

UK Student Visa

United Kingdom offers a wide variety of courses and a great choice of Universities, colleges, polytechnic etc. Students have the right to work part-time while studying and after finishing the studies have the choice to get a job in the related work and convert their student visa to work permit. The UK has a vast variety of higher education opportunities to offer students with over 100 universities offering various degree programs for students from the UK and around the world. In the UK about one-third of all students go on to some form of higher education and this number is well over 50% for students from Scotland. This makes competition for places very fierce and so it is advised to apply early for courses.

I. Why choose UK for educational destination?

- UK is known for internationally recognized qualifications of highest standard of education. The standard of brilliance is set by some of the older universities with recognizable names, like Oxford and Cambridge
- Opportunity to perfect your knowledge of the English language, language of business, is a key benefit of studying in the UK
- UK is one of the most popular destinations for international students
- Great Britain offers more support to international students than any other country, whether it is help with your study skills or assistance with your visa application
- UK is the only country where your Masters Programme can be completed in one year. Most degree programs in the UK require a three-year course
- Due to shorter time of studying the cost of education for an international student in the UK can be lower compared to other countries.
- GB is gateway to Europe. With the Channel Tunnel and low cost airlines Europe is easier to access from the UK than ever. You can reach most areas of Europe from the UK within a few hours by train or direct flight
- The UK is known for being a multicultural country with a racial, ethnic and religious jumble. The UK is very open to new traditions and cultures which is fantastic for international students

II. Education System

The UK has a vast variety of higher education opportunities to offer students with over 100 universities offering various degree programs for students from the UK and around the world.

The UK boasts some of the best and most prestigious universities in the world.

The type of university you choose will depend on what you wish to study and the type of campus life you want.

Old universities

Before the 19th Century there were only six universities in the UK. These were Oxford, Cambridge, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews. The advantages of choosing these universities are their excellent reputation and traditions as well as beautiful old and new buildings and wide range of courses.

Civic universities

A number of universities were established in the 19th and early 20th Centuries as the industrial revolution led to a demand for highly skilled people. They were often founded in industrial centers, such as Birmingham, Manchester and Newcastle. They have well established libraries, longstanding academic specialties and accommodation close to campuses. They are internationally recognized for their high standard of education.

New universities

New universities were established in the 1960s because of the large number of baby-boomers (children born after World War 2) entering the higher education system. They have well-planned sites, with most of the living and teaching facilities on-campus. However, due to expansion, some have now had to establish satellite campuses.

Former polytechnic universities

In 1992, UK polytechnics became universities. These universities were established to provide qualified people for the industries situated in their region and are originally focused on vocational and professional subjects. They also offer diploma courses.

University colleges

University colleges offer degree programmes and are regarded as equivalent in status to other universities.

Specialist colleges

Specialist colleges offer a range of courses in one discipline, for example agriculture, music, design or medicine. Some only offer postgraduate programmes. They are usually small. Life at these colleges can be very good, as students tend to gather in the same places.

Research centres

Many institutions now have dedicated research centres. These centres are often world-leaders in their particular branch of research, attracting students from many countries.

III. Courses

In the UK most undergraduate degree programs take three years to finish; however, the “sandwich course” is increasing in popularity, which is four years and involves one year in the work place (normally in your third year). In Scotland the courses are four years in length for undergraduate programs. For graduate or masters programs they are generally shorter in length and undertaken after graduation of your undergraduate program. Some professional degrees like medicine, veterinary, law etc. have longer programs that can be as much as five years.

When choosing a course, you must think about two things. Firstly, what level of course you are looking for and, secondly, what subjects you are interested in. Whatever type of course you are interested in studying, you will be able to find it in the UK. Colleges and universities offer many different subjects for study, from accountancy right through to zoology.

IV. Student Visa

If you want to study in UK for more than 6 months you should apply for Tier 4 (General) Student as it is for people coming to the United Kingdom for their post-16 education.

If you want to come to the UK in order to do a short course of study during your visit, you can apply to do so as a student visitor. The period when you intend to be in the UK must not exceed six months.