

Studying in the UK

There are more than 395 universities and colleges, offering over thousands of higher education courses across the UK. Typically, study programmes at UK universities lead to the undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. A Bachelor's degree is the most common type of undergraduate degree, while a Master's degree and a Doctoral Degree (also called a doctorate or a PhD) are the most common types of postgraduate qualifications. College is where many students go for two years after completing compulsory schooling at 16 in order to prepare for exams to get into university. You can also attend vocational courses at college.

All UK higher education applications are made through UCAS, the UK's national admissions service. UK university requirements usually include your academic qualifications and grades from the previous education, but some universities also require entrance tests and personal statements. If you score high chances are you will get admitted. Since the number of available places is most of the time limited and lower compared to the number of incoming applicants, additional documents such as relevant references and experiences to divide outstanding talents from very good applicants may be required. Interviews are also common as an entry requirement at renowned UK universities.

In the UK most undergraduate degree programs take three years to finish. They are generally shorter than other countries, helping to reduce overall tuition fees and accommodation costs. You may also be able to get financial help or a scholarship. In the UK, degree courses tend to be very specialised, allowing students to focus on their chosen subject from their first day. However, there are others that allow you more flexibility in what you study.

Studying in the US

More than 3,600 colleges and universities offer undergraduate degree programs in the United States. Associate degree programs are offered at two-year colleges known as junior or community colleges. Four-year colleges and universities offer bachelor's degree programs, with a small number also offering associate degree programs. Over 1,700 universities and other institutions offer graduate degree programs in the United States. Graduate Programs focus on education leading to a Master's Degree or a Doctoral Degree. Certificates or Diplomas can be earned through Summer Programs and English Language Institutes/ESL programs.

Because the U.S. university system is extensive, admissions requirements vary greatly. Highly selective universities and colleges may receive enormous numbers of applicants and accept only a small number, while other colleges may accept all applicants who meet their admission standards. For a stress-free and successful college application process, you should begin looking at schools during your junior year of high school. As you identify good possibilities, you'll need to take a few steps to ensure that you're ready to apply. These may include submitting your GPA, taking admissions exams, writing personal statements or essays, getting letters of recommendation and interviews.

One of the most attractive features of the bachelor's degree program in the United States is that it is highly flexible. You can usually choose from a wide variety of courses and create your own unique program of study. The degree is awarded after you complete a specified number of credits, which are usually completed in four years of full-time study. Tuition and fees at colleges vary based on the program of study and whether the college is public or private.

READING

I Compare the two texts and answer the questions.

1 The word 'course' in British higher education is the most similar in meaning to the word _____ in American higher education.

A 'course'

B 'undergraduate degree'

C 'degree program'

D 'subject'

2 Degrees referred to as 'graduate degrees' in the US are called _____ in the UK.

A 'master's degrees'

B 'bachelor's degrees'

C 'college degrees'

D 'postgraduate degrees'

3 Typically, a bachelor's degree takes

A less time to complete in the US than the UK.

B more time to complete in the US than the UK.

C the same amount of time to complete in both countries.

D more credits to complete in the US than the UK.

4 In the UK, students can attend college

A before enrolling in university.

B while they are still in secondary school.

C if they get a scholarship.

D even if they do not apply through UCAS.

5 Undergraduate degree programs in the US

A last more than 2 years.

B are offered only by universities.

C are more flexible than similar programs in the UK.

D are more selective than similar programs in the UK.

6 Entry requirements for colleges and universities in the US can be very different because

A there is a large number of different institutions.

B some universities and colleges are quite small.

C they have different admissions standards.

D there is a large number of applicants each year.

7 Which of these is not mentioned as an entry requirement in any of the two countries?

A information about students' extracurricular activities

B entrance exams

C a piece of writing by the students about themselves

D proof that the students can pay their tuition

II Decide if the following words refer to (a) institutions where people study, (b) people working or studying in higher education, (c) subjects studied in higher education or (d) other aspects of higher education. Some words may belong to more than one category.

curriculum	college	syllabus	faculty
		degree	bachelor's
		undergraduate	
graduate	program	postgraduate	junior
		tuition (fees)	admission
		fresher	
enrol(l)ment	applicant	course	sophomore
		qualification	scholarship
		GPA	

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

III Fill in the gaps with one word or expression from the box above.

1. A degree awarded after approximately four years of full-time study at a college or university is commonly called a _____ degree.
2. A student who has completed a degree at a college or university is called a _____.
3. A student who has completed an undergraduate degree and is enrolled in an advanced program leading to a master's or doctoral degree is called a _____ student.
4. The money an institution charges for instruction and training (which does not include the cost of books) is called _____.
5. An outline of the topics and books that a student should study in an academic subject or course is called a _____.
6. Financial aid given to a student to help pay for their education and reduce their tuition is called a _____.
6. A large post-secondary institution which usually offers both undergraduate and graduate degree programs is called a _____.
7. A course or program made up of a set of subjects or courses offered by a university or college is called a _____.
8. The act of accepting a student into a higher education institution is called _____. Registering to enter a university or college is called _____.