



International students and higher education in the South East

International students are very welcome to study in colleges and universities in the United Kingdom. In the academic year 2008-2009 the 1.8 million full-time undergraduate students in higher education in the UK included over 104,000 international students.

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). The website has a specifically designed section for International Students www.ucas.com/students/wheretostart/nonukstudents which gives 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 www.educationuk.org
- For some foundation degree courses applications can be made directly to the college and for others it is done through UCAS.
- 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

Their Standard Evaluation Service can be used to obtain a 'statement of comparison' which shows how your educational standard compares to British qualifications. Each university or college then decides whether or not your qualifications meet the entrance requirements for its courses.

If English is not 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
- CAE (Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English) is an exam for advanced users of English. This exam is aimed at people who can use written and spoken English for most professional and social purposes. It is widely recognised for work or study purposes.
- Cambridge ESOL Certificate of Proficiency in English at Grade C or above
- GCSE English Language or English Literature at Grade C or above.

[Cambridge ESOL](#) (English for Speakers of Other Languages) is the part of the University of Cambridge that provides qualifications for learners of English. The exams are well known for their high quality assessment of real English, as used in everyday work, study and leisure situations.

The [Cambridge English](#) diagram shows how the different qualifications related to each other.

There are often waiting lists for IELTS. CAE is the exam that reflects level 6-6.5 at IELTS. There are about 50 IELTS centres in the UK and over 350 CAE centres. For the locations of these centres go to the [Cambridge ESOL Exam Centres](#) link.

Addresses of IELTS Course Centres in the Southeast

IELTS Administrator

Chaucer College, University Rd., Canterbury CT2 7LJ

Tel. +44 (0) 1227 819 033

www.chaucercollege.co.uk/ielts.html

English Language Administrator

Department of Language & Translation Studies

Austin Pearce Building, University of Surrey,

Guildford GU2 7XH

Tel. +44 (0)1483 689912

www.surrey.ac.uk/languages/English/ielts/ielts_programme.html

IELTS Administrator

King's School Oxford

St Joseph's Hall, Temple Rd., Oxford OX4 2UJ

Tel. +44 (0)1865 711829

www.kingsoxford.co.uk

IELTS Administrator

Mayflower College of English, 1 Radford Road,

The Hoe, Plymouth PL1 3BY

Tel. +44 (0)1752 604105

www.maycoll.co.uk/ielts.html

IELTS Administrator

Language Specialist Institute

1-13 Lord Montgomery Way, Portsmouth PO1 2AH

Tel. +44 (0) 23 9229 1811

www.LSI-international.co.uk

IELTS Administrator

Centre for Language Study
University of Southampton
Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ
Tel +44 (0) 23 8059 8918
www.soton.ac.uk/cls/ielts/index.html

IELTS Administrator
Richard Language College
43-45, Wimborne Rd., Bournemouth BH3 7AB
Tel.+44 (0) 1202 203 080
www.ielts-richard-college-bournemouth-uk.co.uk

IELTS Administrator
Study Group Study Centre
1, Billinton Way, Brighton BN1 4LF
Tel.+44 (0)1273 339 368
Email: awhisken@studygroup.com

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 an '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

Overseas fees are higher than home fees because the UK government subsidises the fees for EU students. Overseas fees can range from £4,000 to £18,000 per year, depending on the institution, the level and the type of course. Some institutions give details of the fees they charge on their websites.

The UCAS website has some helpful advice on working out a budget for your UK studies:

www.ucas.com/students/wheretostart/nonukstudents

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.