

STUDY IN THE UK

YOUR GUIDE TO GAINING A WORLD CLASS
EDUCATION IN THE UK

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EDUCATION IS

GREAT

BRITAIN

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University of Nottingham

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WHY THE UK?

Deciding where to study can seem difficult, so many things to think about! We've made it fun and easy and boiled down key facts about the UK into 12 simple bullet points. If you read through the guide you will find really useful information on everything from degree courses, to scholarships and visas. Take the time to click through the links and start on the journey of a lifetime!

The UK has a long tradition and lots of experience in welcoming students from around the world. The land of football, fashion, film and of course science. The weather may be cold sometimes, but it makes up for this by offering students a warm welcome, excellent learning opportunities and access to international friends and networks that will last a lifetime.

Wherever you end up in the UK, it won't be long before you find people who also come from your part of the world, or who have at least travelled there. If you are open to meeting people from other cultures, you will leave the UK having met and made friends with people from places you didn't even know existed.

If you have a degree from a UK university it is widely recognised by employers, universities, and governments around the world. In addition to technical and academic knowledge, UK degree courses develop your critical thinking, decision-making and creativity – skills that are valued by employers worldwide. If you're looking for a quality education and a way to secure your future the UK's universities and colleges will act as a great springboard to that next level.

UK universities consistently rank highest in global university ranking as many have world-leading reputations for teaching and research. World-renowned experts in all different fields frequently visit UK universities to give talks and lectures. In fact, many of world's best academics teach at UK universities, meaning that it is not rare to be taught by the academic who actually wrote the textbook from which you are studying!

- Four of the top ten universities in the world are in the UK ([World Rankings, QS](#)).
- The UK ranks in the top five in the world for university-industry collaboration ([World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report 2014-15](#)).
- Student satisfaction in the UK is higher than ever, with 86% of students satisfied overall with their course ([National Student Survey](#)).

10 FACTS ABOUT THE UK

- The United Kingdom is a very diverse place made up of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, four countries but over **300 languages spoken!**
- The UK has almost 3 times the population of Australia, even if it is quite a bit smaller. You're never too far from a train or bus station, an airport or a future friend.
- Last year alone, over **60,000 students** from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain studied in the UK.
- It is estimated that one in seven world leaders studied in the UK, and UK universities and research institutions have produced over 100 Nobel Prize winners.
- The UK is a multi-faith and multi-cultural society where other beliefs and religions are widely welcomed and accepted.
- Most parts of the UK are only a 7-10 hour plane journey from the Gulf countries so it's easy for you or your family to hop back and forth for the holidays.
- You might be surprised, but the British are famous for their comedy and dry sense of humour. The Brits love a good laugh and have lots of TV shows and comedy clubs dedicated to showing the latest talents.
- International students come from over **200 countries** study in UK universities. 17% of all students and over 25% of academics and professors are from outside the UK making university and college culture lively and fun.
- Course in the UK are generally shorter than many other countries, helping to reduce tuition fees and accommodation costs.
- In the UK you will find a wide variety of cuisine, strong transport links, famous music festivals and international sporting championships such as Wimbledon, the British Grand Prix and the FA Cup.



IMPERIAL COURT

YOUR PERSONAL JOURNEY: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Whether you have a broad area of interest like technology, or a very specific goal in mind, like becoming a doctor or an entrepreneur, you'll be able to find a course and an institution that fits for you. Lots of different websites offer advice when it comes to choosing your course, but [UCAS](#) is the UK's official application portal for undergraduate study and they have advice for international students in many different languages, including [Arabic](#).

If you or your parents don't know where to start, then here is some useful advice that you can share with them as well.

There are many international university rankings, but remember to not only check the overall ranking for your institution, but also the ranking by subject so that you know how your degree course compares to other similar courses in the UK. You can also search for other useful information online, like what course tutors research interests are, level of student support available, size of the student union and number of international students at that institution.

TAKING THE PLUNGE

- There are over 37,000 undergraduate courses with over 370 providers in the UK. When applying, most applicants choose up to five similar courses to increase their chances of getting a place.
- Take your time and ask lots of questions. Go to an open day or education exhibition, get some official advice, get some unofficial advice, then take a step back from everything and make the leap.



THE TYPICAL STUDENT JOURNEY



VALUE FOR MONEY

The cost of studying in the UK varies significantly depending on your course, your university and geographical area. Living costs in London are generally higher than other parts of the UK, while in cities like Manchester, Edinburgh, Cardiff or Belfast they can be significantly lower depending on your lifestyle. Check out the [International Student Calculator](#) for some extra advice and help.

In the long term, a UK qualification will be a great boost to your career and your salary, as on average international students who study in the UK command much higher salaries during their careers than students who study in their home country.

On top of this, Bachelors degrees in the UK are generally only three years long and many Masters are taught over one year, making it easier for you to keep the costs down, save a bit and kickstart your career sooner.

STUDENT VISAS

Getting a visa to study in the UK when you're coming from a GCC country is usually quick and easy. For the latest information on visas please visit [UKCISA website](#) dedicated to helping international students understand the UK visa system. You can also look at the UK government's [website](#), which will have the latest on student visas.

FINDING A SCHOLARSHIP

The Education UK [website](#) has a useful scholarship search tool where you can search the universities and institutions that offer scholarships to international students. You may also want to check if your country's government or certain corporations offer scholarships. Remember to read through the terms and conditions of any scholarship you apply for carefully.

The UK also offers a prestigious scholarship scheme called Chevening; the UK government's international awards scheme aimed at developing global leaders. You can read all about it here:

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



LIFE AT UNIVERSITY

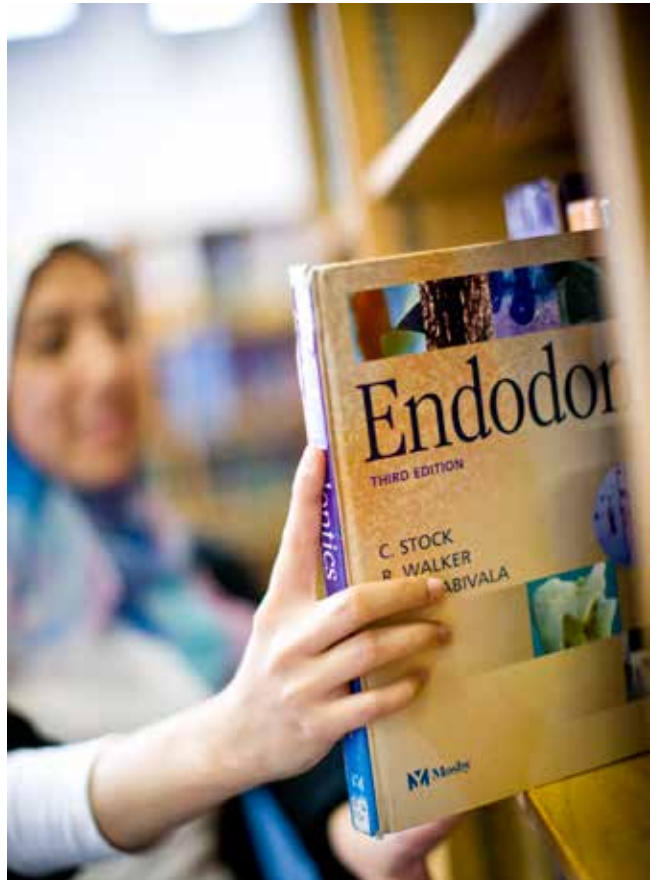
Will I be happy? Will I make friends? Will my institution support me in my studies and my job search? Will I feel homesick? These are all really important questions and everyone's experience will be different and unique. The great thing about institutions in the UK is that there are thousands of international students from all over the world, all looking to make new friends and exchange experiences, ideas and special moments.

The important thing is to talk to lots of different people, people who have graduated and are back home, people who are studying there now, people who have chosen to stay and work or pursue further education in the UK. They all have different stories to tell and we've put some together here to help you get [started](#).

Whether you're into sports, debating clubs, arts and culture, community service or something else you can expect to have a very well rounded life, find a student society that brings together people with your interests and enjoy all of this live outside of campus or during the weekends at some of the UK's world famous [sport stadiums](#), [countryside](#) and [castles](#), [theatres](#), and [museums](#).

You might be surprised to know that the UK has lots of festivals of Arabic arts, language and culture. For example the [Shubbak](#) festival showcases arts, music, film and much more from across the Middle East and the Gulf bi-annually.

The [Nour festival](#) takes place every year and is open to everyone and organisations like [Edge of Arabia](#) are dedicated to promoting the arts and culture of the Middle East and Gulf region to UK audiences.



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE FUTUR FUTURE

FIRST STEPS

The First Steps guide is refreshed each year by the British Council to give students departing to the UK a comprehensive set of useful information they can use to make their journey and their first weeks in the UK as smooth as possible.

[Download](#) it here.

START YOUR CAREER SOONER

Whether you're thinking of getting a job or starting your own business, the UK education sector has lots to offer you. Some institutions have start up hubs in house, while others can connect you with counsellors who can help to unleash your ambition and find the path in life that is right for you. Read some great stories of ambitious young students [here](#). It's never too late to start thinking about the next steps in your great journey – after all, learning is for life.



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