

# Studying accounting and finance in the UK

## Where can I study accounting and finance?

The UK is home to three of the best universities for accounting and finance in the world – University of Oxford (fourth), London School of Economics and Political Science (sixth), and University of Cambridge (seventh).<sup>1</sup> In total there are 134 universities in the UK where you can choose to study accounting and finance, and more than 450 courses available.<sup>2</sup>

Undergraduate degrees you can choose from are typically:

- BA Hons Accounting
- BA Hons Finance
- BA Hons Accounting & Finance

Some joint degrees are also available, combining accounting and finance with related subjects like business, economics, or mathematics.

## What is the application process?

Most accounting and finance courses will expect an A level (or equivalent) in mathematics,

business or accountancy. The exact entry requirements will depend on the institution, but required grades are commonly AAB. Typical requirements for International Baccalaureate will be around 35 points, with an IELTS of 6.5 overall, and no lower than 6.0 in any one component.

## How long does it take to graduate?

Most accounting and finance undergraduate degrees take around three years to finish in the UK, with many offering opportunities for a year's work placement or study abroad.

Postgraduate degrees are usually between one and two years. Some universities also offer an integrated MAcc course, which allows you to complete both the undergraduate and postgraduate components in four years of full-time study.

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<sup>1</sup> [QS Top Universities, 2025](#)

<sup>2</sup> [UCAS, 2025](#)

## What is the course structure?

UK accounting and finance programmes are carefully designed to build essential knowledge and progressively introduce more advanced concepts. In the initial stages, you'll focus on developing a solid grasp of key disciplines such as accounting principles, economic theory, quantitative analysis, and legal frameworks in business. As the course continues, the curriculum expands to cover more complex subject areas including corporate finance, audit practices, taxation systems, financial reporting standards, and ethical considerations. Many programmes also offer opportunities to tailor your learning through optional modules or interdisciplinary study.

## What will I study?

You'll study a wide range of topics that reflect the diverse nature of the finance and accounting profession. These typically include areas like financial and managerial accounting, corporate finance, tax regulation, audit methodology, and the legal context of business. The course will also explore the role of ethics, the use of data in financial decision-making, and the workings of global financial systems.

Alongside technical knowledge, the programme aims to strengthen your analytical thinking, communication abilities, and global business awareness—equipping you with practical skills that are highly valued across many industries. You'll also gain broader skills that will benefit you in your career, such as debating skills, problem solving, and an awareness of global business issues.

## Why is the UK a good choice to study accounting and finance?

The UK has a long history of expertise in the financial systems that underpin global business. London has been a prominent trade and financial hub for centuries and remains one of the biggest and most important financial centres in the world.

With a financial sector worth £208.2bn<sup>3</sup> and a vibrant entrepreneurial environment for start-ups, it offers a diverse and well-established context for learning the fundamentals of accounting and finance for all kinds of organisations.

## Are there any scholarships for studying accounting and finance?

There are often funding options available for international students who want to study accounting and finance in the UK. These range from part-funding, for example paying part of your fees, to full-funding which covers programme fees, living expenses, and return flights to the UK.

You can search our database of scholarships at [study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding) and check with individual university websites for institution-specific opportunities.

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<sup>3</sup> [UK Government, 2025](#)

## What are my work options after I graduate?

Accounting and finance graduates have a range of career paths open to them. Approximately a third go into chartered and certified accountancy roles, while other common jobs include company secretary, external auditor and forensic accountant.

Starting salaries for accountants are typically around £23,000 - £30,000,<sup>4</sup> although graduates who enter banking or stockbroking can expect to start on more than that, with strong earning potential throughout their careers.

Many courses are also accredited by one or more industry bodies such as the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which can provide a key advantage in your job hunt.

The UK's Graduate route allows international students to apply to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, upon graduation. International students who have successfully completed an undergraduate, master's degree or PhD have the option to apply to stay in the UK for an agreed period, following their studies. The Graduate route does not require you to secure sponsorship.

To find out more about studying accounting and finance in the UK and to find a course, visit [study-uk.britishcouncil.org](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org)

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<sup>4</sup> [Prospects, 2025](#)