Study UK

Study artificial intelligence in the UK

Where can I study artificial intelligence?

Artificial Intelligence (or AI) is transforming our lives, from the way we travel to healthcare to the entertainment we enjoy. You can be part of it with a UK degree and choose from over 200 AI and robotics courses, offered by more than 100 universities.[1] These include the University of Oxford, which ranks fourth in the world for AI and data science.[2]

What is the application process?

Most undergraduate degrees in AI will require three A-levels, with many of the most popular demanding AAA. Usually one of these must be mathematics. The typical requirement for International Baccalaureate is 32 points, with most IELTS requirements being 5.5 overall, and no lower than 5.5 in any one component.

Most master's courses require an undergraduate degree in mathematics, physics, engineering or other related subjects.

How long does it take to graduate?

Most AI undergraduate degrees will take around three years to finish in the UK, with many offering opportunities to gain a year of work experience or study abroad. Postgraduate degrees usually take one year to complete. Some universities also offer an integrated master's degree, which allows you to complete both the undergraduate and postgraduate components in four years of full time study.

What is the course structure?

You'll typically begin your studies with foundational modules in mathematics, logic, and programming, before progressing to more advanced and applied topics. The modular nature of UK study means you can tailor your learning over time, choosing from specialist areas such as deep learning, quantum computing, or human-AI interaction. Many courses include team-based projects or industry-linked challenges, helping you build a portfolio of real-world experience before you graduate

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[1] UCAS, 2025

[2] QS Top Universities, 2025

What will I study?

AI degrees in the UK explore a wide range of areas including programming, data science, machine learning, and algorithm development. You'll also study how AI is applied in fields like robotics, healthcare, and language processing, and engage with key ethical and social questions around its use. This broad grounding prepares you to innovate responsibly and adapt to the rapid evolution of AI technologies.

What kind of equipment will I be using?

Many UK universities have their own state-of-the-art laboratories where you can hone your skills using the latest technology in medical imaging, intelligent robotics, human-computer-interaction and security. You'll also have access to the latest industry- standard software during your studies.

Why is the UK a good choice to study AI?

The UK has a unique heritage when it comes to AI, thanks to computer scientist Alan Turing who created the Turing test in the 1950s – the benchmark for machine intelligence. Today, we're home to the prestigious Alan Turing Institute, the national institute for data science and artificial intelligence, which harnesses the power of AI to address the world's most pressing societal issues. And the UK's sector attracts £200m a day in private investment alone, positioning the country as a leading destination for AI.

The UK government is placing AI at the heart of its economic strategy, creating nine new AI research hubs in collaboration with universities.[3] From using AI to personalise healthcare and improving patient outcomes, to safety and automated vehicles – you'll study within a forward-thinking research environment.

Are there any scholarships for studying AI?

On occasion, there are funding options available for international students who want to study AI 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

With the global AI market valued at £180bn,[4] a role in AI presents a world of exciting opportunities – and lucrative career paths. The average starting salary for an AI Machine learning engineer is £35,000,[5] with experienced professionals often earning significantly more.

AI graduates often go on to work in roles such as AI researchers, data scientists, software engineers, and deep learning engineers. UK graduates specialised in this booming area of technology are also highly valued in related fields, including software design, cyber security, and technology policy-making.

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

[4] Statista, 2025

[5] UK National Careers Service, 2025