



Higher education tuition fees: non-European Union students

Higher education in the United Kingdom is generally regarded to be amongst the best in the world. This information sheet gives you full details of fees for the various types and level of degree programme, and gives you advice about financial help for which you might be eligible to apply.

1 Introduction

Publicly funded higher education institutions charge two levels of tuition fee: the lower 'home' fee and the higher 'overseas' fee. The institution assesses which fee level will be charged. If you are unsure of your fee status please see the UKCOSA guidance note *Fees and student support* at www.ukcosa.org.uk/pages/guidenote.htm

Which countries are in the European Union?

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

If you are a national of one of these countries please refer to the sheet in this series on *Higher education tuition fees from 2006: European Union students*.

2 Tuition fees

Higher education institutions in the United Kingdom are free to set their own fees for international students from countries outside the European Union. They generally set an annual fee for groups of programmes rather than individual courses. Information on annual fees in 2005–06 is summarised in the table below. This data is based on a survey of fees for the current financial year. You should budget on fees increasing at, or slightly above, the rate of UK inflation for 2006 and for subsequent years.

Tuition fee ranges: 2005–06

Type of course	Fees range		Average fee (per year)
	from just under	to just over	
Undergraduate (e.g. BA, BSc)			
Classroom-based courses	£7,000	£10,500	£7,500
Laboratory/ workshop-based courses	£7,600	£13,200	£8,300
Pre-clinical programmes	£9,600	£16,200	£10,700
Clinical medicine	£11,200	£24,500	£19,500
Clinical dentistry	£14,600	£24,400	£19,500
Postgraduate taught (e.g. MA, MSc)			
Classroom-based courses	£7,100	£12,100	£7,900
Laboratory/ workshop-based courses	£7,900	£13,500	£8,400
MBA	£8,200	£23,100	£9,500
Pre-clinical programmes	£10,300	£14,600	£10,800
Clinical medicine	£13,000	£23,100	£19,500
Clinical dentistry	£15,200	£25,100	£19,500
Postgraduate research (e.g. PhD)			
Classroom-based courses	£7,200	£10,800	£7,900
Laboratory/ workshop-based courses	£7,700	£12,700	£8,500
Pre-clinical programmes	£9,100	£14,200	£11,000
Clinical medicine	£13,400	£24,100	£19,600
Clinical dentistry	£12,300	£22,500	£19,500

A more detailed overview of fees across the UK and information for programmes such as HNDs, Certificates and Diplomas can be accessed from the original data source on the Universities UK site at www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/statistics/fees/05-06/fees_05_06_table1.pdf

You will see that fees vary widely, and it is not uncommon for the programme with the highest fee within a group to be double the smallest. In general:

- courses which cost more to run are more expensive, so that clinical courses are more expensive than laboratory-based courses, which in turn cost more than classroom-based programmes



- postgraduate taught courses, including MBAs, are the most expensive
- prestigious institutions are more expensive than higher education institutions with less of an international reputation
- institutions in London are generally more expensive because they have to absorb higher costs

You should check the fees for the universities you are considering on their websites, which can be accessed from their profiles on the Education UK website at www.educationuk.org It is important to check whether:

- the annual tuition fee is held constant for the duration of the programme (about 30% of institutions keep fees at the same rate) or whether it is subject to review every year
- research students in science and engineering laboratory-based programmes are charged a 'bench fee'. This is an additional fee to cover expenditure on equipment or materials used as part of your research. This can be quite a substantial fee in some subject areas.

3 Financial help

It is vital that you know how you are going to fund your fees and living costs before arriving in the United Kingdom. It is virtually impossible to arrange financial support once you are in the UK, and the immigration authorities will not normally allow you entry unless you have evidence that you can cover the costs of your study. For further information on immigration requirements see the UKCOSA guidance note *I am coming to the UK to start my studies. What do I need to do about immigration?* at www.ukcosa.org.uk/pages/guidenote.htm

Most universities offer a limited number of scholarships for international students, but they are very competitive and you would be unwise to rely on receiving one. The majority of scholarships are for postgraduate, particularly research, students. Many overseas governments support students, again particularly postgraduates, to study in the UK and you should check with your Ministry of Education.

There are very few national or international scholarship schemes which are open to undergraduate entry, although the British Chevening Scholarship does very occasionally fund undergraduates in special circumstances. For further information on funding opportunities check with your local British Council office at www.britishcouncil.org/home-contact-worldwide.htm

The main scholarship schemes for which you may be eligible as a postgraduate are summarised below. All are very competitive and you will need to have an excellent first degree to merit serious consideration.

Title	Subject area	Academic level	Eligible countries
Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan www.csfp-online.org	Open	Taught Master's or doctoral research	Citizens of British Commonwealth
British Chevening Scholarships www.chevening.com	Open	Mainly taught Master's, some shorter postgraduate programmes and research degrees	160 specified countries Open to graduates established in a career
Overseas Research Students Award Scheme (ORSAS) www.orsas.ac.uk	Open	Research degree	Open
DfID Commonwealth Shared Scholarship Scheme www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/sss2005.pdf	Related to economic, social and technological development in home country	Postgraduate taught course	Developing Commonwealth countries Priority to applicants under 30 years of age
British Marshall Scholarships www.marshallscholarship.org	Open	Postgraduate degree	United States citizens
US Fulbright Scholarships www.fulbright.co.uk/awards	Open	First year of postgraduate degree	United States graduates
Alban Scholarships www.programalban.org	Open	Master's or doctoral degree/ professional training in eligible institutions in European Union	18 Latin American countries
Dorothy Hodgkin Postgraduate Awards www.rcuk.ac.uk/hodgkin	Science, engineering, medicine, social science and technology	PhD in highly rated research	Nationals of China, Hong Kong, Brazil, Russia, South Africa and developing countries



4 What else do I need to know?

You should bear in mind immigration requirements when considering whether to study in the UK. Requirements vary according to your nationality or citizenship and the length of time you want to study. You will not be allowed to extend your permission to stay in the UK for more than two years on courses that are below degree level and are of less than one year's duration. The UKCOSA website will give you further information on this topic – www.ukcosa.org.uk/pages/guidenote.htm

Note in particular that you will not be given permission to enter the UK as a student if the school, college or university that you want to study at does not appear on the UK Department for Education and Skills Register of Education and Training Providers. You can check the register by clicking on 'Browse the Register' at www.dfes.gov.uk/providersregister/

For practical advice on living in the UK download *Studying and living in the UK* from www.educationuk.org/bc_img/body/articles/pdfs/stud_live_uk.pdf

5 Where can I find more information?

British Council Education information

Websites www.educationuk.org
www.educationuk.org/scotland

For further information, you can find details of your nearest office at www.britishcouncil.org/home-contact-worldwide.htm which includes links to all our country web pages and a worldwide address book giving contact details for all offices.

UKCOSA: The Council for International Education

9-17 St Albans Place
London N1 ONX
Telephone +44 (0)20 7288 4330
Fax +44 (0)20 7288 4360
Website www.ukcosa.org.uk

DfID Commonwealth Shared Scholarship Scheme

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission
John Foster House
36 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PF
Telephone +44 (0)20 7380 6700
Fax +44 (0)20 7387 2655
Email info@acu.ac.uk
Website www.csfp-online.org

Dorothy Hodgkin Postgraduate Awards

Contact Diane Howard
Telephone +44 (0)1793 444 419
Email studentships@epsrc.ac.uk

Fulbright Awards Programme

Fulbright Awards Programme Staff
Fulbright Commission
Fulbright House
62 Doughty Street
London WC1N 2JZ
Telephone +44 (0)20 7404 6880
Fax +44 (0)20 7404 6834
Email programmes@fulbright.co.uk

Further information about tuition fees can be found on the following websites:

UniversitiesUK – www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/paymentbydegrees/

BBC – <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/3013272.stm>

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