.vfsglobal.com/en/individuals/index.html>



### Study UK

Learn more about the UK Student visa and what you need to prepare.

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



## Plan your UK study journey

Explore these resources to help you make informed decisions about studying in the UK.

### Explore Study UK

Discover what studying in the UK can offer you.

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



## Choosing university

Explore UK universities and find the right institution for you.

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/plan-studies/choosing-university-college>



## Explore subjects and courses

Discover the wide range of subjects you can study in the UK.

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/plan-studies/choosing-course/subjects>



## Scholarships and funding

Explore scholarships and funding opportunities for international students.

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



## Student advice

Access independent advice and information for international students.

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student-advice/>



## Study UK newsletter

Sign up for the latest Study UK information, opportunities and inspiration.

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



## Connect with Study UK

Follow Study UK for practical advice, opportunities and inspiration throughout your study journey.

### Social media



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



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# A student and parent guide to choosing an education agent

[study-uk.britishcouncil.org](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org)

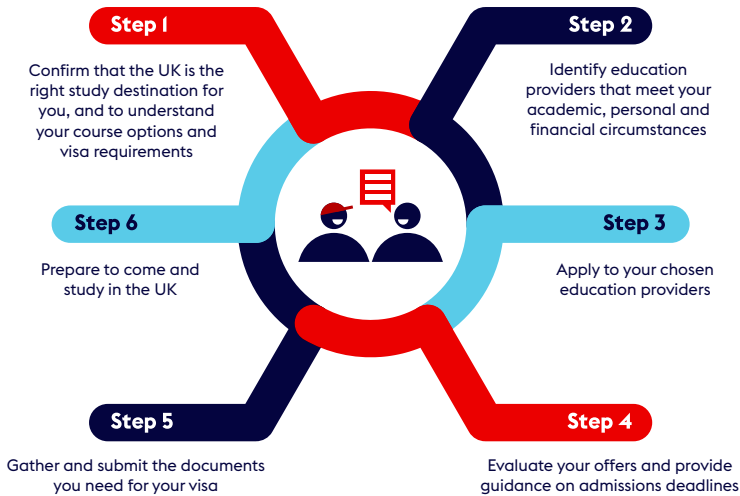


Supported by:

Choosing an international study destination is one of the most important decisions you can make. Your family and friends may be able to help but making a final choice and applying to an education provider can be daunting. This is why many students get help from an education agent or counsellor.

This guide is for you and your family to understand the role of agents working with UK-bound students and the service they should provide.

A good education agent will help you to:



They will have:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Completed the British Council UK certified counsellor training</b><br>Certified agents and counsellors will have been awarded a 'I am a UK Certified Counsellor' digital badge to demonstrate their knowledge and awareness of the UK as a study destination. They can also choose to be listed on the UK database of certified counsellors. <a href="https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/agents-counsellors/database">https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/agents-counsellors/database</a> | <b>Committed to the national code of ethical practice for UK education agents</b><br>The national code sets out the behaviours and values that are expected of education agents that represent the UK. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Use this checklist to identify good quality education agents:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Is the education agent listed on the UK database of certified counsellors? <a href="https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/agents-counsellors/database">https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/agents-counsellors/database</a> | ✓ |
| If you know where you want to apply, is the education agency listed as an official representative or partner on the school/college/university website?                                                                             | ✓ |
| What are other students saying about the education agency? Note: Even the best agent can't make everybody happy but this will help you decide if they are right for you.                                                           | ✓ |

## Important sources of information

|                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) | UKCISA provides guidance for international students on studying and living in the UK, and the latest visa and immigration information. If you have questions, call its free advice line to speak to a qualified international student adviser. <a href="https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/">https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/</a> |
| Study UK                                              | Study UK shares the latest updates and advice on studying in the UK. <a href="https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org">https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org</a>                                                                                                                                                         |
| UK Agent Quality Framework                            | The UK's set of tools and guidance for ethical practice in international student recruitment. <a href="https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/agents-counsellors/uk-quality-agent-framework">https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/agents-counsellors/uk-quality-agent-framework</a>                          |

## What you should expect from your education agent

- A well trained agent will explain the UK education system, the different regions of the UK and the schools/colleges/universities they represent. They should give you a good understanding of the many options open to you in the UK.
- They should know what the national code of ethical practice for UK education agents is and show you a copy. Familiarise yourself with the national code to see how your education agent is doing.
- Many education agents will regularly attend training delivered by their partner education providers, the British Council, and UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI).
- The UK does not require a licence for agents to recruit students to UK universities, colleges or schools but agents operating in your country may require a local licence. Do your research beforehand to find out if this applies in your own country. This may include checking with your government's education department or official agent association websites.
- Agent fees are typically covered by the school/college/university in the form of a commission payment, which covers the agent's operating costs. Regardless of whether the agent is paid a commission or not, they should give you high-quality and unbiased advice.
- Some education agents may charge for additional services. They should be clear with you at the start of the process if they will charge you any fees and what they are for. If you are unsure you may check with the education providers that you plan to apply to.
- Agents cannot provide you with favourable entry requirements, alternative application options, or access to information that differs from a student applying directly. If an agent claims to be able to do this, contact the education providers you are applying to, report it, and seek clarification.

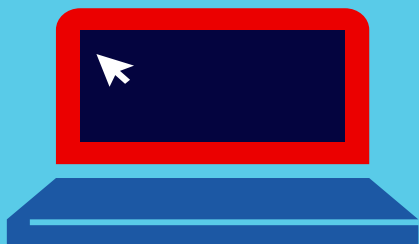


- Agents should have clear information about what you can do if you are not satisfied with the services they have provided you with. If you follow the agent's complaints process but your issue is still not resolved, talk to the education providers you are applying to, and seek their advice.
- If you are not satisfied with the education provider's response, you may be eligible to complain to an ombudsman. In England and Wales, this can be done through the [Office of the Independent Adjudicator](#), in Scotland it is the [Scottish Public Service Ombudsman](#), and in Northern Ireland, it is the [Northern Ireland Public Service Ombudsman](#). You should check with the ombudsman website to see if your complaint is eligible or contact them for further information.
- Many education agents may not be licenced UK immigration advisers but can still provide you with effective guidance with your student visa application. If you receive immigration advice from an agent, make sure you also understand the requirements you need to meet. You can find advice on how to apply and how to protect your immigration status once you are in the UK at [gov.uk](#), [UKCISA](#) and [Study UK](#). You can also seek this support from the institution you will study at.
- You can ask to speak to students the education agent has previously placed in the UK. Speaking to them can be a useful way to find out about their experiences. Remember every student's situation is different so their application or visa processes may differ from yours.
- Some education agents offer additional help after you arrive in the UK, e.g. providing visa updates, accommodation support, etc.

## Remember, where and what you study is your decision

Education agents are there to help you make an informed decision. Not to decide for you. Be open to any ideas they may suggest but remain firm about what you want. If you believe that you are not receiving the best service, contact the education providers you are applying to and get them to investigate your complaint. Similarly, if you have had a good experience support other students by recommending them and providing reviews.

View this guide and more information about studying in the UK



**Whilst some agents do charge fees for their service, this should be explained clearly from the start. Agents should not hold money or make payments on your behalf. If you are unsure about an agent asking you for money, check with the institution you are applying to see if this is legitimate.**



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