

UK degree applications made easy

YOUR

A→Z

GUIDE TO

UK

UNDERGRADUATE
STUDIES

Specially curated for you by



MABECS
EST. 1985

BEFORE WE GO FURTHER...



Who is MABECS

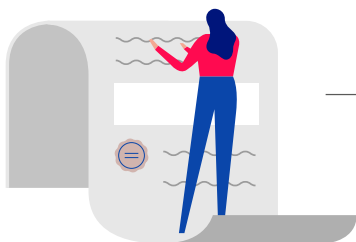
MABECS is Malaysia's most experienced
advisory service on UK degrees.
Our service is free of charge.



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
enquiries@mabecs.com

From enquiry to successful student placement, **we take care of it all.**

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



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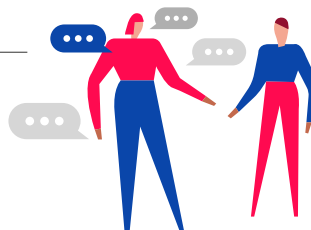
Application

All things UCAS - from how to write a good personal statement, to mock interviews, and even monitoring students' application progress.

Test Preparation & Mock Interviews

We provide assistance for LNAT, BMAT, UCAT and others tests that might be required by UK universities. We also provide mock interviews for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Oxford & Cambridge.

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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



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

Yes, read on!

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01

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CHOOSING MY UNIVERSITY

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: CHOOSING MY UNIVERSITY

- University rankings
- Course styles and content
- University environment
- Accreditation
- Entry requirements
- Location
- Average fees and costs
- UK student reviews
- Official university QA reports
- What is Research Excellence Framework?
- What are League Tables?

University Rankings

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



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.

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.

To reach a MABECS education advisor, call or Whatsapp us at 603-7956 7655 or email enquiries@mabecs.com You can also make an appointment with us via <https://calendly.com/mabecs/consultation> for face-to-face or Zoom call consultation.



Course styles and content

The same subject can be taught in very different ways from one university to another.

In addition to traditional teaching and learning methods such as lectures, tutorials, homework, and cookbook labs; universities now may also use evidenced-based pedagogy. Some of these include flipped classrooms, peer-based active learning, online guided exercises, inquiry and project-based simulations pre-labs, and guided peer discussion post-lab.

Thus, you must ensure that you check the course styles of the universities that you are considering. If you are better suited to studying with big exams at the end of the final year, then you need to find universities that offer the more traditional approach.

All UK degree courses lead to 'honours degrees' (Hons) if you achieve a high enough standard in your coursework and final examinations. A straight

honours degree in the UK will take you three years from A Levels, STPM, to International Baccalaureate® (IB) – with some exceptions. An honours degree at a Scottish university, for example, takes four years. Fully-accredited Engineering degrees (MEng) take four years. Medicine and Dentistry both require a minimum of five years to complete.

However, due to the many combinations and variations within courses, the traditional length of degree courses mentioned above may differ.

As such, we have listed some considerations for course styles and content so that it helps you in making a more informed decision.

Please refer to the specific MABECS Subject Booklets for more details on each subject.

Sandwich Courses



A university course that includes periods of work (industrial placement) between periods of study so that students receive both theoretical knowledge and practical experience.

The goal of a Sandwich Course is to ensure students receive the highest level of academic learning possible, whilst also making sure that students are prepared to enter the workforce. This means extending your degree by one year, in order to spend 12 months working in the industry as a part of your degree course.

This work experience, which usually takes place after the second year, provides students invaluable insight as to how theoretical knowledge gets translated into experiential knowledge in the workplace. Typically, you will earn a salary during the industrial placement.

Another advantage of this course is that you will finish the course as a fresh graduate with 12 months of international work experience!

Coursework vs Project Work



Coursework refers to the typical class assignment that a student undertakes as part of the course requirement. **Project work** refers to a larger research assignment which requires more effort and facilitates application to real-life situations. Project work is sometimes paid a minimal salary by the university.

If you prefer a course that will assess you continuously; then you need to focus on universities that offer this option or have a significant element of project work in the course. Coursework assessment, project work and examinations are very different styles of assessment; hence, you need to think carefully over which suits you best as you go through the modules outlined in the course.

Additional options - language courses and elective modules



Many university courses aim to equip their students with additional skills that will make them competent for the global workplace.

As a result, many courses offer language proficiency modules in addition to the main course of study. For example, many chemistry and engineering courses now offer the pure science with a language. Thus, the course is increased in length by one year to allow the student to spend a year abroad and fully develop the use of the foreign language. In addition, many science-based courses are combining their subjects with business and management options to better prepare students for the workplace. In these instances, the courses do not usually increase in length.

Course Content



Courses with the same titles do not necessarily have the same course content. Check the course content carefully before you apply.

Universities in the UK are self-governing; each university autonomously decide what subjects it will teach, as well as how it will approach a particular subject.

As such, you need to find out the major differences in approach and style before you apply. No subject is excluded from this difference: Medicine varies in its approach as much as Accounting, Law, Arts, Engineering, Business, Management, Computing, Psychology, and all other subjects. So, remember, do your research carefully!

Please refer to the specific MABECS Quick Guides for more details on this.

University Environment

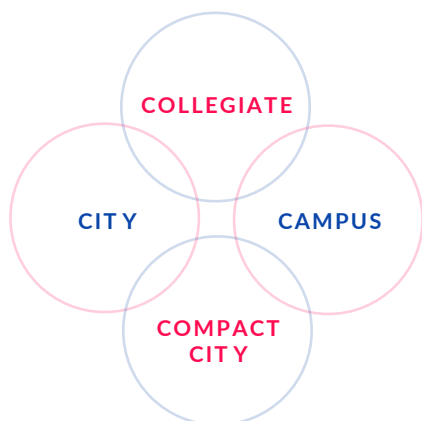
The **environment** of the university that you choose can have a **great impact** on your **student life** at the university.





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



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



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



Accreditation

It is essential that any course you apply for is accredited and recognised locally by the relevant professional body in Malaysia. For example, currently, only 30 universities in the UK are recognised for Law graduates to be eligible to sit for the Certificate of Legal Practice (CLP) in Malaysia. Similarly, there are very strict rules governing the courses and qualifications that are accredited by The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) for Chartered Engineer status.



The Malaysian Medical Council and the Pharmacy Board Malaysia, for example, also have a list of recognised degrees/universities. Please check with the relevant professional bodies about recognition and accreditation. Situations with regard to accreditation does change from time to time so do check to be sure.

Please refer to the specific MABECS Quick Guides for more details on this.



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

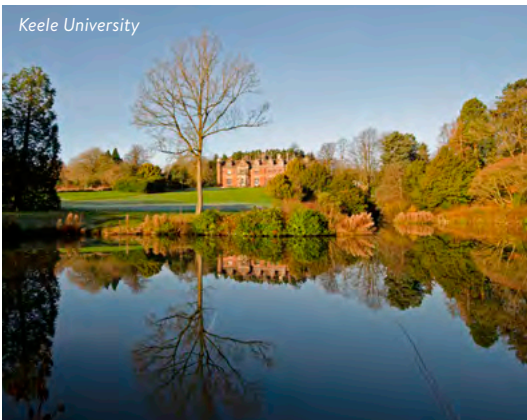
Also, it is important to remember that lower entry requirements at a university **does not mean** that the course is of a poorer standard.

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, enter-tainment, 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.



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.



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:

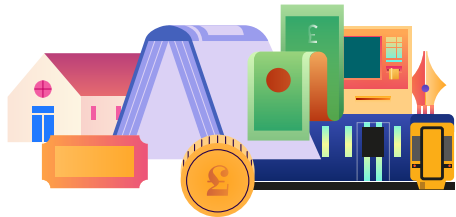
- Classroom-based subjects
- Laboratory-based subjects
- Medicine & Dentistry

There can be significant differences in actual costs within these categories. Fees are also higher for some universities located in and around London compared to those which are based outside of the city area. For the universities of Cambridge and Oxford, there are 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	20000	22000	27000	34000	34100
Charter Classroom	15000	19000	20500	25000	29800
Statute Lab/ Studio	14000	15000	15700	16500	20000
Statute Classroom	13000	14000	14500	15000	18000
Medicine Pre-clinical	30000	32000	33600	40000	50000
Medicine Clinical	38000	40000	43000	50000	63000

50% of universities charge annual tuition fees ranging between those shown in the 2nd & 4th columns.



Cost of Living

On top of tuition fees, you need to factor in the cost of living, which again varies significantly from one region of the UK to the next. Typically, the further north and west that you travel from London, the cheaper the cost of living becomes.

Living costs include accommodation, food, general social expenses, books and additional academic costs, and basic travelling costs (not including international flights). Please note that living costs will vary according to location, lifestyle, and unexpected incidences.

ACCOMMODATION	£ PER WEEK
Catered Single Room	170 – 320
Self-Catered Single Room	120– 320
Food for Self-Catering Students	120
Laundry, Toiletries, Telephone	80
Entertainment	80
Local Travel (within city)	50
OTHER COSTS	£ PER TERM
Books & Equipment	360
Warm Clothing	350
TOTAL LIVING EXPENSES °UKVI MINIMUM	£ PER ACADEMIC YEAR
Outside London	10,224
London	13,347

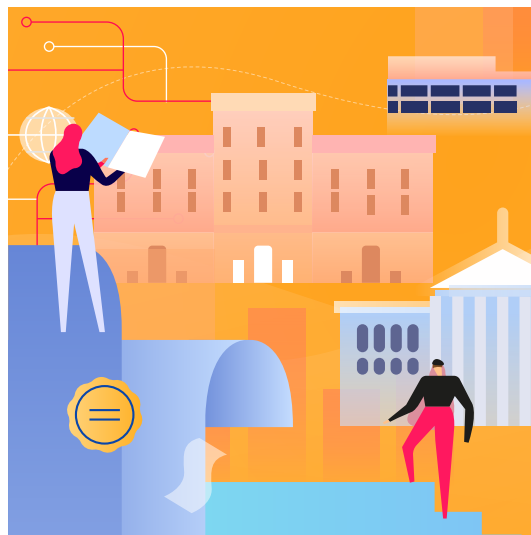


UK student reviews

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 <https://www.thestudentsurvey.com>



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.

What is Research Excellence Framework?

The Research Excellence Framework (REF) is the **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

Source: 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.



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.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Applying for 2nd or 3rd year admission



Is it possible to be admitted into the second or third year of a Bachelor's Degree course?

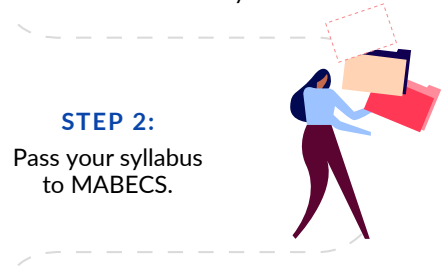
The answer is both yes and no. Most competitive universities may only allow entry into the first year of the degree course (especially for business courses). If you have a good Diploma, it may be possible to get advanced entry into a university. Since the possibility really depends on the university's discretion and your academic results, it is worth a shot upon consulting a MABECS education advisor who can help you assess the situation. Ultimately, the choice is yours to act on the advice you receive.

Here are the steps you should follow:



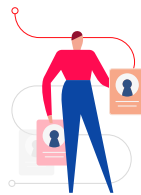
STEP 1:

Prepare your latest transcript and Diploma syllabus



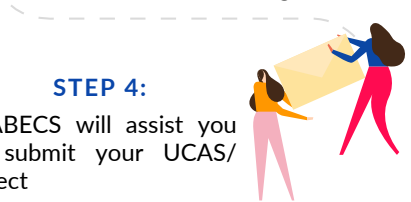
STEP 2:

Pass your syllabus to MABECS.



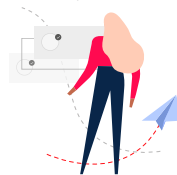
STEP 3:

MABECS will contact the universities that you are interested in to find out whether an advanced entry application will be encouraged.



STEP 4:

MABECS will assist you to submit your UCAS/ Direct



STEP 5:

Wait for offers, shortlist, and accept offers.

THAT'S IT!

02

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APPLYING THROUGH UCAS

What is UCAS and how do I wrap my head around all this information? Not to worry, the MABECS team is here to help.

UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) is basically a centralised application service for all UK universities. Undergraduate applicants are advised to use UCAS to apply to their desired UK universities. Read on to find out more.

SECTION 2: APPLYING THROUGH UCAS

- Step-by-step overview of my application
- Application deadlines
- Personal Statement 101
- My reference
- UCAS terms explained
- What happens after I apply?



Step-by-step overview of my UCAS application



1. Apply

Once you have decided which universities you would like to apply to, you will need to make a UCAS application.

Applications to UCAS must be made electronically, via UCAS Apply. MABECS is a UCAS centre and will be able to help MABECS applicants make a UCAS application. MABECS education advisors would also guide you in completing the application, including providing advice on writing your personal statement, and reminding you on the necessary documents for the application.



2. Track

Once your UCAS application has been submitted to UCAS, via UCAS Apply, you will be able to track the progress of your application electronically via the UCAS Track facility. You can also monitor any

decisions made on your application via UCAS Track. MABECS will also stay in touch with you or your student office (whichever applicable) throughout the process.



QUICK TIP

If you are applying to Oxbridge (Oxford or Cambridge), or for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, and Art & Design courses; please take note of the earlier closing dates for application. The deadline is 15th October 2024.

It is extremely important that you submit your application on time. For Oxbridge and Medicine applicants, you will need specialist advice before you can apply. Contact MABECS for advice or discussion if you are interested in applying for these options. You may make an appointment via <https://calendly.com/mabecs/consultation> for face-to-face or Zoom call consultation, or call 03- 7956 7655 / email enquiries@mabecs.com

Receiving offers

What happens when UCAS results are released? Conditional offers, unconditional offers, what are they? Read on to find out more.

Unconditional Offers

1. These mean you've already met the entry requirements, so the place is yours if you want it! But first check the offer to see if there's anything else you need to do.
2. Check the offer carefully. Even if you've already got your qualifications and have met the academic requirements, you might still need to get a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) or PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) check, provide proof of your results, or meet some financial/medical requirements. If it's not clear, contact the university or college.
3. Remember, by accepting an unconditional offer, you are committing to go to that university or college, so you can't make an insurance choice or be entered into Clearing.
4. If you're taking exams but have been made an unconditional offer, your results won't affect whether or not you get accepted. But, although your place won't be dependent on your grades, taking your exams is really important to prepare you for university or college and could impact your future employment.
5. Some graduate employers take A levels and other qualifications into account when reviewing job applications, so it's important you take this into consideration when preparing for your exams.

Conditional Offers


Most students will be made a "conditional" offer from a university. This means the university has specified a requirement e.g. A levels, IB, STPM, evidence of English Language Proficiency which you must meet if you are to be admitted onto the course. If you do not receive an offer from any of the universities you have applied to, you may make a further university choice through UCAS Extra.


Statement of Decision

UCAS will notify you about offers from universities, via UCAS Track. Once all decisions are received, you will need to reply to your offers and choose a 'Firm' and an 'Insurance' university. There is a deadline for making these Firm and Insurance choices. If you do not meet this deadline your offers are automatically declined by default.

Satisfying a conditional offer

Your A levels and IB results will normally be sent to your universities by UCAS. When the universities receive your results, the selector will compare them with the offer they made. If you meet the requirements, then your place is confirmed.

 If you did not meet the requirements of entry for your 'Firm Acceptance' you will be considered for your 'Insurance Acceptance'.

 If you have not satisfied the condition of both your Firm and Insurance offers, you will automatically go into a system called "CLEARING". This would be a good time to contact your MABECS education advisor as soon as possible to sort out your options for other universities.



Application Deadlines



For Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science applications

Your deadline for application is **15th October 2025** for 2026 entry. For example, if you're applying for next year's entry, please apply by 15th October of this year. Applications made after this date will not be considered.

For Cambridge applicants, there may be earlier deadlines – usually in September. Please check directly with MABECS.



For Art & Design applications

If you are applying for Art & Design courses, a slightly different time frame may apply. Please contact MABECS for further details.



For all other applications (besides the above)

It is recommended that you apply by the 14th January 2026 in order to stand the best chance of securing an offer, especially if you are applying for very competitive courses or universities. Some of these very competitive courses and universities will advise that applications be submitted by the 14th of January 2026.

Applications received after the 14th January up to 30th June will still be considered by most universities, however, is it subject to remaining vacancies.

Type the UCAS buzzword for MABECS 2026 entry: mabecs26

To find out more about the UCAS process, please visit www.ucas.com or speak directly to a MABECS education advisor at 03-7956 7655. You can also make an appointment via <https://calendly.com/mabecs/consultation> for face-to-face or Zoom call consultation or email enquiries@mabecs.com

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.



Who will read my Personal Statement?

A selector who needs more than just examination results to assess your suitability for the course. This is usually the admissions tutors.

Why is the Personal Statement necessary? Aren't my results enough?

The earlier parts of the UCAS form enable you to give the factual information needed to assess your present academic skills. However, for some applications, the Personal Statement can play a key role in receiving an offer on a competitive course or university. There are more well-qualified candidates than there are places available!

In some subjects particularly those connected with the Arts, (Drama, Fine Art, Interior Design, Architecture, Music, etc.) a strong candidate may already have relevant experiences that are important for the selector to know about.

For some other subjects, a major factor in suitability of applicants is their motivation, personal values, and attitudes. Medicine is an obvious example of this. Some medical applicants may have acquired some relevant medical exposure or experience, and that should be mentioned.

So how can I get started with my Personal Statement?

There is probably no part of the application process that is more challenging than the Personal Statement, so first of all remember that there are thousands of others in the same position as you! So don't panic, and if you need guidance, feel free to reach out to your MABECS education advisor who has helped thousands of others in the same shoes.

Dedicate time to plan your personal statement carefully. Think about the points to be included in your personal statement; begin with a draft, and gradually improve it based on feedback received.

What do I write about in the Personal Statement?

There are no hard and fast rules but the following two are the major points that needs to be covered in your Personal Statement.

1. You need to convey a genuine interest in the degree/subject you have applied for at the university.
2. Express yourself thoughtfully in the Personal Statement on why you have chosen the course you have listed. This forms quite an important part of your Personal Statement.

For more detailed writing points, include:

- why you have chosen the degree course in question.
- the reasons why that subject area interests you; also what specific areas (if any) interest you.
- an insightful discussion of any activities or interests that can further support your commitment to this degree. For example, discussion of any relevant placements/work exposure; books you have read that have inspired you to pursue this degree; participation in any relevant projects, events, seminars, conferences, etc.
- what you learnt from these experiences and the skills that you have acquired.
- evidence that you understand what is required to study the course, e.g. if applying for psychology courses, show that you know how scientific the subject is.
- how your current or previous studies relate to the course(s) that you have chosen.
- details of non-accredited skills and achievement which you have gained through various activities (e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Awards, etc.)
- discussion (rather than just a list) of positions of responsibility that you hold/have held both in and out of school, e.g. form prefect or representative for a local charity and the challenges faced, skills acquired, etc.
- discussion of hobbies, interests and social activities that demonstrate your skills and abilities.

- highlights of achievements/attributes that make you interesting, special or unique.
- discussion of future plans/career plans (if any) of how you want to use the knowledge and experience that you gain.



QUICK TIP

- a. Don't be intimidated if you don't possess achievements mentioned in the points above. It is more important to be confident of who you are and be sincere, rather than boasting about what you have not achieved.
- b. Although some universities have indicated that they are looking for well-rounded applicants, the reality is, three quarters (3/4) of your Personal Statement should focus on the discussion of your academic interest. The remaining quarter (1/4) can be used to discuss your non-academic interests. This is something to bear in mind for very competitive courses/universities.
- c. Applicants for Medicine and Dentistry need to highlight and discuss areas that will convey your genuine interest in this field. For example, your voluntary work, practical attachments, etc. Please refer to the MABECS Subject Booklet for Medicine, for further guidelines.
- d. Your personal statement must be an original piece of work. UCAS puts all applications through similarity detection tests such as 'Copy-Catch', which identify statements that have been copied from another source and to detect plagiarism. The universities you have applied to will then be informed if the system detects this in your personal statement.
- e. Avoid flowery language – express yourself simply and precisely. Also try to avoid using too many quotations in your personal statement. The Admissions Tutor is interested in what you think, not what someone else thinks.

Further guidelines on Personal Statements may be obtained from the UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement/how-write-personal-statement>



My Reference

SUMMARY:

A reference is basically a piece of text written by someone (referee) who would endorse or recommend you academically, usually a teacher or lecturer.

Your reference forms an important part of your UCAS application. The reference is usually written by someone who knows you academically, for example, a teacher.

There is no set format for the content of the reference but the following information from your reference is usually useful:

- **Confirmation of the programme you are currently undertaking i.e. name of the programme, duration, awarding body, medium of instruction (where relevant), etc.**
- **Referee's comments/observations with regard your suitability for your chosen degree programme/career**

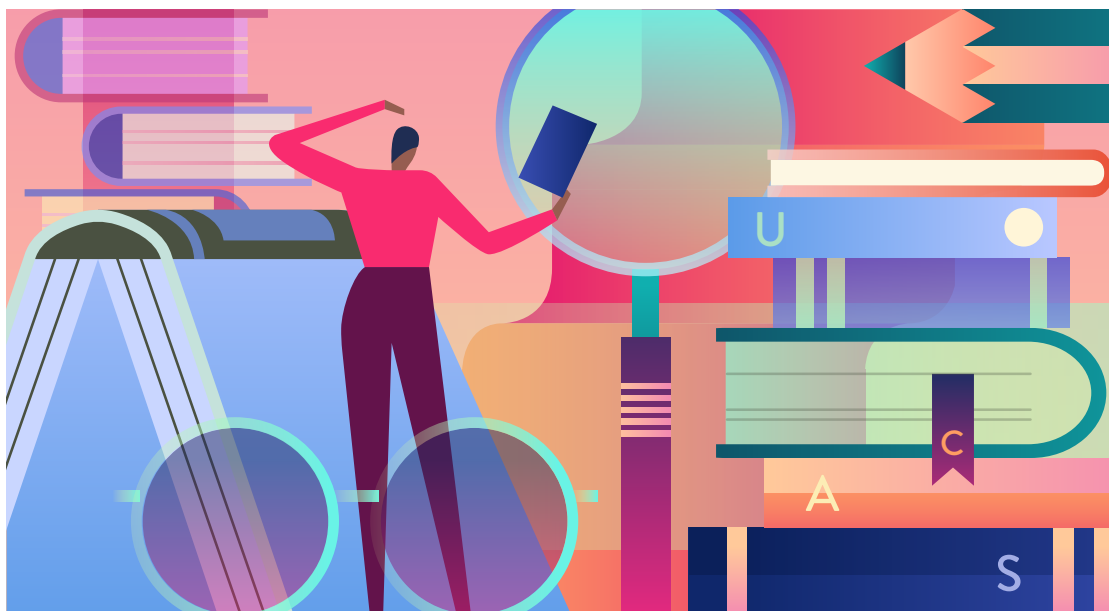
- **Information about your academic performance to date**
- **Extra-curricular activities and interests**
- **Information on academic and non-academic achievements**
- **Any circumstances that has affected or may affect your future performance (if relevant)**

If you have yet to sit for your exams, then the referee will usually need to provide your predicted or forecasted grades.

Further guidelines on References may be obtained from the UCAS website:

<http://www.ucas.com/advisers/references>

To reach a MABECS education advisor, call us at 03-7956 7655 or you can also make an appointment via <https://calendly.com/mabecs/consultation> for face-to-face or Zoom call consultation or email enquiries@mabecs.com



UCAS terms explained

Source: www.ucas.com

A

Adjustment

In an undergraduate application, this is one of the services you can use to look for alternative courses. This one's in case you've met and exceeded your conditions, and you'd like to see if you can get on a course with higher entry requirements – all while still holding your original confirmed place.

B

Bachelor's Degree

A three or four-year course you can take in undergraduate higher education after you've finished further education – also known as a first or undergraduate degree.

C

Centre

A school, college or organisation that can help students apply to higher education.

Changed course offer

In your application, you might get one of these if you haven't met your conditions, or if the university or college has made changes to the courses they run. It might involve a different start date or point of entry, or a different course altogether.

Clearing

In an undergraduate application, 'Clearing' is another service you can use to look for alternative courses. If you didn't get a place on a course – whether

you didn't receive offers, declined your offers, or didn't get the grades you needed – 'Clearing' allows you to apply for courses that still have vacancies (pending actual grades achieved).

Conditional offer

In your application, this refers to an offer of a place on a course, subject to conditions. To be accepted on the course, you'll need to meet the conditions – usually related to your exam results. This is a common type of offer for students applying directly from further education.

Confirmation

In your application, this is the outcome of a conditional offer you've accepted. If you meet the conditions, your place will be made unconditional (meaning you've got a place on the course) – otherwise, the offer will be declined.

Course provider

A university, college, conservatoire or other institution offering higher education courses.

D

Deferral

In your application, this is what you do if you'd like to carry an offer over to start it in the following academic year.

E

Entry requirements

This is what the course provider recommends you need to do/have to get on the course – from qualifications and specific subjects or grades to interviews, admissions tests and medical requirements. You aren't guaranteed an offer unless you meet or already have these.

Extra

In an undergraduate application, 'Extra' is a service

you can use to apply for alternative places if you do not hold an offer from your first five choices.

F

Firm choice

In your application, this is an offer you accept as your first choice.

Further education (FE)

The level of education you complete at school or college before you start higher education. In Malaysia, this would mean SPM, STPM, A levels, IB, or pre-university courses.

H

HEI

A higher education institution – a university, college or conservatoire.

Higher education (HE)

The level of education we can help you apply to – from undergraduate courses when you've finished further education, to postgraduate courses you can move on to after graduating from an undergraduate degree.

I

Insurance choice

In your application, this is an offer you accept as your second choice – just in case you don't meet the conditions of your firm offer.

Invitation

In your application, you may receive an invitation from a university or college asking you to attend an interview or audition, or to provide a portfolio, essay or another piece of work.

L**League tables**

Rankings of course providers – these can be an overall ranking, or listed by reputation, courses or departments.

P**Personal ID**

In your application, the 10-digit number you get when you register to UCAS Apply – printed in a 123-456-7890 format on every letter UCAS sends you.

Personal statement

A piece of text applicants write to show why they're applying and why they'd be a great student for a course provider to accept.

Point of entry

In your application, which year of the course you start at – for example '2' means you'd start in the second year of the course.

Postgraduate

Higher education study for graduates who have already completed an undergraduate course.

R**Referee**

In your application, someone who provides a reference for you.

Reference

In your application, a recommendation on an applicant's application form from a teacher, adviser or professional.

S**Sandwich course**

A course with an additional year where you work in a profession you're studying for.

T**Tariff**

The Undergraduate Tariff is the system for allocating points to the different qualifications you can use to get into undergraduate higher education. Not all qualifications will be included on the Tariff.

Track

The name of the UCAS online tracking system where you can see how your application is progressing. Here you can reply to offers and make amendments like changing your email address and more.

U**UCAS**

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service in the UK. This includes the main UCAS undergraduate application, as well as the other schemes UCAS run, e.g. CUKAS (performing arts), UTT (UCAS Teacher Training), and UKPASS (postgraduate).

Unconditional offer

In your application, an offer of a place on a course with no conditions – the place is yours if you want it.

Undergraduate

The first level of study in higher education. If you graduate from an undergraduate degree, you can move on to postgraduate study.

Unsuccessful

In your application, either you haven't been made an offer or you haven't met the conditions of a conditional offer.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Scholarships and student loans

Your scholarship questions answered
by MABECS education advisors

Q: "I am looking for scholarships or student loans for my Bachelor's Degree 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.



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

A: The answer is the same as the above. Please contact a MABECS education advisor directly so that you can find relevant help as to your course and university.

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.

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 03-7956 7655 or you can also make an appointment via <https://calendly.com/mabecs/consultation> for face-to-face or Zoom call consultation or email 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

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, trains 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

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://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application>



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 you can also make an appointment via <https://calendly.com/mabecs/consultation> for face-to-face or Zoom call consultation or email 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 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, T-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 cutlery 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. Here are some shortened links of articles available on the internet to get you started, specific to some universities:

1. **Bristol:** <https://brisoc.org/halal-food>
2. **York:** <https://goo.gl/Kt3yNX>
3. **Southampton:** <https://www.southamptonisoc.org/halal-food>
4. **Exeter:** <https://goo.gl/6aZsPq>

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

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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.

You can also read the full Student Visa guidance document using this shortened link: <https://bit.ly/2ulONQ4>

Information updated as of May 2024

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

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

Please note that information on such schemes does change from time to time.

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/>)

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 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.shef.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

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9:30am to 4:30pm

Saturday, Sundays and public holidays:
Closed



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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:

- UCAS application process 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, UCAS and universities if our assistance is required
- counselling sessions with visiting UK admissions tutors and university representatives
- IELTS registration with the British Council

3

PRE-DEPARTURE HELP

MABECS provides guidance on:

- visa applications
- accommodation arrangements
- flight bookings

NOTES

NOTES

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



UCAS terms
explained



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.