

upGrad

UK

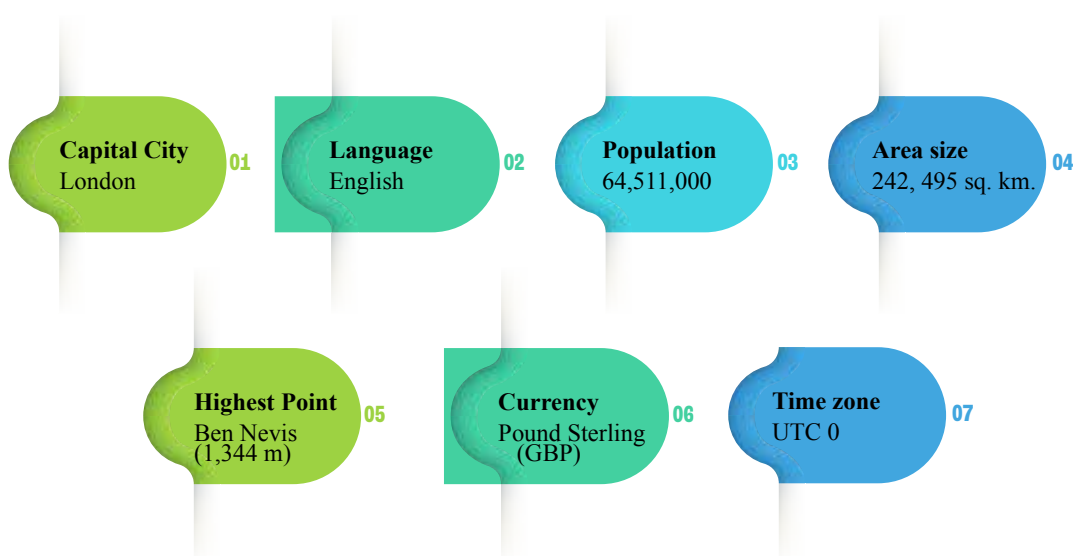
STUDY GUIDE



UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom comprises Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, and Wales. Although the UK is geographically small, it has a rich cultural legacy and a long history. The British Empire stretched around the globe during the colonial era, and immigration from its former colonies and the European Union has resulted in the UK being an ethnically diverse nation. With over 500,000 international students enrolling each year, the UK is one of the world's most popular places for higher education. Furthermore, its education is considered to be exemplary, with consistent research and innovation undertaken by students and professors in a wide range of subjects. A degree from the UK is held in high regard by employers globally. UK institutions are among the greatest globally, constantly standing high in the international rankings. They also have a reputation for world-class research, and the UK holds a very high satisfaction ratio among international students. Although English is the official language of the United Kingdom, it is not the only one spoken. Welsh is spoken in Wales; Gaelic and Scots are spoken in Scotland; Irish Gaelic is spoken in Northern Ireland, and Cornish is spoken in Cornwall. However, because English is spoken fluently throughout the country, English abilities will be more than adequate.

UNITED KINGDOM QUICK FACTS



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TOP-RANKED UNIVERSITIES

The main reason why international students choose the United Kingdom over other countries to study is because of its highly ranked universities. There are many top universities in the United Kingdom that excel in academics and help students shape their future.

TOP 10 Universities in UK



QS*	Universities	THE*
2	University of Cambridge	5
4	University of Oxford	1
6	Imperial College London	12
8	University College London (UCL)	18
15	The University of Edinburgh	30
28	The University of Manchester	50
37	King's College London	35
56	The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)	27
61	University of Bristol	92
64	University of Warwick	78

* QS World University Rankings 2023

* THE (Times Higher Education) World University Rankings 2022

University	QS WUR 2023	THE WUR 2022	Complete University Guide (2023)
University of Cambridge	2	5	2
University of Oxford	4	1	1
Imperial College London	6	12	5
University College London (UCL)	8	18	9
The University of Edinburgh	15	30	12
The University of Manchester	28	50	17
King's College London	37	35	22
The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)	56	27	3
University of Bristol	61	92	15
University of Warwick	64	78	10

University Partners and Areas

Partnering with industries gives universities access to more resources to fund their research and diversify their research areas. Additionally, students get the opportunity to work with cutting-edge technology while gaining real-world experience.

Industry Partners



Industry Partners and Research Areas

University	Industry Partners/ Research Partners	Research Areas
King's College London	AstraZeneca, Celgene, Ericsson, GE Healthcare, Oracle, Unilever, and Siemens Healthineers	Theoretical modeling, Simulation, and Data-driven analysis
University of Warwick	National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), Emirates, Twinings Ovaltine, Allianz, Bank of England and Denso	Life Science and Health, Data, Science and Society, Sustainability and Development, Understanding the Human and Ethics, Rights and Social Justice
The University of Edinburgh	Johnson & Johnson, Bank of Scotland, Dundas Castle, Eden Project International and Hinduja Hospital and Foundation	Arts, Humanities and Social Science, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, Science and Engineering and Animal research
University of Oxford	India Collections at the Ashmolean, South Asian Collection, Oriental Institute Library, OXUS-INDUS Project, Earthquakes without Frontiers and Global Jet Watch	Future of Care, International Student Mobility and World Development, Improving the Effectiveness of Virtual Schools and Evaluation of the Expanded Duties of Virtual Schools
University of Cambridge	Infosys, Tata Group, Ignitho and Cambridge Judge Business School Executive Education	Arts & Humanities, Humanities & Social Sciences, Clinical Medicine, Technology, Physical Sciences and Biological Sciences

EDUCATION SYSTEM



The four levels of the UK education system are primary education, secondary education, further education, and higher education. In the United Kingdom, children have to legally attend primary and secondary education from the age of five until the student is 16 years old.

UK Education System: Four Levels

Levels	Key Information
Primary education	In the United Kingdom, at the age of five, primary education begins and lasts until eleven and includes key stages one and two of the UK education system.
Secondary education	From the age of 11 to 16, students will enter secondary school and include key stages three and four, to begin their journey towards GCSEs. In the United Kingdom, primary and secondary education is mandatory.
Further education	Students can enroll in a two-year program in college or university that leads to A (Advanced) level examinations in subjects they are interested in. If students do not wish to pursue higher education, they might pursue vocational qualifications at this level.
Higher education	Colleges and universities provide higher education and students can pursue undergraduate or postgraduate degrees.

*The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) is an independent body that examines the educational standards of all public colleges and universities in the United Kingdom regularly. It also assures that all students, regardless of their course of study, have access to the highest quality research, learning, and teaching.

Types of Universities

The UK has one of the world's oldest higher education systems. International students can choose among 130 universities in the UK, consisting of both millennia-old to modern universities that offer great diversity.



Ancient Universities

Any university that was founded before the nineteenth century in the UK is known as an ancient university and these universities are among the first standard higher education institutions in the English-speaking world. Initially, songs and language were taught in the majority of UK schools. Ancient universities pioneered liberal education, which sowed the seeds for today's academic research and progress.

The six ancient universities in the UK are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. University of Oxford | d. University of Aberdeen |
| b. University of Cambridge | e. University of Edinburgh |
| c. University of Glasgow | f. University of St Andrews |

New Universities (Polytechnic/Metropolitan Universities)

In the 1970s and 1980s, many polytechnic universities were founded to increase skilled labor in engineering, science, and technology. In 1992, these institutions were granted the right to be named universities. These universities have been providing students with outstanding talents for professional advancement since then.

Some of the new universities are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| a. Middlesex University | h. Sheffield Hallam University |
| b. University of Northumbria | i. London South Bank University |
| c. Nottingham Trent University | j. Staffordshire University |
| d. Oxford Brookes University | k. University of the West of England Bristol |
| e. University of Plymouth | l. University of Westminster |
| f. Manchester Metropolitan University | m. Teesside University |
| g. University of Portsmouth | |

Red Brick or Civic Universities

During World War I in the nineteenth century, these institutions were built in major industrial towns to meet the increased demand for university-level education in subjects such as science, design, technology, and engineering. Despite the fact that they are officially known as civic universities, the term "red brick universities" has gained popularity due to the way they look.

Some of the new universities are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. University of Birmingham | f. University of Manchester |
| b. University of Liverpool | g. Newcastle University |
| c. University of Leeds | h. University of Reading |
| d. University of Sheffield | i. University of Nottingham |
| e. University of Bristol | |

Russell Group Universities

The Russell Group consists of the top 24 British research universities, which are often compared to the Ivy League universities in the United States. The group enjoys the reputation of getting two-thirds of all government research grant funding, and its member universities are frequently regarded as the "best" in the UK. The portfolio contains several ancient universities, nineteenth-century universities, and a few well-known civic universities.

Some of the Russell Group Universities are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. University of Birmingham | d. Cardiff University |
| b. University of Bristol | e. Durham University |
| c. University of Cambridge | |

Plate Glass Universities (1960s universities)

These universities were established between 1963 and 1992 based on the recommendation of the Robbins Report on Higher Education (1963) and education reforms aimed at increasing the number of universities in the United Kingdom. These universities were progressive, taking new steps in areas such as curriculum, examinations, administration, teaching methods, and discipline. Plate Glass is the name given to these universities because of its architectural style and the fact that the majority of them are constructed on designated green-field areas.

Some of the Plate Glass Universities are:

- a. University of East Anglia
- b. University of Essex
- c. Lancaster University
- d. University of Sussex
- e. University of Kent
- f. University of York
- g. Aston University
- h. University of Warwick

Part-time and Blended Courses for International Students in UK

The burgeoning demand for online education is evident after COVID-19. Several UK universities have adapted to this demand and offer distance learning and online courses independently or in collaboration with online education providers.

Students can leverage the opportunity of studying from the comfort of their homes. It is a great way to upskill in new-age technologies and niches such as Digital Technologies, Communication and Education, Data Science for Business Decision Making, Pharmaceutical Industry Advanced Training (PIAT), and more.



ACADEMIC DEGREES

Opting for an academic degree from the UK can make a difference for students as it would offer them a perfect blend of studies, student life, and industry exposure. Moreover, students would receive a golden opportunity to create a global network. It would further lead them to secure high-paying jobs. UK higher education qualifications are not limited to a master's or bachelor's degree. There are a plethora of options to select from.

• Degrees and Diplomas Offered at Undergraduate Level

Bachelor's or Undergraduate Degree

A bachelor's degree entails studying one or, at times, two subjects in-depth. It is classified under level 6 qualification. The degrees have different names, too, such as Bachelor of Education (BEd), Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Science (BSc), Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB), and Bachelor of Engineering (BEng). Moreover, degrees are classified as either Honors or Ordinary. The latter may be awarded if a student has completed a full degree course but has not obtained the total required passes required to merit a third-class honors degree.

Moreover, students should know that some Scottish universities offer an undergraduate degree called a Scottish Masters of Arts. It should not be confused with a postgraduate master's.

It usually takes three years to complete the degree. However, Architecture or Medicine consume up to five years. Moreover, if a student opts to study part-time, their degree will take longer. Additionally, an honors degree is usually a four-year full-time course in Scotland, whereas an ordinary degree is usually a three-year full-time course.

Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)

Two years, full-time DipHE courses is a level 5 qualification and is equivalent to a Higher National Diploma or two years of a bachelor's degree. Completing it would enable a student to move on to the final year of a bachelor's degree. It can be academic, however, it is mainly linked to a particular profession or job, such as social work and nursing.

Foundation Degree

A foundation degree (FdA) is a level 5 qualification that focuses on practical-learning aspects. They are considered the equivalent of the first two years of an honors degree. It encapsulates academic study integrated with workplace experience.

• Graduate-level Courses

Upon completing an undergraduate degree, a student can look for level 7 or level 8 qualifications, to gain expertise in a particular domain.

Master's Degree

Master's degree is studied at the postgraduate level and is considered a level 7 qualification. Some of the popular master's degrees are Master of Engineering (MEng), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MSc), etc. Moreover, the two main master's courses are research and taught.

The duration of the postgraduate taught course is usually one year in length (and a minimum of two years if taken part-time). Comprising a gamut of modules, they are assessed by amalgamating examination coursework and dissertation and would lead to the award of a master's degree.

Postgraduate research courses involve the completion of original academic research. They also include research skills training that will equip a student to become an independent researcher capable of advancing knowledge in their field.

MBA Courses

MBA is a level 7 postgraduate qualification perfect for those looking to advance their knowledge of the business. Students can select from a gamut of optional modules in tandem with a work-based project or a dissertation. Students pursuing the course full-time can complete it in between 12 and 15 months if studying full-time.

Postgraduate Diplomas and Qualifications

Students can opt for a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert), a level 7 qualification. It is considered equivalent to one-third of a master's degree and would take one term or 15 weeks to complete. Furthermore, a student can also look for A Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip), a level 7 qualification. Moreover, it would take two terms of 30 weeks to complete.

PhDs/Doctorate Degrees

A Doctor of Philosophy or Doctorate (Ph.D./DPhil) is considered the highest academic level a student can achieve. It is a level 8 qualification and encapsulates academic learning and research but is predominantly research-focused. Full-time students can finish the course in three to four years. However, for students studying it part-time, it can take up to six or seven years to complete it.

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)

It is a level 4 vocational qualification that is the perfect choice for those unable to pursue a full three-year degree. It can be used to gain confidence to study successfully at the university level. Moreover, it can be used to change careers or level up. It would take one year to complete the study if done full-time.

Higher National Diploma (HND)

A two-year, level 5 qualification equivalent to the first two years of a bachelor's degree. It is a vocational degree designed for those looking to learn skills in a practical area.

Conversion Courses

It is a vocational postgraduate qualification usually taken by graduates who desire to change their subject area after their first degree. Moreover, taught postgraduate programs include a series of lectures or seminars and are examined via coursework or exams.

Credits Required

Degree Type	Credits Required
Integrated Masters Degree	480 credits
Bachelor Degree with Honor	360 credits
Basic Bachelor Degree	300 credits
PG Taught Masters Degree	180 credits
Postgraduate Certificate	60 credits without a master's degree and 180 credits to graduate with a master's
Postgraduate Diploma	120 credits
Professional Doctorate	540 credits

Sandwich Courses

It is a program where a student will have at least one session (ranging from 9-12 months) to work in a particular industry (if they have opted for a vocational study program or study abroad placements for any other course) in between their academic sessions.

- The undergraduate sandwich program in most of the UK universities is a 3-year degree which may be divided into – study for 2 years and work on project/internship/study abroad placement in the 3rd year (i.e. before joining the final year). This internship should be undertaken for a minimum of 9 months' duration.
- The postgraduate taught programs also offer an opportunity to get an additional industrial placement year, which is known as 1+1 / PGT sandwich programs.

Top Universities

Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Bath, Leeds Beckett University, and Middlesex University.

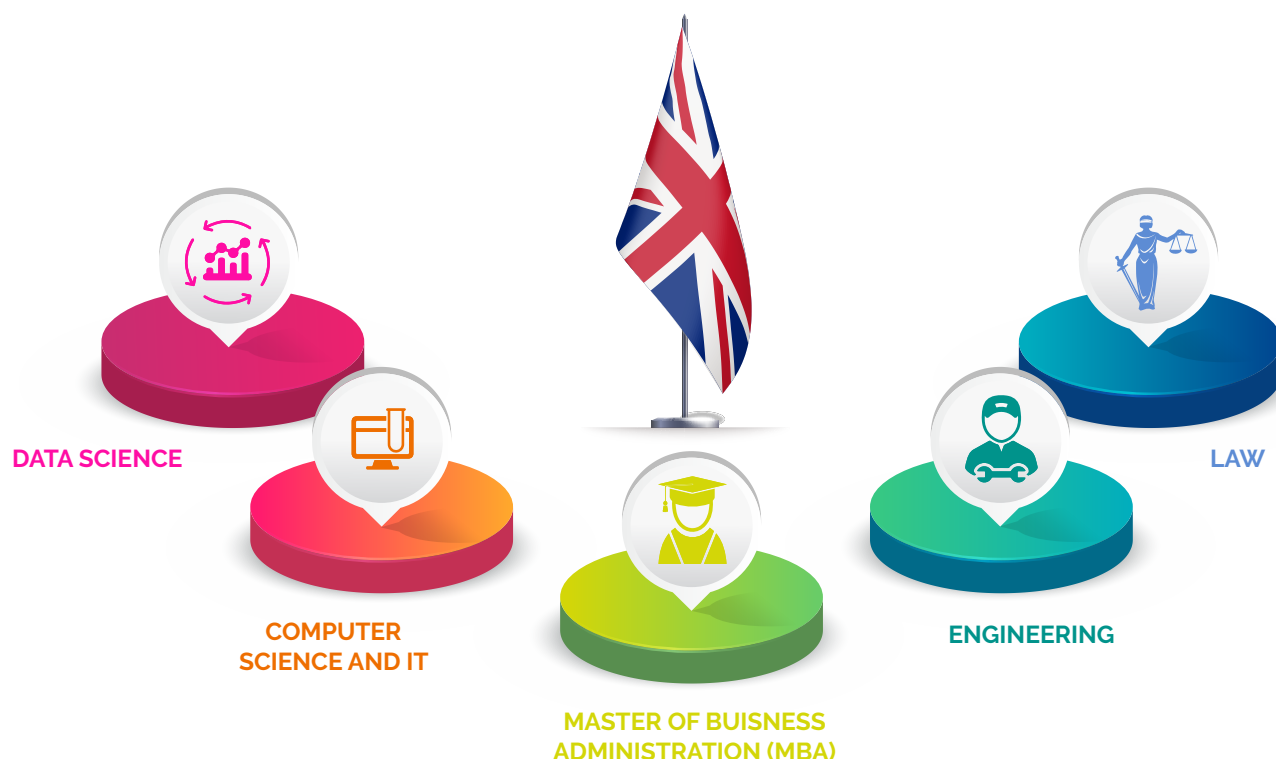


MOST IN-DEMAND COURSES

It is no secret that the job market in the United Kingdom is quite competitive. This means it is important to think about which degree will help them to get a better career after graduation.

Beyond their motivation, they must eventually choose a degree that will provide them with a better financial future. A few most in-demand courses in the UK are:

TOP 5 COURSES TO STUDY IN UK



• Engineering

Engineering students in the United Kingdom are provided with state-of-the-art facilities. They will have the opportunity to do significant research and learn with the support of practical training that prepares them for the job market.

Popular Job Titles

Civil Engineer, Engineering Project Manager, Mechanical Engineer, Product Development Engineer, Electrical Engineer, and Environmental Engineer.

• **Computer Science and IT**

The demand for IT experts to maintain and safeguard network systems from virtual threats has increased. In the United Kingdom, a computer science degree will open doors to a plethora of work prospects in a range of industries.

Popular Job Titles

Technical Director, Telecommunications Director, IT Manager, Software Developer, and IT Director.

• **Law**

A degree in Law can help students to take their knowledge and understanding of legal principles to the next level. If they are interested in the legal field, try looking for internships with law firms while studying as it can help them get an edge over other candidates while seeking employment.

Popular Job Titles

Solicitor, Lawyer, Legal Writer, and Legal Consultant.

• **Data Science**

The demand for MS data science UK has been increasing in the recent past. The UK is one of the best destinations for pursuing data science as it acknowledges Data scientists' roles higher than other positions.

Popular Job Titles

Machine Learning Engineer, Data Architect, Data Analyst, Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Chief Data Officer (CDO), and Project Manager.

• **Master of Business Administration (MBA)**

Business studies ranks high among the UK best courses. Management graduates are the most sought after employees across the world in most organizations.

Popular Job Titles

HR Officer, Business Development Representative, Finance Analyst, Investment Banker, and Management Consultant.

TOP REASONS TO STUDY IN UK

While studying in the UK, students would receive a chance to explore the state and enhance their knowledge. Explore the top reasons students should choose the UK as their next study abroad destination.



• Immense Part-time Work Prospects

Students get the opportunity to work while they pursue their studies. To manage everyday living expenses along with their studies, they can work part-time for up to 20 hours a week during term time. They can even work full-time during their semester break. This will help them pay for their bills as well as gain industry experience in their own field of study as well.

• Affordable Cost of Living

While some cities like London, Oxford and Brighton tend to be on the higher end of the student budget, there are still plenty of affordable student cities in the UK that equally boast a high quality of education and lifestyle, such as Aberdeen, Manchester, and Newcastle.

• Healthcare System

The UK boasts one of the most advanced healthcare systems across the globe. The UK's NHS (National Health Service) ensures safe, modern treatment and support. Moreover, international students do not require private medical insurance when studying in the UK unless they are studying for less than six months and therefore do not possess a student visa.

• Ease of Travel and Transport

Regardless of the city a student is based in, they would be able to travel to most places quickly. Full-time students (16--25 years old) can apply for a railcard that would enable them to save a third on rail travel.

Moreover, students can use underground rail systems if they stay off-campus in London, Glasgow, Liverpool, Tyne, and Wear. They can use a top-up Oyster card.

• Safety

With low crime rates and a reliable police force, the United Kingdom is one of the safest countries in the world. Gun ownership is strictly regulated, and gun crime is extremely rare.

Most universities and colleges use private security services to patrol their campuses. Student institutions should provide them with information on remaining safe on campus. Many of them hold special workshops for new students during Welcome Week to teach them how to be vigilant in all aspects of their lives in the UK.

• Art & Culture

Students would get the chance to delve deeper into the history and culture of the UK. They can choose to explore London's Tate and the National Gallery, two of the UK's renowned art spaces. Tate hosts sell-out shows, while the National Gallery houses paintings dating from the 13th to the 19th centuries. Moreover, history-buffs can enhance their knowledge with Duke Humfrey's Library, Oxford, Maughan Library, London, Wren Library, Cambridge, and more.

Moreover, students can rejuvenate with live music. The UK houses some of the world's largest music venues, such as the O2 Arena in London and the world-renowned Glastonbury Festival.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are offered to international students who desire to study in the UK as financial aid. The criteria for scholarships would vary based on the university and the type of scholarship. Moreover, the requirements often include a level of academic achievement. However, bursaries, scholarships, and partial fee waivers are comparatively fewer for undergraduate studies.

Students should know that scholarships, in most cases, would cover the tuition fee only. Scholarships offered to international students are funded by:

- Universities/higher education institutions
- External agencies
- UK government

There are a plethora of scholarship schemes run by governments, charities, and other organizations. Here is a quick rundown of scholarships available for students:



GREAT Scholarships India:

For the academic year (2022-23), approx 20 postgraduate scholarships are offered by 16 UK institutes across a multitude of subjects for students from India. Each scholarship provided is £10,000 towards tuition fees for a one-year postgraduate degree. Moreover, it is jointly funded by the British Council and the UK government's GREAT Britain Campaign with participating UK higher education institutions.

Chevening UK Government Scholarships:

It is the UK government's international awards scheme that would help in developing global leaders. Moreover, it is funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and partner organizations. It would offer two kinds of awards – Chevening Fellowships and Chevening Scholarships – the awardee are selected by the High Commission and British Embassies. The Chevening contribution to the tuition fee is capped at £22,000.

British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM:

This scholarship program aims to increase opportunities in STEM for girls and women. It is a fully-funded scholarship offered by the University of Strathclyde, Middlesex University, University of Durham, The University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, The Manchester Metropolitan University, Goldsmiths, University of London, and more for master's programs.

Inlaks Scholarships:

It provides the opportunity to students with exceptional talent in most fields to broaden their vision abroad and enhance their skills to operate in society. They are awarded up to USD 100,000 to cover program tuition as well as scholars', healthcare, living expenses, and one-way airfare.

Kingston University London Scholarship:

The scholarship is open to all Kingston University international undergraduate and postgraduate students. This scholarship is worth £5000 and is available to students starting their first year of study in September or January.

Commonwealth Shared Scholarships:

It is a scholarship for Ph.D. and Master's in the UK offered to citizens of developing countries, including India.

Edinburgh Global Research Scholarship:

Only 30 scholarships are available to international students interested in pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Edinburgh. This scholarship only covers a portion of a student's tuition fees.

Gates Cambridge Scholarship:

Gates Cambridge Scholarship is for international students from any country who wish to pursue a full-time postgraduate degree in a desirable subject offered by the University. It covers the full cost of studying and offers added flexible funding.

Clarendon Scholarship:

It is a fully-funded scholarship offered to international students planning to study for masters and Ph.D. at the University of Oxford. The scholarship would cover the full tuition fee and at least a £15,009 annual grant for living costs.

The Rhodes Scholarship:

It covers Oxford University course fees, as well as offers a stipend. It is a fully-funded program, intended for international students beginning PG programs at the University of Oxford.

The Royal Society Grants:

An array of grants and fellowships are available for talented researchers in the UK and beyond.

Charles Wallace India Trust Scholarships:

UK scholarships for doctoral students, research students, and visiting fellows from India.

Scotland's Saltire Scholarships:

The scheme offers up to 50 awards, each worth £8000, towards tuition fees for any one year of full-time study in a masters's program at any of Scotland's higher education institutions.

University of Birmingham International Scholarships:

Various scholarships for international students to study at the University of Birmingham.

Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Cambridge Scholarship:

This scholarship is awarded to Ph.D. applicants from India in any academic subject. Students do not require any separate process for this. It covers their university tuition fee, immigration health surcharge, and an annual stipend.

Albukhary Undergraduate Scholarships:

This competitive scholarship is funded by donations from the Albukhary Foundation and is awarded on the basis of academic merit and financial need. It provides a maximum of £20,000 over three years.

Director's Scholarship:

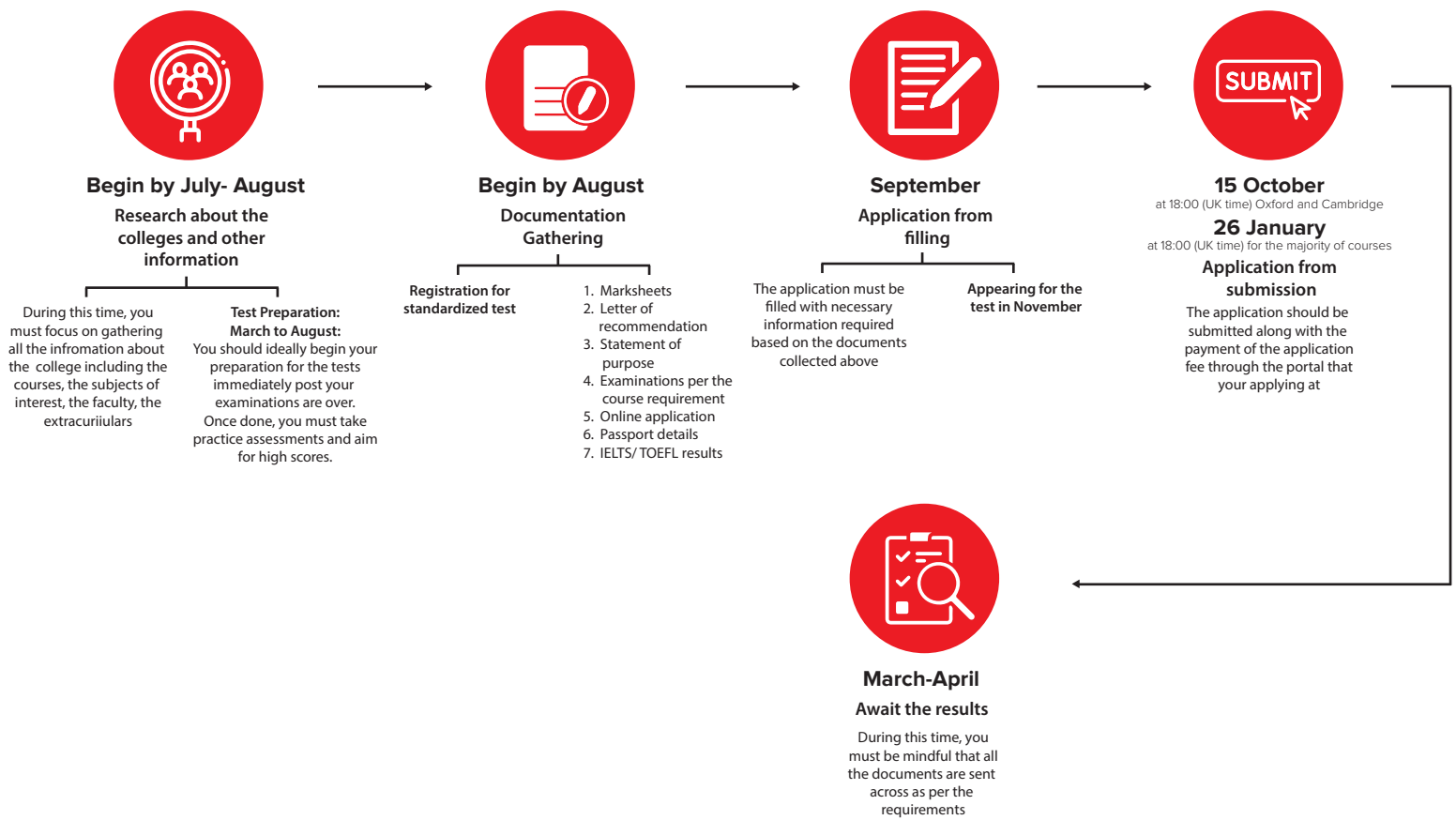
Outstanding students who can show remarkable prior academic achievements and dedication to their future studies and degree are given this scholarship. The value of this scholarship is a £5,000 IFP tuition fee reduction.

MASc Global Sustainable Development Bursaries:

The School for Cross-faculty Studies would offer four Global Sustainable Development bursaries for postgraduate taught students commencing MASc study. The student would be awarded two awards of £5,000 each.



APPLICATION PROCESS



UCAS Application

The University and Colleges Admission Services (UCAS) help students figure out the next step in their education and guide them to apply to a course of their choice in the UK. The primary role of this centralized service is to initiate the application process for British Universities. Instead of separately applying to different educational institutions, the application is shared with a gamut of prospective universities at a go. Students can apply for it via the official website of UCAS. The fee to apply via UCAS in 2022 is £22 for a single choice and can be up to £26.50 for two choices or more.

Bachelor's Degree

The UCAS application website is used to submit all bachelor's degree applications in the United Kingdom. Following are the steps to apply through UCAS:

1. On the UCAS website, register and create the application.
2. Students can apply to a maximum of five programs in the UK, either at the same or different universities.
3. The third step is to complete the personal details.
4. Include all the previous educational qualifications.
5. Financial information needs to be added.
6. Personal statement: Maximum word count 4000 characters or 47 lines
7. The UCAT or BMAT for medicine or the LNAT for law degrees are the additional tests that may be required by some colleges.

Master's and Ph.D. Degrees

1. Most institutions allow students to submit their applications at any time during the year, although other degree programs have specific deadlines. It is recommended for students to get in touch with the university of their choice to learn more about the application procedure.
2. Apply through the UKPASS system. Students can fill out all of their information online and scan and submit any required documents, such as a copy of their passport and previous Bachelor's degree certificates.
3. For Ph.D. programs, applicants are expected to select a suitable supervisor from the university.

MBA

UK offers students to enhance their leadership and entrepreneurial skills with different types of MBA programs – executive, full-time, part-time, and online.

Admissions are often offered across four rounds, with most of the top UK universities offering the program in September & January. For applying to a British MBA program, international students must check the specific program details, admission requirements and application fees from the website. The average application fees range between £20 to £100.

Eligibility Criteria

- A minimum 3-years of full-time work experience
- A bachelor's degree or equivalent
- IELTS score of at least 6.0-6.5
- Proof of availability of sufficient funds
- GMAT score
- English proficiency test scores:

IELTS: 6.5

TOEFL iBT: 100

Application Checklist

- **Check Entry Requirements**

Before applying for a programme, students should consider whether they meet the minimum academic requirements.

- **Application Deadline**

This programme operates a series of selection deadlines; please review these before applying. However, they should apply as soon as possible.

- **Review the Application Process**

Students should prepare their personal statement, CV and reference as they will be asked for these during application.

- **Submit Application**

Students would need to submit their application via online mode once they are done with all the aspects.

Interview Process

A student will receive an invitation to the interview after completing all of their paperwork. While some MBA programs prefer an online video interview, others demand that they appear on campus. Of course, where they live when they apply to that university matters.

Interviews are considered as the final step of selection for admission to the universities and business schools in the UK. The interviews are scheduled in two modes, online and physical interview. Students can expect questions around themselves, their leadership attributes, work experience and reasons to choose him over other candidates in the interview session. Moreover, why they picked a particular MBA program and business school.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For students to apply to desirable UK universities, they need to fulfill the requirements issued by the university. Here is a list of common conditions. Moreover, students should visit the official website of the applied university to know more.

English Language Proficiency Tests

The most significant and typical prerequisites for studying in the United Kingdom are English Proficiency Tests. International students must submit scores from exams such as the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic), and the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Students can also share their Duolingo English Tests, Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), and Trinity Secure English Language Tests, some of the most widely approved English tests for admissions. These tests can be taken at a UKVI-approved test center.

Requirements vary based on the course or certificate a student chooses to apply for. The following score can be considered to be the minimum IELTS Eligibility requirement for candidates to study in the UK.

English Proficiency Test Scores

University	IELTS Requirement (for bachelor's)	IELTS Requirement (for master's)	TOEFL iBT	Pearson PTE Academic/ PTE Academic Online
University of Oxford	7.0	7.0 (minimum score per component; 6.5)	100 (minimum scores: L- 22, R - 24, S-25, W-24)*	66 (minimum 56 in S,L,R, and W)*
University of Cambridge	7.0	7.0	100 (with no less than 25 in each element)	-
London School of Economics and Political Science	7.0	7.0 (minimum 6.5 in R, L, W, S)*	100 (R- 23, L-22, W-24, S- 22)	69
University of Manchester	7.5+	7.5+	109–120	59

Imperial College London	-	Standard - 6.5 overall (minimum 6.0 in all components) Higher - 7.0 overall (minimum 6.5 in all components)	Standard - 92 overall (minimum 20 in all components) Higher - 100 overall (minimum 22 in all components)	Standard 62 overall (minimum 56 in all components) Higher 69 overall (minimum 62 in all components)
University of Warwick	6.0-7.0	6.5	87 - 100 (PG) 92 (UG)	60-75 (59 in all communicative skills)

*Reading - R, Listening- L, Writing- W, and Speaking- S

Document Requirements to Study: Undergraduate Degree

- Certificate for completing 10+2 education from a recognized Indian board with minimum marks
- Letter of Recommendation
- Bank statements to provide proof for financial funds
- Student Visa
- Passport and other ID proof
- Offer Letter
- CAS Letter
- Original academic transcripts from previous educational institutions
- English Proficiency Tests Score
- Statement of Purpose

Document Requirements to Study: Postgraduate Degree

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate Degree • English Proficiency Tests • Official Academic Transcripts • Offer Letter • Student Visa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Statements • Two letters of Recommendations • Statement of Purpose • Detailed Resume • Valid Passport |
|--|---|

Document Requirements for PhD Scholars

- Research Proposal
- Official Academic Transcripts
- English Proficiency Tests
- Statement of Purpose
- A detailed CV
- Financial Statements
- Valid Passport
- Student Visa

CAS Letter

Another document required for studying in the United Kingdom is CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies). Students cannot apply for a student visa without this letter. After students receive their unconditional offer letter, the chosen university/institution issues a CAS Letter. It's a complete letter sent out electronically on a first-come, first-served basis. It includes a unique license number indicating whether the university has accepted their application and invited them to study there. It also encapsulates a fee deposit that all applicants must pay to the sponsoring university, ranging from zero to five thousand dollars. This amount is deducted from the student's first-year fees and must be paid before submitting a student visa application.

Moreover, it encapsulates vital information such as sponsor university license number, course details, duration of their chosen course, tuition fees, paid tuition fee amount, paid accommodation amount, and English proficiency test scores.

VISA

An individual can apply for a Tier 4 (General) student visa to study in the UK if they are above 16 or over. It is only available to full-time university students pursuing a degree in the UK, not for short-term or language courses.

UK STUDENT VISA CHECKLIST

-  **Your current passport** 
-  **A valid , unused Certificate of Acceptance for studies (CAS) reference number** 
-  **Evidence you can fund your first year of fees and up to 9 months of living cost** 
-  **Proof your relationship with your parent or legal gurdian if the funds for your course are held in their name** 
-  **An Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate. Your university or college will let you know if this is needed.** 
-  **Translation of supporting documents that are not in English** 
-  **A Tuberculosis certificate** 

Types of Student Visas

Visitor Route

Students who decide to study in the UK at an accredited institution for less than six months can apply for a visitor visa. It would cost them £100 for up to 6 months. The earliest they can apply is three months before they decide to travel.

Short-term Student Route

Students who desire to study English language courses between six and eleven months-long should apply for short-term visas. They would need to pay £200 as the cost of the visa. Moreover, they would also need to pay £470. It is a healthcare surcharge that is a part of their online application.

Child Student Route

Students aged between four and seventeen can apply for a child student visa to study at a school in the UK. Students on this visa can arrive up to one month before their course starts. A student has to pay £363 as the visa fee. Moreover, students on this visa can opt for part-time work during the term for up to 10 hours/ week if they are 16 years or above.

Post Study Work Visa

There are many options available for international students who desire to work and stay in the UK after their studies. The three most common visa routes available are Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 5. Based on the type of employment they want to pursue, how long they want to stay, and their current visa status, they may be eligible to apply for one of these three work visas.

Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Visa

If a student secures a period of professional training on a Government Authorised Exchange scheme or an internship relating to their course, they can switch to a Tier 5 visa and stay in the UK for a further 12 months before starting their career overseas.

Doctoral Students

Doctoral students who have completed their UK studies can now stay in the country for up to 12 months after completing their doctorate to look for skilled work or start their own business under the Doctorate Extension Scheme. Applications for this scheme must be submitted before the doctorate's estimated completion date, and they cannot be submitted after the doctorate has been completed.

Tier 2 (General) Visa

This type of visa is available for graduates with a master's or bachelor's degree, PGDE or PGCE, or at least 12 months of study towards a Ph.D. Students can apply for it if they have an offer of a graduate-level job, with an annual package of £20,800. Students can stay in the UK for up to six years, possibly applying for settlement if they meet certain criteria.

Requirements

Students need to fulfill the specific visa requirements. They must gather all of these documents depending on the visa they are applying for. Then, on the day of their interview, they must submit them.

- **UK Visa Application Form:**

Complete the form online at the official website or the manual application form according to the type of UK visa applied.

- **Two Photographs:**

Ensure that the photograph is not more than six months old and in color.

- **Valid Passport:**

Passport must be valid for three more months beyond the date they plan to leave the UK.

- **Financial Proof:**

Students should have either £1,023 per month (for up to 9 months) for courses outside London or £1,334 per month (for up to 9 months) for studies in London. Moreover, they must have this money for 28 consecutive days.

- **Tuberculosis Test Results:**

Students will be required to submit the requests for a Tuberculosis Test in order to get a UK Visa.

- **Biometric Information:**

If a student is applying for a visa that lets them stay in the country beyond six months, they would need to submit their biometric information. It includes giving their fingerprints and a digital photograph taken at the appropriate application center.

- **Receipt of UK Visa Fees:**

Submit the receipt that confirms they have paid the visa fee as required.

Applicants under 18 years must meet additional requirements:

- Birth Certificate
- If traveling with someone other than a parent(s) or unaccompanied:
 - A signed letter from the parent(s) confirming details of anyone accompanying the minor.
 - A copy of the parent(s) or legal guardian's biographical page of their passport.

Visa Application Process

If a student is 16 or over and wants to pursue higher education in the UK, with a course lasting longer than six months, they need to apply for a student visa via the Student Route. Students are eligible to apply for a student visa six months before. Moreover, they will get a decision on their visa within three weeks.

This step-by-step guide will keep students covered when applying for student visas:

STEP 1: Students should apply to their chosen university (or universities) and receive an unconditional offer.

STEP 2: Once they have received their unconditional offer and have accepted it, their university will give them a document known as a Certificate of Acceptance of Studies (or CAS).

STEP 3: Once they have their CAS, they can begin the visa application process. They can apply for their visa up to six months before their course starts. Moreover, they will need to pay an application fee (£363 for students) and have a valid passport.

STEP 4: As part of their application, they will need to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge fee. This gives them access to the UK's National Health Service. Students receive a 25 percent discount on the usual cost, so the rate for student visa holders is £470 per year.

STEP 5: The student would also have to present English Language Proficiency results. Different universities have different requirements, so they should check what form of English language evidence is required with their desirable university.

STEP 6: Students must complete their application and have it accepted before they arrive in the UK.

Moreover, their university will provide them with advice about their visa application. Some universities have dedicated immigration advisors that are on hand to support international students with their visa applications.

Fees

- If an applicant desire to apply for a student visa from outside the UK, it would cost £363
- For switching to a student visa or extending from inside the county, it would cost £490

OVERVIEW OF ACADEMIC YEAR



UK universities usually bifurcate the academic year into three terms across two semesters. Moreover, many universities also provide reading weeks to the students. These short breaks part-way through a term give students time for their course reading.

Academic Cycle

If a university academic calendar is split into terms, then a university term will usually be divided into three sections:

Term	Duration
Autumn term	September–December
Spring term	January–March
Summer term	April–June (programs) April–August (programs)

Moreover, students applying to renowned universities like the University of Oxford should know that each academic year at the university is divided into three terms:

- Michaelmas term from October to December
- Hilary term from January to March
- Trinity term from April to June

How are Students Assessed?

There is a credit weighting for each module that a student studies. Most modules have a credit value of 20, although if students finish a dissertation in their third year, it often has a credit value of 40.

Each academic year of study as a full-time undergraduate student, students are required to finish 120 credits. Over the course of their three-year degree, individuals must earn 360 credits to receive a full honors degree.



TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT UNIVERSITY

UK colleges and universities offer students the chance to receive a high-quality education and realize their dream careers. When choosing a course or university, students should consider the various parameters and strict standards set out by the UK education sector and government. There are 164 universities and colleges in the UK that offer degrees for a gamut of courses recognised by the UK authorities. So, how do students choose the right course and university for themselves?

To make an informed decision they should consider the following parameters:

- Institute ranking
- Alumni
- Career prospects and industrial
- Student care and satisfaction
- Teaching standards
- Industrial links

Apart from these, other things would help them to identify the right institutions. The eligibility criteria, faculty-to-student ratio, and more.

List of Independent Rankings

- The Guardian University League Table
- Financial Times
- The Times/The Sunday Times
- The Complete University Guide

Note: Students should meticulously read the parameters and methodologies of the rankings before making a decision.

They can also refer to the enlisted websites to get a better insight:

- **The Research Assessment Framework**

It evaluates UK colleges and universities based on their quality of research work.

- **QAA**

It examines the academic policy and standards of recognized and listed UK.

- **Unistats**

It allows students to search for and juxtapose information on courses across the UK. Students can look into what previous students thought about the course.

INTERNSHIPS FOR STUDENTS



Internships are one of the best aspects of international students' college experience. Paid internships in the United Kingdom serve as a link between education and employment for international students. The following are some of the advantages of doing an internship:

1. Working outside the domestic environment will broaden one's professional network, allowing one to form connections and enduring friendships that could lead to a global career. Employers around the world place a high priority on adaptability, problem-solving, teamwork, and communication abilities.
2. An internship abroad can provide students with a completely new perspective on how businesses run, whether they are exploring a sector they are already familiar with or trying out something new.
3. Interning is a terrific method to see if this is the correct job for students. Internships are typically short-term, allowing students to try out a possible career before committing to it.
4. When students are doing an internship, they will meet a lot of people. They will have a boss, coworkers, and peripheral contacts like human resources or even clients. It's important that they sell their personal brand to these individuals, ensuring that these short-term interactions become part of a longer-term network that could lead to a permanent position.
5. Internships give resumes a lot of weight. They add a new dimension to the resume by expanding on previous educational experience. When interviewing for full-time positions, students can draw on their internship experiences to make themselves more appealing.
6. If students do a good job during their internship, they will get some terrific references to help them find a full-time position. The manager is the most important reference, but they can also get references from other managers and supervisors.

COST

Medical and MBA tuition fees in the United Kingdom are higher than tuition fees for humanities and social science degrees. In the UK, international student fees can range from £10,000 to £40,000 or more.

Average Tuition Fee for Different Levels of Degrees

Type of Degree	Average Annual Fee
Bachelors	£10,000 – £38,000
Masters	£16,000 – £30,000
Ph.D.	£16,000 – £24,000
Foundation Year/ Foundation Diploma	£9,250
Foundation Degree	£2,600
Top-Up Degree	£9,250
Higher National Certificate	£4,000 – £8,000
Higher National Diploma	£4,000 – £8,000
Certificate of Higher Education	£9,250
Diploma of Higher Education	£9,250
Conversion Courses	£9,250

Cost of Living

The cost of living in the United Kingdom depends on various factors such as accommodation, transportation, and entertainment.

Living Expenses

Factors	Average Monthly Cost
Accommodation	£500 – £700
Food and Grocery	£100 – £200
Transportation	£30– £40
Household Bills	£40 – £50
Entertainment	£40– £50
Miscellaneous	£200 – £300

On-campus Housing

Per Month
Student residence and halls
£300 to £800



Off-campus Housing

Per Month
One-bedroom flat (depends on the city
and if the flat is outside or inside the city centre
£650 to £2,200



Homestay

Per Month
£600 to £800



Entertainment

Per Month
£40 to £50



Food

Per Month
£70 to £200



Personal Hygiene

Per Month
Haircuts, hygiene products, etc.
£12 to £25



1. Accommodation

The most significant component of living costs is accommodation which accounts for the majority of the expense. Students can stay in halls of residence in their campus, private flats, shared housing, dorms, or nearby home-stays. Accommodation costs also change based on cities.

Average Rent for Accommodation

Type of Accommodation	Average Rent
Private Apartments	£800 – £1000/ month
Local Home-Stays	£10 – £60/ night
Halls of Residence	£400 – £600/ month

2. Food and Grocery

Food is an indispensable component of the living costs in the United Kingdom. Students can save a lot of money by cooking their own meals. Eating out frequently might significantly boost their spending and be quite costly. Across all ages and genders, the average weekly food spend per person is £40.30 (£175 per month), including shopping and eating out. In the UK, the typical weekly grocery buy costs £26.5, plus £13.8 for eating out or ordering takeaways each week.

3. Transportation

Commuting costs are included in the cost of living in the United Kingdom. These costs must be considered, especially if the residence is located far from the university. Furthermore, students can always take public transportation in the UK because the system is well-connected and convenient.

Average Transportation Expenses

Mode of Transport	Ticket Fare
Train	£12 – £13
Bus	£1– £2
Taxi	£6 – £90

4. Miscellaneous

Leisure activities, shopping, stationery, toiletries, and any other extra expenditures made by students are all examples of miscellaneous expenditure.

Average Cost of Miscellaneous Items

Miscellaneous Items	Average Costs
Shopping	£50 – £70
Books and Stationery	£20 – £30
Toiletries	£20
Other	£100

The monthly cost of living in the United Kingdom also varies based on the city where students live.

Average Monthly Rent of Popular UK Cities

City	Average Monthly Rent
London	£1100 – 1300
Brighton	£838 – 1300
Manchester	£860 – 1100
Oxford	£1100 – 1700
Birmingham	£700 – 1200
Glasgow	£800 – 1000
Edinburgh	£700 – 1000

POPULAR JOB TITLES

Accountancy and Finance

Students will gain theoretical and practical knowledge of key financial practices as well as learn how to prepare and analyze financial data.

Popular Job Titles

Corporate Treasurer, CA, Financial Analyst, Financial Manager, and Investment Banker. Lawyer, Legal Consultant, Associate Attorney, Immigration Executive, Attorney, Barrister, and Court Judicial Assistant.

Education and Teaching

It is another degree full of great opportunities. Approximately 90% of education and teaching students find full-time work after graduation and they can find employment anywhere.

Popular Job Titles

Professor, Tutor, and Lecturer

Real Estate

It is another degree full of great opportunities. Approximately 90% of education and teaching students find full-time work after graduation and they can find employment anywhere.

Popular Job Titles

Realtor associate, real estate agent, commercial real estate specialist, real estate consultant, director of real estate.



JOB PROSPECTS

Students can leverage the Graduate Route, which is unsponsored and indicates a student can utilize the time after they graduate to look for work or work at any skill level. They would have the flexibility to gain work experience, undertake an internship, or work as a freelancer in the UK.

International students have permission to work, provided they adhere to the guidelines set out by the visa regulation authorities, such as applying for the appropriate visas and achieving the minimum salary amount.

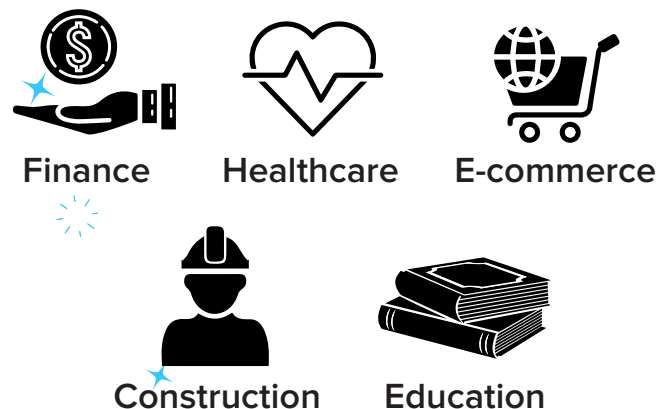
TOP-PAYING JOBS IN UK

A look at the best companies and fastest growing industries.

BEST COMPANIES



FASTEST GROWING JOB SECTORS



Top-Paying Jobs

Profession	Average Annual Salary
Enterprise Architect	£82,000
Of Counsel	£77,000
Equity Research Analyst	£70,000
Portfolio Manager	£62,000
Risk Manager	£55,000
Project Manager	£49,000
Software Engineer	£48,000
Operations Manager	£46,800

Source: PayScale



Q.1 How early can I apply for a student visa?

The earliest a student can apply for a student visa is six months before starting their course. They usually get a decision on their visa within three weeks.



Q.2 What are the requirements to study in the UK?

Students should have the following documents to apply for the Universities in the UK.

- Certificate for completing 10+2
- Copy of passport/visa (if available)
- Academic transcript
- Personal statement
- Certificate of English proficiency – IELTS/ TOEFL/PTE Test/Other
- Reference letters

Postgraduate - Certificate of graduation/bachelor's degree

Ph.D./Research

- Certificate of graduation/master's degree
- Research proposal



Q.3 Why should one study in the UK?

The United Kingdom is quickly becoming one of the world's most popular educational study destinations. There are many reasons to pick the United Kingdom, including unparalleled academic and professional skills as well as a once-in-a-lifetime cultural experience.

1. The UK already has a huge student base
2. Good settlement options with tier 2 sponsors
3. Quality of education
4. Globally recognized degree



Q.4 Can a student work under a student visa in the UK?

Depending on their visa students will have specific permissions determining if and how they can work in the UK or not.

Students pursuing full-time degree-level courses holding a student visa are permitted to work in the UK. For most courses, they will be allowed to work for up to 20 hours per week during term time. The requirements and rules are as follows:

1. Full-time in vacation periods.
2. Up to 20 hours per week during University term time.
3. Full-time during term time if on a work placement that is an integral part of the course - any work placement must not be longer than 50% of the total course length.
4. As a student union sabbatical officer for up to two years.

However, if a student is studying part-time, they will not have the right to undertake any work, paid or unpaid, in the UK.



Q.5 How should I choose a university in the UK?

Every university is different, and there are lots of things to consider when deciding which university and course to choose, which include – ranking, tuition fee, location, entry requirements, and living costs.



ABOUT UPGRAD

upGrad Study Abroad was founded in late 2020 with a mission of extending access, equity, and democratization of international higher-ed. upGrad Study Abroad has disrupted the higher-ed ecosystem through its unique offering of a **hybrid study model**, offering our learners the **flexibility and merit** of online and offline learning through **1+1 years or 1+2 years format**.

Our academic collaborations with 100+ highly ranked university partners across 8+ countries, has successfully resulted in improved affordability, flexibility, and career outcomes. Our learners enroll in partner universities with advanced academic standing via transferable credits and get preferred for on-campus academic roles and full-time job opportunities.



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