

United Kingdom (UK)

Guide



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Why the UK?

Home to the world's oldest university in the English-speaking world, the UK has a longstanding reputation for academic excellence and attracts over 500,000 international students annually. In fact, the UK is amongst the top three countries students choose for international education around the world.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom or the UK comprises four neighbouring island countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

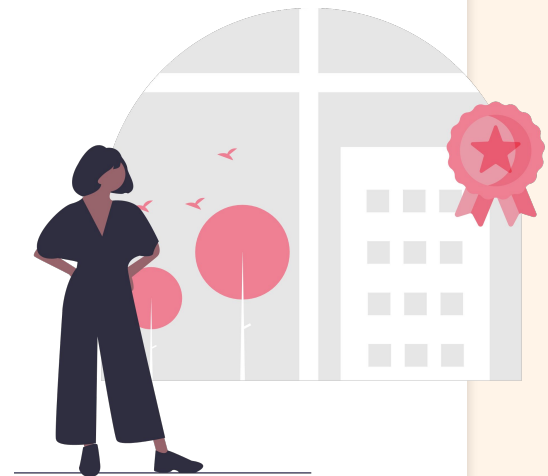
The UK provides students an opportunity to get world-class education, access cutting-edge research, and learn from the brightest minds. Students get the knowledge and skills that employers want—all while enjoying a high quality of life!



1.

World - Renowned Education:

There is a long tradition of Indian students going to the UK for higher education. UK universities consistently rank amongst the best in the world and set a high benchmark for academic excellence and research. In fact, three of the top 10 universities in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2019 are British: University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, and Imperial College London.



2.

Short and Flexible Courses:

Students in the UK can usually earn a Bachelor's degree after three years of full-time study, and complete a Master's degree course like MBA / MSc / MIM in one year. The shorter study duration helps to reduce overall tuition fees and accommodation costs, thus making the UK an attractive study option.

Higher Education is typically offered by universities, though some Further Education colleges and institutes also award degrees and foundation degrees (a two-year degree) in partnership with a recognized body. Speak with your Leap Scholar Counsellor on what may be the best option for you.

3.

Work while studying:

International students who study a full-time undergraduate or postgraduate degree course at a recognised university in the UK are allowed to work part-time during the term for up to 20 hours a week and full-time during the holidays.

4.

Scholarships:

Scholarships play a crucial role in making your college experience more affordable and free of financial-stress. The UK provides a host of scholarships and financial support for Indian students. In 2018-19 alone, the UK government and the British Council offered 480 scholarships to Indian students, worth approximately £4.675m. Scholarships also make your resume stand out and give deserving students the opportunity to benefit from their hard work.



5.

Experience European Culture:

Studying in the UK not only gives you world class education but also a taste of European culture and life. Being an English-speaking country with a lot of Indian expat population, studying and living in the UK allows Indian students to experience a new culture and also not feel too far away from home.



Top institutions in the UK

Based on the QS World University Ranking 2021, these are top university in the UK for higher education:

UK Rank	Global Rank	Institution
1	5	University of Oxford
2	7	University of Cambridge
3	8	Imperial College London
4	10	UCL (University College London)
5	20	University of Edinburgh
6	27	The University of Manchester
7	31	King's College London (KCL)
8	49	London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
9	58	University of Bristol
10	62	The University of Warwick

Popular Universities in the UK for Indian Students:

- University of Greenwich
- Middlesex University
- Cardiff University
- University of East London
- Sheffield Hallam University
- University of Salford
- University of Hertfordshire
- Northumbria University
- Liverpool John Moores University
- University of Bedfordshire

Requirements for postgraduate study in the UK

Admission Requirements

Admission into higher education institutions in the UK is generally based on the student's past academic performance and English language proficiency. However, exact admission requirements and deadlines frequently vary from institution to institution and from program to program.

Universities and colleges set their own entry requirements for higher education courses, and these vary widely depending on the subject, the specific course, and the course provider.

Some courses also require supplementary information from the student, such as an admission test, personal statement, resume, references and/or an interview to further assess a student's suitability before making their admission decision.

An academic year typically begins in September in the UK, and includes three terms: Autumn/Fall (September to December), Spring (January to April) and Summer (May to August).

English Language Requirements

Since English is the primary language of instruction in the UK, students need to demonstrate English proficiency through an English language test as part of the admission process. Standardized English language tests evaluate students on their reading, listening, speaking and writing skills.

The following tests are commonly accepted for entry into degree-level courses :

- **International English - Language Testing System**
(IELTS) - Academic and UKVI
- **Test of English as a Foreign Language**
(TOEFL) - Internet-Based Test (IBT)

Language test scores required for admission vary by institution and by program. Typically, students applying to an undergraduate course need :

- **IELTS** scores between 5.5 and 6.5 (usually 6.0), with no band less than 5.5 or 6.0
- **TOEFL** (internet-based test, iBT) scores between 60.0 and 90.0 overall



The UK student visa

International students need a visa to come and study in the UK. Students over the age of 16 need the General Student Visa (Tier 4). T4 Student Visa applications are submitted online. Students cannot apply for the visa more than three (3) months before the start of their course date. They must also have received an unconditional offer of admission by a licensed Tier 4 sponsor before they can apply.

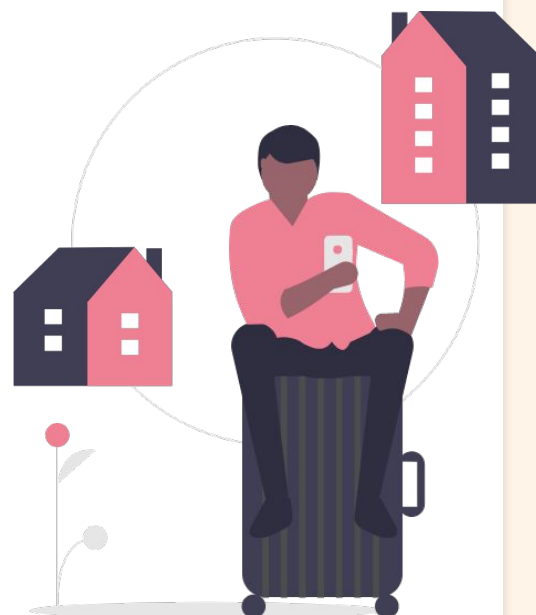
Course Eligibility Criteria

General Student Visa is only issued for a course that meets one of the following criteria:

- Full-time leading to a qualification that's at least level 6 on the Ofqual Register of Regular Qualifications
- Part-time leading to a qualification that's at least level 7 on the Ofqual Register of Regular Qualifications
- An overseas course of degree level study that's equal to a UK higher education course and is being run by an overseas higher education institution
- Full-time, with at least 15 hours per week of organized daytime study, leading to a qualification which is at least level 3 on the Ofqual Register of Regular Qualifications
- A recognised foundation programme as a postgraduate doctor or dentist
- An English language course at level B2 or above on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Length of stay

The T4 Student Visa is typically issued for the full study duration. For courses that last over six months, students can arrive in the UK up to one month before, and stay for up to four months after the end of the course. As of September 2018, Master's students (not postgraduate certificate or diploma) can stay in the UK for up to six months after completing their studies. Students can apply to extend their visa if they decide to enrol in another course after completing their current course. They can also apply for work-related visas if they find employment before their student visa expires.



Working while studying in the UK

International students who study a full-time undergraduate or postgraduate degree course at a recognised university in the UK are allowed to work part-time during the term for up to 20 hours a week and full-time during the holidays.

Types of Part-time Work Opportunities

Some of the top part time jobs in the UK for Indian students are:

1 . Work on campus

One of the most popular options as an international student is to find a job at the university / college that you're studying at. There are many opportunities available to work part-time in the cafeteria, students' unions, as an assistant or a mentor. Some universities take help from international students to promote the university, so you could do marketing, write blogs, handle the universities' social media.

2. Cafe/Bars/Restaurants

Doing a part-time job at a restaurant is also very common among students. You could work as a waiter, cashier, or if you have the skills, you could work as a cook as well. The advantage of working as a waiter in good restaurants is *the tip*, that allows you to earn a little more than the minimum wage.



After post-graduation - what next?

Indian students place post-graduation benefits as an important factor when deciding where to study. The experience international graduates gain—and income derived—from employment after graduation is important to offset their family's financial investment and help repay their study loans.

Students on a Tier 4 student visa can typically stay in the UK for up to four (4) months after completing their studies - or up to six months if they were enrolled in a Master's degree program. This extension is available to give students time to find meaningful employment in the UK after their graduation.

Graduate Immigration Route - New for 2021

In September 2019, the British government announced a new Graduate Immigration Route, which will become available in Summer 2021. Under the Graduate Immigration Route, eligible international students will be able to stay and work (or look for work) in the UK for up to two years after completing their studies.

It is not mandatory for students to have secured employment to stay in the UK through this route. The Graduate Immigration Route is only available to international students who complete their degree-level courses in or after the summer for 2021.

Students will be required to do the following things to be considered for the route:

1. Submit an application
2. Pay the visa fee
3. Pay the Immigration Health Surcharge



Get started on your application with leap scholar today - JAN 2021 INTAKE

Your dream of studying in the UK is within reach with Leap Scholar.

We at Leap Scholar provide end-to-end guidance to help make your study dream come true. Our team of expert, experienced counsellors work along with successful student mentors currently studying in top universities in the UK to give you the best personalised counselling experience.

From shortlisting the right course to visa processing, from college applications to financial guidance - we do it all. We are committed to helping our students fulfil their potential, and believe in deep expertise and empathy.



Understanding your requirements



Guiding you on IELTS/Duolingo training



Finding the right course and college



Filling in your college application



Collecting all the necessary documents



Counselling you through the entire process



Ensuring you get a successful admission



Providing you the best knowledge on education loans, forex cards, bank accounts in the UK



Supporting you through the Visa application process



Advising you on travel and forex requirements



Preparing you for your move to the UK



Meet Our Team

Our Counsellors



Jaydeep Rege

Head Consultant
MBA, Texas A&M University, USA.
15 years of counselling experience

Over the past 15 years, I have worked with more than 2000 students helping them secure admissions to universities across the globe. It's been a wonderful and satisfying journey thus far. Seeing my students succeed in their careers is motivation enough to help others walk that same path.



Soumita Sen

Consultant
MBA in Human Resources and Marketing, IIPM Pune.
10+ years of counseling experience

My expertise is into all round career counseling of which my main forte has been University Guidance. Over 10 years, I have counselled over 500 students for countries like the US, Canada, Australia, Germany, Singapore and UK. The cohort I have guided has students applying for Masters, Bachelors, PG Diploma and Vocational Education.

Our Mentors

Saif Razvi

Marketing Management - Humber College



The reason I've signed up to be a mentor is that I WISH there was something like this available when I was researching colleges in Canada. I nearly got scammed during the application process and I want you to avoid this as international education is becoming a big business but with bigger scams every day. I really believe that you can pick up some extremely valuable tips from someone who has been there and done that. Google can only take you so far.

Ramyasree Vedantham

MS - Computer Science (Major - Artificial Intelligence), University of Montreal



Being a student now and having been in the shoes of many students out there, I can guide on the do's and don'ts in the overall process. I can also help my fellow mates with easy ways to get scholarships, looking for part time jobs and finding an accommodation by spending less money. I got help from my network during my application process and I think that it is the best way to give back by signing up as a mentor on Leap Scholar.

Kishore Kumar

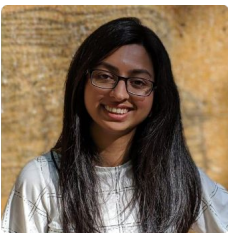
MS - Applied Computer Science, Concordia University



Since I had no mentors during my journey to Canada, I thought this is the best way to help aspiring students fulfill their dream of studying in Canada by helping them through LeapScholar. I am here to share my experience of applying to the best universities, working with professors, pursuing Masters in Computer Science, Living in Canada, Job opportunities and overall experience as an international student in Canada.

Rikita Lakhiani

Professional Financial Services, Fanshawe College & Project Management, George Brown College



Having had the experience of studying in two different cities for my diplomas, I have decided to share my knowledge of applying to colleges, pursuing diplomas in Ontario, living in a small city vs big city, the job scenario, and the overall experience of being an international student in Canada via Leap Scholar.

Aneeka Afak

Master of Management, Schulich School of Business of York University



It would've been so nice if I would've found something like this LeapScholar program. A mentor to guide you through and who'd walk along with you until you reach your goal – isn't that amazing! So, I decided to be a part of such an initiative designed to help you guys in so many ways possible. I'm more than happy to be a mentor for anyone who needs it.

The UK student visa

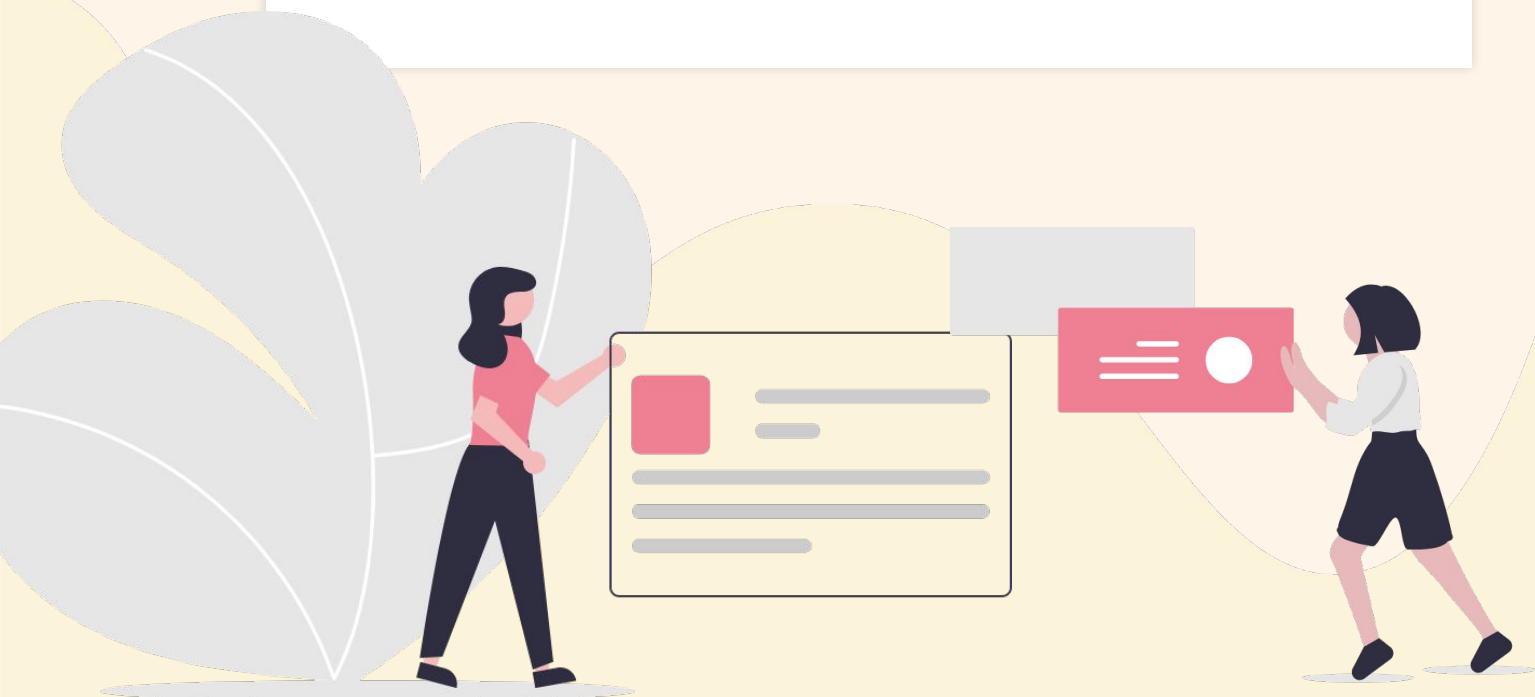
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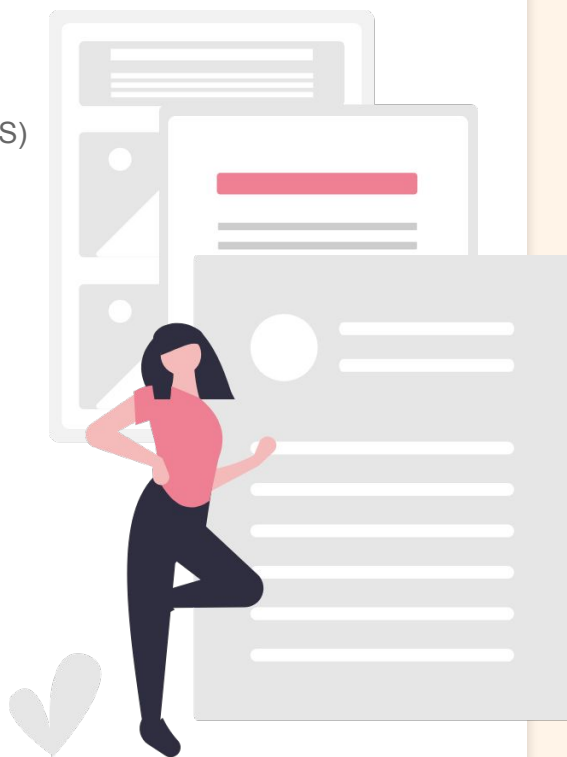


2.

Documents Required:

Students need to submit a series of supporting documents as part of their online student visa application. To find out which documents your student needs, check the list of documents students must provide.

- A current passport or other valid travel documentation
- Confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS)
- Biometrics Information
- Proof of knowledge of English
- Proof that they can pay the tuition, and support themselves (and any other family members travelling with them)
- Proof of parental or other legal guardian consent if student is under 18
- Proof of student's relationship with the said parent or guardian if they're under 18
- Tuberculosis test results if the student is coming from one of the countries where you need a TB test to enter the UK
- Immigration healthcare surcharge fee



3.

Length of stay

The T4 Student Visa is typically issued for the full study duration. For courses that last over six months, students can arrive in the UK up to one month before, and stay for up to four months after the end of the course. As of September 2018, Master's students (not postgraduate certificate or diploma) can stay in the UK for up to six months after completing their studies. Students can apply to extend their visa if they decide to enrol in another course after completing their current course. They can also apply for work-related visas if they find employment before their student visa expires.

