

SHAHEEN PAKISTAN

Module: Further Study in the United Kingdom



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GLOSSARY

Adjustment: In your UCAS undergraduate application, you will be able to look for alternative courses in case you exceed your conditions. Through adjustment, you can check if you can gain entry into a course that has higher entry requirements (while holding your original confirmed place)

Buzzword: This is a word your school/college will give to you when you are creating your UCAS undergraduate application. You will need to add the buzzword to your application so your application can be linked to your school/college.

Clearing: In your UCAS undergraduate application, you will be able to look for alternative courses in case you do not meet your conditions/receive offers/declined your offers. Through clearing, you can still apply for courses that still have vacancies.

Conditional Offer: In your application, an offer for a course will usually be subject to conditions. In order to be accepted on the course, you will need to meet those conditions.

Courses: This is any specific program that you are applying to. For example, a Bachelor's in Economics counts as one course.

Extra: in your UCAS undergraduate application, you can use this service to apply to additional courses if you do not receive offers from your first five choices

Fresher: Students in their first year of university (slang)

Firm Choice: This is the offer you accept as your first choice

Insurance Choice: This is the offer you accept as your second choice, in case you do not meet the conditions of your firm choice.

Invitation: An interview or audition that you may receive from a university after you have submitted your application

Predicted Grades: these are the grades your teachers/tutors/advisors are expected to send to your prospective universities as a part of your application.

Reference: This is the same as a recommendation letter.

1. INTRODUCTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

The UK education system is well-reputed across the globe. Generally, students in the UK must go through five stages of education: early years, primary, secondary, Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE). Details on these can be viewed [here](#).

Which programs or specializations are most popular/renowned?

According to the British Council, the UK is renowned for its programs in medicine, engineering, science, humanities, fashion design, business and management, and law (visit this [link](#) to find more information).

MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO THE UK

Universities in the UK are generally associated with quality education, and UK degrees are globally recognized ([Chevening](#)). To find out what it is like to live in the UK as a student, you can go through the [British Council Student Life guide](#).

Variety of Subjects

(The following information has been taken from [UCAS](#))

There are more than 395 universities and colleges, offering over 50,000 courses for undergraduate study in more than 25 different subject areas, in the UK. [Here](#) you can find subject guides designed by UCAS; it is recommended you go through these to get an idea of what kind of courses you could study at university, what they involve and what the basic entry requirements are.

Job Prospects

Political, economic and social changes are constantly occurring in the UK, as is the case for any country, and so job prospects are difficult to determine. Work opportunities for foreign citizens are generally limited, with exceptional students having higher chances of employment. In terms of expected pay -- if you do secure a job -- medicine, alongside related degrees such as maths, physics and chemistry, have some of the highest expected graduate earnings. However, it is important to keep in mind that studying such high-returns degrees does not guarantee employment. Other degrees (such as Creative Arts) are considered to be less lucrative, and low-paying graduate degrees (relative to Medicine/Science).

In terms of the relationship between degree level (Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral) and job prospects, a higher degree level is generally associated with improved job prospects -- meaning that a Master's degree or a Doctorate degree is more likely to have better job prospects as compared to a Bachelor's degree. This, however, can vary by field ([Abrar Rahman, Founder and Director Dignosco](#)).

[Click here](#) for advice on how to tackle the UK job market as an international student.

Generally, international students will be able to avail two types of job vacancies after graduation:

1. **Graduate schemes:** These are *offered by large* companies looking for people to work in various areas including IT, Human Resource and Marketing. These schemes will typically be 1.5-2 years long (the exact duration may vary by company).
2. **Direct entry:** This is when students actively *apply* for jobs, again as fresh graduates. The job can either start as an internship or a full-time work opportunity. Usually these are entry level positions in *small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)*. Sometimes larger companies outside of Graduate Schemes also have direct entry options.

More information on the processes and conditions for these two schemes can be viewed [here](#).

Working while studying

(This information was taken from StudyLondon: Official University Guide)

International students are generally allowed to work 20 hours per week while studying, and full time during the holidays. However, they are only eligible to do so if they are studying at a university that is included in the [official UKVI Sponsor list](#) and the [list of 'recognised bodies'](#). Please check with your university to see whether or not you can work while studying in the UK.

Working in the UK after graduation

If you want to work in the UK after graduating, you have to apply for a work visa from [UK Visa and Immigration](#). Graduates are generally allowed to stay in the UK for 4 months, post-graduation. Also, you need a minimum salary of £20,800 to continue working in the UK (last updated in November 2018; USD = 26,222 as of June 2019).

The following are also good resources to check out:

- [Different types of work visas](#)
- [Career Prospects and Tips](#)
- [LSE Career Blog: International Students - How to find work in the UK](#)

Additional information from sources that are marketing the UK to international students

(The following information has been extracted from [Chevening](#) and [British Council](#))

UK government websites that seek to attract international students claim that the UK is “multicultural, multi-faith and multilingual”, and attracts students from all parts of the world. They state if you are interested in meeting and connecting with people of different backgrounds and cultures, you should definitely consider applying here for your higher education. Their Master’s courses are typically for one year, which is shorter than programs in most countries. Because it is a shorter degree, it is more challenging and immersive. UK courses tend to have stringent programs, and you may have to follow a certain course schedule (meaning you may have to take a number of compulsory modules as a part of your study).

OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

All countries within the United Kingdom currently follow the British Curriculum. In short, schooling lasts for thirteen years, after which a student can get a Bachelor's degree, and then go on to get a Master's level degree or a PhD.

During school, students typically have to do GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11, and then A Level examinations at the end of Year 13, to be eligible for a Bachelor's degree in any institution. The schooling system can be broken down in the following table, with the last column showing equivalence in Pakistan:

	UK		Pakistan
13-16 years	Secondary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 9 (13-14 years) Year 10 (14-15 years) Year 11 (15-16 years) GCSE Examinations 	O-level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 9 (13-14 years) Year 10 (14-15 years) Year 11 (15-16 years) O-level Examinations Or Secondary School Certificate (SSC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSC-1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam SSC-2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam
16-18 years	Sixth Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 12 — AS Examinations (16-17 years) Year 13 (17-18 years) A Level Examinations 	A-levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 12 — AS Examinations (16-17 years) Year 13 (17-18 years) A Level Examinations Or Higher Secondary School Certificate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSSC/FSC/FA-1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam HSSC/FSC/FA-2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam
18+ years	University or College of Further Education	Undergraduate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 year Bachelor's degree Postgraduate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 years 	Undergraduate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 year Bachelor's degree Postgraduate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's or Doctoral Level degree

		Master's degree (on average) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3-4 years Doctoral Level degree (on average)	
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EVENTS

For information regarding events, visit the following links:

- British Council hosts events and college fairs frequently. To find more information about the schedule, please click [here](#).
- Additionally, many schools also have representatives visiting campuses in Pakistan -- so you should contact your college counselor (if there is one in your school) to find more information about upcoming events.
- Universities may hold open days on campus that you can take part in physically or online. [This](#) is a good general guide on steps to take if you manage to attend an open day. Do not worry if you are not able to attend open days in person -- some universities may upload videos or give you the chance to attend online open days. Be sure to check out your prospective university website to find out which options you can avail.

MISCONCEPTIONS

- Many Pakistani students think that the UK does not give ANY scholarship -- that is a misconception. Some universities do provide scholarship opportunities to their students, but these are minimal amounts, roughly 15000-30000 Pounds. Note: this is just an estimate, and you should definitely visit your prospective university website to find out the exact amount of funding/scholarship that is available to international students ([Mustafa Arif, Head of College Counseling Department, Cedar College](#)).
- Students tend to think that the US is less expensive than the UK. Studying in the United Kingdom is **not** more expensive: all universities in the UK follow a similar fee structure; USA universities have different fee structures -- so you might be able to find cheaper options in the USA more easily (but the cost would be similar in many places). Excluding tuition, the cost of living abroad can vary significantly (depending on the city/part of UK you are living in). ([Mustafa Arif, Head of College Counseling Department, Cedar College](#)).
- While Oxbridge (University of Oxford and University of Cambridge) sound very impressive, there are other universities that are equally impressive (in certain subjects). Students who graduate from these universities usually have high employability as well ([Qasim Hasan Sayed, Maths Instructor, Wellington College UK](#))

2. UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

TYPES OF DEGREES

Types of Undergraduate Degrees	Duration (Full time programs)
Bachelor of Arts	3-4 years
Bachelor of Science	3-4 years
Difference between BA and BSc: Usually, a BA refers to programs in the Liberal Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences, and BSc includes programs like Mathematics/Business/Economics. In the UK however, the name of the degree largely depends on the university you are studying in: for instance, in some places a Psychology course might be classified as a BSc degree, and in others as a BA degree. Oxbridge, for instance, only offer BA degrees to their graduates (from all fields of study, including scientific ones).	
Bachelor of Business Administration	3-4 years
Bachelor of Education	3-4 years
Bachelor of Engineering	3-4 years
Bachelor of Laws	3 years
Bachelor of Medicine/Surgery	5 years

HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

The good news is that a number of Pakistani schools offer an education system that is equivalent to the GCSEs and A Levels i.e. Ordinary and Advanced Level examinations. These are administered by Cambridge, and are often identical to the GCSEs and A Levels that take place in the UK. These O Levels and A Levels are accepted worldwide as accredited certifications, as well as in the UK when you are applying for a Bachelor's program.

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN

** in no particular ranking*

British Curriculum (O Levels/IGCSEs/A Levels)

If you are interested in applying to the UK, you can choose to enrol in a school that offers O Levels/IGCSEs and A Levels. In Pakistan, many schools are accredited by Cambridge and Edexcel. [This](#) is a useful link to understand accredited examination boards in the UK. After completing your A Levels,

you will be eligible to apply for a Bachelor's degree in the "course" or field of your choice without much trouble. This is the quickest route into getting admission within the UK.

International Baccalaureate

The IB is accepted by all universities in the UK. Typically, three IB courses are required to be taken at a Higher Level, and what score you need to get in these depends on the university and program you are applying to. Not many schools offer this program in Pakistani schools, but it is a good way to gain admission into UK universities.

Pakistani Curriculum (Matriculation/HSSC)

If you have not completed your schooling according to the British curriculum but have taken the Pakistani Secondary School qualification (HSSC), you can still gain entry into British Bachelor programs, but you might have to complete a foundation year at the university. To get admission into the foundation year course, you will typically need a **[60% or higher grade in your HSSC examination](#)**, **although some universities have stricter requirements** (An example of University of Manchester's requirements can be found [here](#)).

Alternatively, if you get a two or three year Bachelor's degree from a Pakistani university, you can gain entry into the foundation year program as well. Note that only after you have completed your first Bachelor's degree, and then the foundation year course, will you be eligible to enrol into your first UK Bachelor's degree.

What is a foundation year?

A foundation year is a one-year introductory course to a full multiple-year degree offered by many universities. If you do not meet the entry requirements for direct entry to a multiple-year degree at a specific university, you can consider applying for a foundation year. After you successfully finish the foundation year course (1 year), you can move to the regular degree (3 or 3+ years).

The foundation year course is typically for the following applicants:

- Those applicants whose A-level subjects are not suitable for their prospective course (for instance, if you want to study Subject X at the undergraduate level, but have not studied it in high school, you may not be eligible for direct entry into a program -- and instead can apply for a foundation year)
- Those applicants who are coming with international qualifications that may not be recognized/accepted by all universities in the UK (as mentioned above, if you have done the HSSC, you may not be eligible for direct entry into a program. In that situation, you can choose to apply for a foundation year.)
- Some universities may also recommend the foundation year to those students who require additional English language support.

- Please check your prospective university website if you feel you fall into any of these categories for more information.

Subject Specialization

Choosing your A Level subjects (or subjects in a different schooling system) can be extremely important when applying to British Universities. Generally, the following two tracks can be followed:

1. STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)
2. Humanities and Social Sciences

If you are aiming to apply to a more Science or Mathematics based degree for your undergraduate studies, subject selection will be far more important for you. For example, most Medical schools in the UK require you to have done Biology, Maths and Chemistry, while most Engineering programs require you to do Mathematics, Physics, and sometimes Further Mathematics. Be very careful with requirements for subjects like these.

If you are aiming to study a Humanities or Social Sciences subject in your undergraduate degree, it is not usually a requirement for you to have done these subjects previously, although sometimes they can give you a better chance at being admitted.

If you are unsure about your future, it is recommended that you take a mixture of courses from both tracks to keep your options open. A lot of high ranked universities have published lists of “facilitating” subjects i.e. recommended subjects. It is highly recommended that you take one or two of the following:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics/Further Mathematics
- Modern and Classical Languages
- Physics

A number of universities have also previously published a list of “soft subjects” that are considered relatively easy and should thus be avoided. It is recommended that you do not take more than one of the following subjects:

- Dance
- Physical Education
- Media Studies
- ICT

- Accounting
- Photography
- Thinking Skills
- General Studies/General Paper
- Critical Thinking
- Global Perspectives

If you do take one of the subjects in the “soft subjects” list, you should ideally be doing three other subjects alongside it that are not on the list. This is because some universities do not count soft subjects towards their requirements, and will thus need you to show three A Levels that do count towards your offer.

[This](#) is an excellent guide to go through when deciding your A Level subjects.

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

Applying to any undergraduate program or course in the UK can be done through the Universities and College Admissions Service (UCAS). Every student who wishes to apply to a British university needs to create an account on UCAS, typically through their school, and apply through it. More information on the process can be found below.

A glossary of all commonly used terms in the UCAS system can be found at the start of this country profile. A more extensive glossary can be found [here](#). It is highly recommended that you go through this list to gain a better understanding of the language used in the UK for the higher education system.

Application Components

The main components required in your application are:

- Personal information
- Your education history
- Your predicted grades
- Your employment history
- Your personal statement
- One reference letter

Sometimes, standardized admission tests are required. More information on these can be found [here](#).

More information about how to fill out these components in the UCAS application can be found [here](#).

Application Cycle

The cycle of applications typically begins in August—this is when students can apply to their universities for the next year. Each university may have its own deadline, but most universities have a deadline for applying that ends in January the following year. Some universities have an early decision deadline, such as Cambridge and Oxford (their deadline is typically October 15). After you have been accepted into a program, you can expect to begin your study some time between late September and early October.

Application Process and Timeline

The UCAS application can be completed through a five step process, and a summary of these steps is as follows:

1. Search and choose your courses.
2. Save your chosen courses to your “favourites” page.

3. Add all information to your profile (grades, personal statement, work history, etc).
4. Make an official application.
5. Put your courses in order of preference.

After this, you can move onto sending the application. This process can be difficult to follow, and so is explained in the following table:

1. Steps 1-5	Listed above
6. Apply Online (October - January)	You can apply to five programs through the UCAS application per year. This means that you apply to five different courses from the same university, or five different courses from five different universities, or any variation of the two. Oxford and Cambridge only accept one application per year—this also means that you can only apply to either Cambridge or Oxford per year.
7. Wait for Decisions (January - May)	You may get one of the following decisions on your application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditional offer. You are required to get certain grades in your A Level or equivalent subjects in order to secure a place at this university. • Unconditional offer. You have been accepted into the program, and can skip step 9. Fulfill Conditional Offers. • Interview. Your university wants to interview you before giving you an offer or a rejection. • Unsuccessful. The university has not given you a place at their university. If all your applications are unsuccessful, you can apply to other universities by using Extra.
8. Reply to Universities (May - June)	Once all your decisions have appeared, you must select: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your firm choice. Choose which university out of your offers you want to go to most. You have to fulfill this university's requirements. • Your insurance choice. This is your second choice, in case you are unable to fulfill the conditional requirements for your firm choice. • What to decline. Any offer that isn't your first or second choice must be declined.
9. Fulfill Conditional Offers (August)	If you have conditional offers, you are expected to get certain grades in your A Level subjects. For example, a university might accept you if you get an "AAB" which means you will need at least two A grades and one B grade in your A Levels. Some universities are even more

	specific with requirements, asking for an A in particular subjects.
10. Check for Confirmation (August)	<p>Within 48 hours after your A Level exam results come out, your status on UCAS will be updated according to whether you have fulfilled your requirements or not. These are the possible outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have fulfilled your conditional offer and the place is yours. The university will now send you a Confirmation of Acceptance letter which you can use to obtain your visa.• You have not fulfilled your conditional offer and your application is unsuccessful. You can apply to other programs through Clearing.• You have done better than you expected and exceeded your conditional offer by a large margin. You may be able to use Adjustment to get into a better program.

[Here](#) is a useful link from UCAS that also explains the entire process.

GENERAL ADMISSION TIPS

1. PERSONAL STATEMENT

Basic Information

You will be required to enter a personal statement into your UCAS application. You get a character limit of 4,000 which is roughly around 500-600 words. It is recommended that you use as much of this space as you can. You have to send the same personal statement to all your five choices in the application, so make sure to create it accordingly.

Your personal statement should cover why you want to study the degree you have applied for, why you are a great fit for it and what you have done to explore your interest in it so far.

Tips on Good and Bad Statements

What is essential in the statement:

- Details of how you are academically ready for a the degree and subject you have chosen. You need to show an understanding of what is required to study the degree.
- How have your current and previous studies helped you prepare for the degree you have chosen? Talk about your subjects in high school and how they have helped you.
- Make sure your statement is well written and you have articulated things well in it. This can be how you write about your previous life experiences, job placements, studies, etc. Make sure it flows well and shows that you can write well, as this is important in this degree. Mostly, make sure it is written clearly.
- Make sure you have included all your relevant experience and activities (such as job placements, voluntary work, projects, organizations, etc).

What are some elements of exceptional statements:

- Not just speaking about relevant extracurricular activities but linking them cohesively to the subject you have chosen and the rest of your statement. How have these extracurriculars prepared you for this degree, and for higher study in general?
- Talking about aspects that make you unique and different from the rest of the crowd. This can be through something you have done or something you have gone through in your life. Why should they pick you out of everyone?
- Including any wider reading or research you have done yourself on the subject you are pursuing. Talk about issues going on in the world related to your degree subject and how you feel about them. This will show your passion and commitment to the subject.
- Being specific. Talk about what parts of the subject interest you and why. This will show that you have a direction and you are well-versed in the subject.

What are bad statements/ what things to avoid:

- Including non-relevant experience and events. If you have done extra-curricular activities, make sure you can relate them to the rest of your personal statement and remain cohesive.
- Bad spelling and grammar. Make sure to have someone else read your statement and point out any mistakes you have made, or put it through a rigorous spell/grammar check. These sorts of errors can give the university an unfavorable impression.

- Do not mention a preference for a single university, and do not name any university. Since the same statement is going to all five universities that you have chosen, you need to make sure you only mention the degree you have chosen.
- Not writing the statement yourself, or copying chunks of it from another source.

2. LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Basic Information

You will need one letter of reference to apply for any degree. This letter will be input into UCAS, and you are typically not allowed to see it. The reference has the same character limit as a personal statement — 4,000 characters.

The reference needs to showcase how you are suitable for further study and for your specified degree through your referee's assessment of your academic abilities.

Tips on Good and Bad Letters

What is essential in the LoR:

- A description of your academic abilities that make you suitable for the program you have applied for. This part needs to speak to how you have academic potential for higher education.
- A reinforcement and **confirmation** of the personal statement written by the student. Basically, the referee should confirm that your passion for the subject is genuine without repeating things that you have said in your statement.
- In case you have low grades or one of a part of your application is weak, this is where the referee should talk about it and justify why that is so, as well as why you should still be considered despite it.

What are some elements of exceptional LoRs:

- A description of the exceptional qualities of the student.
- Speaking about exceptional qualities you have that are required in the specific career and degree you are aiming for. If your referee can give anecdotal evidence or speak of what actions of yours makes them believe you have these skills, that would be absolutely golden.

What are bad LoRs/ what things to avoid:

- Duplicating the student's personal statement and repeating the same things without adding any personal comments or elaboration.
- Mentioning a specific university or college. Since the same reference is going to a list of universities that you have chosen, you need to make sure your referee doesn't speak about a preference or singles an institution out!
- Not having the right tone. The reference needs to be an objective and analytical appraisal; it should not be too personal or emotional.

Action Steps/Resources

What resources should I make use of?

- [This](#) is a great guide to read on how to get the UCAS reference that you want.
- It is important that you talk to your referee very candidly and ask them if they need any help figuring out what basics are required. The following links should be shared with your referee before they start writing:
 - [Which? University - Reference Letters](#)

- [How to write UCAS references](#)
- [How to get references for UCAS](#)

3. ACADEMIC INTEREST

The most important thing that admissions committees in the UK look for in applicants is “academic interest” and what they have done to really navigate that interest (e.g. attending an open course or going through lecture notes and teaching yourself something, reading books/journals, participating in local or international competitions or doing something for the community). If you are interested in pursuing medicine, you have to actively show that you have been to a hospital (been with patients, understood the importance of empathy etc.).

Most universities have an interview. Students who are not prepared to discuss their ideas do not really do well. It is not enough to have high grades -- you need to be able to display an interest in your subject of choice.

4. APPLYING TO OXBRIDGE

Applying to the University of Oxford and Cambridge is a little different than applying to any other university in the UK. Both these universities put extreme stress on your academics, and have a relatively more complicated application process. This subsection will provide resources that can be helpful if you are deciding to apply to one of these two universities (remember that you can only apply to one during an application cycle!)

[This](#) is an excellent resource to read about choosing Oxbridge, as well as the ins and out of applying. [This](#) and [this](#) are also a useful resources.

Useful resources for Oxbridge Interviews:

- [Which? University](#)
- [Times Higher Education](#)
- [Medium](#) (Information provided by Oxford University)

Useful resources for Oxbridge entry exams:

- [UCAS](#) (see Cambridge and Oxford specific sections)
- [Thinking Skills Assessment Oxford](#)
- [Thinking Skills Assessment Cambridge](#)
- [Oxford Admissions Tests](#)
- [Cambridge Admission Assessments](#)

OTHER USABLE RESOURCES

It is highly recommended that you go through some of the sources listed below to find out more about which courses you can (and should choose) to apply for, what you can expect to learn, what the career prospects of these courses are like, and how you should be drafting your personal statement.

1. For information on personal statements, please visit [this](#) excellent repository of sources, created by **The Guardian**. This repository includes links that provide general tips for writing your personal statement, and also includes links that provide tips for writing personal statements for specific fields (the advice in these links has been shared by professors, program directors and students -- so make sure you give it a read).
2. In addition to that, you should also go through [this](#) very comprehensive source created by **Which? University**. It contains many useful pages that will definitely help you gain more insight into different courses that are offered in the UK and the application process. Some of the pages that are worth reading are listed below:
 - a. [Which? University -- Choosing a Course and/or University](#)
 - b. [Which? University -- Subject Guides](#)
 - c. [Which? University -- Career Prospects](#) (keep in mind, this information is coming from a UK-based source, so it may not be applicable if you choose to work in Pakistan or other countries)
 - d. [Which? University -- Personal Statements](#) (this includes general tips and field-specific tips -- make sure you go through the general tips and the tips for the field(s) you are hoping to apply for)
3. Another extremely useful source that you should consider going through is [MyHE+](#), a resource created by the University of Cambridge. It contains 16 different subject pages, each of which provides a short insight into what it would be like to study that specific subject at the undergraduate level. The website also lists down additional field-specific resources that you can check out.

FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP

Education in the UK, although more affordable than **some** universities in the US, is not cheap. If you plan on studying in the UK, you need to make sure that you will be able to fund your studies. Below you can find information on tuition, non-tuition costs and scholarships.

FEES

Your tuition fees will be dependent on the following factors:

1. The **university** you are going to. The more “prestigious” or highly ranked university it is, the more it is going to cost.
2. What **type** of course/program you are going for. Science based and Medical degrees are likely to be more expensive than lecture based degrees.
3. The **length** of the degree. Typically, undergraduate degrees last for three years in the UK, but sometimes they can last four or five years as well.

Keeping these variables in mind, the average tuition fees paid by international students was around **£12,000** per year (2017) (USD 15,128 as of June 2019). The range that international students paid within was **£10,000 - £52,000** (USD 12607 - 65556, as of June 2018). You may find variation in cost between different subjects. For instance, some branches of Medicine will be more expensive than Humanities and Social Sciences and STEM subjects. Some international universities may also classify their courses in groups which have different fee structures, i.e. all courses in Group 1 will have a similar range, all courses in Group 2 will have a similar range and so on and so forth.

You can find ways to waive some of your tuition fees. Visit the [UCAS Students Finance](#) page to find out what kind of financial assistance you may be eligible for, as an international student.

It is also recommended you visit your prospective university website (many universities offer their students financial assistance). The amount of money you will need to cover living expenses will vary from university to university; do note: London and other large cities tend to be more expensive ([UCAS](#)).

BUDGETING (NON-TUITION COSTS)

As an international student, you will have to account for a lot of costs besides just the tuition fees. These include:

1. Travel expenses
2. Health and travel insurance
3. Accommodation and living expenses
4. Travel and sightseeing in the UK
5. Food and drink
6. Miscellaneous

All of your living expenses need to be covered, or you may not even get a visa.

Keeping all these expenses in mind, you will need around **£1,015 per month** (USD 1279, as of June 2019) to cover all these costs (non-tuition costs). If you stay in London, these costs increase and can go up to **£1,265 per month** (non-tuition costs; USD 1595, as of June 2019)). Please note that these figures have been calculated according to costs in 2017.

Other costs to keep in mind are the cost of the visa itself (for more information, look at the section on Applying for a Visa) and the NHS health surcharge (if your degree is more than 6 months long -- which is true of all undergraduate courses). Make sure to keep all of these in mind when keeping track of your finances.

British Council recommends using the following sources to help with budgeting and discounts:

- The [UKCISA International Student Budget Calculator](#) (to help you plan your budget)
- The [National Union of Students Card](#) and the [International Student Identity Card](#) offers student discounts at a variety of places that you can avail
- [Visit Britain](#) to find student discounts

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Some universities may offer some scholarships

Visit [UK Council for International Students Affairs](#) to see which financial support scheme could be suitable for you. Do note: UKCISA is not a funding organization, and the information on this page might not be definitive so you should connect with your selected university to find out the various ways you can fund your studies.

3. POSTGRADUATE STUDY

DIFFERENT KINDS OF INSTITUTIONS

Level of Education	Types of Degrees	Duration and Structure (Full time programs)
Master's	Taught (MSc, MA, MBA, LL.M, MDS.)	1-2 years
	Research based (MRes, MPhil, M.Ed.)	1-2 years
	<p>A Taught Master's will follow a delivery style similar to that of your undergraduate degree: you will have seminars and lectures, and will have to work in groups. A Research-based Master's, on the other hand, will involve more self-directed study. It will also be narrower in terms of focus. You may have some classes and will be expected to spend time with your supervisor, but most of your work will be independent.</p> <p>A Taught Master's program is typically for people who hope to enter more corporate professions. A Research Master's program targets those who are more philosophically minded, and hope to enter relevant fields, like academia (Qasim Hasan Sayed, Maths Instructor, Wellington College UK).</p>	
Doctoral	Doctorate (Ph.D., Ed.D.)	3-4 years

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR MASTER'S

Two-three year UK-accredited undergraduate degree

If your two-three year degree is from a Pakistani university that **is** accredited in England (for example, University of London institutions), then you will be able to apply for a Master's or PhD program in England directly.

Four year undergraduate degree

Most universities in the UK require you to have completed an undergraduate degree program of four years if you are studying in Pakistan. Generally, universities will expect a "First Division" pass in your degree, which typically means you are in the upper half or quarter of your graduating class. If your university has a GPA system, the UK university you are applying to could have its own GPA requirement, but a general minimum requirement is between 2.6-3.3 out of 4.0.

Two-three year undergraduate degree

If you have a two or three year undergraduate degree from a Pakistani institution, you may not be able to apply to a Master's or PhD program directly. For example, if you are doing your degree in a

non-accredited institution, you will have to do a Master's degree in Pakistan and get a First Division pass in it before applying for your first Master's degree in the UK. This is why it is always recommended to: either go for a four-year program in Pakistan or find an institution that is accredited by the UK -- if you wish to pursue postgraduate studies in the UK.

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR PHDs

In general, you should follow the same advice here as is given in the previous section on Master's degrees. Do note however, that some PhD programs may require you to have done a Master's degree from **either the UK, or from an accredited institution**, before applying to their program. Make sure to check these requirements and reach out to the university you are applying to before going for a PhD.

NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS (CERTIFICATIONS AND DIPLOMAS)

Short courses in the UK can last from 3 to 6 months. These can be titled as certificates, diplomas, or simply "short courses". The most common of these courses are as follows:

- Language Program Certifications
- Teaching Diplomas

If you go for this sort of course, you will have to apply for a "[Short-term study visa](#)".

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

Applying to a postgraduate degree can be done through a university's specific website. For more information on postgraduate applications, you can view the link [here](#).

Application Components

Generally, these are the components required in a postgraduate application:

- Personal Information
- All transcripts, from post-secondary education institutions
- Personal Statement
- References (typically two-three)
- Resume/CV
- Identification documents (a scan of your passport, if required)
- Proof of English language proficiency (IELTS/TOEFL)
- Standardized Tests (GMAT, GRE **may** be required for some courses)

Additional components such as research proposals, additional personal statements, portfolios, or more may be required depending on the course and university you are applying to.

Application Cycle

Unlike the relatively standardized UCAS application timeline for undergraduate applications, each postgraduate program could have a different application deadline.

Application Process and Timeline

Almost all universities will expect you to apply directly through their university website. They will have their own application portal or system on which you will need to create an account and then add your application material. Very rarely, universities will require you to apply through UCAS in the same manner as you are required in your undergraduate studies. Some postgraduate courses may follow the same application timeline as their undergraduate counterparts. Some might have a different timeline (some PhDs may even be rolling).

Unlike the undergraduate application, there is no limit to how many programs you can apply to. Much like undergraduate applications however, the status on your application can change to conditional offer, unconditional offer, interview, or unsuccessful.

FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP

FEES

Your tuition fees will be dependent on the following factors:

1. The **university** you are going to. The more “prestigious” or highly ranked university it is, the more it is going to cost.
2. What **type** of course/program you are going for. Laboratory based programs for example, will be more expensive than classroom based programs.
3. The **level** of study. Postgraduate programs have a tendency to be more expensive than undergraduate programs per year, and further PhD programs can be more expensive than Master’s programs per year as well.

The average costs **per year** of postgraduate programs in the UK are as follows:

- **Classroom-based degrees** - £14,096 (USD 17,770 as of June 2019)
- **Laboratory-based degrees** - £16,222 (USD 20,450 as of June 2019)
- **Clinical programmes** - £21,767 (USD 27,440 as of June 2019)
- **MBA (Master of Business Administration)** - £18,914 (USD 23,844 as of June 2019)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Some universities in the UK **may** offer scholarships to their students. However, these are minimal and not guaranteed. You should visit your prospective university website to find out if there are any scholarships that you are eligible for. Additionally, you can also visit [UK Council for International Students Affairs](#) to see which financial support scheme could be suitable for you. Do note: UKCISA is not a funding organization, and the information on this page might not be definitive so you should definitely connect with your selected university to find out the various ways you can fund your studies.

There are some external scholarships/grants that you could apply for, which you can fund your postgraduate studies. If you are interested in pursuing postgraduate studies in the UK and need funding, you should consider the following options:

Scholarship/Grant	Who is eligible
Royal Society Grants	Grants for students interested in postdoctoral science research in the UK
Euraxess UK	Offers funding sources to researchers who want to go to the UK

Chevening Award	Postgraduate scholarships given by the UK government to students who have the potential to be future leaders
Commonwealth Scholarships	Postgraduate scholarships for nationals of Commonwealth countries, funded by the UK government, intended to support individuals who will contribute to their home country's development
Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust Scholarship	Scholarships for those who are planning to go for doctoral studies to the UK
Saltire Scholarships	Scholarships for those who get an offer in a Scottish university in one of the following subjects: Science, Technology, Creative Industries, Healthcare and Medical Sciences or Renewable and Clean Energy

For more postgraduate scholarship and/or funding options, you may visit the following [Postgraduate Studentships](#) and [Prospects](#). For PhD funding sources [click here](#). [This](#) is also a useful guide on scholarships for international students. You can also try to find other websites worth consulting, since these may not be completely comprehensive.

BUDGETING (NON-TUITION FEES)

As an international student, you will have to account for a lot of costs besides just the tuition fees. These include:

1. Travel expenses
2. Health and travel insurance
3. Accommodation and living expenses
4. Travel and sightseeing in the UK
5. Food and drink
6. Miscellaneous

All of your living expenses need to be covered, or you may not even get a visa.

Keeping all these expenses in mind, you will need around **£1,015 per month** to cover all these costs (USD 1280). If you stay in London, these costs increase and can go up to **£1,265 per month** (non-tuition costs). Please note that these figures have been calculated according to costs in 2017 (USD 1595).

Other costs to keep in mind are the cost of the visa itself (for more information, look at the section on Applying for a Visa), and the NHS health surcharge of **£150** (if your degree is more than 6 months long).

British Council recommends using the following sources to help with budgeting and discounts:

- The [UKCISA International Student Budget Calculator](#) (to help you plan your budget)
- The [National Union of Students Card](#) and the [International Student Identity Card](#) offers student discounts at a variety of places that you can avail
- [Visit Britain](#) to find student discounts
- [This](#) is a great guide that you can go through on saving money and funding your studies

4. GENERAL INFORMATION

(Applicable to all Applicants)

APPLYING FOR A VISA

DO YOU NEED A VISA

If you have been offered a place on a course within the UK and are 16 years old or over, you will need to apply for a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa. There are some requirements you will need to fulfill when applying from Pakistan, including but not limited to:

- an unconditional offer of a place on a course with a [licensed Tier 4 sponsor](#);
- the ability to read, write, speak and understand English -- for more information, click [here](#);
- proof that you can support yourself financially and pay for the course.

WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY

The earliest you can apply for a visa is 3 months before the course begins. You will usually get a decision on your visa within 15-30 days. Sometimes it may take longer or shorter — you can find additional details [here](#).

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST

As of 2018, it costs £348 to apply for a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa from Pakistan. You will also need to pay for [healthcare surcharge](#) as part of your immigration application.

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN THE UK

The length of your stay depends on the kind of course you are doing. If your course is longer than 6 months, you can arrive in the UK a month prior to its starting. It is recommended you use this [guide](#) to find out how long you can stay in the UK and what you can/cannot do under the Tier 4 General visa.

HOW TO APPLY

This section was last updated in November 2018.

To learn more about how to apply for a Tier-4 student visa, visit this [link](#). It is recommended you follow the steps listed below:

1. Find out which visa you need.
2. Apply for it online.
3. Book a visa appointment.
4. Pay your visa fees.
5. Choose your services.
6. Visit the visa application centre.
7. Track your application.
8. Collect your documents.

Detailed information below (check in interview if any of this should be kept)

1. Once you have been offered admission, you will receive a reference number known as CAS (confirmation of acceptance for studies). You will need to enter this on your visa application. Do note: you must apply for your visa no more than 6 months after you receive the CAS.
2. When applying for the visa, you will need to provide some documents (as specified on the visa application form).
3. You will have to [apply online](#) for a Tier 4 (General) student visa
4. You will also need a [biometric residence permit](#) (for which you will need to have your fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre -- for centres in Pakistan, click [here](#))
5. Before going to your visa application centre, go through this [checklist](#) to make sure you have all the supporting documents you need
6. You can find instructions for the day of your visit to the application centre [here](#)
7. For information on what to do after submission, click [here](#)

COMMON PROBLEMS

- Some students have trouble when it comes to submitting proof of funds to the visa office (bank letters/bank statements). Make sure that your bank statement for the last 6 months (or as specified on your visa application).
- The most important requirement for a visa application is your acceptance letter. Make sure it is attached to your visa application.

VISAS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS/DEPENDENTS

Your family members/dependents (including spouse, partner, children) may be able to join you in the UK. You will have to give proof that you can financially support their stay in the UK. For more information on this visa (and the application process), please visit this [link](#).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more detail on the Tier 4 (General) Visa, read this [guide](#).

ACCOMMODATION

There are many options you can consider when trying to find student accommodation in the UK. Most universities and colleges have accommodation teams that can help find the most suitable kind of accommodation for you.

GENERAL OPTIONS

For both undergraduate and graduate students

1. University owned accommodation

Most universities in the UK offer accommodation to new students in their halls of residences. You can choose to live in a single room (with a communal kitchen and living area) or in a self-contained studio. You can choose from catered halls (i.e. a dining room where you can buy reasonably-priced meals) or self-catered halls (i.e. kitchens where you can cook your own meals). Most halls have both male and female residents, but if you prefer a single-sex hall, you can find that too. These halls are safe and comfortable, and come with wifi and other utilities (included in your rent).

2. Private accommodation

Many students opt for this in their second year of study, after they have experienced the campus-hostel life. This is rented accommodation so it may be furnished from before -- but you will probably need to bring your own items such as bedding and kitchen utensils. You will also need to pay for utilities separately.

3. Luxury student accommodation

A lot of cities within the UK have private luxury areas for students. You can find apartments, studios etc. here. These are fully furnished with 24-hour security, and concierge services. Sometimes they come with extra facilities, such as cinema rooms and gyms.

4. Homestay accommodation

You also have the option of living with a UK family in their home. This is a suitable option if you are visiting/living in the UK for the first time. Your university can help you arrange this, or you can contact a homestay agency as well. British Council recommends that you contact the ones [registered](#) with them.

According to [Which? University](#), most graduate study students tend to go for privately rented or university-owned accommodation. Cities wise, according to the [Natwest Student Living Index](#), Hull and Cardiff are the most affordable student cities, and London and Liverpool are the least affordable. (Note however, these statistics are based on students in general; not specifically for international students. Their calculations can be viewed [here](#))

Cities ranked according to living cost

- Click [here](#) to find out the cheapest cities for student accommodation in the UK
- Click [here](#) to find out which countries have the most expensive housing rates in the UK (shows average house prices across the UK per student per month)

Do note: these articles were written in 2017, and information contained may be subject to change.

Other

Here are some additional links to help you find places of residence on your own:

- [Accommodation for Students](#)
- [Right Move](#)

CONTRIBUTORS

This information was compiled with the valuable help of SHAHEEN volunteers. The contributors to this tip-sheet include the following people:

- [Mustafa Arif, Head of College Counseling Department, Cedar College](#)
- [Qasim Hasan Sayed](#), Maths Instructor, Wellington College UK
- [Abrar Rahman, Founder and Director Dignosco](#)

We thank our volunteers for their contribution, and hope their tips and advice help you in your application.

In addition to that, the following sources were consulted in developing this country profile. We encourage you to consult these sources for additional information and guidance.¹

- [Applying to study a Postgraduate Qualification](#) by UCAS
- [Adjustment](#) and [Terms](#) by UCAS
- [Applying through UCAS](#)
- [UK Council for International Students Affairs](#)
- [UCAS Finance](#)
- [VFS Global](#)
- [General Student Visa Tier 4](#) by Gov.uk
- [Tier 4 of the Points Based System, Policy Guidance](#) by Gov.uk
- [Study UK](#) by British Council
- [Costs of Studying in the UK](#) by Times Higher Education
- [Guide for IB Students applying to UK](#)

Furthermore, the following sources were also consulted in developing this profile: [Royal Society Grants](#), [Chevening Award](#), [Commonwealth Scholarships](#), [Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust Scholarship](#), [Euraxess UK](#), [Postgraduate Studentships](#), [Prospects](#), [UKCISA International Student Budget Calculator](#), [National Union of Students Card](#), [International Student Identity Card](#), [Visit Britain](#), [Gov.uk](#), [Business Insider](#), [The Tab](#)

¹ Only add links that are absolutely necessary for a candidate to read here.