

Study for a UK qualification In your own country Undergraduate degree

You do not have to go to the UK to study for a UK qualification. Every year, more than 400,000 students from all over the world choose to study for a UK degree to enhance their careers and knowledge, and roughly half of them are studying outside the UK. You can study for a UK degree either in your own country or in another country of your choice. It is also possible to study for one or two years in your own country before transferring to the UK for the final part of the course.

This means that you can achieve all the benefits of a UK education in a more flexible and affordable manner. You can choose to study in the way that best meets your needs.

Checklist: Why study in your country for a UK undergraduate degree?

- This is a more affordable route to a UK degree.
- It may include the opportunity to transfer to the UK for part of your programme, or to undertake further study in the UK.
- A wide range of programmes and teaching support is available to meet your personal needs – you can choose between attending classes on a full-time or part-time basis or studying on your own with direct support from a tutor in the UK.
- Rigorous quality systems ensure that the academic standards are the same – wherever and however you study.
- You have the chance to obtain a high-quality internationally recognised qualification.
- The majority of UK universities now offer programmes outside the UK and there is a huge range of programmes to choose from.

1 What can I study?

The choice of degree courses available will vary depending on which country you study in. In some countries, there is a wide range of programmes available. In others, the choice will be more restricted. For further information on courses check the EducationUK website or ask your local British Council office.

The most popular subject areas are business and management; computer science; education; the social sciences; engineering; accounting; and nursing or other health-related skills.



2 How will I be taught?

At undergraduate level, you will usually study full time at a local university or college. They will have an agreement with a UK university to ensure that the degree you are studying for is of the same academic standard as in the UK. The syllabus and course materials will (in most cases) be identical to the programme in the UK. Local teachers and academics are usually responsible for most of the teaching. UK academics may also deliver lectures at certain times of the year. In some countries there are British university campuses which employ a mix of UK and international academics and tutors.

UK universities work very closely with the local partner university or college to ensure that you have the same access to a high-quality education as in the UK.

There are opportunities on many courses to study for part of the programme in the UK. This might be for anything from one term to one or two years of study. This has the advantage of reducing the overall cost of your study while giving you an experience of the UK institution's home campus.

You can also study for a UK degree by part-time study or through distance and e-learning. This involves studying through set study materials or online. Many distance learning programmes also require attendance at study weekends (usually in the country where you are studying). UK academics will run an intensive teaching programme during these weekends to help you in your studies.

3 What is the final award and is it recognised?

Qualifications from UK universities and colleges are of the same academic standard *wherever* they are delivered. Each higher education institution is responsible for ensuring that programmes delivered internationally meet the same high standards as in the UK.

Before enrolling for a degree programme, you should find out what award you will receive on completion and make sure it is from a recognised UK university or college of higher education. You can find a list of recognised UK universities and colleges on the Department for Education and Skills website at www.dfes.gov.uk/recognisedukdegrees

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) also works with higher education institutions to ensure standards and to encourage continuous improvement. The QAA inspects institutions to assess the quality of education provided. These reports are publicly available through the QAA website and include audits of overseas provision as well as provision in the UK – <http://qaa.ac.uk/reviews/reports/byoseascountry.asp>

On successful completion of your programme, you will receive a degree certificate and transcript. The degree certificate provides details of your degree and the UK university or college that has given your award. If you have studied for a joint degree or franchised programme, information on the local institution where you have studied will also be on the degree certificate. The transcript provides more detailed information on what you have studied as well as where and how you have



studied it. Together the degree certificate and transcript provide all the information on your degree that an employer or professional body might require.

You should also check national regulations in your country. Many governments regulate degrees from foreign providers through additional accreditation or registration schemes. You should therefore check that the programme you intend to study is recognised in your own country.

How much are the course fees and are there any additional costs?

Costs vary considerably depending on the programme. It is also important to check which materials, such as books or computer facilities, are provided as part of your course and which materials you will be expected to obtain yourself. Many UK universities now have excellent electronic libraries.

How will my work be assessed?

Assessment is as varied as the methods of teaching and learning. Work may be assessed by continuous assessment or by written examination at the end of the course or at the end of each module. Project and dissertation work may also be a part of the assessment.

How long does it take to complete a UK degree in my country?

If you study full time, UK degrees normally take three years to complete. This would be the same if you study locally. Part-time study will take longer, depending on the method of study you choose – anything from four to six years for part-time distance learning. Most programmes are flexible and you are likely to be able to set your own goals so that you can fit your study around your other work or family commitments.

Checklist: Choosing the right course

- Check the EducationUK website <http://www.educationuk.org/> or the local press or local British Council office to find out what programmes are available.
- If there is more than one programme, compare the course content and study patterns to see which one best meets your needs.
- Find out what the final award is and who awards it. The Department for Education and Skills gives a full list of the universities and colleges that can award UK degrees at <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/providersregister/>
- Check to see if there is regulation of foreign degrees in your country. If there is, find out if the final qualification will be recognised in your own country. This is particularly important if you are employed by the government.

4 Entrance

What qualifications would I need?

Entrance requirements vary depending on the institution and the qualification. You should check with the institutions you are interested in for the exact nature of the qualifications or experience which they require.



The National Academic Recognition Centre for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC) – www.naric.org.uk – is the official source of information on the comparability of international qualifications with those in the UK. UK NARIC supports universities and colleges but the final decision on the recognition of international qualifications is always made by the individual institution. Most institutions will require a good standard of English.

How do I apply?

Applications should be made either directly to the UK institution or to the local partner institution or agent. The course information should make it clear where to apply.

5 Next steps

Checklist: Your next steps

- 1 Always obtain the course prospectus or study the online version. Find out whether you have the required entry qualifications, including the relevant English language level. For an undergraduate course this may be an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score of 5.5 to 6.5. Ask your local British Council office where and then you can take the test.
- 2 Consult the UK institution's website to find out where to apply. If in doubt, check with the institution.

6 Where can I find more information?

British Council

Website www.educationuk.org

This website provides a database of UK programmes available internationally.

For further information, you can find details of your nearest office at www.britishcouncil.org/home-contact-worldwide.htm which includes links to all our country web pages and a worldwide address book giving contact details for all offices.

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Website www.dfes.gov.uk

Website for recognised UK universities and colleges
www.dfes.gov.uk/recognisedukdegrees

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