

Study environmental engineering in the UK

Where can I study environmental engineering?

When it comes to engineering heritage, the UK is recognised around the world, from its world-class universities to an industry that is currently worth more than £646bn.¹ Today, 22 institutions around the country offer environmental engineering degrees, with over 80 courses to choose from.²

What do environmental engineers do?

Once qualified as an environmental engineer, you'll be using your knowledge of science and engineering to design technologies, systems and processes that will help prevent a range of threats to our environment and reverse damage that's already been done, from protecting against flooding to combating air pollution.

What is the application process?

Most M.Sc. (Master of Science) or M.Eng. (Master of Engineering) qualifications in environmental engineering will expect an undergraduate engineering degree, but they are not always essential.

Some will accept a related qualification, such as chemistry, environmental science or geology. The typical requirements for International Baccalaureate is 35 points, with usual IELTS requirements being 6.0 overall with no less than 5.5 in each element. Studies usually last one-year full time, or two or more years part-time.

What is the course structure?

Environmental engineering degrees in the UK are typically structured around a modular system, giving you flexibility to tailor your studies to your interests and career goals. You'll build a strong foundation through core modules while having the opportunity to choose from a wide range of specialist topics. Many programmes include practical lab work, group projects, and fieldwork,

¹ [Royal Academy of Engineering, 2025](#)

² [Complete University Guide, 2025](#)

alongside industry-relevant training in data analysis, systems modelling, and sustainability. This structure ensures you graduate with both the technical expertise and applied experience valued by employers worldwide.

What will I study?

Across your degree, you'll explore the interactions between the natural environment and engineered systems. Key themes include environmental impact assessment, water and wastewater engineering, sustainable infrastructure, and pollution control technologies. You'll also study topics such as environmental risk management, climate change adaptation, and ecological design. Through this broad scope, you'll gain the tools to design practical solutions to environmental challenges, drawing on knowledge from engineering, science, and policy.

Why is the UK a good choice to study environmental engineering?

The UK's engineering knowledge is in high demand all over the world and we are home to three of the top engineering universities.³ Our environmental engineering courses blend that knowledge and heritage with world-leading science and conservation. From the excellence on offer in the classroom to the practical learning experiences you'll have outside it, the UK provides an excellent foundation for a career devoted to environmental causes.

What is environmental engineering like in the UK?

Environmental engineering plays a visible and important role in the UK's infrastructure and industry, as well as overseas. From the cutting-edge research being undertaken in our universities to a booming renewables industry worth £69bn,⁴ it's a great place to launch a career or a new business.

Are there any scholarships for studying environmental engineering?

There are often funding options available for international students who want to study environmental engineering in the UK. These can 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?

³ [QS Top Universities, 2025](#)

⁴ [Statista, 2022](#)

Study UK

As global demand for environmental expertise grows, UK graduates in environmental engineering are well positioned for a range of careers. You might specialise in areas like waste management or pollution control, move into project management, or join a graduate scheme with an engineering or construction firm.

Whether you work in the public or private sector, start your own consultancy, or go freelance, your transferable skills will open doors in many industries. Starting salaries typically range from £18,000 to £28,000, rising to £45,000 or more with experience.⁵

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

⁵ [Prospects, 2025](#)