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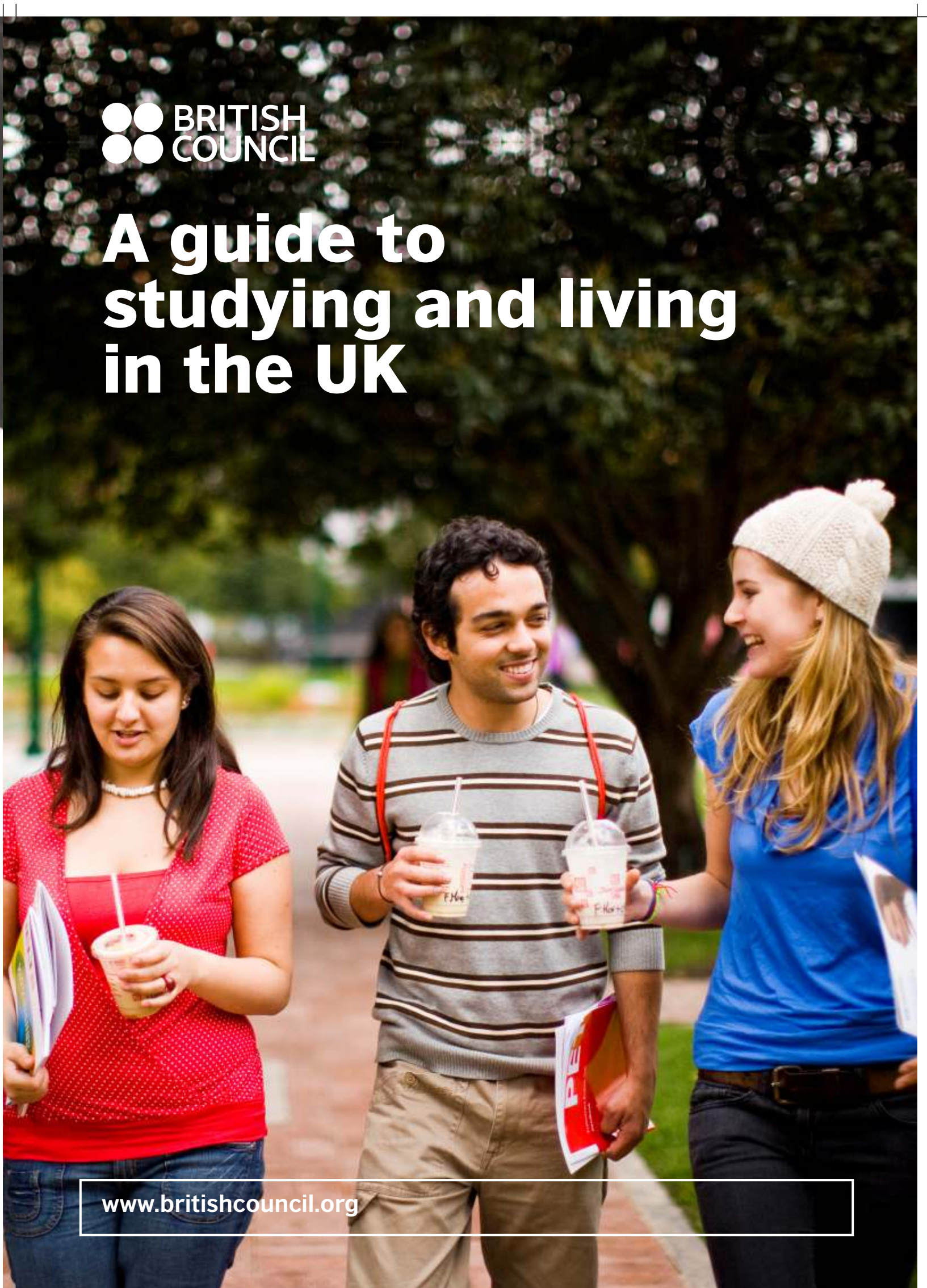
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# A guide to studying and living in the UK



[www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)



# Introduction

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The UK is home to some of the most reputed universities in the world and is home to four of the world's top ten universities and has the second highest number of Nobel Prize winners in the world - five new winners from the UK, were announced in 2016 in the fields of Physics, Chemistry and Economics.

The UK is also proud and welcoming of its international student community. More than 400,000 international students studied in the UK in 2014-15. There are over 33000 students from South Asian countries of which Indians are the second largest international student community in the UK. We saw a 6% increase from 2015 in student visas issued to Indian students, which shows that the UK continues to be a popular choice for students in India and other South Asian countries.

Despite the European Union referendum, the British Council remains committed to supporting the educational excellence that exists across the whole sector of the UK. International students are an asset to the UK, both to its cities and communities, and the UK needs to remain open to the world at this time. The British Council will continue to work with policy-makers and the education sector to welcome, prepare and celebrate the quality of our international students and academics, against an increasingly complex and competitive global market for talent and creativity.

The UK has an excellent reputation as an international study destination with world class career prospects, state-of-the-art facilities and a multicultural student community. Studying in the UK goes beyond the classroom – it's a chance to discover its unique culture, cities and countryside.

See historical artefacts like the Rosetta Stone at the British Museum or enjoy international modern art at the Tate Modern Gallery. Discover UK's exciting nightlife packed with comedy shows, restaurants and pubs. Revel in award winning theatre productions in Westend, or experience festivals like Glastonbury, Edinburgh Fringe or Hay-on-Wye in Wales. Manchester United, Arsenal or Chelsea? Watch your favourite football club in action! If you're a literature buff, then where better to celebrate 400 years of Shakespeare than at his birth place in Stratford-Upon-Avon or sit in Wordsworth's room in Lake District where he wrote Daffodils. You must also indulge in some historical wonder by exploring the UK's ancient monuments and castles in Edinburgh and Stonehenge. In other words, have the adventure of a lifetime!

This magazine will take you through the entire process of applying to study in the UK. We have curated information on the UK education system, how to choose a course and institution, various degrees available, profiles on popular subjects, visas, scholarships, career choices, alumni stories and more. I hope this will help make the application process easier.

I wish you every success with your applications. We look forward to welcoming you to the UK. For more information about studying in the UK visit [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org).  
With best wishes

**Richard Everitt**

Regional Director, Education Marketing and Consultancy, South Asia  
British Council



# Realising ambitions together

- An Anglia Ruskin graduate has a nine out of ten chance of getting a job, a better chance than most other graduates of securing a permanent job, and is likely to beat the average graduate salary – all within six months of leaving us.\*
- A strong focus on Employability Skills and close collaboration with businesses and industry.
- Many of our courses are professionally accredited by chartered institutes and professional bodies and also offers a placement year.
- For the second year running, our students are among the most confident in the country.\*\*

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\* Graduates working or in further study (Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Institutions, 2013/14).

\*\* National Student Survey (NSS) 2015



Anglia Ruskin University

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# Discover more about Brunel University London



- + Fantastic campus and London location
- + Home to 3,100 international students
- + Modern and safe on-site accommodation. 1<sup>st</sup> year guaranteed
- + Engineering, Business, Healthcare, Computer Science, Arts, Design, Social Sciences courses offered
- + Extensive English language courses and pathway programmes available
- + Excellent industry paid work placement opportunities



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## Scholarships

Brunel offers over 100 regional, international and academic excellence scholarships each year, worth up to £6,000. To find out more, visit [www.brunel.ac.uk/international/scholarships/bi](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/international/scholarships/bi)



▶▶ I chose Brunel because of the combined Automotive and Motorsport Engineering module and its strong international student presence. ▶▶

**Vishal Muralidharan, 22, from India**  
MSc in Automotive and Motorsport Engineering



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## The UK education system, qualifications and degrees

UK universities and colleges offer thousands of excellent courses, leading to qualifications that are respected by employers and academics worldwide. When you think of UK higher education qualifications, you might think of bachelors and master's degrees, MBAs and PhDs. But there are many more to choose from.

### At undergraduate level the main qualifications offered are:

#### **Bachelor's or undergraduate degree:**

Academic study designed to help you gain a thorough understanding of a subject. Full-time, this normally takes three years to complete (four in some institutions). The degrees have different names too, such as: Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Science (BSc), Bachelor of Education (BEd) and Bachelor of Engineering (BEng).

Degrees are classified as either Ordinary or Honours – this can vary between universities and colleges. Generally an 'ordinary' or 'unclassified' degree may be awarded if a student has completed a full degree course but hasn't obtained the total required passes sufficient to merit a third-class honours degree. In Scotland, an 'ordinary' degree is usually a three-year full-time course, whereas an 'honours' degree is usually a four-year full-time course.

**Foundation degree:** The equivalent of the first two years of an honours degree, this may be studied full or part-time, and consists of academic study integrated with relevant work-based learning undertaken with an employer. It may be studied as a standalone qualification or upon completion, you may progress to the final year of an honours degree.

**Diploma of Higher Education:** Two year, full-time DipHE courses are normally equivalent to the first two years of a degree and can often be used for entry into the third year of a related degree course. They can be academic, but are mainly linked to a particular job or profession such as nursing and social work.

**Certificate of Higher Education:** Focuses on either a particular job or profession, or academic

study. Equivalent to the first year of a full honours degree, they are the most basic level of qualification that can be gained in higher education and show that you are capable of studying successfully at university level. You can use a CertHE to gain confidence to study successfully at university level, change careers or progress your current career, or to achieve a foundation degree, DipHE or full honours degree through additional study.

**Higher National Diploma (HND):** A two-year course which, if completed with high grades, can lead to the third year of a degree.

### At postgraduate level, the main qualifications offered are:

**Master's degree:** A master's qualification allows you to further your knowledge in a particular subject, or to go in a completely different direction, using the skills you have gained from your undergraduate studies. A master's degree is an academic qualification awarded to individuals who successfully demonstrate a higher level of expertise in a particular field of study. You can study one in almost any subject, but there are two main types of master's courses: taught and research.

Most master's courses lead to an MA (Master of Arts) or MSc (Master of Science) qualification, but there are also 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.

**MBA courses:** A Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree is an internationally recognised qualification which gives you the skills you need for a successful management career. MBA courses cover topics such as business policy and strategy, operational and strategic management, marketing, market research, finance and accounting, IT, human resource management, leadership, entrepreneurship and international trade.



**PhDs/Doctorate degrees.:** 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). Doctorate courses can be applied for by students who achieve at least a 2:1 result at undergraduate level. Although you don't necessarily need a master's degree, it is common practice to undertake one before a PhD.

**Postgraduate diplomas and qualifications:** For those wishing to continue their studies beyond an undergraduate degree, a variety of options are available. Postgraduation certificates and diplomas allow students to study something new or build on the skills and knowledge already gained during their first degree.

**Professional and vocational qualifications:** A professional or vocational qualification is usually taken to improve skills or gain attributes required in specific jobs. Most awards will involve practical training, giving you the opportunity to experience a job first-hand.

**Conversion courses:** A conversion course is a vocational postgraduate qualification usually taken by graduates who wish to change their subject area after their first degree and better

prepare themselves for the job market. Taught postgraduate programmes consist of a series of lectures or seminars, and are assessed through exams or coursework. Research postgraduate programmes require more in-depth independent study, usually over a period of two or three years. You then report on your research by writing it in the form of a thesis or dissertation.

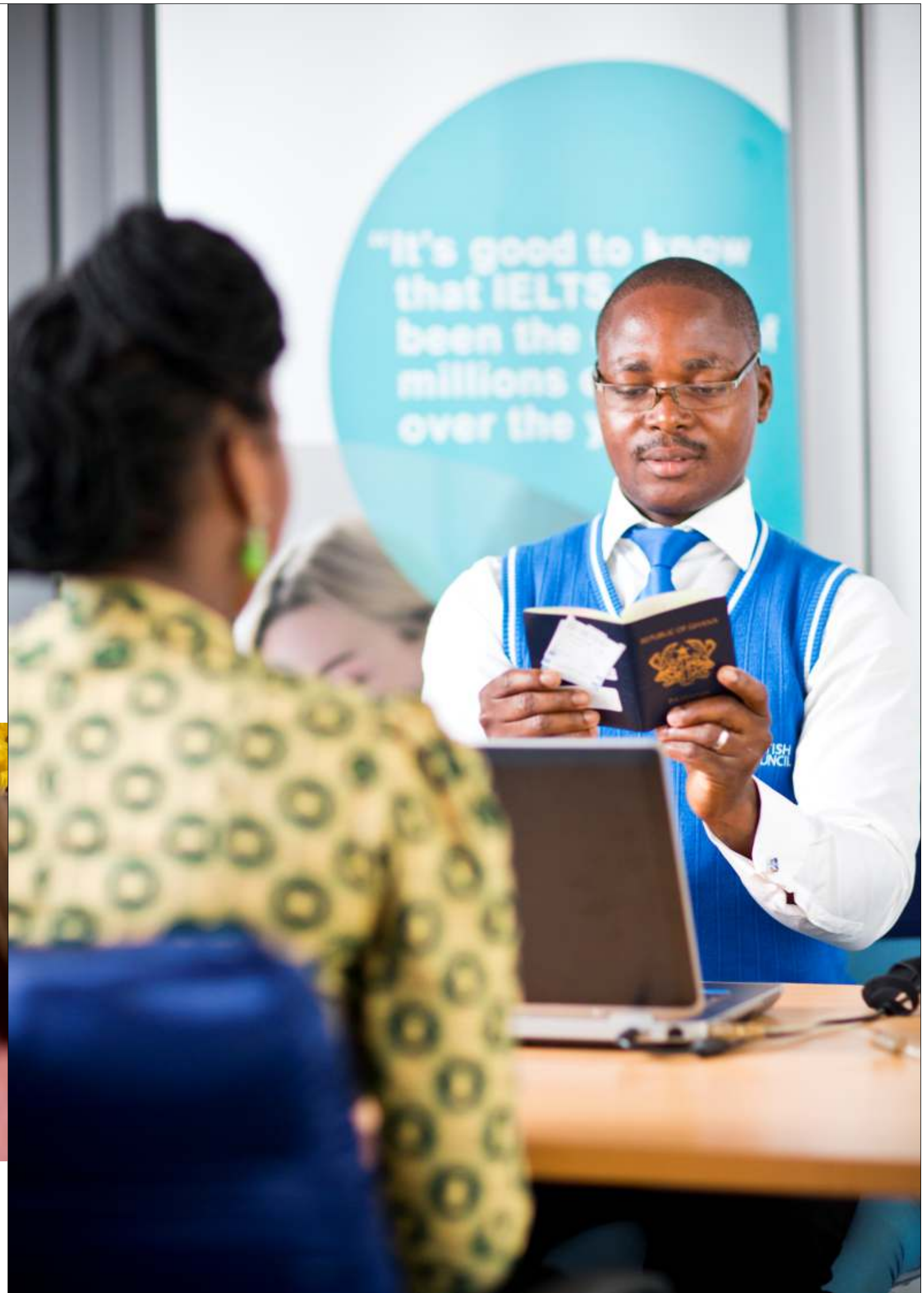
#### **Subjects and modules**

Most higher education courses have a 'modular' structure. This means that you can build a personalised course by choosing modules or units of study from different subject areas. For example, if you are studying English literature, for your first year you could choose one module on science fiction, one module on children's literature, and one module on short stories.

If you are interested in more than one subject, you may be able to study a combination as part of your course, e.g. English literature and psychology. You can often decide for yourself how much time you would like to spend on each subject. 'Joint' means the two subjects are studied equally (50/50), 'major/minor' means the time spent is usually 75/25.

#### **For further information:-**

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/options/courses-qualifications>





## Further Education courses - an alternative route in Higher Education

While most of you will be considering applying directly to study a higher education degree in the UK, it is worth looking at popular alternative routes to such degrees. Further education courses provide a wide range of options, and can be a common and recognised route of transitioning to HE degrees.

Some major benefits of a further education qualification are that they can be used as an equivalent of an A-level or for pre-sessional qualifications, allowing you a smooth transition into HE degrees. They are also very useful to develop your English language skills, which is crucial for your academic career in the UK. It offers a truly UK experience as well as a chance to enjoy your independence as you get ready for your adventure in the UK. It combines classroom-based learning and independent study with practical training and is relatively cheaper than other similar courses available in the UK.

While some colleges can offer degrees, usually accredited by a partner university, there are others like the Newcastle College Group which is allowed to grant their own degrees.

There are many kinds of FE qualifications, and you need to find the one best suited for your needs:

### The Diploma:

The Diploma is available across all industry sectors and is the most popular choice for students without industry experience who want to gain a professional qualification. A Diploma is an intermediate qualification, equivalent to an A-level, and can provide a route into higher education or employment.

### National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs):

If you have some experience in the workplace, NVQs and SVQs demonstrate that you have the knowledge and practical ability to carry out your job to the required standard.

### Other specialist further education courses include:

City and Guilds qualifications: This organisation offers over 500 qualifications at more than 8,500 institutions worldwide and is based in the UK.



### There are a number of shorter undergraduate courses you can do at further education institutions:

**One-year courses** are called Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE). When you complete the course, you are considered a Level 4 or Level C graduate.

**Two-year courses** include Foundation degrees, the Higher National Diploma (HND), and the Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE). At the end of these you are considered a Level 5 or Level I graduate.

**Top-up courses** Top-up courses give you the option of doing an extra year after you finish your further education course so you can progress to a full undergraduate (honours) degree. Many further education colleges have partnerships with universities so students can do that final year without leaving their college – and still get a certificate from an accredited UK university. FE students have to leave the UK after 2 years and re-apply for the final year visa. Students from South Asia cannot work while they study FE qualifications.

### For more information:

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





## How to choose a reputable university or college?

UK colleges and universities offer a world-class and high quality education giving you the chance to follow your passion for learning and gain qualifications that are respected by employers and academics worldwide. When you are choosing a course, make sure it is with a reputable university or college that is quality assured and has met the strict standards set out by the UK government and education sector.

There are 160 universities and colleges in the UK that have degree-awarding powers for a wide variety of courses that are recognised by the UK authorities. These are known as 'recognised bodies'.

There are also over 700 colleges and other institutions which do not have degree-awarding powers but provide complete courses leading to recognised UK degrees. These are known as 'listed bodies'. Courses at these institutions are validated by institutions which have degree-awarding powers. These recognised and listed universities and colleges must undergo regular inspections to ensure the standard of their teaching, facilities, academic education and student care is high.

### Selecting the most suitable university or college

While the UK government does not have a ranking system for its higher education institutions, there are a number of independent ranking systems that you may refer to. These can be useful, but use them only as a reference guide. We recommend you consult a range of different sources to find a university or college that is right for you. For example, you may want to investigate how the institution performs in terms of:

- student satisfaction
- career prospects and industrial connections
- student care
- teaching standards

Besides these, there are other factors that will help you identify the most suitable institutions for you. The course contents, eligibility criteria, international student ratio, profile of the

department and location are important elements to consider before creating your wish list. Refer to following websites:-

- Unistats allows you to search for and compare information on courses across the UK. Find out what previous students thought about the course you are interested in, the likely costs, and the kind of jobs or further study that students pursued after graduating. Website: [www.unistats.direct.gov.uk](http://www.unistats.direct.gov.uk)
- QAA conducts reviews of all recognised and listed UK higher education institutions, evaluating the quality of their teaching, facilities and academic education. Website:- [www.qaa.ac.uk/en](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en)
- The Research Assessment Framework evaluates UK universities and colleges in terms of the quality of their academic research. Website:- [www.ref.ac.uk/](http://www.ref.ac.uk/)
- Register of Licensed Sponsors:- This is a list of institutions licensed to sponsor migrants under Tier 4 of the points-based system. [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/545195/2016-08-11\\_Tier\\_4\\_Register\\_of\\_Sponsors.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/545195/2016-08-11_Tier_4_Register_of_Sponsors.pdf)

### List of independent rankings:

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

***Please note: All these rankings are independent rankings and student must check methodology and parameters taken into consideration for conducting these rankings.***

For a comprehensive list of all the courses available to international students, please visit: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/>





# Adventure of a lifetime - experience life in the UK

Moving away from home on your own to live in a new country can be both exciting and daunting. Whether you are already familiar with UK culture or it's completely new to you, it's likely there will be a period of adjustment. The United Kingdom is a diverse and multi-ethnic society, where students of all backgrounds are welcome and immersing oneself in the local communities is encouraged.

## Food and drink

The rich history and the variety of modern British cuisine has not been done justice by its reputation abroad. However, as an international student you will not just eat British food, but enjoy food and drink from around the world – perhaps even prepared by your own classmates. Did you know the UK's favourite dish is Indian curry?

## Tips about eating in the UK

Vegetarian and vegan food is very popular in the UK. For halal, kosher and other specialty diets, in towns and cities you can find international shops and restaurants clearly marked specialising in this food, imported from around the world. In smaller towns, specialist stores are rare, but you can usually find a wide range of meat, fish and vegetarian food wherever you go. For cooking, staple foods such as rice, noodles, pasta and spices are widely available

## Traditional UK specialities and dishes

When you are in the UK, it's a good idea to try some of the local specialities.

- The UK's extensive coastline offers excellent seafood. Smoked salmon and mussels are particularly tasty
- UK cheeses are a great speciality too. Try varieties such as Stilton, Cheddar and Shropshire Blue or even Stinking Bishop, officially one of the world's smelliest cheeses!
- For drinks, people here are big tea lovers. Most like to add milk after the tea leaves have brewed. For meals, try some of these favourites: Sunday roast, full English breakfast, cream teas, and of course, fish and chips.
- And for dessert, don't miss out on trifle, suet pudding, treacle pudding or roly poly.

## Accommodation

There are many different accommodation options for international students. The most common are:

- Accommodation owned by the college or university

- Private accommodation (where you rent from a private landlord)
- Homestay accommodation (where you stay with a UK family or guardian)

Visit the [UK Council for International Student Affairs website \(www.ukcisa.org.uk/\)](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/) for excellent advice on student accommodation.

The UK has a long history of welcoming international students from around the globe. Along with pastoral care and student welfare services, many UK schools, colleges and universities have an international society to help international students settle in, make friends and have fun. International societies will offer a variety of social and cultural activities throughout the year, as well as non-academic advice.

## For further reading on living in the UK, please visit:

- <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/planning/health-safety>
- <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/living>





# YOUR JOURNEY TO STUDY UG PROGRAMS IN A UK UNIVERSITY

## Choosing a course

Explore your options. Think about what you like and enjoy doing to decide on a subject area. What future career would you like? Think about how to get there. Search within the subject area to find courses that suit your interests.

Remember, look beyond the course title!

### Factors

- Entry Requirements
- Course offers/Placements
- Professional Accrediation
- Course content
- How is the course assessed?

## Choosing Universities

Think about where you would like to study to narrow down your choices and get a shortlist of possible universities. Visit universities to explore in more depth, to come up with your final 5 choices.

### Factors

- Accommodation and facilities
- Club society and sports
- Community and atmosphere
- Student and social life
- Scholarships

Advantage of applying through regional office is that you will get offers quicker and have access to regional scholarships and bursaries



## Results day

If you have applied via UCAS, login to **UCAS Track** to see if your place has been confirmed

## Making Your Decision

Think about which people and tools may help you make your decision

- Parents & Guardians
- Graduates
- Uni stats and league tables
- Current students on the course
- University prospectuses and websites

Questions —●— Factors

## Offers

Once you have your offers, you need to narrow down on your choices and decide which to accept. You will need to go back to the initial research you did to finalize your application.

OVER HALF OF APPLICANTS HAD FOUR OR MORE OFFERS TO CHOOSE FROM IN 2015

## How to Apply

Apply through the university website or their regional office or via UCAS. If you apply online through UCAS you will have 5 choices.

UCAS will send your application to each university. Check on **UCAS Track** for any updates to your applications.



# YOUR JOURNEY TO STUDY PG PROGRAMS IN A UK UNIVERSITY



## 1 Research

Research the course you want to study and check the entry criteria at the respective University's Website

## 2

## Personal Statement



Most universities conduct Virtual Open Days which are course and subject specific. Register for a Virtual Open Day. If the university has a regional office or a regional representative in your country, contact them. Another way to contact the university is to meet the representatives in the UK education fairs conducted by the British Council in your country.

## 3 Prepare



Prepare your personal statement. For tips on how to prepare, you can watch a sample video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pod4IBAck5E>

## 4 Apply



Apply online through the University's website or visit the Regional Office or the Regional Representative of the University of your choice. Most good UK Universities will have Regional Representation in your country.

## 5 Assessment

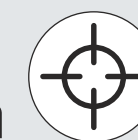


Your application will be assessed. If you meet the requirements and depending on your chosen course, you might be requested to:

- Attend an interview or audition
- Take a required test
- Send in your portfolio

## 6

## Track your Application



You can track your application on the University's website or by contacting the Regional Office/Regional Representative's office

## 7

## Visa



Once you have received your offer, you will have to make arrangements for your finance and prepare for your Visa Application and Interview

## 8

## Funding & Accommodation

You can now apply for funding and accommodation. More information is available at [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)



## 9 Get Enrolled

You've made it! Now all you've got to do is get enrolled, get involved and enjoy being a student. Welcome to UK!





## Subject Profile: MBA

**Master of Business Administration (MBA) courses are designed to teach the skills you need for a career in business, and lead to the award of an internationally-recognised postgraduate qualification. MBA courses cover topics such as business policy and strategy, operational and strategic management, marketing, market research, finance and accounting, information technology, human resource management, leadership, entrepreneurship and international trade. An MBA can further boost your earning potential. In the Association of MBAs 2010 career survey, the average salary for MBA graduates was £73,000 globally, and salaries increased up to 150 per cent ten years after graduation.**

### What can I study?

Most full-time MBA programmes in the UK run for one or two years, often delivered by the university's specialist business school. An MBA programme will generally include lectures, seminars, case studies, group projects and role-playing exercises, giving you access to a variety of learning approaches. The UK higher education system values the independence of postgraduate students so you'll need to read extensively around your subjects, supported by comprehensive libraries and online resources. There is a wide range of programmes to choose from, but typically, you will study a core curriculum during the first term that covers subjects such as finance, marketing, human resources, economics, accounting, information systems, operations and quantitative methods. In the second term, you can usually choose from a number of optional subjects (electives) and shape your MBA programme to suit your career goals. Increasingly, MBA programmes are tailored to particular industries or aspects of management – for example, financial management, hospitality, sport or international business.

If you want to specialise even further, instead of a general MBA, you can choose to study a specialist MBA and focus on a particular sector (such as education or healthcare), or business area (such as marketing or HR).

### Choosing and applying

Before beginning the process of selecting the university, it is advised that you have a good idea of your own personal and professional objectives and resources for obtaining an MBA. This will help you quickly narrow your search for MBAs with the most suitable time and financial commitment, subjects covered, location, mode of delivery and pre-requisites.

There are many different league tables to look at, and you might want to rank schools by student satisfaction, teaching quality or reputation with employers. When you're considering a business school, ask them about the companies that recruit graduates from their programmes, and look at the type of organisations their alumni now work for. This will give you an idea of how the business school is viewed by the industry. Last but not least, do look at various accreditations (EQUIS, AMBA AND AACSB) the university has attained.

Course fees can vary from £16,000 to over £40,000 on accredited programmes.

### Entry requirements

Many institutions ask you to take the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) before you can join a course. This test covers verbal reasoning and numerical analysis. It is designed to check that you can cope with studying for an MBA.

### To join a course, you usually also need to have:

- Prior business experience—usually a minimum of two or three years in a management position
- An undergraduate degree and proof of English language proficiency

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## Subject profile: Engineering

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**UK engineering holds a prominent place in global industry and is renowned for a commitment to innovation and research. Having a full-fledged advanced engineering sector in areas such as aerospace, advanced materials, systems and dynamics engineering means international students will benefit from the close relationship between the industry and academic sectors.**

The range of engineering courses in the UK is very broad, across the different levels of education and different areas of engineering. At school and further education level, you could study engineering as a GCSE, AS or A-level. There are also many Foundation Degree courses designed to give you skills for the workplace, or you can take a BTEC National Diploma or Certificate foundation qualification. For many students, this is the first step towards a professional engineering qualification.

In higher education, most undergraduate students choose to specialise in a field such as aerospace engineering, chemical engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, structural engineering, marine or biomedical engineering. You will also find courses in music technology, sound engineering, metals technology, motor vehicle technology and industrial design.

Many UK engineering courses have been developed to include interdisciplinary research – if you're interested in medical science, for example, you might take part in research on diagnostics and surgical solutions.

Undergraduate engineering degree programmes are typically three-year courses leading to a Bachelor's degree (BEng or BSc). At postgraduate level, you can then go on to a Master's degree (MEng or MSc), or study for a PhD or EngD – this is an industry-based doctorate, combining high-level academic research with practical training.

### Careers

UK engineering courses have close links to industry, and many UK universities even run their own manufacturing groups or engineering

consultancies as commercial enterprises. At higher education level, engineering students often gain experience in a professional environment as part of the degree course, with some employment placements lasting up to a year for four-year engineering degrees.

Many UK engineering degrees are recognised with industry accreditation such as the Incorporated Engineer (IEng) or Chartered Engineer (CEng) awarded by the Engineering Council UK (ECUK).

Six months after graduating, the majority of UK engineering graduates work in a role related to their degree, and the proportion of those in employment is higher than in other subjects, a trend that is expected to increase.

Roles include mechanical engineer, design and development engineer, production and process engineer, technician and civil engineer. There are also many opportunities for electrical and electronic engineering graduates, who might go on to work in software development and programming, web design and development, IT business analysis, systems design or architecture.







## Alumni Profile: The power of ideas leading to social change



Image © Dr. Arosha Gunasekera

Dr Arosha Gunasekera, CEO of Innovest Investments (Pvt) Ltd, shares his experience of pursuing higher education in the UK and the impact it has had on his goal to create long lasting social change within Sri Lanka.

**"I feel that UK universities are highly respected, particularly amongst the business community in Sri Lanka, and that is an advantage."**

Dr Arosha Gunasekera believes studying in the UK exposed him to a wealth of knowledge and harnessed his skills, a learning he transferred to his company Innovest Investments (Pvt) Ltd.

Arosha began his primary education at Royal College before switching to Stafford International School at age 14. He graduated with a bachelors degree in management from the University of Warwick. Subsequently, he read for his masters in management research from the University of Oxford. In 2015, he reached the pinnacle of his academic career by graduating from the University of Cambridge with a Ph.D.

Arosha is now a Director and the CEO of Innovest Investments (Pvt) Ltd, a licenced investment management company that manages portfolios on behalf of investors who wish to invest in the stock market and fixed income securities. The company was founded by him along with

business leader Dian Gomes, and Ajit Jayaratne, a former chairman of the Colombo Stock Exchange. "There are certainly many ideas that can be imported to the Sri Lankan workplace from the UK. However, it is important to only select ideas which suit Sri Lanka," Arosha says.

Having completed his studies in the UK, Arosha emphasises that there are many opportunities for UK graduates. "I feel that UK universities are highly respected, particularly amongst the business community in Sri Lanka, and that is an advantage. You are also exposed to new ideas and meet people with different views. With good resources and a well-trained lecturing panel, the universities I have been to created a useful experience."

Along with his ambition to study in the UK was the ultimate goal of working towards creating lasting social impact in Sri Lanka. "I was always interested in coming back to Sri Lanka. I never wanted to live abroad after completing my university education. I felt that my place was here," explains Arosha. A believer that Sri Lankans should contribute to the social and economical advancement of the country, he urges his peers to capitalise on opportunities in Sri Lanka by leveraging on their international exposure.

For his part, Arosha considers the development of rural areas and the empowerment of women, an integral part of developing the nation. His passion for the subject was what led him to focus his doctoral thesis on the economic development of Sri Lanka. He says, "Microfinance, working towards the empowerment of women and agrarian development, are important aspects that must be considered for the development of rural areas. This is a very important aspect of developing the country."

Arosha believes that the exposure he gained through his education will aid him in his goal in making a social contribution in Sri Lanka.



## Subject profile: Medicine

**The UK has a strong history in medical education, influencing medical approach in many countries around the world. In the UK, colleges and universities are supported with excellent clinical and lab facilities and direct relationships with both industry and government, allowing hands-on work experience for many international students. Due to the learning resources made available to medical students, tuition fees are invariably more expensive than other courses.**

### Careers

Competition for student places in these programmes is high, as these qualifications typically provide a long term career prospect. While UK universities and colleges offer training in a wide range of fields, from surgery to nursing, dentistry, physiotherapy and veterinary medicine, graduates may find themselves working in pharmaceutical companies, private hospitals, government hospitals, charities, or large organisations such as universities, military and other places.

### Higher education

In the UK, you can start studying healthcare and medicine courses at undergraduate or postgraduate levels. Undergraduate medical courses lead to a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery qualification (this might be abbreviated as MBBS, MBBS/BSc, MB ChB, MB BCH or BMBS, depending on the institution). Medicine degrees usually last five years, but courses vary in length. Students who already have an undergraduate degree in another subject can join medicine by taking a four-year Graduate Entry Programme (GEP). Others choose to study an intercalated degree, which means studying for an extra year and gaining an additional qualification – this might be a BSc, BMedSci, BA or MMedSec qualification in a subject related to science.

After completing your undergraduate degree, you can move on to a two-year foundation programme (this is a general medical training programme, which combines work experience with training), and then register with the GMC,

which permits you to work in medicine in the UK. Following this, most students go on to three years of general practitioner (GP) training, or between five and eight years of specialist training.

### Entry requirements

To join an undergraduate degree, you should have a good academic record and A-levels, International Baccalaureate or equivalent qualifications in relevant science subjects. To study medicine, most universities require you to have studied chemistry, and some require biology.

If you are applying for a degree in medicine or dentistry, some institutions require you to take the BMAT (BioMedical Admissions Test) or UKCAT (UK Clinical Aptitude Test) before submitting your university application. You may need to attend an interview as part of your application. If English isn't your first language, many courses will also ask for evidence of your English language skills, such as an IELTS or equivalent qualification. Applications for medicine degrees are submitted using the UCAS website and students can apply to four medicine courses. You can, however, choose a different fifth subject such as biomedical sciences. You have to submit your completed UCAS application by 15th October to start studying the following September.

***All schools, colleges and universities have different entry requirements, so make sure you read the course details thoroughly and ask your chosen institution directly if you have any questions.***

## Subject profile: Law and legal studies

In the UK, law and legal studies cover criminal and civil justice systems, and is generally focussed on common law. British common law has influenced jurisdictions around the world for over two hundred years, with over 30 countries using it as a basis for their legal system and many more in hybrid legal systems. Today, common law is the most widely used legal system in the world.

The most popular undergraduate and postgraduate degrees are respectively known as LLBs (Bachelor of Laws) which is a three or four year degree; and LLMs (Master of Laws) which can be taken in one year full time. UK diplomas in Law, LLBs and LLMs are popular in countries and regions that use common law systems, including India and Sri Lanka and while Bangladesh applies statutory law, it is founded in the common law system. Many courses also include optional modules in civil law, customary law and Sharia law.

If you have an undergraduate degree in a subject other than law, you can take a conversion course to join the legal sector. The Common Professional Exam (CPE) and Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) give the training required to work as a solicitor or barrister in England and Wales.

### Careers

Studying law in the UK can train you to be a solicitor or barrister, but it can also open the door to other careers – such as company secretary, patent agent, tax adviser or court reporter. You could specialise in environmental law, commercial law, financial, corporate tax or intellectual property law. If you studied criminology, you might work with the police, in security services, forensics, welfare and social policy, or in journalism. Understanding the law is also the strength of any expert, director or politician.

In the UK, the term 'lawyer' generally includes solicitors (usually employed by a law firm and work directly with clients), barristers (called 'advocates' in Scotland – usually self-employed, and work mainly in court or tribunals) and chartered legal executives (England and Wales only).

To work as a barrister in England and Wales, students must first gain an undergraduate degree – either in law or another subject followed by the CPE/GDL conversion course – then take the Bar Professional Training Course (regulated by the Bar Council), then work for one year as a pupil in barristers' chambers or another approved pupillage training organisation.

To work as a solicitor in England and Wales, following your undergraduate studies (a law degree, a non-law degree followed by the CPE/GDL, or a CILEx course), you must train for up to two years in a firm of solicitors or other authorised organisation, and complete a 12-day Professional Skills Course.

### Did you know...

**Each year around 18,000 students enrol in more than 1,500 law courses in the UK.**

The UK ranks second in the world for collaboration between universities and businesses. (Source: BIS)





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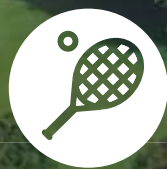
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## Subject profile: Art and Design

The UK has one of the largest and most diverse creative industry sectors in the world, accounting for 6 per cent of the UK economy and employing 2.3 million people. According to UKTI, the UK is home to world-renowned businesses in advertising, fashion, television, film, design and architecture.

The UK offers a huge range of creative art and design courses, delivered from world class facilities and faculty. In higher and further education, you will find Bachelor's degrees, foundation degrees, Higher National Diplomas and many other courses where you may learn either academically, vocationally, or both. At the postgraduate level, you can study for a Master's (MA) or doctorate (PhD). In addition to academic programmes, you can choose more practical or applied courses on supporting skills and crafts, such as business, entrepreneurship, set design, media technology or arts management.

Whichever level you are studying in the UK, art students will have opportunities to contribute to galleries, displays, performances and shows. Applicants are usually assessed on the basis of their portfolio (a collection of your work) or in performance arts, you may be assessed through audition.

### Careers

With an art or design qualification, there are many careers you could enter. For example, you might go on to work in marketing, gallery curation, animation, theatre, TV or film production, or even teaching. Most UK art graduates are in jobs related to art, design, culture and sport – the most common roles are graphic designer, fashion designer and artist – but the possibilities are very broad, as organisations seek creative thinking and innovative solutions. Many graduates go on to start their own business or work on a freelance basis.

### Why study creative arts and design in the UK?

- The UK has 'the largest creative sector in Europe, one of the world's largest music industries and one of its most advanced digital TV and radio markets (Source: CBI)
- The UK has consistently attracted more foreign investments than any other location in Europe, with businesses basing their European operations here (Source: UKTI)
- The UK has the highest number of computer game publishers in Europe. From Tomb Raider to the Harry Potter games to Grand Theft Auto, UK-made games account for £1.34 billion in sales (Source: UKTI)
- The UK is a global player in advertising and innovations in digital marketing – the UK accounts for over a quarter of all online advertising spend in Europe (Source: IAB)
- The UK's fashion industry is globally influential. Big names include Ozwald Boateng, Julien Macdonald, Stella McCartney, Paul Smith and Vivienne Westwood. London Fashion Week is one of the 'big four' international fashion shows – and Graduate Fashion Week is a showcase for new designers.





## Subject profile: Social sciences and humanities

**Social sciences and humanities encompass a very broad range of disciplines, but all focus on the study of human behaviour, communication, history or thinking. These disciplines are well suited to combine two or more subjects for degrees, allowing you to specialise your studies closer to your chosen career.**

### **Social studies**

Social studies focus on human society and social relationships. Subjects include politics, anthropology, economics, international relations, sociology, social work and human geography.

### **Humanities**

The humanities include a broad range of subjects to do with the study of human culture – for example, archaeology, religious studies (theology), history, philosophy and literature. Students will be asked to apply academic theory, critical analysis and emulation to gain understanding of these subjects.

### **Cultural studies and languages**

You can study almost any combination of modern languages and cultures in the UK. There are interdisciplinary courses that focus on particular geographic regions, such as British Studies, European Studies, African Studies, East Asian Studies and Latin American Studies. These are often combined with languages, as well as subjects such as business, history, social studies and communications.

### **Communications and media**

Many students choose to study communications or media alongside social studies. Subjects include media, marketing, advertising, PR (public relations), publicity, publishing and journalism – which can focus on broadcast, radio, newspaper or magazine (or periodical) journalism.

### **History and classics**

Whether you're interested in ancient or modern history, you'll find the right course in the UK. You can study history at school, college or university.

### **Why study social sciences and humanities in the UK?**

The UK has a strong heritage in the social sciences and humanities both in education and research – with some of the oldest universities in

the world and supported with significant investment from public funding.

### **Did you know...?**

- UK universities top global rankings in the arts and humanities (Source: QS World University Rankings), and four UK universities are in the top six overall.
- The UK government supports the arts and humanities through the Arts and Humanities Research Council, which each year offers about 700 new research awards and 1,500 postgraduate awards worth more than £60 million.
- In communications and media, the UK has 'the largest creative sector in Europe... and one of its most advanced digital TV and radio markets' (Source: CBI). Broadcasters such as the BBC and the UK's newspaper, magazine and book publishers are globally renowned.
- The UK is a world leader in digital research collections and archives, and students can access these huge online archives for free. Over 100 collections cover centuries of social development.
- History and archaeology students also benefit from the UK's rich history and unique sites such as Hadrian's Wall in Cumbria and the Roman amphitheatre in Chester. Despite its small size, the UK has 28 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- National institutions such as the British Library, the British Academy, the British Museum and the Museum of London (which houses the largest archaeological archive in the world) are dedicated to the study and preservation of art, society and culture, and offer extensive resources for students.



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[www.port.ac.uk/courses](http://www.port.ac.uk/courses)

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## Scholarships: A guide to find funding for your courses in the UK

Scholarships are provided for the financial assistance of some international students who wish to study in the UK. Scholarships are generally limited in number and are offered to a specific segment or for a specific field of study. They differ from other forms of financial assistance in that the criterion often includes a level of academic achievement. As such they are always highly competitive and are aimed largely at postgraduate level students. For undergraduate studies, scholarships, bursaries and partial fee waivers are much rarer. It is important to note the following. The application process, amount of scholarship and criteria will differ for each scholarship. Scholarships are rarely offered to cover all costs such as tuition fees, daily living, transportation and accommodation expenses. Often scholarships are awarded on condition of or after a successful application at a UK university. Scholarships in the UK are funded by:

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

There are a number of scholarship schemes run by governments, charities and other organisations. Here are a few global schemes you may want to have a look at:

### Chevening UK government scholarships

Chevening is the UK government's international awards scheme aimed at developing global leaders. Funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and partner organisations, Chevening offers two types of awards – Chevening Scholarships and Chevening Fellowships – the recipients of which are personally selected by British Embassies and High Commissions throughout the world. Further information: [www.chevening.org/](http://www.chevening.org/)

### Commonwealth Shared Scholarships

Commonwealth Scholarships for Master's and PhD study in the UK are offered for citizens of developing Commonwealth countries, including India. These scholarships are funded by the UK

**Department for International Development (DFID)**, with the aim of contributing to the UK's international development aims and wider overseas interests, supporting excellence in UK higher education, and sustaining the principles of the Commonwealth. Further information: <http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/apply/shared-scholarships/info-candidates/>

### Scholarships offered by External Agencies Euraxess UK

Euraxess UK is a British Council hub, which aids researchers in their career development, supporting mobility and acting as a support mechanism for researchers moving abroad or moving to the UK. Further information: [www.britishcouncil.org/new/euraxess/](http://www.britishcouncil.org/new/euraxess/)

### Hornby Educational Trust Scholarships:

Scholarships for English language teachers to develop their English language skills.

### Further information:

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

### Scholarships offered by various UK institutions:

Apart from above mentioned scholarships, most of UK institutions offer scholarships, bursaries to international student. Scholarships offered are either partial or full scholarships and at undergraduate, postgraduate and PHD level. For further information you may check website of individual institution.



# Transnational Education – Study a UK course outside the UK

## What is Transnational Education?

Transnational education (TNE) is the delivery of education courses or services in which learners are located in a different country from the awarding institution. This can range from delivery of a one-off academic course to a full UK university campus abroad.

Transnational education can provide internationally recognised awards and prestige of international institutions, while offering the convenience of studying within your home country.

## Why choose UK TNE?

The UK is a global leader in the provision of TNE, with the growth rate and total number of UK TNE students recruited exceeding that of international students going to the UK to study. Currently, there are over 600,000 international students registered in UK TNE courses around the world.

Students can be assured of receiving the same quality of education as that delivered in the UK, which is maintained through many layers of quality assurance by the UK institution, their local partner and related regulatory bodies. This means the certificate of your award will be of the same value and recognition as that issued in the UK.

UK TNE is often an affordable alternative to studying abroad. Many students can live with their families, saving on living cost. The flexibility of the courses means they are very likely to remain in employment, upholding their financial commitments at home. Also staying in your home country students can avoid the process of visa application and travel costs.

You will find that transnational education offers additional choices for a student both in terms of modes of learning and subjects available. Many TNE programmes are designed with the working professional in mind, and many courses are offered part-time, in the evening and weekends. They often have flexible and hybrid or blended learning are invariably supported by a strong

local partner for providing learning resources such as libraries, classrooms, meeting facilities, student welfare and in some cases, the teaching delivery. Local partners will also feed into the programme ensuring its relevance to the South Asia region.

Because of these benefits, last year Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka were hosts to over 37,700 UK TNE students, easily doubling the figure of 15,600 just five years ago. We expect these numbers to continue to grow in the future as demand from both students and employers increases.

Currently, there are over half a million people taking UK professional exams abroad.

Offshore education, non-local courses, cross-border education and distance learning are terms that have been used to describe transnational education.

# Alumni Speak: How I got a scholarship to study in the UK



Image © Tasmina Chowdhury

**Tasmina Chowdhury**, from Chittagong in Bangladesh, had a Westminster Scholarship to study MSc Management with International Business at the University of Chester.

## Culture shock

I was lucky enough to attend Chittagong Grammar School where I followed an international curriculum. I was taught by teachers from overseas and met lots of international students who visited our school on a cultural exchange, so when I came to the UK it did not feel like I had landed on a completely different planet. I have to admit though that I have never walked so much in my life, the UK has very pleasant weather, the air is clean, the city is safe and there is much less traffic than in Bangladesh. The university is located just a few minutes away from the high street, so I did not need to use a bus or train and could get everywhere I wanted simply by walking - a big change for me as I always used my car when back home, even for the shortest trips.

## Scholarship opportunities to study overseas

When I started researching funding opportunities in 2012, I unsuccessfully applied for many scholarships. I quickly realised that if you want to get a good scholarship you need to stand out from the crowd and take time preparing your application. It is not something that can be done overnight. So I got really serious about adding extra-curricular activities to my CV. The first step towards achieving my goal was to get a new job which would give me international exposure, so I started working at the British Council as an Exam Services Officer. In addition to this I started teaching English at a public school to underprivileged children. I also attended many workshops on subjects such as development for third world countries or management.

After building this experience I finally felt ready to apply for scholarships again. I submitted applications to seven UK Universities and in the end received a Westminster Scholarship from the University of Chester to study MSc Management with International Business.



# Working in the UK after your studies: A guide to visas

There are lots of options available to international students who want to stay and work in the UK after their studies. Below are the three most common visa routes available to international students: Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 5. Depending on the type of employment you want to pursue, how long you want to stay and your current visa status, you may be eligible to apply for one of these three work visas. You can apply online at [www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa](http://www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa)

## The following two visas are suitable for graduates who want to work in the UK:

- **Tier 2 (General) visa:** Open to recent graduates with a Bachelor's or Master's degree, PGCE or PGDE, or at least 12 months study towards a PhD, from a UK educational institution. You can apply for a Tier 2 visa if you have an offer of a graduate level job, paying at least £20,800 per annum from an employer that is a licensed sponsor. There is no limit to the number of students who can gain a Tier 2 visa, and no requirement for your sponsor to carry out a Resident Labour Market Test, provided you find a job which meets these requirements within four months of finishing your course and switch visas whilst still in the UK. You can stay in the UK for up to six years, with the possibility to apply for settlement if you meet certain criteria.
- **Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Visa:** If you secure an internship or a period of professional training on a Government Authorised Exchange scheme, relating to your course, you can switch to a Tier 5 visa and stay in the UK for a further 12 months before pursuing a career overseas.

If you return home, you can also reapply for a Tier 5 visa, if you secure a work placement or internship. There are a number of different routes via the Tier 5 visa including youth charitable work and internships. For most internship schemes the time permitted on the visa is up to 12 months, but other schemes covering research, fellowships and training in the

fields of science and medicine give leave for up to two years.

## The following visa is suitable for graduates who want to start up their own business in the UK:

- **Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) visa:** To be eligible, you need to be endorsed by a UK higher education institution (HEI) participating in this scheme or by UK Trade and Investment. The HEI does not necessarily need to be the institution where you previously studied. On this scheme, you can stay in the UK for one year with the option to extend for a further 12 months if an authorised institution is willing to endorse you.

## Doctoral students

Under the Doctorate Extension Scheme doctoral students (e.g. PhD students) who have completed their UK studies can now stay in the UK to search for skilled employment or establish their own business for up to 12 months after they have completed their doctorate. Applications for this scheme need to be made before the expected completion date of the doctorate, and cannot be made after a doctorate is completed.

## Some Important Links

### Further information:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/planning/visas>  
<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/your-future-career/after-your-studies/post-study-visas>

### List of licensed sponsors: -

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers)

### Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) authorised endorsing bodies – April 2016:-

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/517747/HEI\\_List\\_for\\_April\\_2016.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/517747/HEI_List_for_April_2016.pdf)

## Q&A with Nick Crouch, Regional Director for UK Visas & Immigration for South and Southeast Asia



Image © Nick Crouch

### What advice can you give to students applying for their UK visa?

The two most important things are to apply for your visa as early as possible and to make sure you read and understand the guidance, which is online at [www.gov.uk/ukvi](http://www.gov.uk/ukvi).

It's a good idea to start preparing your visa application ahead of receiving your Confirmation of Acceptance for studies (CAS). Make sure you have all the supporting documents in the right format (translated into English and original copies) and that you can prove that you can afford to study in the UK by providing clear evidence of funds. Funds can be held in a bank account in your or your parent's name or you can provide a scholarship offer or proof of a loan or fixed deposit in the correct format.

### How does the UKVI team in South Asia support students applying for their visa?

We have a team of Entry Clearance Officers who

deal with all of our student visa applications. They check that the correct qualifications and financial documents are included in the application and then assess the applications accordingly. We also do a lot of outreach work with students, agents and universities across the region. We attend British Council agent and student events to meet applicants and agents face-to-face and answer questions. This summer we've run a social media campaign (#dontbelateforclass) across our High Commission and Embassy Facebook pages, to provide students with information and advice on applying for a UK visa. We continue to improve the service we offer students to make it quicker and easier to apply. This year we extended our 3 to 5 day Priority Visa Scheme to student applicants – so, for a fee (£125), they can get their application processed more quickly.

### A lot of students are quite daunted by applying for a student visa, why is the process so complicated?

It's not complicated. The vast majority of students across South Asia who apply for their visa are successful – the issue rate in India, for example, is 90%.

Of course, we have rules and measures in place to ensure that anyone applying for a student visa is going to an educational institution on our sponsor list, has the correct qualifications to do the course, and can afford to support themselves whilst living in the UK. In the past we had a lot of abuse of the student route with bogus colleges set up and people coming over pretending to study but actually coming to the UK to work. Our system quickly responded to this and as a result we are seeing much higher quality applicants. The majority of students from South Asia now go to study at a university rather than a further education college and most apply for and obtain visas without any difficulties. If you follow the guidance and provide the correct documents, the process really is straightforward.



## Budget your UK stay and be money-wise

It is important to plan a budget before your first semester in a new country – there will be many one-off expenses, social events, activities and societies to join, and things you'll want to buy for your new home. Many people will tell you to watch out and avoid splurging (spending too much) at the beginning of term. The important thing is to be sensible and make savings where you can.

Second-hand shopping is common for students and student discount schemes can be easily found for public transport, restaurants, storage, freight forwarding, haircuts and entertainment.

### Some general tips

Weigh up how much money you have versus what you need to buy. Make a list and decide which items you need straight away – and which are not essential. You can buy these items later in the year if you still need them.

Decide on a weekly limit for overall expenses, especially on spending like entertainment, eating out and takeaway food. Put money aside for bills you know will be coming up during the term (rent, electricity, heating, gas, etc.)

Seek out the best deals! If your college or university has a students' union building, hang out there and read the noticeboard and flyers. Students often advertise things they want to sell (like course textbooks) there.

Email newsletters and Facebook groups are great ways of finding out what the latest offers are – many organisations write free newsletters about student deals, healthy and cheap cooking, fun student events and more. Similarly, remember to sell your unwanted items.

Always allow a little bit of a safety net in your budget in case things end up costing more than you expected.

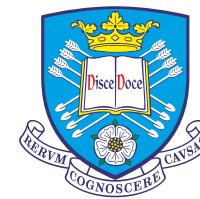
When you're going out for the day or evening, bring only the amount of cash you want to spend.

If you can, pay for things in cash. Studies have shown people are likely to spend less if they pay using cash rather than credit or debit cards.

### Important websites

**Student Calculator:** -The international student calculator will help you work out how to manage your money and build a budget for living and studying in the UK. Link [www.international.studentcalculator.org/](http://www.international.studentcalculator.org/)

**Second-hand shopping:** - For larger purchases like a bicycle, kitchenware or furniture, you can save a lot of money by buying from charity shops or vintage markets. <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/planning/money-costs>



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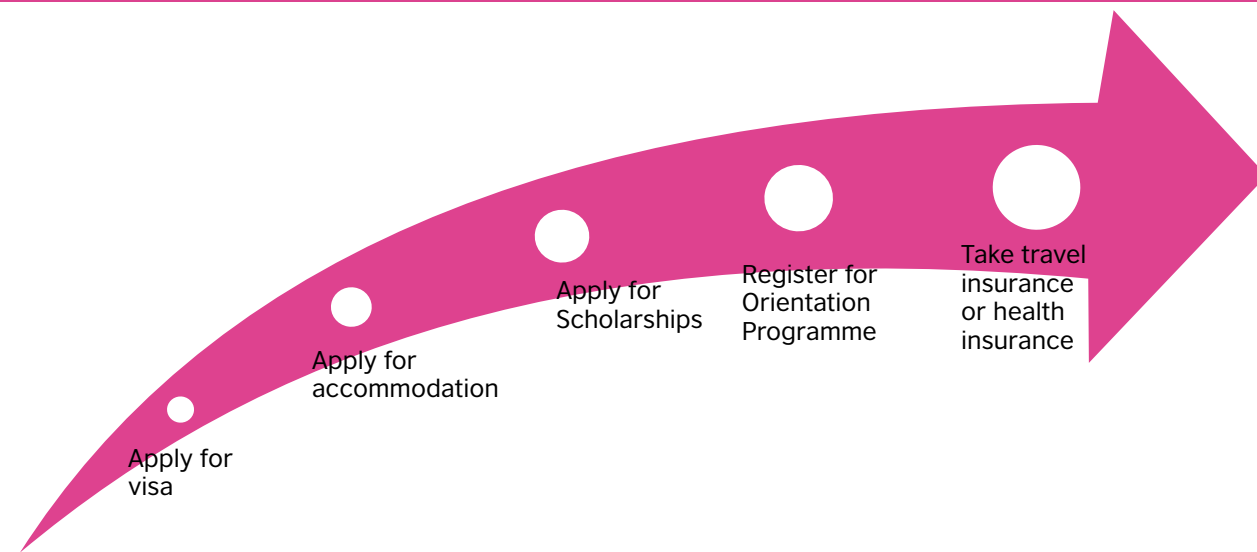
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## Moving to the UK: The essential student checklist



### The packing checklist:

- Clothing and shoes for all seasons, including coat, comfortable shoes for walking around, and an umbrella
- Plug adaptors for electrical items (UK plug sockets take three rectangular pins)
- Favourite photos of friends and family, posters and pictures – some items to make you feel at home in your new room
- Books and schoolwork that may be useful for your new course
- Important documents (bring the originals, and scan or photocopy all important documents too, just in case):
  - o Plane tickets, passport, visa, birth certificate and driving licence if you have one
  - o All correspondence from your institution, including your offer letter and accommodation letter
  - o Evidence of funding for your tuition fees and living costs
  - o Health certificates, vaccination records and any important x-rays and any insurance documents

### Keep the following in your hand luggage:

All your important documents  
 Enough money (in pounds sterling or travellers cheques) for your first couple of weeks  
 Any valuable items – but make sure you don't exceed your airline's hand luggage allowance.

### Further information:

<https://study.uk.britishcouncil.org/planning/money-costs>  
[www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa](http://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa)

### List of licensed sponsors: -

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers)

### Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) authorised endorsing bodies – April 2016:-

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/517747/HEI\\_List\\_for\\_April\\_2016.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/517747/HEI_List_for_April_2016.pdf)

## Career Counselor Speak

### How easy is it to get a job in the UK?

It is possible to work in the UK after your course is over, provided you are fulfilling the criteria set out by the visa regulation authorities, such as achieving the minimum salary amount and applying for the appropriate visas. You can find out more about work visa regulations for the UK and how they affect international student hiring on the UK Government website – <http://ukvi.org/> Here you will be able to see the Register of Sponsors and identify which employers hold a licence to recruit international students.

The students who succeed in getting jobs in the UK work just as hard on their job search strategy as they do on their degree. Here are some ideas as to how to manage your job search:

- Visit your careers service, most UK universities will have one with specialist careers advisors
- Attend careers fairs, employer events, networking sessions and open evenings. Whilst there, seek out and actively engage with the employers you most want to meet
- Prepare thoroughly for the fairs – research and select the employers you want to work for and rehearse the questions you would like to ask
- Actively develop your network, keep notes of who you meet and maintain these relationships
- Visit your careers service to help improve your CV, application skills and interview technique
- Attend skills development workshops either in your faculty or as part of the central careers programmes
- Attend alumni events on campus

- Reach out to alumni working in the organisations or sectors which most interest you
- Join relevant industry clubs and professional bodies

Employers are much more likely to recruit graduates who have interned with them previously, so take advantage of any out-of-term time internship opportunities your university offers.

### Should I get some work experience whilst I study?

Yes! Students enrolled in a higher education institution can work for up to 20 hours a week. Find a part-time job, vacation placement or internship or even volunteer. This will help you develop skills to add to your CV. All employers value the range of transferable skills and commercial awareness which you can gain through work experience in addition to your academic qualifications. They want you to develop soft skills such as leadership, team work, communication, interpersonal skills and more which can be done in the workplace.

Contributed by **By: Ellen O'Brien, International Careers Consultant, Careers Network, University of Birmingham, UK**



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



## Alumni speak: My UK education opened up so many opportunities



Image © Vignesh Krishnan

### Vignesh Krishnan

The University of Portsmouth  
MSc Mechanical Engineering – Graduated 2015

A former University of Portsmouth student, Vignesh Krishnan, originally from Chennai, has successfully found himself a graduate job working at Tata Steel UK Ltd as a Manufacturing Graduate. Vignesh took some time to reflect on his experience at the university and as a graduate working in the UK.

I studied MSc Mechanical Engineering at Portsmouth, choosing to start in January 2014. The course appealed to me because of its well-balanced structure between practical and academic learning and I felt Portsmouth gave off a good vibe, located on the south coast offering a warmer climate and a really broad mix of students coming from around the world. I followed my "gut feeling" and certainly wasn't disappointed.

Students tend to spend a lot of time searching through detailed information about their course, but often settle on a university that just seems to feel right for them. Getting to grips with a university in a foreign country can be difficult at first, and I was no different. I relied upon the support of the university's International Office and attended all the social events giving me a chance to meet other students in the same situation as me; becoming a member of the Indian Society helped me meet other students from India. Arriving in the UK was a bit of a culture shock at first but once I found the balance between my academic and social activities, my daily student life became far more engaging.

MSc Mechanical Engineering is taught very differently in the UK compared to India. The timetable is very flexible allowing the students to pace their work to suit them. At the University of Portsmouth I was able to build a close relationship with my academics. They were the best part of my course; being both knowledgeable and approachable. The faculty also goes out of their way to help everyone, particularly those who show initiative, to make the most of their time at the university. With an open door policy, I was able to gain support throughout the year enabling me to graduate with distinction.

Having now graduated, I would advise any prospective or future students to "find the right balance between studies and enjoying the good life". That balance means that you can be in the right frame of mind for your studies, allowing you to focus and achieve. I accessed a graduate scheme in the UK, using the university's recruitment consultancy, Purple Door, which helped me prepare for job applications and for interviews. Since starting with Tata Steel I have travelled all over the UK and parts of Europe for work and have been using my free time to watch as much English League football as possible. So many personal and professional opportunities have opened up for me since studying and graduating with University of Portsmouth that I really recommend studying in the UK.

## Study English in the UK

Learning a language is a skill that can help you attain both personal and professional ambitions, and the prominence of English is evident in many fields:

- **Business:** English is considered the global business language.
- **Academia:** English is the language most commonly used by academics worldwide. Proficiency in English is often a requirement to study at universities around the world.
- **Science and technology:** Over 90% of the scientific journals are written in English. English is most often the language of software and programming; and the majority of websites are written in English.
- **World organisations:** International Monetary Fund, Olympics, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, United Nations, World Bank, World Trade Organisation, World Health Organisation and many more global organisations have English as an official language.

Of course, learning any language can be fun, giving you access to other countries and cultures. With English you are joining an estimated 1 billion English speakers and learners today. Don't be surprised to find English the common language used between travellers meeting from different countries.

### Studying English in the UK

Last year saw approximately 1.4 million students travelling abroad to the top eight major destinations to learn English. Of course, the UK being the home of English, it was by far the most popular destination (Source: StudentMarketing, 2015) with over 530,000 international English language students coming to the UK last year (Source: Student statistics report 2016, English UK)

Students can choose from studying at over 465 state and private language centres throughout

England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, accessing distinct local cultures of each region. Courses are available for all ages and all abilities, with some programmes developed to include learning beside other subjects or within specific fields within say science or business.

### Visas

While two-thirds of international English language students came to the UK last year under the Tier 4 (General) student visa, it is important to note the short term visas that are highly suited to studying English in the UK:

- **Short-term study visa (6 months)**  
Applies to students aged over 18 years planning to study for a maximum of 6 months (including English language courses)
- **Short-term study visa (11 months)**  
Applicants aged 18 years and over who come to the UK for a maximum of 11 months to study English language only
- **Tier 4 (child) visa**  
Students aged between 4 and 17 years old who wish to study at an independent school

As indicated by the average duration of stay for English language students is under 6 weeks (Source: Student statistics report 2016, EnglishUK), short term routes are very popular.

Visa rules often change, always check the latest student visa information from the UKVI website: [www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/student-visas](http://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/student-visas)

### English language testing

While learning English you may wish to be assessed and be awarded with certificates to highlight your level of achievement. Employers,



education institutions and even the UK Visa and Immigration often require a level of English language proficiency. This can be proven by successfully taking one of a number of recognised English language tests.

IELTS, Pearsons, TOEFL, Cambridge English provide some of the more well recognised English

language tests, but it is important to read the latest requirements from the universities, employers and immigration agencies you are interested in.

For the UK's officially approved test centres visit.

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/541659/Approved\\_Secure\\_English\\_Language\\_Tests\\_and\\_Test\\_Centres.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/541659/Approved_Secure_English_Language_Tests_and_Test_Centres.pdf)



## Have a business plan? Look at the Graduate Entrepreneur Visa

If you are a recent UK graduate or post-doctoral researcher with a Tier 2 visa and you have a genuine and credible business idea, you can apply to stay for one year on a Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur visa.

From 6 April 2015, it is possible to apply for a Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur visa if the main purpose of your business is to engage in property development or property management.

What do I need to apply?

Sponsorship - There are two ways of getting endorsement:

From an authorised UK college or university (this does not have to be one where you have already studied) issued in the last three months.

Take part in the Sirius Programme, which supports final-year students and recent graduates with advice on funding and immigration.

### Education qualification:

You need a UK-recognised bachelor's degree, master's degree or PhD awarded before your date of endorsement.

### Funds:

You will need evidence of £945 in savings if applying from inside the UK, or £1,890 if applying from outside the UK. You must have had this in your bank account for 90 days before you apply. This 90-day period must end within 31 days of your application date.

### Proof of English language level:

You may need to pass an approved English language test with at least CEFR level B1 in reading, writing, speaking and listening, OR have an academic qualification that was taught in English and is recognised by UK NARIC as being equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree.

### Documentation:

Check the Gov.uk website to see what other documents you need for a complete application.





## Alumni Speak: A degree in the UK kick-started my career



Image © Saif Nazrul

**Saif Nazrul studied Business and Management at the University of Hull. Here he describes how he secured his dream job at Maxwell Stamp, a management consultancy firm, through visiting a British Council Career Summit in Bangladesh.**

**“I graduated in 2015 with first class honors in Business and Management from the University of Hull, studying at the university's campus in Scarborough - a quaint seaside town in North-East England.”**

In 2012, I was awarded the Hull University International Undergraduate Scholarship, which was then renewed twice due to continued merit. This meant that I effectively received a full tuition fee waiver while completing my three year undergraduate degree. I also took part in a summer school program at the Copenhagen Business School (CBS) with the assistance of a grant arranged by the Hull University Business School taking part in the summer programme's weekend trip abroad in Germany, which was a thrilling experience for me.

I found the people I had met over the last few years to be very friendly, and the university offered an unrivalled student experience with the

perfect balance of studies, industry exposure, and student life. The international community of teachers and students provided me with the opportunity to build lasting relationships and create a global network. The whole experience has allowed me the privilege of developing myself as a professional, confident and well-equipped individual, ready to dive into the professional world .

Soon after my graduation in 2015, I returned to Bangladesh. While being on the lookout for job opportunities, I saw an advertisement for the British Council's Career Summit. I took special note of this since my O and A Levels were accredited by them, and I had been a member of the British Council library during my primary and secondary school years. I attended several undergraduate education exhibitions hosted at British Council with representatives from a range of British universities. So I saw the summit as a great opportunity that would enhance my professional network, and perhaps even lead to a fitting job.

Maxwell Stamp - a management consultancy firm headquartered in London – had a stall that immediately sparked my interest and I ended up talking to their representatives. Soon after the event, they called me back for a meeting, and after a rigorous selection process I began to work for them.

I have worked for Maxwell Stamp for a few months now, and I am thoroughly enjoying my work here.

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**Email:** [v.sabarinath@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:v.sabarinath@londonmet.ac.uk)

**Call:** +91 9840213232



# Useful websites

## British Council

The British Council is the United Kingdom's leading cultural relation organisation. Visit our website to know more about us.

[www.britishcouncil.org.bd](http://www.britishcouncil.org.bd)  
[www.britishcouncil.org/india](http://www.britishcouncil.org/india)  
[www.britishcouncil.lk](http://www.britishcouncil.lk)

## For further information on studying in the UK contact us on:

Bangladesh: + 88 09666 773377  
[bd.enquiries@britishcouncil.org](mailto:bd.enquiries@britishcouncil.org)

India: 0120-6684353/0120-4569000  
[IndiaCustomerCare@britishcouncil.org](mailto:IndiaCustomerCare@britishcouncil.org)

Sri Lanka: +94 11 7521 521  
[info.lk@britishcouncil.org](mailto:info.lk@britishcouncil.org)

## Studying in the UK

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

An online guide for students interested in studying in UK featuring articles on UK courses, qualifications, scholarships and visas, as well as information on student life in the UK.

## Student Visas

[www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/student-visas](http://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/student-visas)

Information about UK visa procedures, guidance notes including application forms and contact details.

## Register of licensed sponsors

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-students](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-students).

List of organisations licensed to sponsor students under Tier 4

## Studying and living in the UK

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/>  
[www.ukcisa.org.uk/international-students/Living-in-the-UK](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/international-students/Living-in-the-UK)

Everything you need to know about life as an international students in the UK including advice for settling in, making friends, festivals, shopping, passing your exams and exploring the UK.

## Scholarships

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/options/scholarships-financial-support>  
A comprehensive information source for scholarships and fellowships available for study in the UK

## UK Council for International Student Affairs

[www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)  
Provide information, advice and support to international students.

## Research Assessment Exercise (RAE)

[www.rae.ac.uk](http://www.rae.ac.uk)  
A list of comparative research ratings by discipline of research by UK Institutions Teaching Quality Assessment

## Review, Comparisons by Subject

[www.unistats.com](http://www.unistats.com)  
Access to up-to-date information about the quality of higher education in UK institutions Ranking by.

## Universities and college Admissions Services(UCAS)

[www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)  
Information about UCAS and the application process for undergraduate and HND courses

## Postgraduate studies

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)  
[www.postgrad.com/](http://www.postgrad.com/)  
[www.ucas.com/ucas/postgraduate](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/postgraduate)  
Access to over 20,000 courses in the UK at

postgraduate and research level Independent Schools in the UK  
**Further Education**  
[www.aoc.co.uk](http://www.aoc.co.uk)  
[www.findfe.com](http://www.findfe.com)  
Provides a list of government funded FE colleges

**The Council for Independent Education**  
[www.cife.org.uk](http://www.cife.org.uk)

## International Centre for distance Learning (ICDL)

[www.open.ac.uk/courses](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses)  
[www.hobsons.com](http://www.hobsons.com)  
Provides access to the database of UK courses and programmes taught by distance learning

## Hot courses

[www.hotcourses.com](http://www.hotcourses.com)  
UK's largest course database at the school, UG,PG and research levels

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E: mumbai@mdxsouthasia.com

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