

# Study UK Guide





# Index

Why Study in the UK?	6
Choosing the right course / universit	11
How to apply	17
Visas – for EU and international students	22
Fees	27
Scholarships and Funding	28
Student life	30
Useful links	34

# About UK





1  
**Giant's Causeway**  
**County Antrim**



2  
**Loch Ness**  
**Scottish Highlands**



3  
**Gower Peninsula**  
**Swansea**



4  
**Ullswater**  
**Lake District**



5  
**Dragon Boat Festival**  
**Nottingham**



6  
**Home of The Beatles**  
**Liverpool**



7  
**Porth Neigwl**  
**Abersoch**



8  
**Punting on River Cam**  
**Cambridge**



9  
**Bournemouth Beach**  
**Bournemouth**



10  
**Tower Bridge**  
**London**



# Why Study in the UK?

A UK education opens doors wherever you go in the world. The UK has what it takes for students to reach their potential, world-recognised universities, innovative teaching approaches and the leading minds in many subjects.

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

## A high standard of education

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

## World-ranked universities

UK universities have featured strongly in world rankings ever since they began. In 2023 the Times Higher Education World Rankings honoured the UK with three of the world's top ten universities, with the University of Oxford in first place. This high quality can be found across the country, with seven of the top 50, and 28 of the top 200 universities located in the UK.

## Quality that is government-guaranteed

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

## Innovative teaching methods

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

## World-leading research

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

The consistent high quality of education in the UK has made it a firm favourite with international students all over the world and a key part of its quality is its commitment to research. The UK's exceptional research landscape has been affirmed by its impressive place in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023, with five universities featuring in the top ten for health sciences, four in the arts and humanities and two or three in the top ten worldwide in the rest of disciplines. The UK's field-weighted citation impact is greater than the US, Canada, Germany, Japan and Brazil, so anyone studying science in the UK can be sure they will be working alongside some of the top minds – and using some of the best technology – in the world.



## Tailormade courses

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

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

## Built-in flexibility

In the UK, flexibility is built into the majority of university courses. Many universities allow students to choose from different subject modules - smaller thematic units that focus on a particular area of a subject – so a course programme that suits the individual student can be designed.

## Encouragement to think differently

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

## Brilliant teachers

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

The impact of UK universities' supportive and inspiring teaching is evident in the feedback received from graduates. The quality of undergraduate teaching is also regularly assessed by the UK government through the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). Universities can achieve Gold, Silver and Bronze levels in the TEF, giving students the assurance of the quality of teaching they will receive.

## State-of-the-art technology

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

## Research grounded in the real world

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



## Career opportunities

As well as connecting students with ambitious like-minded students from the UK and abroad, UK courses offer lots of ways for students to take the first steps into the world of work. UK institutions cultivate relationships both in STEM and the creative industries, allowing students to get practical experience in their field with world-leading organisations, and make connections to give their career an edge. Students can undertake work and volunteering placements, internships and opportunities to gain professional accreditation, as well as gain tailored advice through universities' dedicated careers offices. Professional careers advisors are available throughout a course of study to give guidance on interview preparation, writing a CV and developing a skillset for a particular industry. The QS global survey of graduate employers consistently shows that UK degrees are highly valued worldwide, with UK universities topping the QS employer reputation ranking.

## Qualify sooner

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



# Choosing the right course / university

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

## Recognised bodies: Universities and Colleges

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

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

## Listed bodies & other institutions

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

## Undergraduate studies

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

UK undergraduate course types include:

- **Bachelor's or undergraduate degree:** BA (Bachelor of Arts), BSc (Bachelor of Science), LLB (Bachelor of Law), BEd (Bachelor of Education) and BEng (Bachelor of Engineering). A full-time bachelor's degree normally takes three years to complete in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and four years in Scotland. Part-time options are also available.
- **Shorter courses:** Foundation Degree, Diploma of Higher Education, Higher National Diploma, and Certificate of Higher Education.
- **Top-up courses.** Programmes that allow students to obtain university degrees by converting existing shorter-term and vocational qualifications they may have.

## Search for a suitable course

- UCAS lists more than 50,000 undergraduate courses with over 380 providers in the UK, which you and your students can search for here: <https://digital.ucas.com/search>
- The subject guides also give an insight into the courses that students can study at undergraduate level, what they involve, and how to enroll: <https://www.ucas.com/explore>
- Students can also use the University Finder on the Study UK website to search for a course: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/find/university>. You can also find a scholarship search tool in this site.

## Postgraduate studies

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



UK postgraduate course types include:

- **Master's degrees:** MA (Master of Arts), MSc (Master of Science), subject-specific qualifications, including MEng (Master of Engineering), MFA (Master of Fine Arts), LLM (Master of Laws), MArch (Master of Architecture), and MPhil (Master of Philosophy), which are research-led and usually designed for students to progress to a PhD. A full-time master's degree usually takes one year (taught master's) or two years (research master's) to complete. Part-time options are also available at some universities.
- **MBA courses.**
- **PhDs or doctorates.**
- **Postgraduate diplomas and certificates:** Usually shorter than a master's and do not involve a thesis or dissertation.
- **Professional and vocational qualifications:** most awards involve practical training.

## Search for a suitable course

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

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

## Other options

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

- **Further education:** This refers to education after compulsory secondary school that is not an undergraduate or postgraduate degree. Further education institutions in the UK provide technical and professional education and training to people over the age of 16. Qualifications and training include A-Levels, apprenticeships, traineeships, vocational qualifications and entry level training.
- **Foundation pathway courses:** These are designed for international students to improve their English skills and develop the confidence to start undergraduate or postgraduate study. They provide the opportunity to adjust to UK culture and get used to university teaching.
- **English language courses:** As the home of the English language and with a reputation for academic excellence, the UK is the perfect destination to learn English.



## Studying for a UK degree outside the UK

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

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

## Study exchange (Erasmus, Turing, other)

Following Brexit, the United Kingdom ceased to participate as an associated country in the Erasmus+ programme. However, from the 2027/28 academic year onwards, the UK will rejoin the Erasmus+ programme, allowing European students to undertake exchange periods in the United Kingdom under conditions similar to those applicable to other European countries.

To carry out a study mobility within the framework of Erasmus+, an inter-institutional agreement between your home university and the host university is usually required.

It is likely that the Turing Scheme and the Taith Scheme mobility programmes will continue to operate.

\* Participation and conditions may change after the publication date of this guide; applicants are strongly advised to check the most up-to-date information before starting the application process.

# How to apply

## Undergraduate studies

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

## Application deadlines

### 15 October

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

### 14 January

For most undergraduate courses (entry from 2026 onwards).

\* Please check the official UCAS deadlines each year.

### 30 June

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

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

## What is Clearing?

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

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

For more information about clearing, visit the UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing>

## Reply-by deadlines for offers received

Once you receive offers from your chosen universities, UCAS sets a deadline by which you must accept or decline them. For applications in 2026, the reply deadlines depend on when you receive your last offer:

- If you receive your last offer by 31 March, you must respond by 6 May 2026.
- If you receive your last offer by 13 May, you must respond by 3 June 2026.
- If you receive your last offer by 15 July, you must respond by 22 July 2026.

These dates change each year. We recommend checking the UCAS calendar at the time you submit your application.

## Requirements to apply for a degree in the UK

Apart from the academic record and an official English level test, students are required to submit a motivation letter, a recommendation letter and, in some cases, a portfolio (Mainly those students studying the arts).

## Recognition and validity of different qualifications

EU pre-university systems and the International Baccalaureate are accepted by UK universities. Vocational qualifications are accepted by many universities too. Depending on previous studies students may be accepted into a top-up programme (second or third year at university).

Applicants can check the equivalence of their country's qualifications with those in the UK by contacting the National Recognition Information Centre - <https://www.enic.org.uk/> or by contacting the university of their choice.

## Personal Statement

From 2026 entry onwards, UCAS has changed the format of the personal statement. Instead of submitting one long piece of text, applicants must now complete three separate sections (three questions).

Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you prepare for this course or subject?

Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

The three questions are designed to help you structure your responses and ensure you include exactly what universities and higher education institutions are looking for in order to assess your application.

Each section requires a minimum of 350 characters. The overall limit of 4,000 characters (including spaces) remains unchanged.

Recommendations for writing a strong statement:

- Ensure consistency across your five course choices (the same subject area or closely related fields).

- Be specific: refer to subjects studied, projects, wider reading, awards, work experience, volunteering, or relevant extracurricular activities, and explain what you learned.
- Prioritise evidence and reflection (what you did, what the outcome was, and why it is relevant to your university studies).
- Respect UCAS limits (the online application form will indicate the maximum character count).

For more advice on writing a personal statement, please visit: <https://wwwucas.com/undergraduate/applying-to-university>

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

## Reference

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

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

For detailed advice on writing a reference for a student, please visit: <https://wwwucas.com/advisers/references>

## Application for Postgraduate studies

Almost all UK universities handle their own postgraduate applications and applications are done directly through their websites.

Not all postgraduate courses have a fixed application deadline. However, it is always best to apply early to secure the best chance of being accepted – from six months to a year before the course begins.

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

## Additional documents and information

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

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

# Visas – for EU and international students

## Student visas and the Graduate Route visa

From 25 February 2026, all Spanish nationals who do not hold a visa or lawful residence status in the United Kingdom (such as under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) or Indefinite Leave to Remain) will require an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) to travel to the UK. If you require a visa, you do not need an ETA. However, remember to inform friends or family who plan to visit you in the UK for a short stay. Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

Once you complete your studies, your student visa allows you to apply for the “Graduate Route”. This visa enables you to remain and work in the United Kingdom without the need for employer sponsorship for 18 months (see further information below).

## Applying for a student visa

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

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

- A current passport or other valid travel documentation
- A confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) reference number, which is provided by the UK university or college
- Original certificates showing the student’s educational qualifications, including English language requirement (for study at degree level or above, the applicant must have the equivalent of level B2 of the Common European Framework of References for English language)

- N.B. If there is any discrepancy between the details on the CAS and the grades on academic/English certificates, a visa will not be issued.

More details on each of these can be read at: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>.

### Child Student Visa

Students under the age of 18 must apply for a Child Student visa if they intend to study in the UK for more than six months.

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

An application can be submitted up to six months before the course start date. Our recommendation is to apply approximately one to one and a half months before your intended travel date.

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



## How to apply

Applications are submitted online, using the mobile app “UK Immigration: ID Check” if you hold a biometric passport. Otherwise, you will need to attend a Visa Application Centre to confirm your identity. At the centre, your photograph will be taken and your fingerprints recorded. Our recommendation is to use the mobile app where possible.

The cost of a Student visa is approximately £524 per year (from April 2025).

- Students must apply online for a Student visa at: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/apply-online>
- Students must confirm their identity either through the mobile app “UK Immigration: ID Check” or by attending a Visa Application Centre, where they will provide a photograph and fingerprints (to obtain a biometric residence permit, where applicable).
- If required to collect a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP), students must do so within 10 days of the date they indicated they would arrive in the UK (even if they subsequently arrive later).

For more information on applying for a student visa, go to: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>.

## Access to the National Health Service (NHS) - Immigration health surcharge

To access the National Health Service (NHS), students applying for a Student visa must pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS), which is currently £776 per year as part of their visa application fee.

Since January 2022, certain European Union students may apply for a full or partial refund of the IHS, provided they meet the conditions set by the UK authorities. In general, students may be eligible for a refund if they:

- Are insured in an EU Member State and hold a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)
- Are studying full-time
- Do not work in the UK during the period for which they are requesting the refund
- Have not used the NHS, or have only accessed it using their EHIC

The refund is not automatic and must be requested after the visa has been granted. Eligibility depends on each student's individual circumstances. Students are strongly advised to consult the official UK Government guidance before submitting an application.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/refunds>

If you do not require a visa because you will be residing in the UK for less than six months, you may access healthcare during your stay using your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Make sure to apply for it before travelling and carry it with you.

## Graduate Visa

The Graduate Route came into effect in July 2021. This visa allows international students who have successfully completed an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in the UK to remain in the country:

- For up to 18 months after completing an undergraduate or Master's degree
- For up to 3 years after completing a PhD

During this period, graduates may work or look for employment without requiring employer sponsorship. The Graduate Route cannot be extended. Before it expires, those who secure a qualifying job may apply for a work visa, such as the Skilled Worker visa, provided they have sponsorship from a licensed employer.

## Work Placement Mobility in the United Kingdom

If you are planning to undertake a work placement (internship) in the United Kingdom, you will normally require a work visa before starting, even if the placement is unpaid.

It is possible that Erasmus+ may again facilitate student visas for traineeships; however, at the time of publication of this guide, this information has not been confirmed.

Currently, the relevant visa category is the Temporary Work – Government Authorised Exchange (GAE) visa.

This visa requires sponsorship from an authorised organisation (which is not usually the company offering the internship) approved by the UK Home Office. The sponsor issues a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS).

There are several authorised sponsoring organisations, depending on the type and duration of the placement. One example is BUNAC: <https://bunac.org/intern-uk>

Students are strongly advised to consult the official UK Government website before starting any visa application, as immigration regulations may change.



# Fees

## Course fees

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

International students can expect to pay between £12,000 and £28,000 annually, and typically an undergraduate degree course will last for three years. Medical degrees may cost more and many UK master's degrees can be completed in one year, meaning lower living costs and faster entry into employment.

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



# Scholarships and Funding

## Scholarships and financial support

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

You can look for available scholarships on <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org>

## Scholarships for EU students

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



## Country-specific scholarships and funding

There are many different scholarships available, some of which depend on where you are from. For more information please check with scholarship providers in your country.

## Scholarships for International students (some exclude EU, others are for all)

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

- Chevening Scholarship: Postgraduate scholarships from the UK government aimed at students with potential as future leaders: <https://www.chevening.org>
- Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan: Postgraduate scholarships for nationals of Commonwealth countries, funded by the UK government and intended to support individuals who will subsequently make a contribution to the development of their home country: <https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/apply>
- GREAT Scholarships are for international students (non-EU) who want to study at a UK university for a one-year postgraduate course. Each scholarship offers a minimum of £10,000 towards tuition fees. <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships/great-scholarships>

## University accommodation

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

## Private accommodation

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

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

UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs) provides more detail on finding suitable housing whilst living in the UK: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student-advice/life-in-the-uk/accommodation>

## Food

An average weekly food shop for one costs around £50-80, although students will always find a selection of supermarkets with plenty of choice and for different budgets.

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

## Leisure time

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

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

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

## Explore the UK

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

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

## Health and safety

The UK is a safe country, with low crime rates and a trustworthy police force. In addition, many institutions have their own security services who patrol campuses. Universities and colleges will usually provide students with information on staying safe on campus.

The UK's NHS (National Health Service) is one of the world's most advanced healthcare systems, offering safe and modern treatment. To gain access to the NHS, students will be required to pay an immigration health surcharge as part of their visa application fee.

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

EU students who are coming to study in the UK for less than 6 months (and therefore do not require a visa) will not be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge – they can access medically necessary healthcare in the UK using their EU-issued EHIC.



# Equality and Diversity in the UK

## Religion in the UK

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

## Students with disabilities

UK universities provide excellent support facilities for students who have disabilities and other additional tailored support for students who need it.

Students should contact the disability support office on campus early in the application process to ensure that the university has the resources and capabilities to meet their particular needs.

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

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

## LGBTQIA+ culture in the UK

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

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

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

# Useful links

## General information

- Study UK website: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org>
- Study UK Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/StudyUK.BritishCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/StudyUK.BritishCouncil)
- UK Council for International Student Affairs – UKCISA: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>
- Office for Students: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/>
- UK National Information Centre (UK ENIC, previously UK NARIC): The National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom. It provides information and guidance on the recognition and evaluation of international academic, professional and vocational qualifications: <https://www.enic.org.uk/>
- Find a University: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/find/university#/>
- What subjects can I study?: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/find/subjects-areas>
- Sign up to the Study UK newsletter: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/newsletter>
- Scholarships: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships>

## Our newsletters

- Study UK: <https://confirmsubscription.com/h/y/B477B266E9402F35>
- Alumni: <https://confirmsubscription.com/h/y/3505A31147F769B2>
- Agents and school counsellors: <https://confirmsubscription.com/h/y/8FCC8F484FC3D5BF>
- British schools in Spain: <https://confirmsubscription.com/h/y/2684C5F22527CADC>

## Student visas

- For information and guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration>
- For Visa Application Centre (VAC) information: <https://www.vfsglobal.co.uk/en>
- Study UK website: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/student-visas>
- Agency able to help with Temporary Work Visas for students: <https://bunac.org/internships-abroad/intern-in-britain>

## Quality Assurance / Ranking

- Choosing a university: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/find/choosing-university>
- The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en>
- Teaching Excellence Framework: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/regulatory-advice-22-guidance-on-the-teaching-excellence-framework-2023/>
- Research Excellence Framework: <https://www.ref.ac.uk/>

## Moving to the UK

- Moving to the UK for study: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk>
- EU student advice: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/eu-students>
- Living in the UK: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/accommodation>
- UK Council for International Students: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>

## Independent Boarding schools

- Finding a boarding school: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/find/study-options/boarding>
- The UK Boarding Schools Association: <https://www.ukbsa.com/>
- Independent Schools Council: <https://www.isc.co.uk/schools/>



- Schools Inspection: Office for Standards in Education – Ofsted: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>

## English language

- English UK: <https://www.englishuk.com/>
- Accreditation UK: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/accreditation>

Many vocational training colleges and universities offer English learning programs at competitive prices. An interesting alternative to those who wish to be in a student environment during their English learning process.

## Universities and Colleges

- Universities and Colleges Admissions Service: <https://www.ucas.com/>
- Unistats: <https://www.unistats.ac.uk>
- Association of Colleges: <https://www.aoc.co.uk>
- Prospects: Postgraduate course search <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study>

# Study UK

Find out more



Search **Study UK**



Contact us at:  
**education@britishcouncil.es**

To receive up-to-date information,  
subscribe to our Study UK newsletter:

**[https://www.britishcouncil.es/  
estudiar-reino-unido/quieres/bases](https://www.britishcouncil.es/estudiar-reino-unido/quieres/bases)**