

# Thinking about postgraduate study?

Use this **getting started guide** to make sure you are prepared to start your studies. Click on the content below or use the 'Next' and 'Back' buttons to navigate.

## Contents

- What types of postgraduate study are there?
- Full-time or part-time?
- Campus, distance, or blended learning?
- What fees, loans, or bursaries can I get?
- Do I meet the entry requirements?
- Accommodation
- Managing money and budgeting



# What **types** of postgraduate study are there?

- Postgraduate study can be either taught or research-based.
- A taught master's degree includes some research but the emphasis is on learning by teaching. Full-time courses are normally one year, and part-time courses usually last two years.
- A master's by research trains you in research methods, before you carry out your own substantial research project. Research courses usually last 18 months full-time, but can take up to three years.
- Find out [what each postgraduate qualification involves](#) and how it can benefit you.



# Full-time or part-time?

In the UK,  
the **majority** of  
postgraduate  
students study  
**part-time.**



Full-time  
students:  
**126,955**



Part-time  
students:  
**210,620**

## Full-time

- Full-time courses allow you to qualify in the shortest possible time.
- Your study hours will be above six or seven hours per day, and can often be from 09:00 to 17:00 every week day.
- The full-time market is predominantly made up of international students.

## Part-time

- Part-time courses allow you to balance your studies with work or home life.
- Your teaching hours and study time could be very inflexible.
- Part-time courses are well suited to those who want to change or improve their career while still in employment.
- Studying part-time means it will take longer to finish the course, and you may not feel so much like you're part of the university.

# Campus, distance, or blended learning?

- Study on campus to **immerse** yourself in the university lifestyle.
- Need to work from home to **fit around family life**? Choose distance learning.
- Blended learning is a **mixture of both**, where you'll do some study in lectures and seminars, and the rest online.



Find out more  
about what **study  
modes** are  
available.



# What fees, loans, or bursaries can I get?



- You can apply for a loan to help pay your tuition fees. The amount you can apply for will vary depending where you live.
- The government has introduced a new postgraduate loan for some courses starting from August 2016. [Check if you're eligible.](#)
- Search for [different types of postgraduate funding](#) from different sources, including scholarships, UK Research Councils, and charitable trusts/societies.



Tip

How to manage your money during your studies



1. Figure out a budget.



2. Balance work and studies.



3. Manage debts.

# Do I meet the entry requirements?

- It's not always necessary to have an undergraduate degree in the subject you wish to study.
- Universities sometimes expect you to have relevant work and/or life experience.
- Use the [search tool](#) to check the entry requirements for courses you're interested in.
- If you're not sure your qualifications or experience meet the requirements, ask the university.

Use the **UCAS Postgraduate search tool** to search over  
**21,000**  
postgraduate courses at **430 providers**.



# Other things to think about



## Accommodation

- Some universities have allocated postgraduate accommodation, as well as a list of local landlords.
- Contact the course provider's accommodation office for advice.

## Managing money and budgeting

- Take into account expenses like course fees, rent, bills, clothing, course supplies, food and drink, transport, and your phone bill. Check out [our budget calculator](#) to keep an eye on your incoming and outgoings.
- Think carefully about [how to balance your studies](#) with your work/home life, so one doesn't suffer because of the other.
- Research any discounts you could be eligible for – contact your local council to see if you qualify for a discount on your council tax, for example.