

# STUDY UK GUIDE FOR PARENTS



**The best  
possible you,  
made possible  
in the UK**



**STUDY**  
 **UK**

# CONTENTS

- 5. A safe and secure place to study
- 9. A global leader in education
- 12. A smart investment in a world class future
- 15. The best possible start to any new career
- 18. An affordable place to study
- 22. Financial help

# INTRODUCTION



**With so many exceptional degrees on offer in the UK, it's easy to see why we're the best possible place to study. But did you know we're also the best place for international students to prepare for their chosen career?**

Students in the UK receive a world-class education that's respected by academics and employers from every country. 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 entire 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. And with a UK degree, international students gain an edge over the competition – ready to join the thousands of UK graduates who are now earning more, and progressing further, than their peers educated elsewhere.



# **A SAFE AND SECURE PLACE TO STUDY**

**'It was a delight to be in the United Kingdom. I wondered what life might be like so far away, but I felt very comfortable and at home.'**

Andress Hamenda, MBA Global Business,  
Coventry University.

It's reassuring to know that the UK is one of the most trusted and popular study destinations in the world. In 2019-20, more than 500,000 chose to study here, and we take their safety very seriously.

Our country has low crime rates and a trustworthy police force. And our National Health Service is one of the world's most

advanced healthcare systems, providing comprehensive treatment for every need (and the Immigration Health Surcharge, paid for during the visa application process, gives all international students comprehensive access to this).

Our universities provide comprehensive advice which starts before students travel to the UK, supports them upon arrival and continues throughout their entire degree. Some universities even employ their own security teams, which patrol both university and residential buildings.





# A place to be supported

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 feel safe, secure and supported while in the UK, and ready to make the best of their time here.







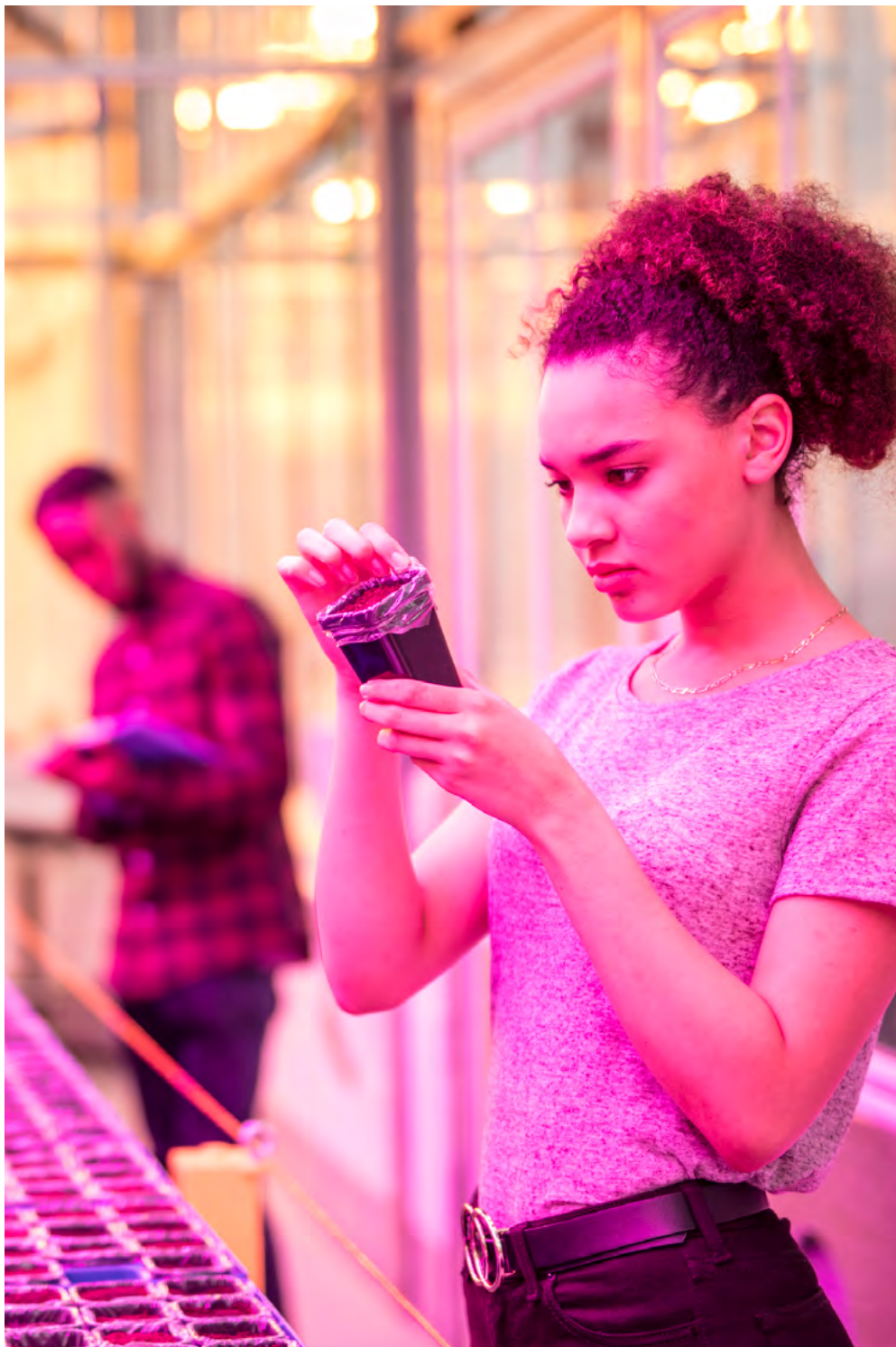
## A place to be yourself

We are proud to be a progressive, multi-faith society where many languages are spoken, and where people from all backgrounds are welcome. International cuisines and religious diets are fully catered for here, and every faith is respected.

So it is no wonder that the overwhelming majority of international students report feeling happy and secure in the UK.

And alongside our diverse student population, a quarter of the UK's university staff are from outside the UK. At each university in the UK, there are also many societies and clubs to practice traditions from home, explore new interests and to make lasting friendships.

# A GLOBAL LEADER IN EDUCATION



'The UK was always a country where I wanted to study. It has definitely helped me in my career, and UK degrees are highly respected in my profession.'

Leonid Nichman, PhD Atmospheric Sciences,  
the University of Manchester.

The UK is one of the world's most innovative countries and a dominant force in education. Four of the ten best universities on the planet are here, with a further 22 among the QS top 200.<sup>1</sup> And with thousands of international students in the UK, they will get to learn alongside hundreds of other cultures – enriching their life, making new friendships, and building lasting professional connections.

What's more, our universities have one of the most diverse subject offerings in the world, giving international students the support and space they need to be imaginative, ambitious and to think differently while receiving a prestigious and disciplined education that's built on the most solid of historical foundations.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2021>



And 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 entire world, and the degrees they award are highly sought after by employers.

But whatever their chosen field – from science to business to the arts – a UK degree is a very prestigious qualification. It will open doors worldwide and give them 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 [study-uk.britishcouncil.org/why-study/higher-standard-education](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/why-study/higher-standard-education)



# A SMART INVESTMENT IN A WORLD-CLASS FUTURE



**'Every lecture offered something new and insightful. I was constantly encouraged to develop my own skills and understanding and, every day I learned important skills that I could apply in my future profession.'**

**Shravani Sharma, MS Urban Transport,  
University of Glasgow.**

Education is one of life's most important investments, and by choosing the UK for your child's studies you'll be giving them a clear and distinct advantage as they enter the world of work.

- International students who hold UK degrees have a strong competitive edge. Because of our prestigious qualifications they are sought out by companies all over the world. And once employed they are earning more and progressing further than peers educated elsewhere.
- Our courses are designed to boost students' critical thinking skills and expose them to new technologies, emerging theories and diverse opinions. This gives them the qualifications, confidence and skills that will help them to stand above their peers and make an impression, anywhere in the world.



- 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.
- We have one of the world's most diverse study offerings, transforming student's prospects with multi-disciplinary modern insights that are in high demand with employers from every country.
- Our postgraduate courses maintain the UK's exceptional academic standards but can be shorter than those in other countries (such

as the US and Australia). This provides excellent value for money, allowing them to begin their career sooner.

But the UK does more than just transform their career prospects. Our impressive culture of innovation and invention teaches students to think creatively, to lead, and to apply themselves with grace, determination and good humour.

It's a style of education which prepares them for all aspects of modern life – and by choosing to study in the UK they can become the most employable, confident and best possible version of themselves.



# THE BEST POSSIBLE START TO ANY NEW CAREER

**'The UK gave me the best possible foundation to begin building my career.'**

Professor Natalia Kucirkova, BSc Psychology, University of Bath and PhD, psychology, childhood and new technologies, The Open University.

International students in the UK can now gain even more of an advantage with our brand new Graduate Route.

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 that will impress employers all over the world.

- The Graduate Route is available for students who have graduated or will graduate after 1 July 2021.
- 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.

- Successful applicants will be available to stay and work, or look for work, in the UK at any skill level for a maximum period of two years if they have successfully completed an undergraduate or master's degree. PhD graduates can stay for three years.
- 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 [study-uk.britishcouncil.org/after-your-studies/post-study-work](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/after-your-studies/post-study-work)



# AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO STUDY



## Fees

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 £10,000 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. Most often, this information will be listed on their website.





# Living costs

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 £20-£30 for the weekly food shop
- from £30 a month for travel
- from £10 a month for a mobile phone (cell phone) contract
- around £2.44 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) student 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-car](http://www.isic.org/get-your-car)



# FINANCIAL HELP



If you'd like your child to study in the UK but have questions around how to finance their education, there are plenty of support options available to you.

## Financial assistance

- The UK government offers a range of financial support to international students and, to check eligibility, you can visit the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) website at [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 [www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/funding-postgraduate-study](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/funding-postgraduate-study)



# Scholarships

Scholarships could be a particularly helpful way of funding their studies, and you won't have to pay this money back.

- Global scholarships are available to students from selected countries, such as Asia or those in the UK Commonwealth. They're awarded to help students with English language skills, and to cover specific fields of study such as mathematics, technology or engineering.
- Country-specific scholarships are awarded for postgraduate students, including for research fellows and people undertaking doctoral qualifications.
- Chevening scholarships are awarded to mid-career professionals who want to increase their knowledge through short specialist courses, research, or professional placements in the UK.





- GREAT Scholarships offers scholarships from UK universities across a variety of subjects. Each scholarship is worth a minimum of £10,000 towards tuition fees for a one-year taught postgraduate course.
- GREAT Scholarships for justice and law are for students who want to study at a UK university for a one-year postgraduate course. Students can apply for courses in a range of justice and law related subjects, including human rights, criminal justice and commercial law, at one of the 30 participating higher education institutions.
- Science and research funding scholarships are awarded to students from every country, and who are conducting postdoctoral research.

To find out about each of these opportunities and to check eligibility, please visit [study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships)

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