

BRITISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 01 MARCH 2018

STUDY IN THE UK

AGENDA FOR TODAY

- Structure of postgraduate education
- Methods of study
- Quality standards for UK higher education courses and education
- Applying for postgraduate study in the UK
- Course fees
- Funding your studies
- English language requirements
- Useful links



STRUCTURE OF POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION (1)

Full-time postgraduate courses in the UK vary from one year to four years, depending on the type of course you choose:

- **One-year courses:** Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma, Master's degrees, MBAs
- **Two-year courses:** Some master's degrees
- **Three to four-year courses:** PhDs, New Route PhDs



STRUCTURE OF POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION (2)

Pre-master's courses

Pre-master's courses can last from one term to a complete academic year and cover academic study, cultural instruction and language training. You may need to take a pre-master's course if your qualifications or English language skills don't quite match the standard required for a UK master's degree. Many courses will guarantee progression on to a master's course at a particular university.

Postgraduate certificate or diploma (PG Cert/Dip)

Postgraduate certificates and diplomas are one-year taught postgraduate courses that don't usually involve research.

They're often accepted as professional qualifications, giving you a fantastic head start in your chosen career.

Taught master's (MA, MSc, LL.M, Med, etc.)

Taught master's courses generally last for one year and consist of two elements. You'll complete a number of modules (attending lectures and seminars, writing essays and taking examinations) and produce a dissertation from original research.

Research master's (MRes, MPhil)

On a master's degree by research in the UK, you won't typically attend lectures; instead you'll devote the entire year to research. Your final mark will be determined by the quality of your dissertation.

STRUCTURE OF POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION (2)

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

An MBA is a specialist business taught master's course that will give you a real step up the managerial ladder. It's the best known and most popular postgraduate qualification.

Doctorate (PhD)

A PhD, also known as a doctorate, takes three to four years to complete, during which time you'll be working on a single research project. In your final year, you'll be asked to present a dissertation of approximately 100,000 words.

New Route PhDs include taught elements as well as a research project and give you the opportunity to undertake interdisciplinary study



METHODS OF STUDY

Postgraduate programmes in the UK

If you study as a UK postgraduate student, most of the work you do will be on your own initiative, which really develops your thinking and research skills. On taught courses, postgraduate tutors and lecturers provide the framework of the course, but you are encouraged to pursue your own interests. With postgraduate research programmes, the principal teaching method is original research, completed under academic supervision.

Many UK postgraduate research programmes offer introductory taught courses that provide training in research skills. This will help you prepare for the advanced research you'll need to do.

MBA courses in the UK

Master of Business Administration (MBA) courses in the UK are a particularly intensive, challenging and rewarding form of taught postgraduate course. You'll be expected to work through a large amount of material, complete projects and assignments and give regular presentations. Teaching methods characteristic of MBAs include case studies, simulations and business games.

QUALITY STANDARDS FOR UK HE COURSES AND EDUCATION

- Although each UK institution is responsible for the standards and quality of its programmes, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) regularly carries out independent audits. They ensure that institutions in the UK are providing higher education, awards and qualifications of an acceptable quality and at an appropriate academic standard. Find out more at <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/>
- The QAA have also developed a code of practice for UK institutions who deliver degree programmes in other countries. So if you choose to study a UK qualification in your own country, you will benefit from the same high standards of teaching, resource and support as you would from studying in the UK.
- Many departments within UK institutions are also accredited by professional bodies who guide the curriculum and carry out review visits.

APPLYING FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDY IN THE UK

- Most UK institutions offer an online postgraduate application system that can be accessed through the institution's own website.
- There is no restriction on the number of different courses you can apply for, but you should submit your application well in advance of the course starting date. This might be as early as the October of the previous year, and although there may not be a formal deadline for applications, the earlier you apply the better. Courses start to become full during May, so an application before the end of April is encouraged.
- Some institutions use the UK Postgraduate Application and Statistical Service (UKPASS) scheme. UKPASS allows you to apply for up to ten postgraduate programmes, track progress and receive and reply to offers. You can see which institutions are part of the scheme and find out more on the students page at <http://www.ukpass.ac.uk/>

COURSE FEES

Students are charged different fees depending on whether they are classed as home or overseas for fee purposes.

Students from the European Union

(main ruling - more information on the universities websites)

As an EU national, or a family member of an EU national, you will pay the same tuition fee as a UK student (until Brexit is effective) when studying in England, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Example: MA in History at Sheffield university in 2018 -19

- £ 7,000 / € 7,942 (home & EEC students)
- £16,800 / € 19,060 (overseas students)

FUNDING YOUR STUDIES (1)

- Postgraduate study is an investment in both time and money, and tuition fees and other costs vary considerably between universities and colleges. To find out more about the sums involved, and whether any bursaries or grants might be available, first check direct with the university or college you are applying to.
- The only guaranteed funding available is for programmes in social work, nursing and teaching; for all other postgraduate study you will need to compete for funds against other students
- There are three categories of funding to explore: government; commercial and professional; and charities.

For advice on how to manage your money while studying, please visit the student finance pages of the UCAS and StudyUK websites: <https://www.ucas.com/> and <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/planning/money-costs>

These pages also include information about the different conditions in the various countries of the UK, information for international and EU students, student loans and budget calculators, and links to further advice.

FUNDING YOUR STUDIES (2)

1. Most government funding comes from the seven UK Research Councils. Applications for funding from a Research Council are normally arranged through the university department to which you are applying to study: <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/>
2. For more on postgraduate funding visit the Postgraduate Studentships website which provides a good source of funding information and specific postgraduate funding opportunities from both universities and colleges and general funding sources:
<http://www.postgraduatestudentships.co.uk/>
3. If you are an international student searching for financial information about studying in the UK, please visit the UKCISA website: <http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>



ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

International English Language testing System – IELTS

IELTS is an English language test which

- has wide global recognition
- tests over 3 million candidates each year
- tests all 4 language skills (listening, reading, writing, speaking)
- tests international English (no UK or US bias)
- delivers results in 13 days



ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

- University students register for the Academic Module - not the General Training Module
- Band score required around 6.5 minimum overall. Band score and sub scores vary from course to course depending on their linguistic difficulty.
- 3 dates offered in Belgium every month
- Online registration
- Includes a free 30-hour online course “Road to IELTS”
- Other free online preparation for the IELTS test



GET THE IELTS SCORE YOU NEED

ROAD TO IELTS
IELTS preparation and practice



30 hours of **free online practice** material if you register through the British Council

Mobile Apps & Learn English website

- IELTS free online course (www.britishcouncil.be/events)
- TeachingEnglish (<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/>)
- LearnEnglish (<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/>)

USEFUL WEB LINKS

Who are we?

The British Council is Britain's main international agency responsible for the educational exchanges and cultural relations:
www.britishcouncil.be

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

Visit the this site to find out about the access conditions to colleges of higher education and universities in England, Wales, Scotland and in Northern Ireland as well as look for an English language course in an accredited school or a scholarship.

www.englishinbritain.co.uk/

The official site of the accredited English language schools in the United Kingdom.

www.ucas.com/

To manage your applications to UK higher education (1st cycle - Bachelor level)

www.britishcouncil.fr

A site in French on UK education

www.britishcouncil.be/exam

All you need to know about UK English language tests offered in Belgium.

<https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/>

International English Language Testing System: the most popular test of English to prove your knowledge of the English in higher education in the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. IELTS is also very popular in the USA and among institutions in Europe having a pre-requisite in English language.

<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/>

All the English language examinations of the University of Cambridge.

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