

FACT FILE

Number of universities in the UK (2016-17):

162 higher education institutions; 136 are university UK members.

Student numbers (2016-17):

- 2.32 million students at UK higher education institutions
- Undergraduates: 1.76 million
- Postgraduate: 551,585
- Students from EU countries: 134,835
- Students from non-EU countries: 307,540

Figures taken from <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/facts-and-stats/Pages/higher-education-data.aspx>

Size by number of students (HESA statistics for 2016-17):

- University of London is a confederation has the largest number of students
- University of Manchester is next with nearly 28,000 undergraduates and over 12,500 postgraduate students
- Small universities (often specialist colleges and academies, such as Royal College of Art, London Business School) have only a few hundred or one or two thousand students. A few are open only to postgraduate students.

Academic year:

Universities have their own calendars; most academic years are about 30+ weeks. Some universities have a shorter year eight-week terms. Traditionally, most divide the year into three terms (trimesters); some now have only two longer terms (semesters). For example:

Reading, London, Sussex, Edinburgh, Manchester

Term 1/Autumn Term	September – December	Semester 1: September – January
Term 2/Spring Term	January – March	
Term 3/Summer Term	April – June	Semester 2: January – June

Note: Some university refer to the terms differently. Cambridge has Michaelmas, Lent and Easter terms; Oxford has Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity terms; Durham has Michaelmas and Epiphany terms.

Courses of study:

There are over 30,000 courses offered at UK universities. Different courses have different standards and entry requirements.

Some subjects will be offered by many universities. For example, English, Chemistry and Law are offered by more than 40 universities. Veterinary Medicine is offered by only seven universities. If you want to study Burmese, there is only one option, SOAS, University of London.

Data taken from <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses/choosing-a-course/Finance>

Qualifications:

There is a range of different types of qualification for which you can study, and here are some of the most common, listed according to their level of study.

- HNC (Higher National Certificate) and HNDs (Higher National Diplomas): work-related higher education qualifications. HNCs take one year and HNDs two years: both can be studied part-time.
- Foundation degree: higher education qualification combining academic study with workplace learning; broadly equivalent to first two years of a bachelor's degree
- Bachelor's degree (undergraduate/first degrees: honors/non-honors)
- Master's degree (postgraduate degree): taught or research degrees
- Doctoral degree (postgraduate degree): research degree