

Study business in the UK

Where can I study business?

More than 254 universities in the UK offer business courses,¹ and three are ranked best in the world – London Business School (third), University of Oxford (sixth), and University of Cambridge (eighth).²

Yet wherever you choose to study, a UK business degree will open doors and help prepare you for a career with international potential.

What is the application process?

Most International Baccalaureate applications require between 35 and 38 points, with either AAA or AAB A-level grades. Courses typically request an existing humanities or social sciences degree and a 7.0 overall IELTS score, with no lower than 6.5 in any individual component.

How long does it take to graduate?

Many MBAs in the UK can be completed in just one academic year of full-time study, although there are lots of longer part-time study options also available.

Most business-related degrees take three years to complete at an undergraduate level, with some running over four years to provide a year's professional placement.

What is the course structure?

UK business courses are designed to give you both breadth and depth across key commercial areas. In the early stages, you'll explore fundamental business principles through core modules. As you progress, you'll have the opportunity to customise your learning with specialist options aligned to your interests—whether that's branding, sustainability, fintech, or leadership. Programmes often blend academic learning with real-world experience through case studies, consulting projects, or industry engagement, ensuring you can apply your skills in meaningful ways.

¹ [UCAS, 2025](#)

² [QS Top Universities, 2025](#)

What will I study?

A business degree in the UK introduces you to a wide spectrum of disciplines central to how organisations operate and grow. You'll engage with topics such as marketing, financial decision-making, strategic planning, operations, and human resource management. Many programmes also delve into areas like innovation, business law, digital technologies, and global commerce. By combining theoretical insight with practical application, the curriculum equips you with the tools to understand complex business environments and make informed decisions.

Why is the UK a good choice to study business?

The flexible, modular nature of UK business degrees, and their short duration, means you can benefit from world-respected teaching and get into the world of business much sooner. You'll also graduate with transferable skills that can be applied anywhere, giving you excellent value for money. It's one of the many reasons that studying business is the most popular degree choice in the UK.³

What is the business climate like in the UK?

Thanks to its strategic location and time zone, flexible regulations, and respected stock exchange, the UK has evolved into a global business hub and England's capital city, London, is home to one of the world's leading financial centres. It's also the seventh best country to start a business, with 890,684 new companies registering in the UK every year.⁴

Because the UK attracts businesses from all over the world, it continues to be a leading centre of ideas and technology with a highly diverse multicultural talent pool. So, whether you're looking for a job or a place to start your own business, the UK is a globally recognised location to launch your career or business

Are there any scholarships for studying business?

There are often funding options available for international students who want to study business 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 [HESA, 2025](#)

⁴ [UK Government, 2024](#)

A UK business degree will help you enter a wide range of business and management careers after you graduate, from banking or advertising to ~~general~~ management and consultancy.

The average starting salary for UK business graduates is £24,000, with many opportunities leading to positions that can pay well above £100,000 a year.⁵ Of course, if you plan on starting your own business, you'll graduate well-equipped for that journey also.

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

⁵ [Prospects, 2025](#)