

Study UK

# Guide for parents



# Study UK contents

- 3. Introduction
- 4. Why study in the UK?
- 10. A safe and secure place to study
- 11. How to apply
- 14. Visas – for EU and international students
- 17. Fees and living costs
- 18. Scholarships and funding
- 22. Student life
- 24. Useful links





# Introduction

A UK education opens doors, wherever students want to go in the world. From the world-recognised universities to the innovative teaching approach and the leading minds who deliver it, the UK has what students need to reach their potential.

The UK is one of the world's most innovative countries and globally recognised for the quality of its education system.

Students in the UK receive a world-class education that's respected by academics and employers worldwide. But we do more than simply offer an exceptional level of teaching. We also help our students to develop their skills, with fully assessed and professional work placements that can be undertaken as part of a university degree.

This innovative style of education provides a unique opportunity to apply their learning in a real-world environment, build new skills and really get ahead.

It's one of the reasons why UK graduates are among the most employable in the world.

And as our universities have excellent links with all kinds of industries – from science to engineering to management and more – UK students are making professional connections which open doors into any future career. Most importantly, these are exactly the experiences and skills that employers look for.

As we are home of the English language, the UK is the perfect place for students to improve their written and spoken skills – helping them to master the internationally recognised language of business and science.

# Why study in the UK

The UK is a global leader in some of the most popular fields of study, including business, medicine, law and engineering. Specialist institutions which focus on these subjects are considered the best in the world, and the degrees they award are highly sought after by employers. But whatever the chosen field – from science to business to the arts – a UK degree is a very prestigious qualification. It will open doors worldwide and give your child the best possible preparation for their career. To find out more about why a UK degree is so valued by international employers and academics, visit

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/why-study/world-universities>





## A high standard of education

The UK's academic reputation is world-renowned. Built on a heritage that is now centuries old, the UK's approach to education applies the very latest learning theory through universities that routinely top international tables. UK universities' varied teaching methods produce successful, versatile graduates who are sought-after by employers around the world.

## World-ranked universities

The UK has been a leader in academia for centuries. It's routinely home to **two of the world's top three universities** (with a further 26 ranked among the global top 200) and has one of the most diverse subject offerings in the world. Thanks to rich traditions of critical thinking and academic rigour, more than one in three undergraduate students who study in the UK **obtain a first-class degree**.

## Quality that is government-guaranteed

The UK's 162 higher education institutions are all held to strict standards by the UK government, so students know they are getting the best teaching, support and resources available.

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: [www.qaa.ac.uk/en](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en)

Teaching Excellence Framework: [www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/about-the-tef](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/about-the-tef)



## Innovative teaching methods

UK universities combine traditional lectures with a variety of teaching techniques, designed to encourage independent thinking, problem-solving skills and self-motivation.

Students studying STEM subjects work in small groups to solve real-life problems similar to those they might face in their future career, be it in the classroom, the lab or on field trips. Students in the humanities take part in active small-group seminars to discuss texts and concepts in detail.

## World-leading research

The consistent high quality of education in the UK has made it a firm favourite with international students all over the world and a key part of its quality is its commitment to research. Building on an extraordinary heritage of new discoveries, UK universities continue to be globally recognised for their commitment to research. **The UK is routinely amongst the top five countries in the world** for published scientific research.

The UK's field-weighted citation impact is higher than the US, Canada, Germany, Japan and Brazil, so anyone studying science in the UK can be sure they will be working alongside some of the best minds – and using some of the best technology – in the world.





## Tailormade courses

It is not just the world-recognised universities that make the UK a top choice for international students. Courses in the UK are tailormade to help students get the most out of their studies. From the traditional to the cutting edge – whatever they want to study, students in the UK are sure to find a course that provides them with the understanding, experience and skills they need to pursue their dream career..

## Built-in flexibility

In the UK, flexibility is built into the majority of university courses. Many universities allow students to choose from different subject 'modules', so a course programme that suits the individual student can be designed.

## Encouragement to think differently

The UK's education system doesn't just immerse students in their chosen subject – it is designed to help them to think differently. Throughout their studies they are encouraged to enter into discussions with their lecturers and fellow students, and be creative as well as critical as they contribute their own ideas through a blend of lectures, seminars and practical work.



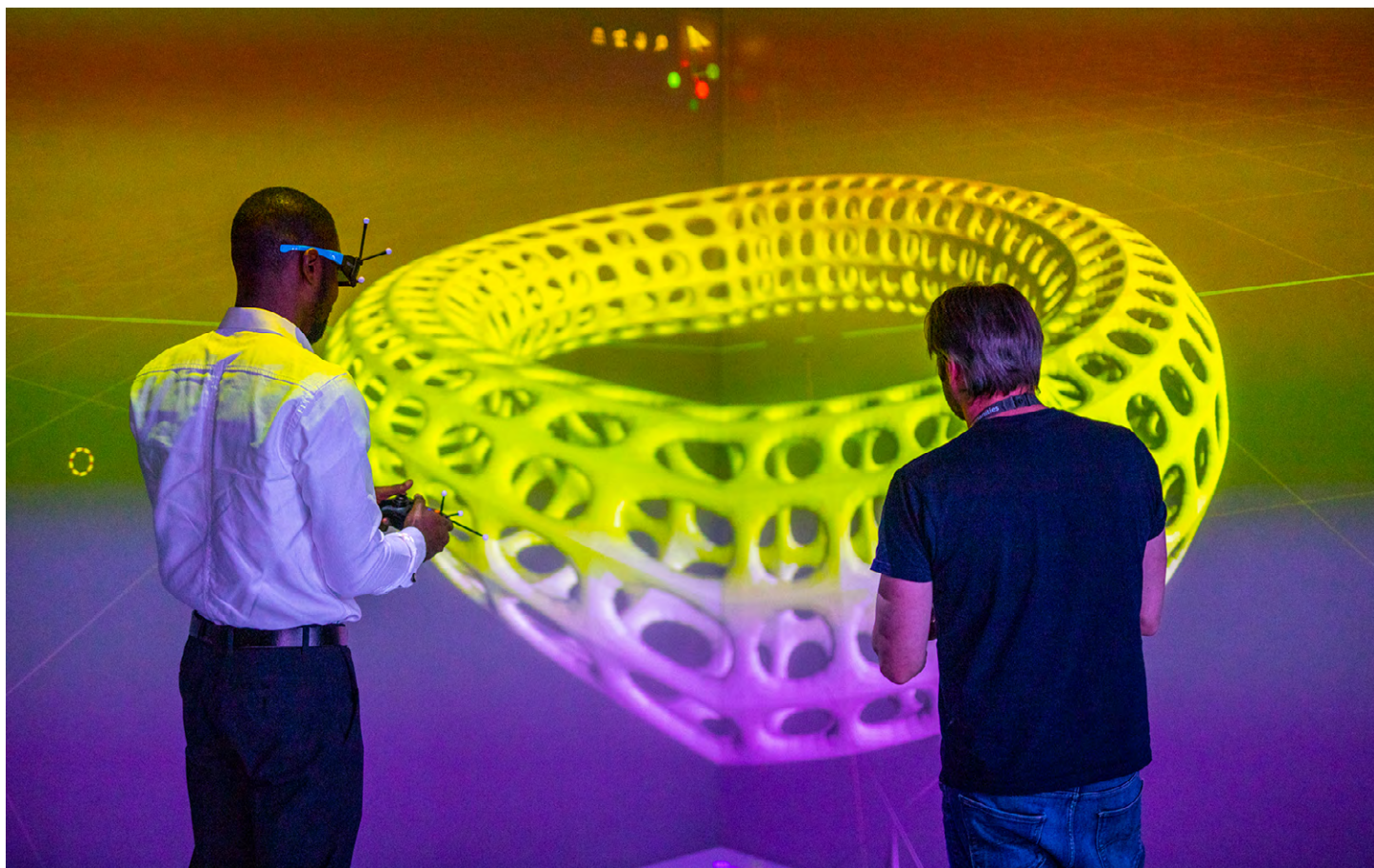
## Excellent teachers

Behind UK universities' excellent research are excellent thinkers – some of the best minds in their fields whom students can connect with throughout their studies. The UK higher education system is set apart by the opportunities it gives to students to work closely with academics and learn from their experience.

The impact of UK universities' supportive and inspiring teaching is evident in the feedback received from graduates. In Universities UK International's 2019 International Graduate Outcomes report, 90% of international students said they were satisfied with their learning and support experience at university. The quality of undergraduate teaching is also regularly assessed by the UK government through the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). Universities can achieve Gold, Silver and Bronze levels in the TEF, giving students the assurance of the quality of teaching they will receive.

## State-of-the-art technology

At UK universities students can develop their skills using state-of-the-art technology. With the very latest equipment and IT ready to use across a range of subjects, they can pursue their own research in some of the most sophisticated environments available anywhere.





## Research grounded in the real world

With one of the best reputations in the world for industry collaboration, academic theories from UK institutions are applied rigorously in the real world to test their relevance and impact. And the UK has a long culture of making discoveries that really do change the world – 38 per cent of Nobel Laureates who studied abroad chose to do it in the UK.

## Career opportunities

As well as connecting students with like-minded students from the UK and abroad, UK courses offer lots of ways for students to take the first steps into the world of work. UK institutions cultivate relationships both in STEM and the creative industries, allowing students to get practical experience in their field with world-leading organisations, and make connections to give their career an edge. Students can undertake work and volunteering placements, internships and opportunities to gain professional accreditation, as well as gain tailored advice through universities' dedicated careers offices. Professional careers advisors are available throughout a course of study to give guidance on interview preparation, writing a CV and developing a skillset for a particular industry. The **QS global survey** of graduate employers consistently shows that UK degrees are highly valued worldwide, with UK universities topping the QS employer reputation ranking.

## Qualifying sooner

Postgraduate courses in the UK are shorter than in both the US and Australia, with many courses taking just one full year, providing value for money and ensuring that students can start their career sooner.



# A safe and secure place to study

The UK is one of the most trusted and popular study destinations in the world. In 2020-21, more than 600,000 chose to study here, and we take their safety very seriously. Our country has low crime rates and a trustworthy police force. And the National Health Service is one of the world's most advanced healthcare systems, providing treatment for every need (and the Immigration Health Surcharge, paid for during the visa application process, gives all international students access to this). The universities provide comprehensive advice which starts before students travel to the UK, supports them upon arrival and continues throughout their entire degree.

[www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/universities-uk-international/insights-and-publications/uuki-publications/international-facts-and-figures-2022](http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/universities-uk-international/insights-and-publications/uuki-publications/international-facts-and-figures-2022)

## Student support

Every UK university employs a pastoral team that helps international students with any problems or worries they may have. This practical support is available whenever it's needed, and advice covers everything from housing, financial and visa issues to educational and emotional support. Staff will also be on hand to help with any language problems they may have, supporting them with both written and spoken English. All of which means our international students can feel safe, secure and supported while in the UK.





# How to apply

## Undergraduate studies

The majority of undergraduate applications are made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). To apply through UCAS, students need to go to [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) and register their details in the application system. They can apply for up to five courses through UCAS and will be contacted by them with any offers they receive from the universities or colleges they have chosen.

The UCAS website also has a useful step-by-step guide on “**How to apply**” including information on how to fill in the UCAS application form and writing a personal statement.



## Application deadlines

There are four application deadlines throughout the year:

### **October**

For courses at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, or for most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science and dentistry.

### **15 January**

Deadline for most undergraduate courses

### **March**

For some art and design courses

### **30 June**

Late deadline for most undergraduate courses.

Applications received after this deadline will automatically go into “clearing”, so students will not be guaranteed their first choice.





# Postgraduate studies

Almost all UK universities handle their own postgraduate applications and applications are done directly through their websites.

Not all postgraduate courses have a fixed application deadline. However, it is always best to apply early to secure the best chance of being accepted – from six months to a year before the course begins.

For more information about applying for postgraduate courses in the UK, visit <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/plan-studies/apply/postgraduate> and [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)



# Visas – for EU and international students

## Student visas and the Graduate Route visa

Most international students need a student visa to study in the UK. Finding out whether they need a visa to study is easy, by checking the **UK government website**. Their visa will allow them to live and study in the UK for the duration of their course.

### Visitor Route

If students plan to study in the UK at an accredited institution for less than six months, they can do this as a visitor. Many students (including those from the European Union and other eligible countries) won't need a visa for courses lasting less than six months.

### Applying for a student visa

Students over 16 who wish to study a course at higher education level in the UK lasting longer than six months, will need to apply for a student visa through the **Student Route**.





## Immigration health surcharge

To gain access to the UK's National Health Service (NHS), students will be required to pay an immigration health surcharge as part of their visa application fee. How much one will have to pay depends on the type and length of visa: [www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/how-much-pay](https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/how-much-pay)

Full-time students in UK higher education holding a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) issued by an EU member state can claim a refund of the immigration health surcharge payment. To be eligible for the refund, students must not work during their studies and use their EU EHIC for medically necessary healthcare during their studies. More information is available on the following website: [www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/refunds](https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/refunds)

EU students who are coming to study in the UK for less than six months (and therefore do not require a visa) will not be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge – they can access medically necessary healthcare in the UK using their EU-issued EHIC.



## Graduate visa

The new Graduate Route offers international students the opportunity to stay in the UK after graduating. Students who successfully complete an undergraduate or master's degree at a UK university can now benefit from two years' work experience in our country upon graduation. For students who complete a PhD, this period extends to three years.

It gives students an opportunity to gain experience in their chosen career, building their experience and connections in the UK.

It is open to all international students who hold a valid student visa at the time of application and who have successfully completed a degree - at undergraduate level or above - at a Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance.

Graduates will be able to switch into skilled work as soon as they have found a suitable job.

The route will require a new visa application, this includes the payment of a visa fee and an Immigration Health Surcharge. For more details on the Graduate Route, please visit

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/after-your-studies/post-study-work>





# Fees and living costs

Course fees in the UK vary depending on the study level and where in the country students are studying. As a guide, international students can typically expect to pay between £12,000 and £26,000 annually, and an undergraduate degree course will usually last for three years. Medical degrees may cost more than this, while other courses will often cost less. For example, many UK master's degrees can be completed in one year, meaning lower living costs and faster entry into employment. It's always best to check course fees with the university or college. Generally, this information will be listed on their website.

Studying in the UK is good value for money, and average living costs here are lower than in other English-speaking countries, including the USA and Australia. Students can expect to pay £800 - £1300 a month to cover accommodation, bills, food and other living costs which include:

- around £30 for the weekly food shop
- from £30 a month for travel
- from £10 a month for a mobile phone contract
- around £2.50 for a cup of coffee from a high street café
- around £40 a month for a gym membership

These costs will differ depending on where in the UK students choose to live, and how much they want to spend. London and other major cities are more expensive. Which? University has a budget calculator to help estimate the cost of living in different areas of the UK. Select the university or prospective place to study to get an idea of all costs, including accommodation and bills to clothing, interests and hobbies: [www.which.co.uk/money/university-and-student-finance/student-budget-calculator](http://www.which.co.uk/money/university-and-student-finance/student-budget-calculator)

Discount cards offer discounts in many shops, restaurants and businesses. You can find out more about these cards at [www.totum.com](http://www.totum.com) and [www.isic.org/get-your-card](http://www.isic.org/get-your-card)



# Scholarships and Funding

Scholarships, grants, bursaries, financial awards, loans... there are many financial support options for international students who wish to study on a UK course. You can search for UK scholarships and find out more on the [scholarships and financial support page](#) of our Study UK website. Many institutions offer their own scholarships and bursaries – students should check the specific university's website for more information.

## Scholarships for EU students

Many universities are offering tuition fee support packages for EU students and exploring the possibility of offering specific scholarships for EU students, or broadening the eligibility of the current scholarships they offer. We recommend that EU students get in touch with the International Office at their university of choice to find out more.

## BAföG

### Funding under the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG) – Auslands-BAföG

Students who are enrolled at a German higher education institution and meet the requirements can receive BAföG to study abroad as part of the course for up to one year. From 01.08.2022, courses of study that can be completed regularly within one year (e.g. one-year masters or so-called top-up bachelors) are eligible for funding. Financial support according to the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG) is possible for German nationals, nationals of other EU member states under certain conditions (e.g. after five years of living in Germany), persons with registered refugee status in Germany etc.

Higher BAföG funding rates apply for a stay abroad, so that students who do not receive BAföG in Germany because their parents' income is too high may also be eligible. Detailed information can be found at [https://www.bafög.de/bafög/de/home/home\\_node.html](https://www.bafög.de/bafög/de/home/home_node.html)

In Germany, the [Ausbildungsamt der Region Hannover](#) is the authority responsible for dealing with requests in relation to the United Kingdom.





## Education loans / Bildungskredite

### Federal Government Education Loan Programme / Bildungskreditprogramm der Bundesregierung

The Federal Government's education loan programme supports students in financing their studies. The application can be made online at the Federal Office of Administration

[www.bva.bund.de/DE/Services/Buerger/Schule-Ausbildung-Studium/Bildungskredit/bildungskredit\\_node.html](http://www.bva.bund.de/DE/Services/Buerger/Schule-Ausbildung-Studium/Bildungskredit/bildungskredit_node.html)

Student loans are sometimes also offered by commercial financial institutions.

## Country-specific scholarships and funding

There are many different scholarships available, some of which depend on where you are from. For more information please check with scholarship providers in your country and visit

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships>

- The UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) website has information on a range of financial support for international students: [www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/Scholarships-and-funding-your-studies](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/Scholarships-and-funding-your-studies)
- Many UK universities offer their own financial assistance, and you can visit their individual websites for more information.



- Many UK universities also offer fully-funded postgraduate studentships. You can find out more about these from your chosen university's website, or from specialist sites such as Postgraduate Studentships [www.postgraduatestudentships.co.uk](http://www.postgraduatestudentships.co.uk) and Prospects <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/funding-postgraduate-study>

The **Prospects postgraduate funding** search allows you to search by subject area and level of study.

- Taith, Wales' new international learning exchange programme, supports postgraduate students as well as undergraduates and staff mobility from partner universities outside Wales. Learn more on the **Taith** website if you are interested in studying in Wales at postgraduate or undergraduate level.
- The **UK's Research Councils** provide financial support for postgraduate studies and research initiatives.

## Alternative funding opportunities

- Financial help for teacher training: Website of the Department for Education's Teaching Agency offering information on **financial support for teacher training**.
- **IEFA International Education Financial Aid** and College Scholarship Search. For US and international students. Offers scholarship searches according to subjects and/or country of origin.
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD): The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offer financial support for studying, research and teaching abroad – **find out more on their website**. It also has a **scholarship database**.





# Scholarships for non-EU students

## GREAT Scholarships

GREAT Scholarships are for international students (non-EU) who want to study at a UK university for a one-year postgraduate course. Each scholarship offers a minimum of £10,000 towards tuition fees.

The scholarships are jointly funded by the British Council, the GREAT Britain Campaign, and participating UK higher education institutions.

Find out more here: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships/great-scholarships>

## Global scholarships

Students can apply for any of the following scholarships, provided they are appropriate for their course:

- Chevening Scholarship: Postgraduate scholarships from the UK government aimed at students with potential as future leaders: [www.chevening.org](http://www.chevening.org)
- Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan: Postgraduate scholarships for nationals of Commonwealth countries, funded by the UK government and intended to support individuals who will subsequently make a contribution to the development of their home country: <https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/apply>



## University accommodation

Most universities and colleges have their own accommodation office, and this should be the first place that students go to ask about accommodation. Most institutions provide accommodation for international students in a hall of residence (either full-board or self-catering) or a self-catering shared house or flat. Space is usually limited, so applications for such accommodation should be made as soon as the student has been accepted onto their course and certainly before the required deadline.

## Private accommodation

The accommodation office at each university or college may be able to help with finding private accommodation too. The office may keep lists of private accommodation available in the area, and some offices may also be able to help students arrange a booking.

The most usual type of private accommodation is a room in a house with shared facilities. Renting a furnished house or a flat is likely to be expensive, especially in city centres, but a good way for students to make this affordable is to share with other students. If students do this, they should agree beforehand with their housemates about how they will share costs.

UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs) provides more detail on finding suitable housing whilst living in the UK: [www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Preparation-and-Arrival/Planning-your-housing](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Preparation-and-Arrival/Planning-your-housing)





## Students with disabilities

UK universities provide excellent support facilities for students who have disabilities and other additional tailored support for students who need it. Students should contact the disability support office on campus early in the application process to ensure that the university has the resources and capabilities to meet their particular needs.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 prohibits education and training providers discriminating against disabled people. Universities are required to make reasonable adjustments to serve disabled students, so they are not at a substantial disadvantage. There is limited funding for international disabled students, but sponsors may provide additional grants to cover extra expenses a student may need due to their disability.

## LGBTQIA+ culture in the UK

UK universities are inclusive organisations and do not discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. There are LGBTQIA+ communities at most UK universities. Some institutions offer support groups and host events for their LGBTQIA+ communities.

There are a number of laws in the UK that prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation, and universities must adhere with that law. The UK is proud to be a very inclusive society in every way.



# Study UK – useful links

To find out more about studying in the UK, here are some helpful websites:

## General information

British Council Germany – Study in the UK

[www.britishcouncil.de/en/study-uk](http://www.britishcouncil.de/en/study-uk)

Study UK website:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org>

Study UK Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/StudyUK.BritishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/StudyUK.BritishCouncil)

UK Council for International Student Affairs – UKCISA:

[www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)

Office for Students:

[www.officeforstudents.org.uk](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk)

UK Qualification Recognition Centre:

[www.enic.org.uk](http://www.enic.org.uk)

Find a university:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/find/university#/>

What subjects can I study?:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/plan-studies/choosing-course/subjects>

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

[wwwucas.com](http://wwwucas.com)

Sign up to the Study UK newsletter:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/newsletter>

Scholarships:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships>

## Student visas

For information and guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration>

For Visa Application Centre (VAC) information:

<https://www.vfsglobal.co.uk/en>

Study UK website:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/student-visas>



## Quality Assurance / Ranking

Choosing a university:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/find/choosing-university>

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en>

Teaching Excellence Framework:

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/about-the-tef>

Research Excellence Framework:

<https://www.ref.ac.uk>

## Moving to the UK

Moving to the UK for study:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk>

EU student advice:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/eu-students>

Living in the UK:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/finding-somewhere-live>

UK Council for International Students:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>

British Council Germany Programme

<https://www.britishcouncil.de/en>

# Study UK



Search  
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