

Study computer science in the UK

Where can I study computer science?

There are around 2,300 computer science courses offered in the UK, at over 130 different universities.¹ These include two of the ten best universities at which to study the subject – the University of Oxford (fifth) and the University of Cambridge (ninth).²

You can take your pick from a wide range of versatile, modular degree programmes tailored to your interests, from pure computer science or information systems to specialist areas like health informatics, UX design and machine learning.

What is the application process?

Most computer science degrees in the UK will require at least two A levels or equivalent. Expected grades are usually around ABB, though can range from CDD to AAA. Good grades in mathematics and computing are definitely an advantage.

The typical requirement for International Baccalaureate is 34 points, with IELTS of 6.5 overall, and no lower than 6.0 in any one component.

How long does it take to graduate?

Most computer science undergraduate degrees will take around three years to complete in the UK, with many offering opportunities to spend a year studying abroad or on work placement. Postgraduate degrees are usually between one and two years.

Some universities also offer an integrated master's degree, which allows you to complete both the undergraduate and postgraduate components in four years of full time study.

What is the course structure?

UK computer science degrees are designed to build your technical expertise step by step. You'll start by developing a strong foundation in core computing principles, then tailor your learning through optional modules aligned with your interests. Many programmes emphasise practical learning through

¹ [UCAS, 2025](#)

² [QS Top Universities, 2025](#)

coding projects, group work, and collaborations with industry partners—ensuring you're able to apply your skills to real-world challenges from early on.

What will I study?

Computer science programmes in the UK cover a broad spectrum of subjects that reflect the fast-moving nature of the tech industry. You'll study key topics such as software development, algorithms, systems design, databases, and computer networks. You may also explore more advanced areas like artificial intelligence, machine learning, cybersecurity, virtual reality, or cloud infrastructure. Alongside technical training, there's a strong focus on developing critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaborative skills—preparing you for a wide range of roles in the digital economy.

What kind of equipment is available?

Most UK universities will be well-resourced with state-of-the-art computing laboratories. So you'll be able to develop your skills using specialist equipment for developmental projects and create your own innovative prototypes. All of which will equip you to thrive in professional environments, after you graduate.

Why is the UK a good choice to study computer science?

The UK was home to the world's first computer science degree programme at the University of Cambridge, and the first modern computer at the University of Manchester.

Today we're still at the forefront of computer innovation and from global brands, to our booming e-commerce and fintech start-up scene, you'll study in a globally recognised hub for tech innovation and entrepreneurship. It's one of the many reasons that the UK tech sector is worth over £886bn and creates 2.6m jobs.³⁴

Are there any scholarships for studying computer science?

There are often funding options available for international students who want to study computer science 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 and check with individual university websites for institution-specific opportunities.

³ [Technology Magazine, 2025](#)

⁴ [CCIA Research Centre, 2024](#)

What accreditation is available?

Many UK computer science degrees offer accreditation from BCS (British Computer Society), The Chartered Institute for IT. Just look under the course details on the university's website before you apply.

What are my work options after I graduate?

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 computer science in the UK and to find a course, visit study-uk.britishcouncil.org