Study UK

Study engineering in the UK

Where can I study engineering?

The UK has three of the world's top ten engineering universities – University of Oxford (second), University of Cambridge (fourth) and Imperial College London (eighth).[1] But you can find high-quality teaching right across the country, with more than 3800 courses available at more than 220 institutions.[2]

What is the application process?

Most engineering degrees will expect applicants to have AAB at A-level (or equivalent), including maths and physics. Other sciences, design technology and further maths are also common. The typical requirement for International Baccalaureate is 35 points, with higher level mathematics and physics and typical IELTS requirements of 7.0 overall, with no individual component scoring below 6.5. Some universities may have higher requirements; for instance, Imperial College London requires A*AA for certain engineering courses.

How long does it take to graduate?

You can apply for one of two types of engineering qualifications: Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) and Master of Engineering (MEng). A BEng typically takes three years to complete, while an MEng takes four years, or five with a year-long industry placement.

What will I study?

UK engineering degrees typically begin with foundational courses in mathematics, physics, mechanics, and materials science. You'll also build skills in computer-aided design, problem solving, and systems thinking. As you progress, you may explore specialised areas such as robotics, fluid dynamics, renewable energy, biomedical technologies, and data modelling. Courses often include design projects and collaborative work to prepare you for real-world engineering environments.

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[1] QS Top Universities, 2025

[2] UCAS, 2025

What is the course structure?

Engineering degrees usually spend the first year or two covering the fundamentals of engineering, so you are well informed before deciding how to specialise in your third and fourth years. Specialisms can cover a range of fields, from computer engineering and information technologies to bioengineering and energy.

Wherever you study you should be able to keep your options open – including swapping between BEng and MEng – while getting a robust understanding of the analytical, design and computing skills required to work in modern engineering environments.

Why is the UK a good choice to study engineering?

The UK is world-renowned for its teaching and research in all major engineering disciplines – from aeronautical and chemical to civil, computer, and materials engineering. Students benefit from instruction by globally respected experts, cutting-edge labs, and industry partnerships. UK engineering degrees emphasise analytical, design, and communication skills that prepare graduates for a wide range of global challenges.

What is engineering like in the UK?

The UK is home to centuries of engineering heritage that continues to influence global practice. The UK is ranked fifth in the world for innovation,[3] and the engineering sector adds an estimated £645bn annually to the UK's economy, accounting for over a quarter of all UK workers (26%).[4] This has helped UK universities to build excellent industry links, ensuring their graduates are well prepared to apply both theoretical and practical knowledge.

Are there any scholarships for studying engineering?

There are often funding options available for international students who want to study engineering 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?

[3] UK Research and Innovation, 2025

[4] Meche, 2025

Graduating with an engineering degree from a UK university significantly enhances your global employability. UK engineering graduates are highly sought after across various industries, including aerospace, energy, pharmaceuticals, civil infrastructure, education, and even non-traditional sectors like journalism and policy.

Starting salaries for engineering graduates tend to be around £26,000 to £29,000,[5] with many employment opportunities available worldwide. Whether you want to be an aerospace engineer, a nuclear engineer or a technical writer, you'll find a strong foundation for launching your engineering degree.

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

[5] Bright Network, 2025