Study UK

Study education in the UK

Where can I study education?

There are a diverse range of education courses on offer in the UK, from bachelor's degrees in early childhood studies, to master's in special needs education and education management. Three of the world's ten best universities to study education are UK institutions – University College London (first), University of Cambridge (second) and University of Oxford (sixth).[1]

With over 3000 undergraduate and postgraduate courses across the UK, you'll have no difficulty choosing a degree that suits you.[2] The UK's education system is world renowned – from the latest teaching methodologies, to its emphasis on independent, critical thinking. So no matter where you choose to apply, you can be sure your UK degree will give you the best possible start to a career in education.

What is the application process?

Most undergraduate education degrees in the UK will require at least two A-levels or equivalent, with many of the most popular courses expecting ABB or higher.

Typical requirements for International Baccalaureate will be 32 points, with an IELTS of 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 in each component.

How long does it take to graduate?

Most undergraduate education degrees in the UK take three years to complete. If you choose a course with a placement year or study abroad option, this may extend to four years. Postgraduate programmes, such as a master's degree or PGCE, typically take one year full time or up to two years part time. International students may also begin with a foundation year, depending on entry requirements.

Depending on where in the UK you study, you may need to register with a specific teaching council after graduation (e.g. GTCS in Scotland or GTCNI in Northern Ireland).

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[1] QS Top Universities, 2025

[2] UCAS, 2025

What is the course structure?

Education degrees in the UK follow a modular structure, combining core theory with opportunities to specialise as you progress. You'll complete a series of taught modules across academic years, often assessed through essays, presentations and research projects. Many courses include a placement or practical component, allowing you to gain hands-on experience in educational settings such as schools, nurseries or community organisations.

What will I study?

UK education degrees begin with a foundation in the core theories of education, including its history, psychology, sociology and research methods. As you progress, the UK's flexible, modular system often allows you to specialise in areas such as literacy development, creativity and play, curriculum design or education policy.

If you are training to become a teacher, you may study through a Bachelor of Education (BEd), a degree with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), or follow your undergraduate degree with a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE). Many courses also include a work placement, giving you the chance to apply what you've learned in real-world settings – whether in schools, early childhood centres or community organisations.

Why is the UK a good choice to study education?

The UK's educational system is recognised for its excellence the world over. Our unique style of teaching boosts students' critical thinking skills and exposes them to new technologies, emerging theories and a varied range of opinions – so there's no better place to start a career in education than by studying here, in the UK.

Our universities reflect the diversity of our schools, and the UK as a whole, meaning you'll be joining an inclusive culture where international perspectives are welcome. And you'll be studying in the home of the English language, meaning you'll be immersed in English from the moment you arrive.

Are there any scholarships for studying education?

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

A degree in education will also open up a world of related roles beyond the classroom. Graduates often go on to work in child protection, childcare, and social and welfare work. Your communication skills and experience working with young people can also open the door to careers in museums, education consultancy and e-learning. The starting salary for all qualified teachers in England is typically £31,650.[3]

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

[3] Get Into Teaching, 2025