

Study hospitality, leisure and tourism in the UK

Where can I study hospitality, leisure and tourism?

More than 60 UK universities offer courses in hospitality, leisure and tourism, including three of the best 50 institutions in the world – University of Surrey (15th), Bournemouth University (17th) and Oxford Brookes (20th).¹ In total there are around 320 courses to choose from.²

What is the application process?

Most hospitality and tourism degrees in the UK will require at least two A-levels or equivalent, with many of the most popular courses demanding grades of ABB or higher.

Typical requirements for International Baccalaureate will be 32 points, with an IELTS of 6.0 overall, and no lower than 5.5 in any one component.

How long does it take to graduate?

In the UK, most hospitality, tourism, and leisure courses are structured to give you a solid academic foundation while offering flexibility through optional placements or study abroad opportunities. For those entering postgraduate study, many universities offer one-year master's programmes, with the option to take a preparatory foundation year if you're new to the subject.

What is the course structure?

Programmes in this field are typically modular, combining classroom-based learning with practical industry exposure. Early modules often cover core concepts in management, service operations, and tourism systems, while later stages offer opportunities to apply your skills through real-world projects, consultancy challenges, or international case studies. Many courses are designed in close partnership with industry, making them highly career-focused.

¹ [QS Top Universities, 2025](#)

² [UCAS, 2025](#)

What will I study?

You'll cover a broad mix of topics reflecting the dynamic nature of the industry—from hospitality management and event planning to tourism strategy and consumer behaviour. Courses often explore areas like digital innovation, sustainable travel, global branding, and customer experience design. Emphasis is placed on practical problem-solving, leadership, and business acumen to prepare you for work across diverse sectors

Why is the UK a good choice to study hospitality, leisure and tourism?

Hospitality, leisure and tourism are the gateway into a truly international career, and the UK is the best possible place to gain the knowledge you need. We're home to some of the world's most popular cities and historic landmarks.

With 42m visitors to the UK every year,³ our travel and tourism industry contributed £280bn to the UK economy in 2024.⁴ You'll find a huge amount of expertise in the UK, covering everything from the serious end of logistics and events to the emerging technologies that are driving the industry.

Are there any scholarships for studying hospitality, leisure and tourism?

There are often funding options available for international students who want to study hospitality 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.

What are my work options after I graduate?

Hospitality and tourism graduates often begin their careers in hotels, airlines, event planning, travel consultancies, tourism boards, or hospitality tech. Entry-level roles such as trainee manager or coordinator typically offer starting salaries around £20,000 – £25,00.⁵

With experience, you can progress into positions like operations manager or marketing executive. Many companies offer graduate schemes to support early career growth. Through the UK Graduate Route, international students can stay and work after graduation without needing sponsorship.

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,

³ [Visit Britain, 2025](#)

⁴ [World Travel and Tourism Council, 2025](#)

⁵ [GlassDoor, 2025](#)

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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 hospitality, leisure and tourism in the UK and to find a course, visit study-uk.britishcouncil.org

