



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Universities in the UK

Universities in the UK

Read the text below and do the activities that follow.

Universities in Britain are a magnet for overseas students. There are currently over 200,000 from outside Britain studying at British universities. The largest single group is Chinese students. There are currently 50,000 in the UK. The British government expects the total number of overseas students to be around 900,000 by 2020, and also thinks that a quarter of these will be Chinese.

But why is the UK such a popular destination for university students? Well, the quality of your course is **guaranteed**. All courses are assessed by an independent system, so you can be assured that your course is officially approved and has wide international recognition.

The British education system is very flexible in order to provide for the needs of a modern, complex society. It is also **cost-effective**. Degree courses are usually shorter and more intensive than in other countries. There are lots of **scholarships** available. You normally need 3 A-levels, which are the exams taken by people leaving school at 18, in order to enter an undergraduate degree course. You also need an **IELTS** score of at least 5.5, but many universities offer **foundation** or access courses to prepare students for their studies.

British universities offer a **personalised** but independent approach. The **emphasis** is on creative and independent thought, which helps develop the skills you will need to compete in the **global job market**. Tutors not only teach but also provide support and **guidance**. As a result, international students have a very low drop out rate and a very high pass rate.

It is very simple to become an international student in the UK. The British Council offers a free and **impartial** service to anyone who is interested in studying in the UK, and an organisation called UCAS assists you in finding a course and making an effective application.

The UK is a **dynamic** and **cosmopolitan** place. The countryside is beautiful, and the theatres, museums, architecture and rich history make it a **fascinating** place to live and study. Why not give it a go?



Glossary

magnet - a thing that attracts (literally, a piece of metal that attracts or repels iron)

overseas - coming from abroad, foreign

guaranteed - promised and assured

assessed - evaluated, ranked

recognition - accepting that something (e.g. a course) is of high quality

cost-effective - here, provides good education for not too much money

degree - here, providing further education

scholarships - payments from a sponsor's funds to maintain a good student in full-time education

IELTS - short for International English Language Testing System. It measures ability to communicate in English across all four language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking

foundation - here, basic, preparatory

personalised - focused on individual students

emphasis - special importance

global job market - jobs that are open to people all over the world

guidance - help and direction

drop out - when you have to stop your university studies before you have completed your course

pass rate - marks that you need to get in order to begin/continue to study at a university

impartial - fair, unbiased

dynamic - where a lot happens and changes happen quite often

cosmopolitan - including people of many different backgrounds

fascinating - very interesting, irresistibly attractive



1. Reading Quiz 1

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

1. Chinese students make up the largest group of international students in the UK. True/False
2. The number of overseas students will rise over the next 15 years. True/False
3. By 2020, 50% of overseas students will be Chinese. True/False
4. British degrees are not recognised outside of the UK. True/False
5. You can get a scholarship to study in the UK. True/False



2. Reading Quiz 2

Answer the following questions about the text.

1. Who can you get advice from about studying in the UK?

2. What do many universities offer to prepare students for their studies?

3. Who provides support and guidance?

4. Who can help you make an effective application?



3. Summary Completion

Complete the summary with words from the box.

assessed	emphasis	global	magnet	rates
cosmopolitan	foundation	guaranteed	overseas	scholarships

British universities are a 1. _____ for overseas students. There are over 200,000 2. _____ students studying in the UK, and 50,000 are from China.

British courses are 3. _____ by an independent system. Therefore, the quality of your course is 4. _____.

Courses are cost effective, and take less time than in many other countries. The British Council can tell you about 5. _____.

You will need 3 A-levels and an IELTS score of at least 5.5 to enter a British university, but you can also do a 6. _____ or access course to prepare you for your studies.

British universities use a personalised but independent approach. The 7. _____ is on creative and independent thought. This will help you compete in the 8. _____ job market.

Overseas students have very high pass 9. _____, and get a lot of support and guidance from the tutors.

The UK is a fascinating, dynamic and 10. _____ place to live and study. Why not give it a go?



4. Wordsearch

Try to find the words associated with living and studying in the UK in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

P	L	K	J	H	G	F	D	S	W	Q	A
N	A	X	Z	H	S	T	U	D	Y	L	U
H	P	S	A	B	C	L	U	J	H	K	N
Y	O	C	S	V	H	K	Y	T	H	J	I
T	I	V	S	C	O	J	T	E	O	X	V
G	U	B	D	X	L	H	R	C	D	R	E
F	O	U	N	D	A	T	I	O	N	C	R
L	Y	N	F	Z	R	F	E	U	P	V	S
I	E	M	G	D	S	D	W	R	O	B	I
V	R	A	H	S	H	S	Q	S	I	N	T
E	E	S	R	A	I	E	E	E	U	M	Y
S	D	F	G	N	P	D	E	G	R	E	E

STUDY	TUTOR	SCHOLARSHIP	UNIVERSITY	DEGREE
PASS	LEARN	FOUNDATION	COURSE	LIVE



Answers

1. Reading Quiz 1

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

- Chinese students make up the largest group of international students in the UK. **True**
- The number of overseas students will rise over the next 15 years. **True**
- By 2020, 50% of overseas students will be Chinese. **False**
- British degrees are not recognised outside of the UK. **False**
- You can get a scholarship to study in the UK. **True**

3. Summary Completion

Complete the summary with words from the box.

British universities are a 1. **magnet** for overseas students. There are over 200,000 2. **overseas** students studying in the UK, and 50,000 are from China. British courses are 3. **assessed** by an independent system. Therefore, the quality of your course is 4. **guaranteed**. Courses are cost effective, and take less time than in many other countries. The British Council can tell you about 5. **scholarships**. You will need 3 A-levels and an IELTS score of at least 5.5 to enter a British university, but you can also do a 6. **foundation** or access course to prepare you for your studies. British universities use a personalised but independent approach. The 7. **emphasis** is on creative and independent thought. This will help you compete in the 8. **global** job market. Overseas students have very high pass 9. **rates**, and get a lot of support and guidance from the tutors. The UK is a fascinating, dynamic and 10. **cosmopolitan** place to live and study. Why not give it a go?

2. Reading Quiz 2

Answer the following questions about the text. You should write a short answer (1 to 6 words).

- Who can you get advice from about studying in the UK?

The British Council

- What do many universities offer to prepare students for their studies?

Foundation or access courses

- Who provides support and guidance?

Tutors

- Who can help you make an effective application?

UCAS

4. Wordsearch

P												
	A				S	T	U	D	Y			U
		S			C		U					N
			S		H			T				I
					O				O			V
					L			C		R	E	
F	O	U	N	D	A	T	I	O	N			R
L					R			U				S
I	E				S			R				I
V		A			H			S				T
E			R		I			E				Y
					N	P	D	E	G	R	E	E

