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**STUDY IN**



**STUDENT GUIDE**





# UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is commonly known as the **United Kingdom** or the **UK**. It is comprised of four neighbouring island countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Although England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are “nations”, they are not officially independent countries. Instead, they are part of the country of United Kingdom (UK)—and bound by the UK constitution. Each of the four UK countries have local governments, which manage local affairs, such as healthcare and other social services. A democratically-elected UK government oversees all national and international affairs, including student visas and other education related regulations.

The capital city, and the largest city of the UK, is London. It is also the capital of England. The capital of Scotland, Wales and Northern Island are Edinburgh, Cardiff, and Belfast respectively.



## Why Study in UK?

One of the biggest reasons students choose to come to the UK is its world-renowned reputation for academic excellence. UK universities consistently rank amongst the best in the world. Over 30+ universities from UK rank amongst the top 200 universities in the QS World University Rankings and the Shanghai Ranking’s Academic Ranking of World Universities.

Higher education institutions in the UK are regulated by the British government to maintain their globally recognized, high standard of education—and ensure that students get the best teaching, support and resources. British degrees are recognized and respected globally. Whether the student chooses to apply for work in the United Kingdom with a work visa, or return to their home country, a degree from the UK opens many doors for them.

The UK is at the forefront of innovative research and emerging technologies. Lastly the UK is one of the most developed nations with high quality healthcare, infrastructure, transportation and government services.

## Higher Education System in UK

Higher Education in UK refers to degree education, and includes both undergraduate (Bachelor) and postgraduate (Masters and Doctoral) studies.

- Bachelor’s degrees are typically awarded after three (3) years of full time study in the UK, except in Scotland. It will take four (4) years if the student is studying in Scotland, or if the student adds a year of work experience in between their study terms, referred to as a sandwich year. Professional degrees, such as medicine, veterinary and architecture degrees require five (5) years of study.
- Students can earn a Master’s degree in one year, while a Doctorate is typically completed in three to five (3-5) years.





# INTAKES

Students need to submit separate applications to each course (or program)

- Autumn/Fall (September to December)
- Spring (January to April)
- Summer (May to August)

Since the calendar year begins in autumn, most institutions offer admission for entry in September, but selected programs also accept students for Spring and Summer intakes.

## Admissions

Almost all universities and colleges set their own entry requirements for higher education courses, and these vary widely depending on the subject, the specific course, and the university/ institute.

Admission is typically based on a student's past academic qualifications. Some courses also require supplementary information from the student, such as an admission test, personal statement, resume, references to further assess a student's suitability before making their admission decision.

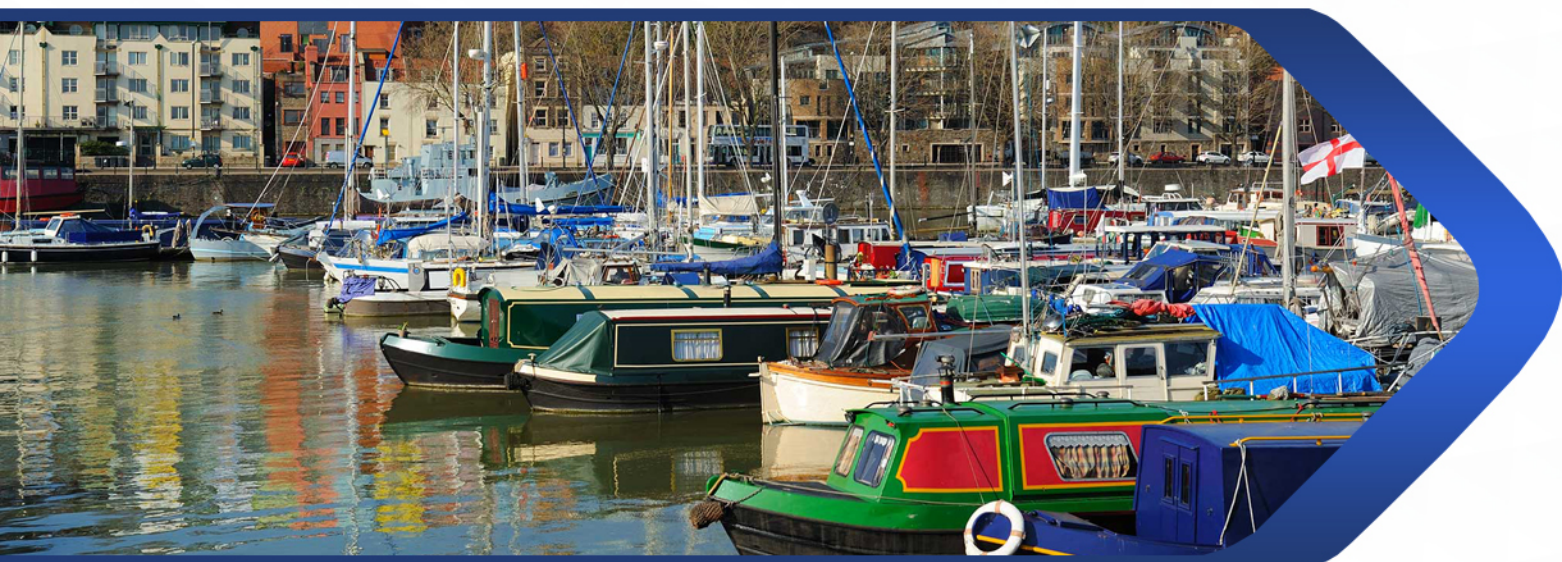
International students from non-speaking countries will need to demonstrate their **English language proficiency** through an English test such as IELTS, PTE (A) or TOEFL.

A few education providers will also interview students before making their admission decision. Interviews can take place over telephone, video call, or in-person.

## UK Student Visas

All international students need a visa to come and study in the UK. Students over the age of 16 need the General Student Visa. These Tier 4 student visa applications are submitted online using the official UK government website.

Students cannot apply for the visa more than three (3) months before the start date of their course. Students must also have received an unconditional offer of admission by a licensed sponsor (College or University) before they can apply.





# Documents Required for General Student Visa

Students need to submit a series of supporting documents as part of their online student visa application. In general, students need the following:

- A current passport or other valid travel documentation
- Confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS)
- Biometrics Information
- Proof of knowledge of English
- Proof that they can pay the tuition, and support themselves (and any other family members travelling with them)
- Proof of parental or other legal guardian consent if student is under 18
- Proof of student's relationship with the said parent or guardian if they're under 18
- Tuberculosis test results if the student is coming from one of the countries where you need a TB test to enter the UK
- Immigration healthcare surcharge fee



## Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)

Education providers will send students a reference number called a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) with the offer of admission. Students will need to provide this number on their student visa application.

## Biometric Information

When the student submits their visa application, they will be asked to make an appointment at a visa application center to provide their biometric information (fingerprints and a photo). Once the student arrives in the UK, they will be able to obtain their Biometric Residence Permit (BRP). BRP is a legal document detailing the student's name, date and place of birth, biometric information, immigration status and conditions of stay, and whether the student has access to any public services or benefits, such as healthcare services.

Student's visa decision letter will indicate where they can pick up the BRP and when it must be picked up by.

## English Proficiency

The UK Government requires students to have a certain level of English language knowledge when they apply for a student visa. The student visa English language requirements can be different than those needed for admission into the desired course. One of the ways a student can demonstrate their knowledge of English is by passing a government-approved Secure English language test (SELT), but this is not always required. Most Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) can often make their own language assessment based on the qualifications submitted during the admission process and waive the SELT requirements.

## Financial Capacity

Students must show that they will have enough money to cover the cost and expenses of their travel and stay in the UK. This includes the cost of travel, course fees, living costs, and any other school expenses and fees. Students must have sufficient funds for their first year of study, or for the entire course if it is less than a year long. If the student is coming with a partner and/or dependents, they must also have enough money to cover their family's expenses. Students can demonstrate their ability to support themselves (and their family if applicable) financially by providing copies of their bank statements, details of any loans they are taking on, and information about any scholarships they have been awarded.



The monthly living costs that students will need to show will depend on where they will be studying in the UK as the cost of living is much higher in London. From October 2019, the UK government determined the cost of living to be:

- £1,265 per month for students studying in London for the majority of their study (more than 50% of your study time).
- £1,015 per month for students studying outside of London or anywhere else in the UK for the majority of your study (more than 50% of your study time).

Please note that the costs may change over time.

## Healthcare Surcharge

All students must pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) for themselves and anyone travelling with them. The IHS helps to fund the UK healthcare system, and gives students access to free healthcare while living in the UK.

## Length of Stay

The Student Visa is typically issued for the full study duration. For courses that last over six months, students can arrive in the UK up to one month before, and stay for up to four months after the end of the course. Students enrolled in Master's program (not postgraduate certificate or diploma) can stay in the UK for up to six months after completing their studies.

Students can apply to extend their visa if they decide to enrol in another course after completing their current course.

## Visa Processing Time

The general time for processing of student visas is 3 to 6 weeks in most cases.

## Working while you study in UK

Undergraduate and Postgraduate level international students on a valid student visa are currently permitted by law to work a maximum of 20 hours per week during term time, with no limit during vacations.

Almost all universities and colleges have a career's office, which regularly posts employment vacancies. Part-time work is not difficult to find, however, there is strong competition.



## Working After Studies in UK

There are lots of options available to international students who want to stay and work in the UK after their studies. From summer 2021, The Graduate Route will be available to international students who have a valid student visa at the time of application and have successfully completed a degree at undergraduate level or above at a Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance.

Successful applicants on this route will be able to stay and work, or look for work, in the UK at any skill level for a maximum period of two years if they have successfully completed an undergraduate or master's degree.

PhD graduates will be able to stay for three years.

Graduates will be able to switch into skilled work once they have found a suitable job.





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