

International students and higher education

International students are very welcome to study in colleges and universities in the United Kingdom.

Applying for a course

- For courses below degree level, you should apply directly to the college offering the course you wish to take.
- For undergraduate (degree-level) courses applications are made on-line through a central admissions system called the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) where you can find out more about studying in the UK.

www.ucas.ac.uk

- There is detailed information about:
 - ❖ the online application system
 - ❖ choosing the right course
 - ❖ the entry requirements for each course
 - ❖ English language proficiency tests accepted by universities and colleges
 - ❖ legal documents needed to study in the UK
 - ❖ current fees charged for international students
 - ❖ a wide range of useful reference sources
 - ❖ international events hosted by the British Council EducationUK
- For information on applying for postgraduate courses, go to the Prospects website www.prospects.ac.uk

Entry requirements and your qualifications

Course entry requirements are described in each university and college prospectus in terms of UK qualifications, but many qualifications gained in other countries are acceptable to British universities. To check the equivalence of your qualifications contact the National Recognition Information Centre for the UK (UK NARIC):

www.naric.org.uk

If English isn't your first language

Most universities, but not all, require a certain level of written and spoken English. This can be achieved by offering a qualification such as

- IELTS (International English Language Testing System) usually at Band 6 or above
- Cambridge ESOL Certificate of Proficiency in English at Grade C or above
- GCSE English Language or English Literature at Grade C or above.

Addresses of IELTS Course Centres in the Southeast

<p>IELTS Administrator Chaucer College University Rd. Canterbury CT2 7LJ www.chaucercollege.co.uk/ielts.html</p>	<p>English Language Administrator Department of Language & Translation Studies Austin Pearce Building University of Surrey Guildford GU2 7XH www.surrey.ac.uk/englishandlanguages/research/centre_for_translation_studies/</p>
<p>IELTS Administrator King's School Oxford St Joseph's Hall, Temple Rd. Oxford OX4 2UJ www.kingsoxford.co.uk</p>	<p>IELTS Administrator Mayflower College of English 1 Radford Road The Hoe Plymouth PL1 3BY www.maycoll.co.uk/ielts.html</p>
<p>IELTS Administrator Language Specialist Institute 1-13 Lord Montgomery Way Portsmouth, PO1 2AH www.LSI-international.co.uk</p>	<p>IELTS Administrator Centre for Language Study University of Southampton Highfield Southampton SO17 1BJ www.soton.ac.uk/cls/ielts/index.html</p>
<p>IELTS Administrator Richard Language College 43-45 Wimborne Rd. Bournemouth BH3 7AB www.ielts-richard-college-bournemouth-uk.co.uk</p>	<p>IELTS Administrator Study Group Study Centre 1, Billinton Way Brighton BN1 4LF Email: awhisken@studygroup.com</p>

Other English Language Tests

The Cambridge Certificates (Proficiency, First, Advanced and Business)
www.cambridgeesol.org

TOEFL (Tests of English as Foreign Language) has been recognised by almost all higher education institutions, including Oxford and Cambridge University. It is also recognised by most Australian universities, more than 700 European universities and 5,000 colleges and universities in the US and Canada.

www.TOEFLgoanywhere.org

www.toefl.org

www.ets.org

Additional help with language skills

If you feel that you need to work on your language skills before applying for a course, there are a number of organisations which can help you:

- Check at your nearest college or university as they may offer intensive English language courses and help with preparing for the IELTS exam.

- For unbiased broader information about English language testing look at the British Council's dedicated English language website.
www.learnenglish.org.uk
- Learn Direct holds a comprehensive database of all learning opportunities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Tel 0800 100900
www.learndirect.co.uk
- English UK has information about accredited English language courses and advice for students.
www.englishuk.com
- BBC Skills Wise has advice and resources for improving your language skills. A free booklet is available from Skillswise, PO Box 7000, Manchester, M60 3HE.
www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise

Fees

Most international students pay a higher 'overseas' fee rather than a 'home' fee to study in the UK. In very general terms the categories of students charged the 'home' fee are:

- people who have permanent residence in the UK and have been resident in the UK for three years or more
- EEA and Swiss workers and their partners and children in the UK who have been resident in the EEA or Switzerland for three years or more
- EU nationals and their partners and children who have been resident in the EEA or Switzerland for three years or more
- refugees (recognised by the UK government) and their partners and children
- people who applied for asylum and as a result have been granted Exceptional Leave, Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, and their families

Other useful websites

www.ukcisa.org.uk gives detailed guidance to international students on a wide range of topics.

www.skill.org.uk is run by the Skill National Bureau for Students with Disabilities. It offers an information and advice service and works with members and volunteers to promote equality of opportunity for students with disabilities.