

# 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.

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# 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.

In 2015, **66,890**  EU and non-EU learners choose to study **postgraduate research** courses.

 In 2015, **161,640** EU and non-EU learners choose to study **postgraduate taught** courses.

# 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

- If you need a Tier 4 student visa to study in the UK, you will not be able to study a part-time course.
- 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?



- Some universities offer scholarships for international students, to fund your studies.
- Search for **different types of postgraduate funding** from different sources, including scholarships, UK Research Councils, and charitable trusts/societies.
- Your government may have funding systems in place for people wanting to study abroad – check their website or phone them to find out.



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.
- Can you speak, listen to, read, and write in English to a good standard? Check with the university you're interested in to see if you need to prove your [English language proficiency](#).



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

# Other important things to think about



## Visas

- As an international student applying to study in the UK, you will need a **Tier 4 student visa**. Once you've been offered a place on a course, the university will advise you on how to apply for your visa from **UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)**.

## Accommodation

- Some universities have allocated accommodation specifically for international postgraduate students.
- Contact the university's accommodation office for advice.

## Support

- Your university might offer language and writing support courses, to help you with your English.
- Contact the university before your course starts to check if they run support courses and when they are.

## 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 track of your finances.