



Study for a UK qualification in your own country - postgraduate 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.

There are many opportunities to study flexibly for UK postgraduate degrees outside the UK through part-time study, distance and online learning. This means that you can achieve all the benefits of a UK education without any disruption to your career.

Flexibility has been identified as a key element for working professionals around the world, and courses have been specifically designed to cater to your needs. You can choose to study on a part-time basis with teaching support or you can study at your own pace through distance or e-learning.

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

- You have flexible study options: you can choose to study part time, by distance or e-learning.
- You can experience a top-class UK education without leaving your job.
- You can study for a qualification awarded by an internationally recognised UK university.
- A wide range of programmes and teaching support is available to meet your personal needs – you can choose between attending classes at the weekend, intensive study periods 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.
- The majority of UK universities now offer programmes outside the UK and there is a huge range of courses to choose from.

1 What can I study?

There is a wide variety of programmes available for you to choose from. The choice available will vary depending on which country you are studying in. Many business and management programmes are available globally. Other programmes may only be available in selected locations outside the UK. For further information on courses check the EducationUK website www.educationuk.org or ask your local British Council office.



2 How will I be taught?

Part-time flexible study enables you to combine your studies with work and other commitments. The type of teaching support for these programmes varies significantly and it is important to choose the type of support that best meets your needs. You already have experience of learning and will know which learning style works best for you.

Part-time study requires you to attend classes locally – usually at the weekend or in the evening. Teaching is generally provided by teachers and academics from the country you are studying in. UK academics may also provide some of the teaching at certain times of the year. Part-time study is a good choice if you prefer to have a structured learning environment and like to interact with other students.

You can study more flexibly through distance and e-learning. This involves studying through set study materials or through an online learning environment. 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 university or college of higher education 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 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>

For some subjects, particularly the MBA degree and other business courses, institutions will also have an additional level of accreditation from specialist bodies such as the Association of MBAs (AMBA) www.mbaworld.com or the European Foundation for Management Development (EQUIS) www.efmd.be

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 of higher education 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 may 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 make sure 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, but are likely to be less than full-time study in the UK. 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.



Checklist: Choosing the right course

- Check the EducationUK website 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 universities and colleges that can award UK degrees at www.dfes.gov.uk/recognisedukdegrees
- 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

- Are you confident that your English is good enough for your studies? You may be expected to have an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 5.5 to 6.5. Ask your local British Council office where and when you can take the test or see www.ielts.org
- Do you have the right qualifications and experience to gain entrance to the programme of study? Check with the UK university or local representative.
- Consult the UK university's website to see where to apply. If in doubt, check with the university.



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.

Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)

Southgate House
Southgate Street
Gloucester GL1 1UB

Telephone +44 (0)14 5255 7000
Fax +44 (0)14 5255 7070
Email comms@qaa.ac.uk
Website www.qaa.ac.uk

Department for Education and Skills

Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
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Email info@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Website www.dfes.gov.uk

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

National Academic Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC)

Oriel House
Oriel Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL50 1XP

Telephone +44 (0)870 990 4088
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Email info@naric.org.uk
Website www.naric.org.uk

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