

UK degree applications made easy

YOUR

A → Z

GUIDE TO

UK

POSTGRADUATE  
STUDIES

Specially curated for you by



**MABECS**  
EST. 1985

BEFORE WE GO FURTHER...



## Who is MABECS

MABECS is Malaysia's most experienced  
advisory service on UK degrees.  
Our service is free of charge.

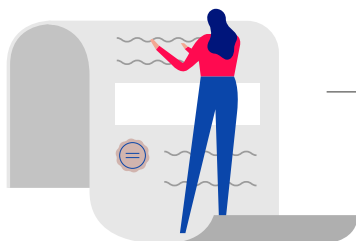


To find out more about MABECS' history and services, turn to the inside back cover.  
To reach a MABECS education advisor, call us at +603-7956 7655 or email  
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# From enquiry to successful student placement, **we take care of it all.**

## 1 Advice & guidance

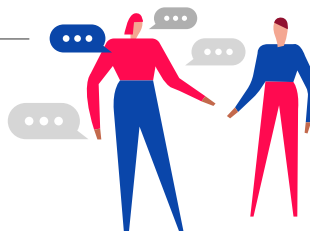
Find guidance on the right course and university including rankings, research ratings, entry requirements, and more.



2

## Application

Our experienced UK education advisors will advise you on the required documents and relevant procedures. Note that the application method is different from the undergraduate level.



3

## Test Preparation

We provide assistance for LNAT, BMAT, UCAT and others tests that might be required by UK universities.



4

## Air tickets & accommodation

Yes, we also help to provide guidance from flight bookings, visa applications and suitable accommodations to stay in.

Study in the UK!

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#### SPECIAL FEATURE

*"I need a scholarship!"*  
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### SPECIAL FEATURE

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### SPECIAL FEATURE



*"Too much information! Can someone  
guide me step by step in person?"*

Yes, read on!

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01

|

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

Choosing the right university isn't an easy task. There's a lot to think about: from the university reputation to rankings, real student reviews, entry requirements, location, and of course, the fees and living expenses. In this section, MABECS education advisors put together the most important factors to consider when choosing your university, and which should be prioritised.

#### SECTION 1: FIRST THINGS FIRST

##### Choosing your programme:

- Types of postgraduate degrees & their entry requirements

##### Choosing your university

- Using the UK Research Excellence Framework
- University rankings
- What about league tables?
- University environment
- Entry requirements
- Location

##### Other considerations:

- Research proposal:
  - how does it work?
- Money matters:
  - average fees and costs
- UK student reviews
- Official university QA reports

CHOOSING YOUR PROGRAMME:

# Types of postgraduate degrees and entry requirements





UK Postgraduate Degrees can be divided into a few categories:

1

Taught Master's  
Degrees

2

Integrated  
Research &  
Taught  
Postgraduate  
Degrees

3

New Route  
Doctorates

4

Research  
Degrees

1

## Taught Master's Degrees

### TITLES:

MA, MSc, MBA, Med, LLm, MMus, MLitt, MArch

The titles vary with the academic specialism and the traditions of the university.

In general, a Master's degree usually means studying a specific subject area and the specialisms offered by each university depend on the expertise of the academic staff.

Most courses offer a choice of modules but you should research carefully to make sure the course contains the subject elements that are important to you.

Assessment is usually a mixture of coursework, examination and project work with a dissertation, but again varies with the subject and the university. The duration of most taught Master's courses in the UK is usually one year.

While MA and MSc programmes usually require no work experience (there are a few exceptions), most MBA programmes in the UK will usually require the candidate to have a minimum of three years' work experience (sometimes longer, or even requiring the work experience to be of managerial level).

2

## Integrated Research & Taught Postgraduate Degrees

### TITLES:

DBA, EdD, EngD, MRes, MSc by Research

These programmes reflect the research interests of the university and usually the working experience of the student.

They contain a substantial proportion of taught modules usually in the latest areas of research.

It varies between universities but the taught element is between 30% and 50% of the programme.

The remainder is your own research leading to a thesis.

Unlike full research degrees, the actual subject of your research is usually decided during the programme.

3

## New Route Doctorates

### TITLES:

PhD, DPhil

Initially, about 30 UK universities joined a consortium drawing up programmes called “new route” doctoral programmes. At the time of writing, the number of universities currently offering New Route PhDs is much smaller.

These programmes are closely linked with the research expertise of the university.

As with all research programmes, there are courses in research methodology but these programmes also include a major taught element directly related to the research, in the first year.

The programmes last a minimum of four years.

4

## Research Degrees

### TITLES:

MPhil, PhD, DPhil

The usual research degree places the responsibility of learning on the individual, with supervision by a member of the university research staff.

The degree will give you training in basic research methodology, and allow you to attend lectures at the university.

But you will need to send a research proposal with your application because finding a supervisor who is available and right for your research is the key to success.

The research can sometimes be carried out partly in Malaysia if this is agreed upon by the UK university, and if suitable facilities and a local supervisor can be found.

The duration of such research programmes is usually a minimum of three to four years but could take longer, depending on the progress of your research.

## CHOOSING YOUR PROGRAMME:

# Using the UK Research Excellence Framework (REF)

The Research Excellence Framework (REF) is a **new system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions**. It replaced the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

The REF first took place in 2014. The next exercise will be conducted in 2021, hence the name REF 2021.

Through this research assessment, the REF upholds a threefold purpose:

- To provide accountability for public investment in research and produce evidence of the benefits of this investment.
- To provide benchmarking information and establish reputational yardsticks, for use within the Higher Education sector and for public information.
- To inform the selective allocation of funding for research.

## How is the REF carried out?



The REF goes through a process of expert review, carried out by expert panels for each of the 34 subject-based units of assessment (UOAs), under the guidance of four main panels. The expert panels comprise of senior academics, international members, and research users. For each submission, three distinct elements are assessed:

- The **quality** of outputs (e.g. publications, performances and exhibitions)
- Their **impact** beyond academia
- The **environment** that supports the research

To find out more, please visit the REF 2021 website at: [www.ref.ac.uk](http://www.ref.ac.uk)

Source: [www.ref.ac.uk](http://www.ref.ac.uk)



## QUICK TIP

The assessment is for research work only. While good quality research departments will attract the highest-level experts in that particular field, this does not necessarily result in the highest excellence in teaching quality at the undergraduate level. Bear in mind that even departments with modest ratings have been recognised as having research of national excellence in up to half of the sub-areas. Use such statistics carefully; be sure that you understand exactly what they are aiming to show.

CHOOSING YOUR UNIVERSITY:

# University Rankings

When we speak to students, it seems almost instinctive for students to filter universities by **rankings** as their first step of research.



## SECTION 1: FIRST THINGS FIRST

It's a valid first step to take. However, there are factors beyond rankings that we would advise students to take into consideration when researching the universities to apply to. Among these factors are university environment, location, fees, and available scholarships.

Rankings play a role in determining the **strength of the universities**, in the subject that the students are aiming to study. The strengths are categorised in terms of:

- student satisfaction
- entry requirements
- staff-to-student ratio
- the facilities and services on offer to students
- quality of research produced by the academics
- the number of graduates who finished with First Class degrees
- students' destination upon graduation

In the UK, the three major guide for university rankings are *The Complete University Guide*, *The Guardian* and *The Times & The Sunday Times*. These rankings are compiled and published annually via printed media and their websites.



The popular world university ranking publications are QS World University Rankings® and Times Higher Education. These are normally referred to by the government sponsors to establish the year's selected universities to send students to. The

rankings can be viewed by overall universities in a specific country or region; as well as by subject or by university name. The rankings are available on their respective websites.

On top of these, there are other rankings such as Modern Universities Guide, regional rankings, The Complete University Guide, UKuni, and many more on the internet.

We would advise you to look into various outcomes of the different rankings.

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### QUICK TIP

Rankings should not be the only factor that students focus on when determining their universities choices. It can only reflect the strengths and weaknesses of the universities to a certain extent. It is important for students to note the methodologies that were used to come up with these rankings, when doing their research and bear in mind that these can be subjective.

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## CHOOSING YOUR UNIVERSITY:

## What are league tables?

League tables are produced quite frequently by a number of British newspapers and other media. Their aim is to sell their publications, but they purport to rank the universities in order of excellence. The big questions that you must ask are:

- What criteria are used to produce the published ranking?
- How reliable are the figures used in the different rankings?
- What validity do the figures have to the criteria that they purport to measure?
- What is the validity of the weightings that the compiler gives to different criteria?



### QUICK TIP

The criteria used are often subjective. You should also question why some universities jump over 20 places between one league table and the next; and why, for example, there are 23 universities who could claim to be in the Top Ten depending on whose league table you read!

Use such statistics with a great deal of care. On its own, they will rarely offer you the type of information that you actually need to be able to make a clear and coherent decision. You must also consider other factors, some of which were discussed earlier in this booklet. Look at the Contents page section 1 to find out the factors to consider when choosing your university.

CHOOSING YOUR UNIVERSITY:

# University Environment

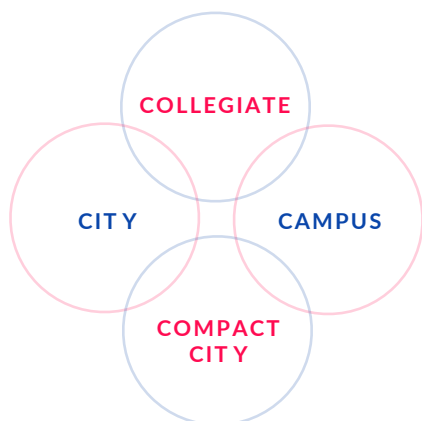
The **environment** of the university that you choose can have a great impact on your student life at the university.





Universities in the UK are located in towns and cities of varying sizes. Some are located at the very centre of the largest cities and consequently, offer a very different experience compared to one offered by a university located on a purpose-built campus at the outskirts of a city.

Thus, one of the first criteria you should consider when choosing your university is the environment. Here, we have listed down the four types of university environment:



## 1. Collegiate

In a collegiate university, students are not only enrolled with the university; they are also closely linked to the colleges, which supply the accommodation within the university.

At Oxbridge, the colleges control entry to the university and have a major teaching role. Much of the students' academic, social and sporting activities are organised within the college and there is a very strong sense of community within each one.

Durham is very similar to Oxbridge without the college teaching role, whilst York has elements of the social and sporting aspects of the collegiate system. Durham also has another campus, Queen's Campus, in Stockton which has a very different feel to the collegiate system of Durham itself (refer to Campus Universities in No. 2).

### EXAMPLES:

- University of Cambridge
- Durham University
- University of Oxford
- University of York



## 2. Campus

Campus universities are located in a separate segregated area of the city, or its outskirts. This area contains the facilities for all aspects of university life: academic (e.g. lecture theatres, libraries, laboratories), social (e.g. halls of residence, Students' Union, shops), and sporting (gymnasias, swimming pools, tennis, squash and badminton courts, football).

The campus may be at the heart of the city, as is the case with Queen Mary University of London and Aston University. Alternatively, it may be located on a green site that is a short bus ride from the nearby town or city (or within walking distance), as with Lancaster and Loughborough. Wherever the actual location, you are guaranteed very easy access to all elements of life that are essential to your everyday needs and academic development. You will also be an integral part of the full university community. In addition, you will be in close proximity to all the public facilities offered by and to the local community where you may become involved.

### EXAMPLES:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberystwyth University</li> <li>• Aston University</li> <li>• University of Bath</li> <li>• University of Birmingham</li> <li>• University of Bradford</li> <li>• Brunel University London</li> <li>• Durham University, Queen's Campus (Stockton)</li> <li>• University of East Anglia</li> <li>• University of East London (Docklands campus)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Essex</li> <li>• University of Exeter</li> <li>• Heriot-Watt University</li> <li>• Keele University</li> <li>• University of Kent</li> <li>• Lancaster University</li> <li>• University of Leeds</li> <li>• University of Leicester</li> <li>• Loughborough University</li> <li>• University of Nottingham</li> <li>• Queen Mary University of London</li> <li>• Queen Margaret University</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Reading</li> <li>• University of Roehampton</li> <li>• Royal Holloway, University of London</li> <li>• University of Salford</li> <li>• University of South Wales</li> <li>• University of Southampton</li> <li>• University of Stirling</li> <li>• University of Surrey</li> <li>• University of Sussex</li> <li>• Swansea University</li> <li>• University of Warwick</li> <li>• University of Winchester</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|



### 3. Compact City

This is a term used by MABECS to refer to the compact nature of the university. Although not situated in a segregated area of the city, there is clearly a recognisable precinct that distinguishes the university from the remainder of the city.

The key factor is that the different aspects of university life: academic, social and sporting, are near to each other. In fact, they are so close that you can easily reach them all on foot. Thus, the feeling of a full university community is well preserved. On top of that, there is also the benefit of being in close proximity to the town/city and all of its facilities.

#### EXAMPLES:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Aberdeen</li> <li>• Abertay University</li> <li>• Anglia Ruskin University</li> <li>• Bangor University</li> <li>• Queen's University Belfast</li> <li>• University of Bolton</li> <li>• Bournemouth University</li> <li>• University of Brighton</li> <li>• University of Bristol</li> <li>• Cardiff University</li> <li>• Coventry University</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• De Montfort University</li> <li>• University of Dundee</li> <li>• University of East London (Stratford and University Square Stratford campuses)</li> <li>• University of Glasgow</li> <li>• University of Hertfordshire</li> <li>• University of Hull</li> <li>• University of Central Lancashire</li> <li>• University of Lincoln</li> <li>• Newcastle University</li> <li>• Nottingham Trent University</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxford Brookes University</li> <li>• Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen</li> <li>• University of St Andrews</li> <li>• University of Sheffield</li> <li>• Sheffield Hallam University</li> <li>• Solent University</li> <li>• University of Southampton</li> <li>• University of Strathclyde</li> <li>• University of Sunderland</li> <li>• University of the West of Scotland</li> <li>• University of Wolverhampton</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|



## 4. City

This category refers to universities situated in large towns and cities that have their various activities quite widely spread about the city, usually requiring the use of public transport to get from one activity or place to the other.

In some cases, the university is situated on a few separate sites in the city. Sometimes, this meant that the university community sense is easily lost, or activities are too remote for students to participate conveniently. Nevertheless, there can be a greater sense of community as you will be in a position to become more involved in local community activities, as well as any arranged by the university. You can still enjoy the best of both worlds.

Many of the Statute universities fit into this category with strong local industrial links and expertise. In addition, some of the most well-known of UK universities, are also included in this category.

### EXAMPLES:

- Birmingham City University
- Birkbeck, University of London
- City University London
- University of Derby
- University of Edinburgh
- Edinburgh Napier University
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Goldsmiths, University of London
- University of Greenwich
- University of Huddersfield
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- Kingston University
- Leeds Beckett University
- University of Liverpool
- Liverpool John Moores University
- London Metropolitan University
- London School of Economics (LSE)
- London South Bank University
- University of Manchester
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Middlesex University

- Northeastern University London
- Northumbria University
- University of Plymouth
- University of Portsmouth
- School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London
- Staffordshire University
- Teesside University
- University of Ulster
- University of the Arts London
- University College London
- University of West London
- University of the West of England, Bristol
- University of Westminster



University of Greenwich



University of Plymouth



## CHOOSING YOUR UNIVERSITY:

# Entry Requirements

Entry grades and subjects vary between universities, so it is wise to consider this factor when selecting a course and to make selections based on your current and potential academic performance.



## QUICK TIP

Also, it is important to remember that lower entry requirements at a university **does not mean** that the course is of a poorer standard.

## CHOOSING YOUR UNIVERSITY:

# Location

Many students express an interest in studying in **London**. While London obviously offers students an amazing experience of life in a big city; the cost of living, tuition fees, daily transport and cost of social activities are much higher in London than the rest of the country. London is a very cosmopolitan city and not completely typical of life in the UK.

There are many other large cities and towns in the UK that can provide you with all the facilities, entertainment, social events and excitement that you are pining for. Then there is the charm of small cities and towns, too!

**Brighton**, for example, is known for being one of the UK's most popular seaside resorts – boasting sunnier weather on average, compared to the rest of the country. With 28% of its students being international, vibrant Brighton scores highly in the student mix indicator.



## SECTION 1: FIRST THINGS FIRST



The University of Manchester

**Manchester** is a big hit for plenty to see and do; but at the same time being small, multicultural and inclusive enough that the sense of community remains. Music plays a big part in Manchester's culture, for all ye music lovers who would be able to trace Oasis, Joy Division and The Smiths to Manchester.

If you prefer a quieter side of the UK, **Keele University** is a beautiful, postcard-material rural campus with rustic splendour. The campus is located three miles from Newcastle-under-Lyme in Staffordshire and is twice the size of London's Hyde Park (625 acres wide!). Just imagine flowering magnolias, giant maples, pagoda trees, and the largest collection of flowering cherry trees in the UK!

Remember that the UK has excellent transport links if you have a soft spot for London. There are fast bus and train links throughout the UK so that, for instance, Glasgow in Scotland is only a few hours

from London. If the cost of living in London intimidates you, remember that London is not too far for a spontaneous weekend getaway.



Keele University

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

# Research proposal: how does it work?

Candidates applying for a research based programme, particularly PhD, should try to make some preliminary contact with potential supervisors at universities via email before submitting a formal application. A decision on an application for a research programme will usually take longer to be released, compared to an application for a taught Master's programme.

Doctorates are qualifications awarded primarily on the basis of research, as opposed to delivery via taught modules. Generally, such courses award a PhD qualification (sometimes entitled DPhil), although this can vary and professional doctorates can be awarded in Education (EdD), Business (DBA), etc. Whilst some professional Doctorates do have taught elements, assessment is usually based wholly on the research undertaken.

MRes courses are primarily taught, although they are geared towards preparing students to progress on to PhD programmes. However, MPhil courses offer a combination of taught and research modules and are, therefore, very useful in helping students prepare for PhDs. Thus, an application for an MPhil or PhD degree must be accompanied by a research proposal outline. The information contained in such an outline is essential for both assessing the merit of the application and for finding a suitable research supervisor within the university department.

A research proposal should include the following:

- Tentative title
- Reasons for undertaking the research
- References to work done in the given field to date, with supported citations
- Indication of the methods to be used to gather
- Explanation of analytical techniques to be used
- Research timeline
- Anticipated problems and possible solutions

1

## Title

This provides a focus for the proposal and will help to clarify the main area of research interest. This only needs to be a tentative title as the research topic and final title can be confirmed in consultation with your supervisor once you have been accepted at a university.

2

## Reasons for undertaking the research

You should attempt to explain your reasons for selecting this area, noting why it is of interest to you. In addition, you need to show why it provides an opportunity for research and the basic questions that your research will address. Not all research proposals deal with attempts to solve problems. You may be analysing, evaluating or comparing approaches taken previously, but ultimately, there will be a question within this research area that you would like to tackle and attempt to answer.

3

## Reference to previous research

It is necessary to refer to the work that has already been undertaken in this field. You need to show your

understanding of the current theories and beliefs operating within the subject and indicate how your research will expand upon the work already accomplished. A brief bibliography is always useful, showing the extent of the reading that you have already covered in preparing your proposal.

4

## Methods of gathering data

It is not expected that you will depend upon existing data only in developing your research. Your proposal will need to refer to the methods you intend to use to gather new and additional data. Therefore, indicate the methods you intend to employ to further your information; for example: questionnaires, surveys, interviews, computerised tests, etc. Clear reference must be made here of any intention to gather evidence in Malaysia as part of your research work, in addition to any data collection undertaken in the UK. Data gathering in Malaysia in addition to the UK may mean that a second supervisor will need to be found to support your work in the second geographical location. Such division of work is referred to as a 'Split site PhD' and can be very difficult to organise: thus, few universities offer this option.

5

## Analytical Methods

There is a need for you to indicate the analytical techniques that you intend to use in order to assess the data that you will gather. This is an important element, as it will have a bearing on the supervisor chosen for your research work. The university needs to be sure that your chosen supervisor will be conversant with the analytical techniques that you intend to use.

6

## Relevance

If you are a sponsored student, you may have already written a proposal for your sponsoring organisation. If this is so, then this could be used as your proposal outline to the university also. However, in this situation, please be sure that you consider carefully what the university will be looking for when they read your proposal, as opposed to the requirements of your sponsor. There may be a different emphasis in the requirements of your sponsor and the university. Whilst a sponsor may want you to investigate a problem and look for a solution, a university may regard this as consultancy rather than research. Ultimately, the two requirements may not always be incompatible, but the proposal outlines may need to be phrased differently to satisfy both needs.

7

## Finally...

Remember that this is an outline. Once you are established at the university and have the chance to discuss ideas in detail with your supervisor, you may find that your research topic becomes amended and refined from your original proposal. Do not feel that the outline you present initially to the university will restrict you to only a specific area of work. However, do bear in mind that any changes to the original proposal will still be within a strictly defined field within which your selected supervisor holds expertise.



## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

# Money matters: average fees and costs

## Tuition Fees

Fees vary significantly across the country and between universities. As a general guide, you will find that Statute universities post lower fees than Charter universities.

Fees fall into three broad categories:

- Classroom-based subjects
- Laboratory-based subjects
- Medicine & Dentistry

However, within these categories, there can be significant differences in actual costs. In addition, you will see that fees are higher for some universities located in and around London compared with those based outside of the city area. For Cambridge and Oxford, there would also be additional college fees.



## Annual Tuition Fee Ranges at UK Universities 2025

		THE LOWER RANGE °£.	THE MIDDLE 50% MEDIAN FEE °£.			THE HIGHER RANGE °£.
		▼	▼			▼
Charter Lab/ Studio	Research	15000	18000	20700	24000	38400
	Taught	16000	21000	22600	27000	30000
Charter Classroom	Research	14000	16000	18600	20500	27000
	Taught	15000	16400	21900	26600	30500
Statue Lab/ Studio	Research	16000	16500	17000	19000	23000
	Taught	16800	14500	15000	16000	22500
Statue Classroom	Research	14000	14600	15000	15400	15800
	Taught	14500	15000	15500	16000	16500
MBA	Charter	18000	27500	33000	40000	49000
	Statute	15000	16000	18000	19000	23000



### Cost of Living

In addition to tuition fees, there is also cost of living to be considered.

The cost of living for a single postgraduate student will vary, depending on various factors like location, lifestyle, and others.

Cost of living will cover aspects like accommodation, food, general travel expenses (not including flights), clothing, entertainment, toiletries, books and academic expenses, and more.

If you are based in London, as a single postgraduate student, the UKVI minimum figure is £13,347 per academic year. This amount will vary depending on factors like type of accommodation, your lifestyle, and more, as mentioned earlier.

If you are based outside of London, then as a single postgraduate student, the UKVI minimum figure is £10,224 per academic year (both can deduct 1265 if paid full for accommodation for the year).

If you are taking dependants with you, then you will need an additional £845 per dependant/per month for London. Outside of the city, you will need to budget a minimum of £680 per dependant/per month – both to a maximum of nine months.

MABECS will be able to assist applicants with questions. To reach a MABECS education advisor, call us at 03-7956 7655 or email [enquiries@mabecs.com](mailto:enquiries@mabecs.com)



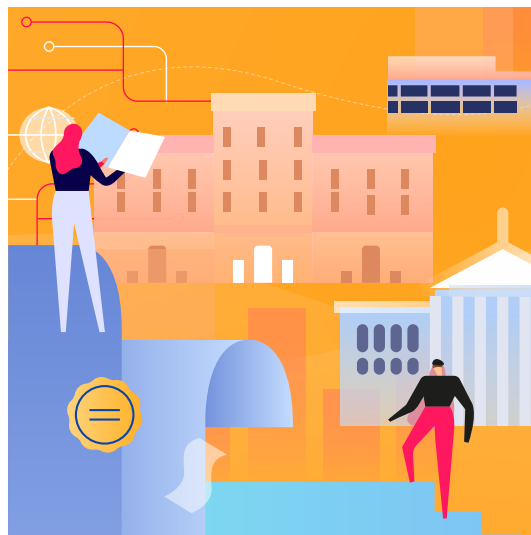
## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

# UK student reviews

On top of considerations such as rankings, course style, environment, accreditation, entry requirements, location, fees and costs; real student reviews are also important.

The National Student Survey (NSS) is a census of students in their final year of a course leading to undergraduate credits or qualification across the UK. The aim of the survey is to gather feedback on the quality of the courses as well as to help future applicants on their choices of higher education.

To find out more about student views on a particular course or university, visit <http://unistats.ac.uk>.



## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

# Official university QA reports

Having considered student reviews in the previous page, it is also equally important to consider official QA reports of the university you are interested in.

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) seeks to safeguard standards and improve the quality of higher education in the UK. The QAA checks how UK universities and colleges maintain the standard of their higher education provision. They report on how UK universities meet their responsibilities, identify good practice and make recommendations for improvement.

Visit <http://www.qaa.ac.uk> to find out more.

## SPECIAL FEATURE

# Scholarships for Postgraduate Studies

Your scholarship questions  
answered by MABECS education advisors

**Q:** "I am looking for scholarship for my postgraduate studies in the UK. Where do I start?"

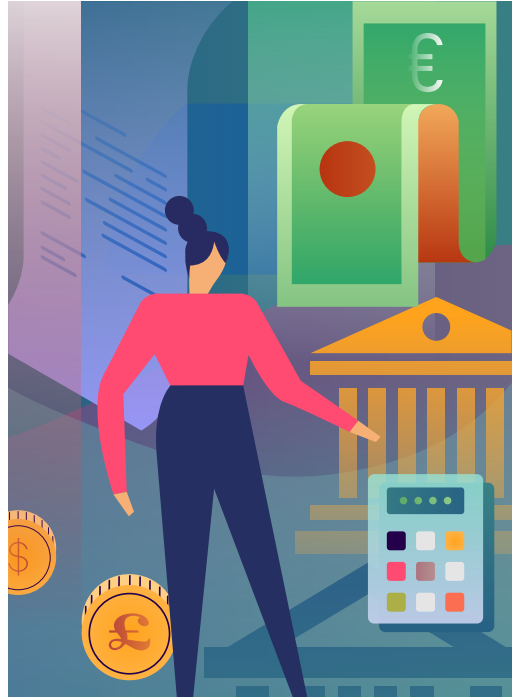
**A:** Are you looking for local scholarships or UK based scholarships? If you are looking for local scholarships, then you need to know that most scholarship providers have their own list of preferred universities whom they would like you to apply to. We will be able to assist you with selecting universities that appear frequently under most scholarship bodies lists.

MABECS maintains a file with information on various scholarship providers, you can start shortlisting scholarships based on the subjects that the scholarship provider will sponsor.

As for loans, most loan providers are banks, so you need to check on the rates given as each bank's package will be different.

For scholarships offered by universities, we have an extensive list of universities offering various scholarships, on our website. We will provide you the log-in links to access this information – all you need to do is contact a MABECS education advisor directly via the contact details below.

In addition, the UK government also has funding resources available like The Chevening Scholarship, Commonwealth Scholarship, and various other research scholarships. We can supply you with information on the scholarships that are relevant to you.



## QUICK TIP

Many well-known universities offer competitive scholarships based on academic merit. Bursaries and discounted fees are also available at a number of universities for Malaysian students.

Check carefully with your MABECS education advisor about these opportunities. To reach a MABECS education advisor, call us at 03-79567655 or email [enquiries@mabecs.com](mailto:enquiries@mabecs.com)

02

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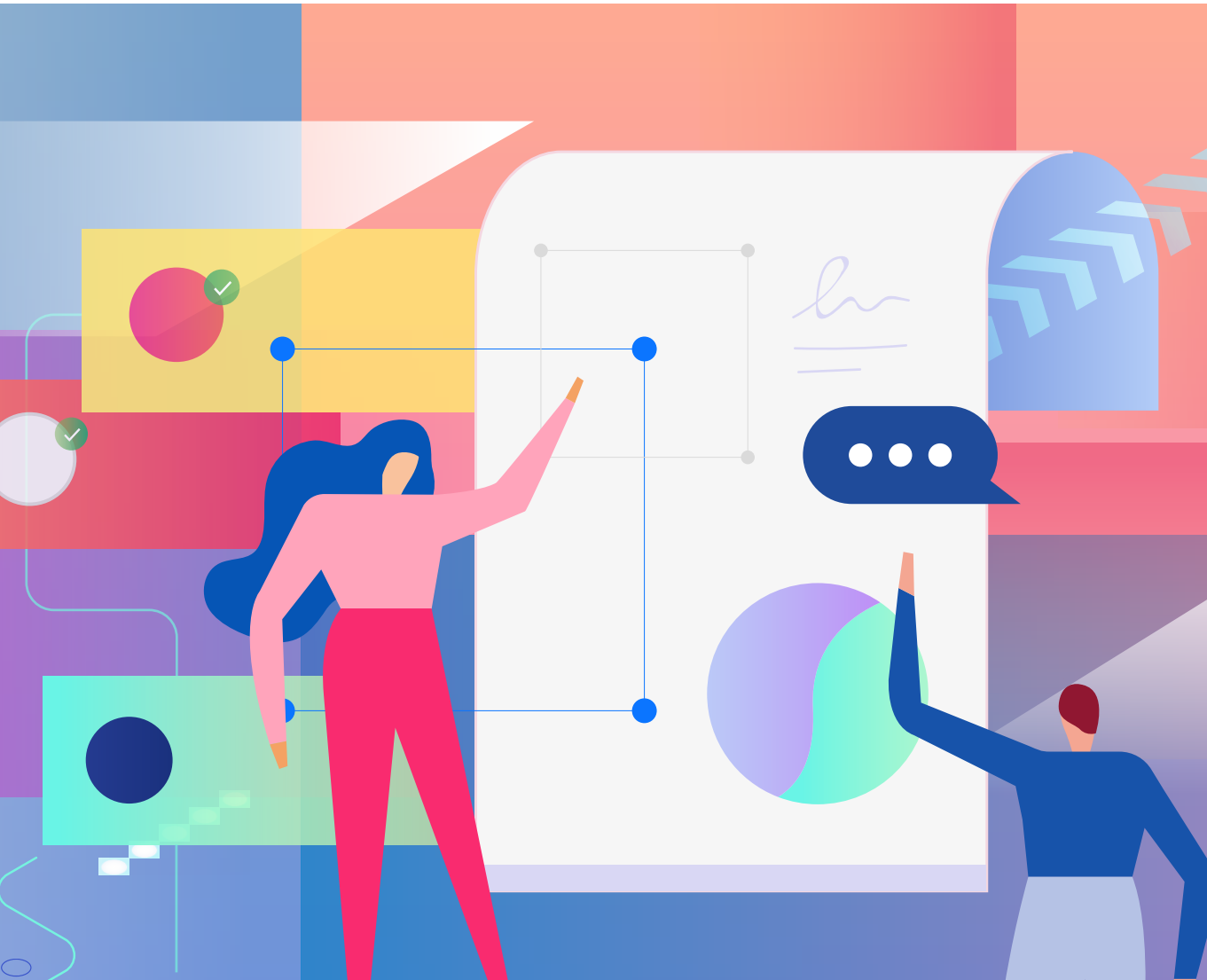
**I'M  
READY TO  
APPLY!**

Postgraduate degree application for the UK is different from the undergraduate's. There's no need to worry as MABECS' education advisors will take you through the required documents and relevant procedures. Read on to find out more.

## SECTION 2: I'M READY TO APPLY!


- Step-by-step overview of my application
- Compulsory ATAS certificate for sensitive subjects
- Other requirements

# Step-by-step overview of my application




For postgraduate applications, please note the required documents and relevant procedures:

### Completed application form

 **Certified true copies of all diploma and degree certificates and transcripts.** If documents submitted are not in the English Language, a translation must accompany these documents. Please bring all original certificates and transcripts and MABECS will be able to certify these documents

### Research proposal

Research proposal, if you're applying for research programmes.

 **Evidence of English Language proficiency** (e.g. IELTS/TOEFL/other relevant qualifications). If you have not sat for a relevant qualification at the time of submitting your application but are planning to do so, please indicate this clearly in your application form.

**Financial guarantee or sponsorship letter** (if available)

### Two original letters of references

The provision of references is often the greatest cause of delay and universities will be not make a decision until they have seen the references. Therefore, it is important to obtain these as soon as possible and submit these together with the rest of your application.

### Copy of your valid passport (biodata page)

Other documents you could include with your application:

- **Curriculum Vitae** or resume
- **Personal Statement** (i.e. a short essay outlining your reasons for wanting to pursue such a course and relating that to your background, interest and future plans)
- **Portfolio** (for Architecture/ Art and Design courses)
- A few universities/ courses may require an **application fee** to be made, when submitting an application. Please follow university instructions with regard to the payment of this fee.
- **MABECS authority forms** or **university authority forms**



## ONLINE APPLICATIONS

When making an online application, please indicate MABECS as your representative/agent in Malaysia.

*Please speak to your MABECS education advisor for guidance on online applications.*



## Applying for a Taught Master's Degree



### How it works

Postgraduate applications are made directly to the universities themselves. The procedure is different from undergraduate applications, which require students to go through a central body called UCAS. There is no limit on the number of postgraduate applications that you are allowed to make, if you can find suitable courses. However, it is common practice to submit between three to five applications.

For most universities, you are also able to apply online and this is usually the quickest and most

efficient way of applying – please speak to your MABECS education advisor for guidance on this.

MABECS will be able to guide and assist you with your postgraduate applications. We also have a weekly courier service to the UK, where supporting documents and other documents can be sent on your behalf, at no cost to you, if requested by the universities.

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## Application fees

Whilst most UK universities do not charge an application fee for postgraduate studies, you may find that there will be some universities and specific courses which impose a fee.

In addition, universities may require a deposit fee to be paid upon your acceptance of an offer of a place, which is often offset against tuition fees.



## Application dates

Most applications do not have formal closing dates or deadlines. However, there are some exceptions to this – particularly if the university or the course you're applying is very competitive. It's important that you check this information on the university website.

To be on the safer side, the earlier you apply – the earlier you will start receiving decisions on your applications. This means that you will have more time to satisfy any conditions attached to your offer, apply for a visa, and more. Most taught courses begin in September/October and the duration of the programme is usually one year.

Popular courses may become 'full up' quite early in the year, so applying at least six to nine months before the start of the course will give you a better chance of finding vacancies. The earlier you apply, the better your chances are of being considered by the university of your choice.



## Required academic qualifications

UK universities need to be confident that the applicant has the background knowledge as well as the ability and determination to complete the course. In most subjects, a Bachelor's (Honours) degree is cited as the minimum entry requirement.

Equivalent professional qualifications, particularly if supported by relevant work experience, are some-times accepted instead of a first degree.



## Required English language qualifications

All universities will need to be assured of your English language proficiency. A range of English language qualifications are accepted by universities, such as IELTS or TOEFL. Please check with your MABECS education advisor as to the scores required by different universities and courses.

MABECS will also be able to assist you with IELTS registration with the British Council.

For more information on these English proficiency tests, please visit:

- IELTS British Council: <https://www.britishcouncil.my/exam/ielts>
- IELTS IDP <https://ielts.idp.com/malaysia>



## Your references (or "confidential academic reports")

All universities will usually require at least two confidential academic reports – called 'references'.

The provision of references is often the greatest cause of delay in the application process. In some cases the application will not be processed at all until the references are received. Therefore, you should take every step you can to make sure that the process goes smoothly.

To speed up the process and to avoid delays, ensure that your referees supply you with confidential reports to accompany your application. It is very useful for at least one of those references to be an academic reference. For applicants still undertaking full-time study, it is advisable for both referees to be academic. Applicants who are working could have

one reference from their employer and one academic reference, if possible. If an applicant has been working for a long period of time and is unable to provide an academic reference, then both references can be work-based ones, although it is then up to the university to decide if these are sufficient, having seen these.

Whilst most UK universities do not charge an application fee for postgraduate studies, you may find that there will be some universities and specific courses which impose a fee.

In addition, universities may require a deposit fee to be paid upon your acceptance of an offer of a place, which is often offset against tuition fees.



## Decision time

Once your applications are submitted you can expect to wait at least a month before receiving any responses, though this timeframe varies. At some universities the decision process is quite quick, whilst at other universities that process could take longer. The decision time for PhD applications will be longer because of the need to identify a suitable supervisor.

In most cases, decisions are made on the basis of the documents submitted and there is no interview involved. However, in a few cases, the university may wish to conduct a telephone/Skype interview with the applicant.

MABECS will monitor your applications throughout the process and act as your intermediary with the universities to help you sort out any issues that may arise.



## MBA requirements

The entry requirements for MBA courses are slightly different than for other Master's programmes. However, the following points may be helpful:

- Most MBA programmes would ask for a good first degree (preferably 2:1 or above) and at least three years of relevant work experience. The

work experience requirement is essential for most MBA programmes in the UK and some universities may specify that this work experience needs to be at a managerial level.

- If you do not have sufficient work experience but still wish to undertake a postgraduate course in business at this stage, then you may wish to consider MA or MSc courses in the area of Management or related areas (which cater to fresh graduates or students with limited work experience), rather than an MBA.
- Higher level professional qualifications are often acceptable in place of a first degree.
- If you do not have the stated academic requirements but have considerable relevant work experience, it is worthwhile applying. If your employment record is such that the MBA course leaders are confident of your ability to tackle the course, then they may offer you a place; but ultimately, the final decision still rests with the university.
- Some MBAs ask for a GMAT score (for more information on the GMAT, read further down).
- A good GMAT score allows universities to be far more flexible in their attitude to formal entry requirements.
- All universities will require proof of proficiency in the English language.



## Association of MBAs (AMBA)

When researching different MBA programmes in the UK, you will come across reference on whether the MBA programme in question is AMBA accredited.

AMBA was set up in 1967 to promote the MBA to institutions, prospective students and employers; and to ensure that the quality of the MBA programme produces professional managers. The accreditation process was established to secure these objectives. The process is market-driven and international in focus, and each business school

offering an MBA are assessed against a set of criteria established by AMBA's Independent Accreditation Advisory Board.

Further information on AMBA may be obtained from:

[www.mbaworld.com](http://www.mbaworld.com)

Other relevant accreditations to look for are:

- EQUIS: <https://www.efmd.org>
- AACSB: <http://www.aacsb.edu>



GMAT

The Graduate Management Admission Test is designed to help graduate schools of business assess the qualifications of applicants for advanced study in business management.

Some MBA and Master's programmes require applicants to take GMAT. However, even institutions that do not require GMAT look upon the test score as useful, supporting information.

For those who have significant work experience but do not have the formal academic qualifications, a good GMAT score gives access to a whole range of MBA courses.

The current test consists of four main sections:

- Analytical Writing Assessment
- Integrated Reasoning Section
- Quantitative Section
- Verbal Section

The GMAT exam measures verbal, mathematical, integrated reasoning and analytical skills that you have developed over a long period of time in your education and work.

The test does not assess specific knowledge obtained in college course work, nor does it measure achievement in any particular subject area.

For more information, visit <http://www.mba.com/global>

## Compulsory 'ATAS' certificate for sensitive subjects

The Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) was introduced on 1 November 2007. It is used to **help stop the spread of knowledge and skills that could be used in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery.** This is in common with other governments around the world. The ATAS is designed to ensure that people who are applying to study certain sensitive subjects in the UK do not have links to WMD programmes.



Some postgraduate courses in the UK will require that you apply for an ATAS certificate before commencing your studies in the UK and before you apply for a visa.

Application for an ATAS certificate is made online and is free of charge. The application can take at least 20 working days to process – it is best to apply as soon as you have conditional offer from the university. Processing times will increase between the months of April and September – and can take 30 or more working days to complete.

To find out more, visit <https://bit.ly/2vxQAog>

# Personal Statement 101

## SUMMARY:

A personal statement is a piece of text applicants write to the university to show why they are applying and why they would be a great student for the course provider to accept. It helps the admission tutors to decide how suitable you are for their degree programme.



## Why do you need a Personal Statement?

The aim of the postgraduate Personal Statement is to highlight your relevant skills, knowledge and experience for the course.

Admissions tutors want to know what you can offer, and why they should choose you over everyone else. This means your statement needs to be clear and focused throughout, so the best way to begin is by thinking about and making notes on the following points:

### ① Why are you applying for a postgraduate course?

Reasons might include your passion and enthusiasm for the subject, a new challenge, and your career aspirations.

### ② What is it about this particular course that appeals to you?

Look at the course content - what interests you about the topics covered, and why? If you're applying for a research Master's, why do you want to undertake a research project in the subject?

### ③ Why are you applying to this university?

Make sure you research all the institutions you are considering - what do you like about them? What facilities do they provide? Do they have a good reputation in your field? What does the surrounding town/city have to offer?

If you're invited to an interview, it's likely you will be asked why you have chosen their university, so make sure you have some good reasons, or it will look like you don't really care.

### ④ What work experience do you have that demonstrates your interest in the subject?

Think about any placements you've completed since your GCSEs - what did you learn, and how is this related to your subject?

Part of writing a good personal statement is being able to provide examples in order to back up your claims. Work experience is a great source to use for this, so note down anything you think might be useful or relevant.

### ⑤ What skills have you gained from your undergraduate studies that will help you make the transition to postgraduate study?

Again, think about what you have learned during your Bachelor's Degree. Skills you might write about include:

- Communication
- Analytical
- Problem-solving
- IT
- Numeracy
- Teamwork
- Public speaking
- Practical e.g. laboratory or fieldwork (if you are applying for a Research Master's degree)

How did you improve or develop these skills? Try to think of specific projects as examples.

## SPECIAL FEATURE

# What about job placement in postgraduate programmes?

Typically, postgraduate Taught Programmes in UK universities are 12 months in duration. Some universities and courses offer work placement within their programmes. This tends to be a few weeks on offer – mostly during the term breaks in December, April, June – and are usually not paid placements.

## LONGER DURATION OF PLACEMENTS

In recent years, universities have introduced longer duration of placements. Students are now able to choose from internship options of a few weeks, a few months up to a full year. Not only that, the choices of companies on offer for their internship experience are also vast. International companies, multinational corporations as well as small-medium businesses are all showing their interest in hiring students to be interns in their establishments.

## WHY INTERNS ARE IN DEMAND

This came as a result of industry reviews of the interns' excellent performance during their placement. In addition to this, the students' academic performance after their internship period have also benefited from the experience. Students who have gone through the internship programme have been found to perform better in their final year of studies and this in turn will see them gaining better results in their degrees.



## HOW IT WORKS

As these are becoming a popular option, for both students and universities, we at MABECS do encourage applicants to look into it when counselling them. The benefits are huge, and since most placements tend to pay their interns (some with a rather handsome salary!) – there is little drawback on this option.

If you choose to go with this placement path, the student visa duration will cover the entire study and placement period. These placements, however, are not guaranteed. You can imagine the competition for places, especially in big companies. Students would have to submit their applications to the selected companies, be interviewed by them and finally accepted for the internship. The location of the placement is also not limited to the UK – the beauty of this option is you have the opportunity to work in any part of the world! If you have been learning a new language, then this would be the best way to practise it – by signing up for placement options in that country.

Since the interns are still considered as students, there is a minimum tuition fee to be paid to the universities during their placement year. The student would also be assigned to a mentor at the company, who will report back to the university's tutor on their performance throughout the duration of their internship.

To know more about job placements in your postgraduate application, reach out to a MABECS education advisor at 03-7956 7655 or email [enquiries@mabecs.com](mailto:enquiries@mabecs.com)

03



# PREPARING FOR THE UK

You must be excited at the thought of going to the UK, but here are some things not to be missed before you can truly enjoy your voyage thousands of miles from home. From visa application 101, banking and finance, accommodation, to what to pack - this section is sure to help your pre-departure preparations.

### SECTION 3: PREPARING FOR THE UK

- Applying for my visa
- Health and insurance
- Banking and finances
- Accommodation
- Packing for the UK
- Arriving in the UK and what to expect
- Halal food in the UK
- Survival tips from real students
- Contrasting behaviour



## Applying for my visa

Malaysian nationals intending to study in the UK will be required to apply for a student visa. Passport can be submitted to the UK Visa Application Centre in Kuala Lumpur after online application has been submitted.

Please refer to this website for the latest information on visas: [www.gov.uk/student-visa](http://www.gov.uk/student-visa)

On arrival in the UK, you will usually need the following in hand:

- ☐ Valid passport (with UK student visa)
- ☐ Original education certificates/transcripts, in order to register at the university
- ☐ Details of your university and accommodation offer (e.g. CAS, etc.)
- ☐ Flight tickets and details of any bookings you have made for coach collection services, train journeys, orientation programme, etc.
- ☐ Evidence to prove you have sufficient funds to pay your tuition fees and maintain your livelihood (and any dependants if applicable). For example, bank drafts, letter from bank, recent bank statements, letter from sponsor, etc. The UK Visas & Immigration reserves the right to check this.

- ☐ Credit cards, travellers cheques, some cash (do not carry large amounts of cash).
- ☐ TB (Tuberculosis) certificate and related documents
- ☐ Visa decision letter
- ☐ ATAS Certificate (if applicable)

### REMINDER!

1. Carry all these documents with you in your hand luggage (not checked-in baggage) to keep them safe and allow you to have easy access to them when travelling and on arrival at a UK airport. You will be asked to produce some of the documents indicated above at the Immigration section of a UK airport. You need to clear Immigration first, before you collect your baggage.
2. It would also be useful to make a few photocopies of your passport and student visa.

MABECS will be able to assist applicants with visa matters. To reach a MABECS education advisor, call us at 03-7956 7655 or email [enquiries@mabecs.com](mailto:enquiries@mabecs.com)



## Health and insurance

A Malaysian national is considered a non-EEA national (European Economic Area). This requires Malaysian students intending to study in the UK to pay an **Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)** when you submit your visa application. Paying the IHS will entitle you to use the **National Health Service (NHS)** in the UK during your time of stay there.

The charge will be **£776 per student** and per dependant (should there be applicable any per year of study, **payable in full at the time of visa application**. If the surcharge is required, but not paid, the application will be refused or treated as invalid and rejected.

However, the charges for optical and dental treatment under the UK National Health Service are

not covered by HIS and higher than what it usually costs in Malaysia, so try and visit the dentist or optician before you leave for the UK, or when you are back home on holiday.

When you have time, you might like to take advantage of your student status and travel cheaply in Europe, but then UK healthcare would not cover your travels, so you should purchase travel insurance for more assurance. You may also need visas for some countries in Europe.

Do not take unnecessary valuables with you such as jewellery. Make sure your possessions are insured.

To find out more, visit the UK government's official guide at: <https://bit.ly/2dtoAcO>



# Banking and finance



## Spending Money

If you are bringing money to the UK with you, we suggest you take most of it in the form of a bank draft, credit cards, or travellers cheques. Take a small amount of cash with you for immediate expenses. There will be opportunity to open a bank account in the UK at a convenient location.

## Banking

It is quite likely that one of the big nationwide banks will have facilities on the university campus. It may take some time for your account to be opened/bank draft to clear. Your credit cards, travellers cheques and/or some cash will come in handy over this period.

MABECS will be able to assist applicants with questions.

To reach a MABECS education advisor, call us at 03-7956 7655 or email [enquiries@mabecs.com](mailto:enquiries@mabecs.com)



## Accommodation

Where should you stay in the UK – on campus or off campus? Here are some tips from MABECS education advisor.

It is wise to live in university accommodation during your first year. It will allow you to settle into university life with minimal stress and fuss and there are no “hidden costs”, as compared to some private accommodation.

Most universities will provide basic provisions like bedding. You will find that you will make friends in halls quickly, and if you prefer to live off campus in your later years, it would be nice to share a home with your new friends.

You can also find your perfect student accommodation via Casita.com, Housemates Student.com, University Living and Unilodgers.

**Casita.com** is a trusted UK and Australian accommodation placement service with 200,000 rooms across the UK and Australia. Rooms on Casita.com are high quality rooms close to campus with great facilities. No booking fees is charged. Visit [www.casita.com/MABECS](http://www.casita.com/MABECS) to find, shortlist and book your student room.

**Housemates** is a student-first booking platform that has grown to operate in over 100 cities across the UK, Ireland, Australia & Canada. Within minutes, you can book your student room from verified accommodation providers.

**Student.com** is the world's leading marketplace for international student housing, helping students find their perfect home abroad. Student.com has been six years in the making and its international team has already helped thousands of students find their home.

**Unilodgers** is the world's first and largest student housing provider. Using technology, talent around the world, and some lateral thinking, Unilodgers makes the journey towards finding the perfect student home simple, secure, and smooth.

**University Living** is a global student housing managed marketplace that assists students seeking higher education in finding housing near universities around the world. Its tech-enabled platform lets students search-compare-book from over 1.75 million beds in 300+ student popular cities across the UK, Ireland, Australia, Europe, USA and Canada.

## Packing for the UK

So you are all set for the UK, but  
what should you pack?





## 1. Travel Documents

- Passport
- Passport-sized photos
- CV & references
- University documents
- Exam certificate
- Some important phone numbers and addresses, in case you lose your phone
- Accommodation contract
- Tuberculosis test report in case the authorities require it
- Label your suitcase with your address and phone number



## 2. Clothing

- Students in the UK tend to live in a pair of jeans, shirt, sweatshirt and trainers. This is “standard” student wear.
- Sport socks are nice and thick and would be ideal to take to the UK. Winter clothing, gloves and scarves are cheaper to buy in the UK than they are in Malaysia. Make sure you take some warm clothing with you initially.
- Flip flops for wearing in showers/communal area.
- Formal wear may be required for presentations or dinners.
- If you plan to play any sports, a pair of trainers and some basic sportswear (shorts and a track-suit) may be useful.
- Bring a raincoat (or umbrella) so that you're prepared to face the cold and rainy days.



## 3. Toiletries

- It is unlikely you will do any shopping immediately when you arrive in the UK. Take a toothbrush, toothpaste, facial cleanser, body shampoo, and hair shampoo to freshen up. Do however bear in mind there are restrictions with regard to the amount of liquids you can carry on board the aircraft.
- For optical needs, don't forget prescription glasses/spare glasses, or contact lenses plus cleaning fluid. Others may want to remember bringing their braces/retainer accessories.



## 4. Food

- Your appetite may be affected when you arrive and you may get hungry at the wrong times of the day. Take some instant noodles or instant beverages/cereals with you.
- If you're moving into a self-catered accommodation, you may want to carry some basic kitchen cutleries with you such as a cup, sauce pan, plate, spoon, scissors, knife, sandwich bags and plastic bowls.



## 5. Electronics

- It's almost a given that you do need a laptop with you throughout your studies in the UK. Although universities have computer labs, having a personal laptop will help you to study and complete assignments at your own pace and time; not to mention as a source of affordable entertainment away from home!
- Other important electronics include phone chargers and cables, adaptors, extension board, camera (if needed), and power banks (must be carried in cabin luggage).

To be safe, check the list of items you're allowed and restricted to bring into the UK here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods>

# Arriving in the UK and what to expect



Most universities have a meet and greet scheme. Universities have prearranged dates where they will meet students at the airport.

Always keep your important travel documents close to you, and be ready to be inspected by immigration officers for important documents such as the TB (Tuberculosis) certificate. Make extra photocopies of important documents such as your passport and student visa.

## ***Halal food in the UK***

Halal food is not uncommon in the UK, and plenty of tips by real students have been written about halal food on specific campuses and universities. Do a quick search on the Internet to find out the halal food near your campus, suffice to say that you will not go hungry.

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## **Contrasting Behaviour**

### **Malaysia**

Silence does not necessarily mean agreement

Criticism is rare especially in public

Open disagreement is taken as a sign of disloyalty

Communication, particularly of bad news, tends to be indirect

Authority expects token signs of respect

### **UK**

Dispute or argument does not necessarily mean disagreement

Criticism is not normally intended to be personal

Open statements, facts and views are expected, even required

Communication is often direct

Token signs of respect are minimal

Such contrasting behaviour can be quite a culture shock for some, but often people can cope very well. So how does one cope? Learn to be patient, courteous and adopt a willingness to become absorbed in the local culture. Learn all you can about the host culture and avoid being judgemental.

Don't compare UK with Malaysia to the former's disadvantage or criticise the British for not being like you. They are different and are neither better nor worse than people from any other country.

04



# WORKING IN THE UK



Most students would ask about working in the UK: how is it like, how much would it pay, and how long can a student work. In this section, MABECS education advisors provide answers for two categories - part-time work and full-time work after your graduation.

#### SECTION 4: WORKING IN THE UK

- Part-time work as a student
- Working in the UK after graduation

# Part-time work for a student



If you have applied for a student visa, your eligibility for part-time work in the UK depends on the type of institution you will be studying at.

Most students at universities in the UK are permitted to take up part-time work, as long as they do not breach the following regulations:

The student should not work for more than 20 hours per week during term time (and full-time during vacations), except where the placement is a necessary part of their studies and with the agreement of their educational institution (providing the work placement does not amount to more than 50% of the course).

The student should not engage in business, self-employment, or the provision of services as a professional sportsperson or entertainer. The student should not pursue a career by filling a permanent full-time vacancy.



## QUICK TIP

If you are studying at a private college in the UK, in most cases you will not be allowed to work, even if the private college has Highly Trusted Sponsor status. However, if your private college is a recognised body, you may be allowed to work.

Please note that such information changes from time to time. To find out more, visit

[www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk).

You can also read the full Student Visa guidance document using this shortened link:

<https://bit.ly/2uIONQ4>

## OK, I've read all that. How do I get started with a part-time job?

### 1st Step: Get Advice

Get advice from the Career office or the Student Welfare Office or the Students' Union at your university.

There may be job opportunities available, particularly during the holidays, at your university. Many universities run conferences during the vacations and are glad to be of help at those times.

### 2nd Step: Discover the Job Centre

In every British town there is a government sponsored employment agency called the "Jobcentre". The Jobcentre displays details for many part-time jobs.

### 3rd Step: Get a Job Offer

Follow up appropriate work opportunities detailed at the Jobcentre, or suggested by your university advisers, or visit the local supermarkets who may have part-time work, and take advice from other overseas students.

## But ..... Remember

First of all, your top priority in the UK is to obtain a good degree, and you really must not put that at risk by taking part-time work, (or anything else!)

Secondly, there are many activities in UK universities which contribute a lot to your "Education for Life". It would be a poor investment of your time to miss out entirely on these activities. So do not attempt to spend every spare moment on some (poorly paid) part-time job; go for some balance in your once-in-a-lifetime university experience. Ideally, look upon a part-time job as a chance to reward yourself with a holiday around Europe after you have obtained your good degree!

## Working Dependants

The spouse of an international student may work without permission as long as they have been given leave to remain in the UK for twelve months or more. Please note that for a student to bring their dependants to the UK, the student will have to be on a postgraduate research course at a university, which is of more than 12 months duration or a Government sponsored student.

# Working after graduation

From 1 July 2021, graduates who completed an eligible course at a UK higher education provider with a track record of compliance with immigration requirements by government can apply for Graduate Visa to remain in the UK for a maximum period of 2 years or 3 years for doctoral graduates.

This means that to remain in the UK to work after your graduation, you would need to have either Graduate Visa or secured an offer of a skilled job with annual salary that fulfils the requirement of

*Work Visa from a sponsoring employer. You will then switch to Work Visa.*

*For more information, please visit the UK Visas & Immigration website:*  
[www.gov.uk/visas-immigration](https://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration)

*You can also read the full Student Visa guidance document here:* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/points-based-system-student-route>

*Information updated as of May 2024.*

05

# RESOURCES

## Categories of universities

University education in the UK has an ancient tradition, dating back to the 13th century.

Today the universities that exist can (with some exceptions) largely be divided into two very broad categories:



### Charter Universities

All universities in this category were set up as universities by Royal Charter. Some date back to the 13th and 14th centuries (such as Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Cambridge and Oxford); many of the great civic universities can trace their origins to the 18th century and the age of great technical and industrial development (like Birmingham and Nottingham); whilst others were established in the 1960s' (such as Bath, Lancaster, Loughborough, Surrey, etc.)

Due to their traditional background many of these universities have focused on developing courses of a theoretical and academic nature. Nevertheless a whole range of subject areas are offered within this category of university, including some very practical courses. Members of staff at these universities are very involved in research activities and focus on academic development and excellence. Thus, it can be said that the majority of them are primarily research institutions that also teach undergraduate studies.



### Statute Universities

These were established in response to the needs of local industry for skilled workers and specific technical training, such as for the automobile industry in Coventry, the aircraft industry in Hertfordshire, textiles and knitting in Leicester (De Montfort) or chemicals in Teesside.

Over the years these institutions developed great expertise in the teaching of industrial and commercial activities important to their local community and had courses at degree level. By the middle of the last century most were referred to as Polytechnics. In 1992 they were given the right to call themselves universities and were placed under government control, but they largely maintain their practical and technical approach. Nevertheless, a whole range of subject areas are offered within this category of university, including some very theoretical courses. It can be said that the majority of them are teaching institutions that also do research but research is becoming an increasing focus at these institutions as well.

# List of UK universities

by alphabetical order

## A

**University of Aberdeen**, Scotland  
(<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/>)

**Aberystwyth University** (Prifysgol Aberystwyth), Wales (<http://www.aber.ac.uk/>)

**Anglia Ruskin University**, England  
(<http://www.anglia.ac.uk/>)

**Aston University**, England  
(<http://www.aston.ac.uk/>)

## B

**Bangor University** (Prifysgol Bangor), Wales  
(<http://www.bangor.ac.uk/>)

**University of Bath**, England  
(<http://www.bath.ac.uk/>)

**Birkbeck, University of London**, England  
(<http://www.bbk.ac.uk/>)

**University of Birmingham**, England  
(<http://www.bham.ac.uk/>)

**Birmingham City University**, England  
(<http://www.bcu.ac.uk/>)

**Bournemouth University**, England (<http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/>)

**BPP University**, England  
(<http://www.bppuniversity.ac.uk/>)

**University of Bradford**, England (<http://www.bradford.ac.uk/>)

**University of Brighton**, England (<http://www.brighton.ac.uk/>)

**University of Bristol**, England  
(<http://www.bris.ac.uk/>)

**Brunel University London**, England (<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/>)

## C

**Cardiff University** (Prifysgol Caerdydd), Wales (<http://www.cf.ac.uk/>)

**City, University of London**, England  
(<http://www.city.ac.uk/>)

**Coventry University**, England  
(<http://www.coventry.ac.uk/>)

## D

**De Montfort University**, England  
(<http://www.dmu.ac.uk/>)

**University of Dundee**, Scotland  
(<http://www.dundee.ac.uk/>)

**Durham University**, England  
(<http://www.dur.ac.uk/>)

## E

**University of East Anglia**, England  
(<http://www.uea.ac.uk/>)

**University of East London**, England  
(<http://www.uel.ac.uk/>)

**University of Edinburgh**, Scotland  
(<http://www.ed.ac.uk/>)

**Edinburgh Napier University**, Scotland  
(<http://www.napier.ac.uk/>)

**University of Essex**, England  
(<http://www.essex.ac.uk/>)

**University of Exeter**, England  
(<http://www.ex.ac.uk/>)

## G

**University of Glasgow**, Scotland  
(<http://www.gla.ac.uk/>)

**Glasgow Caledonian University**, Scotland  
(<http://www.gcal.ac.uk/>)

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**Goldsmiths, University of London,**  
England (<http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/>)

**University of Greenwich,** England  
(<http://www.gre.ac.uk/>)

### H

**Heriot-Watt University,** Scotland  
(<http://www.hw.ac.uk/>)

- **Heriot-Watt University,** Malaysia Campus  
(<http://www.hw.ac.uk/malaysia.htm>)

**University of Hertfordshire,** England  
(<http://www.herts.ac.uk/>)

**University of Huddersfield,** Huddersfield  
(<https://www.hud.ac.uk/>)

**University of Hull,** England  
(<http://www.hull.ac.uk/>)

### K

**Keele University,** England  
(<http://www.keele.ac.uk/>)

**University of Kent,** England  
(<http://www.kent.ac.uk/>)

**King's College London,** England  
(<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/>)

**Kingston University,** England  
(<http://www.kingston.ac.uk/>)

### L

**University of Central Lancashire,**  
England (<http://www.uclan.ac.uk/>)

**Lancaster University,** England  
(<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/>)

**University of Law**  
(<http://www.law.ac.uk/>)

**University of Leeds,** England  
(<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/>)

**University of Leicester,** England  
(<http://www.le.ac.uk/>)

**University of Lincoln,** England  
(<http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/>)

**University of Liverpool,** England  
(<http://www.liv.ac.uk/>)

**Liverpool John Moores University,** England  
(<http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/>)

**London Metropolitan University,** England  
(<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/>)

**London South Bank University,** England  
(<http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/>)

**Loughborough University,** England  
(<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/>)

### M

**University of Manchester,** England  
(<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/>)

**Manchester Metropolitan University,**  
England (<http://www.mmu.ac.uk/>)

**Middlesex University,** England  
(<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/>)

### N

**Newcastle University,** England  
(<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/>)

**Northeastern University London,** England  
(<https://www.nulondon.ac.uk/>)

**University of Nottingham,** England  
(<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/>)

**Nottingham Trent University,** England  
(<http://www.ntu.ac.uk/>)

### O

**Oxford Brookes University,** England  
(<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/>)

### P

**University of Plymouth,** England  
(<http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/>)

**University of Portsmouth,** England  
(<http://www.port.ac.uk/>)

## Q

**Queen Margaret University**, Edinburgh, Scotland (<http://www.qmu.ac.uk/>)

**Queen Mary, University of London**, England (<http://www.qmul.ac.uk/>)

**Queen's University Belfast**, Northern Ireland (<http://www.qub.ac.uk/>)

## R

**Ravensbourne University London**, England (<https://www.ravensbourne.ac.uk/>)

**University of Reading**, England (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/>)

- **University of Reading**, Malaysia Campus (<https://www.reading.edu.my/>)

**Robert Gordon University**, Aberdeen, Scotland (<http://www.rgu.ac.uk/>)

**Royal Holloway, University of London**, England (<http://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/>)

**Royal Veterinary College, University of London**, England (<http://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/>)

## S

**University of Salford**, England (<http://www.salford.ac.uk/>)

**School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London**, England (<http://www.soas.ac.uk/>)

**University of Sheffield**, England (<http://www.shaf.ac.uk/>)

**Sheffield Hallam University**, England (<http://www.shu.ac.uk/>)

**University of South Wales (Prifysgol De Cymru)**, Wales (<http://www.southwales.ac.uk/>)

**University of Southampton**, England (<http://www.soton.ac.uk/>)

- **University of Southampton**, Malaysia Campus (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/my/index.page>)

**Solent University**, England (<http://www.solent.ac.uk/>)

**University of St Andrews**, Scotland (<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/>)

**University of Stirling**, Scotland (<http://www.stir.ac.uk/>)

**University of Strathclyde**, Scotland (<http://www.strath.ac.uk/>)

**University of Sunderland**, England (<http://www.sunderland.ac.uk/>)

**University of Surrey**, England (<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/>)

**University of Sussex**, England (<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/>)

**Swansea University (Prifysgol Abertawe)**, Wales (<http://www.swan.ac.uk/>)

## T

**Teesside University**, England (<http://www.tees.ac.uk/>)

## U

**University of Ulster**, Northern Ireland (<http://www.ulster.ac.uk/>)

**University of the Arts London**, England (<http://www.arts.ac.uk/>)

## W

**University of the West of England**, Bristol, England (<http://www.uwe.ac.uk/>)

**University of Warwick**, England (<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/>)

**University of Westminster**, England (<http://www.westminster.ac.uk/>)

**University of Winchester**, England (<http://www.winchester.ac.uk/>)

## Y

**University of York**, England (<http://www.york.ac.uk/>)



## Other pathway providers:

**Brooke House College**, England (<http://www.brookehouse.com/>)

**Cambridge Education Group**, multiple campuses  
(<http://www.cambridgeeducationgroup.com/>)

**INTO University Partnerships**, multiple campuses  
(<http://www.intoglobal.com/>)

**Kaplan International Pathways**, multiple campuses  
(<https://www.kaplanpathways.com/>)

**MPW (Mander Portman Woodward)**, multiple campuses  
(<https://www.mpw.ac.uk/>)

**Navitas pathway programs**, multiple campuses  
(<http://www.navitas.com/students>)

**Oxford International Education Group**, multiple campuses  
(<http://www.oxfordinternational.com/>)

**Study Group**, multiple campuses  
(<http://www.studygroup.com/>)

## MABECS

has a reference library in

Petaling Jaya, where you will find a range of reference books, as well as prospectuses, course leaflets, subject booklets and material on UK universities. Do drop by anytime during office hours to use these facilities.



### UK degree applications made easy

**MABECS SDN BHD** 198501011041(143492V)

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W [www.mabecs.com](http://www.mabecs.com)

**Monday to Friday:**  
9:30am to 4:30pm

**Saturday, Sundays and public holidays:**  
Closed



Scan to chat with us over WhatsApp



If all that information is making you feel overwhelmed, don't worry. You're not alone. Countless students have felt the same way and they've found it helpful to consult MABECS for their UK degree applications. For an overview of our services, check out the Inside Front Cover page.

Here is how your MABECS education advisor can help you in detail:

1

### BEFORE APPLYING

MABECS provides detailed information on:

- UK universities' environment, fees, and facilities
- course structure, content and specialisation entry
- requirements and university standards
- specific university's research ratings and teaching quality assessments



We can also recommend suitable and relevant universities based on your academic results and preferences.

2

### APPLICATION

MABECS provides detailed information on:

- postgraduate degree application explained from start to end
- personal guidance for your Personal Statement
- mock interviews
- monitoring the progress of your application
- providing advice at stages where important decisions need to be made
- being the intermediary (middle person) between you and universities if our assistance is required
- counselling sessions with visiting UK admissions tutors and university representatives
- IELTS registration with the British Council

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### PRE-DEPARTURE HELP

MABECS provides guidance on:

- visa applications
- accommodation arrangements
- flight bookings

## NOTES

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# Applying for a UK degree doesn't have to be complicated!

## Some of the topics you will find in this book:



Step-by-step  
guide to your UK  
degree application



Choosing the  
right university  
for yourself



Types of  
postgraduate  
degree  
explained clearly



Scholarships  
and loans



Average fees  
and costs



Personal  
Statement 101



List of UK  
universities you  
can apply to



Pre-departure  
guidance: visa,  
accommodation,  
etc.



Tips from real  
students

If you prefer to skip this book and speak directly to a  
MABECS education advisor to get started, feel free to walk-in  
to MABECS office or contact us via phone/e-mail.

## UK degree applications made easy



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