



## Studying Abroad (full time)

If you are thinking about studying for a degree in another country these pages will help you with your decision making.

### Reasons to Study Abroad

1. **It's less expensive:** A recent study conducted by HSBC found that Germany was the least expensive place to study at less than half the annual cost of a degree in the UK, with France coming a close second.
2. **Stand out from the crowd:** There are thousands of graduates with similar qualifications seeking jobs every year. Studying abroad will help you stand out. It will give you more life experience, cultural awareness, and perhaps a different perspective on life to your fellow graduates. In our global economy, an awareness of the wider world can go a long way.
3. **Adventure:** Combine both travel and studying.

### Where to start

There is a lot to think about and you need to do your research:

**Is it right for you?** It is important to focus on choosing the right subject and course for you – do not focus on just getting an overseas experience.

**Cost?** Carefully consider the costs associated with living and studying abroad. You will need to think about course fees, accommodation, living expenses and the cost of getting home for holidays and so on.

**Will I get a loan or funding?** UK student loans are **not** available for those studying their entire degree course overseas. However, some EU countries do have schemes providing grants and loans.

- Tuition fees for UK students studying abroad vary widely, so check this out early on.
- For **European Union Universities**, the student support you may be eligible for, and the fees you need to pay, will depend on which European country you are planning to study in.

You may need to pay different fee rates as a 'non-EU third-country national' if you're planning to study your whole degree course at a university in an EU member state.

You should contact the relevant HE provider in the EU member state you are going to, so that you can check:

- What fees you may have to pay.
- If there is any financial support available for students from the UK.
- If there are any funding schemes, bursaries, or scholarships you can apply for.

British citizens studying in the **Republic of Ireland** will continue to be covered by the Common Travel Area (CTA) arrangements.

You should also:

- Check the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) *living in guides* which include residency rules and visa requirements for the country you want to study in. [www.gov.uk/government/collections/overseas-living-in-guides](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/overseas-living-in-guides)
- Check healthcare advice for UK nationals. [www.gov.uk/government/collections/healthcare-in-the-eu-norway-iceland-liechtenstein-and-switzerland](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/healthcare-in-the-eu-norway-iceland-liechtenstein-and-switzerland)
- Make sure that you hold a valid Student Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). [www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/](https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/)
- Purchase comprehensive travel insurance while in the UK.
- Make sure all your health needs are covered by your insurance policy and talk to your provider if you have any queries.

[www.gov.uk/guidance/study-in-the-european-union#doing-your-whole-course-at-a-higher-education-provider-in-the-eu](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/study-in-the-european-union#doing-your-whole-course-at-a-higher-education-provider-in-the-eu)

- In **countries outside the EU**, students will not have access to financial aid, and usually have to pay higher fees than home students. These fees may also need to be paid upfront.
- Scholarships are available to support overseas study, but they are very competitive.

**Visa needs?** You may need to apply for a student visa, as well as applying to the university to study overseas. These can take time – sometimes several months – so it is important to allow as much time as possible.

**Can I work part-time?** Many students find part-time work during their studies. UK residents studying outside of the UK are not always eligible to work overseas. Make sure you check to see if there are any restrictions on the type of work and hours of work you can do.

**How do I apply?** Many other countries do not use an application service like UCAS, so it is important you understand course entry requirements, the university's application process, and their deadline dates.

## US universities

As all applications to US universities are direct, timings for application deadlines and processing vary.

- If your application is successful, you will receive an offer letter explaining how to accept their offer and asking you to provide any forms you need to complete – for instance, to show you have access to the funds you need for your first year of study. You may also be required to pay a non-refundable deposit to hold your place, which will be deducted from your tuition costs.
- Once you have accepted your offer, you can apply for your student visa through your nearest US embassy or consulate. Your US university will provide you with a form you may need if you are required to attend a visa interview.
- Once you have got your visa, you can book your travel. Your US university will provide a range of resources, information, and advice to help you, including how to apply for funding, scholarships, and grants, and how to arrange accommodation.

## EU universities

You usually need to apply directly to the university or college, but there are some central admissions services too (a bit like UCAS). Application deadlines are usually in the first few months of the year in which you intend to begin your studies.

- In France, the application deadline is January, and French universities and colleges inform applicants of their decisions between 15 June and 15 September for programmes starting in October.

- In Germany, the application deadlines are usually January or July for winter/summer enrolment and offers are usually made within two months. However, once you have found accommodation, you will need to apply for a residence permit from the local resident registration office.

## Australia

Most university courses in Australia start in February, and the academic year finishes in November. The application deadline is usually the September prior to the course start date.

- If your application is successful, you will receive 'Letters of Offer'. These are usually sent within four to six weeks of the university or college receiving your application.
- To accept an offer, you will need to pay a deposit to receive a 'Confirmation of Enrolment' document from the university. You need this document and your offer letter to apply for your visa, as well as Overseas Student Health cover from a certified provider.
- Once your visa application is underway, you can start looking for accommodation. Many universities offer accommodation, but places are limited and often on a first come, first-served basis.

## Asia

You will need to make your application directly to the university in Asian countries, which means deadlines and start dates vary.

- In China and Singapore, you need to apply by June for a September start date, although individual courses may have a corresponding application deadline. In South Korea, the main intake of students is in March or September each year, with application deadlines of September to November, and May to June, respectively.
- If you are offered a place, the process to get a visa varies. The university may need to arrange a local sponsor for your visa application, or you may have to do this via the appropriate embassy in the UK.
- You will need to submit a visa application form with proof of identify, evidence of your qualifications, and a financial statement. Immigration departments may ask you to provide health certificates or details of where you intend to live, so be prepared to arrange this in advance.

Exchange rates can have both a positive and negative effect on your cost of living, food and drink, and tuition fees (if you are required to pay in the currency of the country you're applying to study in).

## Passports and visas

You must have a valid passport. Some countries require you to have at least six months remaining on your passport, so check the visa website of the country you are travelling to and allow plenty of time to apply for a new passport.

Requirements for student visas will vary depending on the country, so check the websites of the universities you are applying to and the national immigration/visa agencies. You may also need to get a residence permit – this is required to study in Germany, for example.

## Before you go

Make copies of all your important travel documents, such as your passport and travel insurance, and keep them in a separate place to the originals. Leave copies at home too in case you lose them!

- Get a supply of ID photos to take with you, as they are useful for things like student cards and travel passes when you are away.

- Remember to take key contact details with you, including for your course provider in case you need advice or support if there is any disruption to your travel or accommodation arrangements.
- It is also worth getting the contact details of the nearest British embassy, consulate, or high commission to your overseas destination.

## Finance and money

Make sure you know all your passwords for your UK bank accounts – if you are planning on using your accounts abroad, you may need to use your telephone banking and online services.

- Be prepared to open a local bank account.
- It is a good idea to open a British bank account that does not charge you for overseas transactions, and to set up an online banking account so you can check your balance.
- Currency cards are becoming more widely used – they are similar to a debit card, but pre-loaded with the currency of the country to which you are travelling. You can use the card to withdraw money from ATMs around the world and pay for goods directly.
- Ensure you have more than one means of payment available (cash, debit card, credit card).
- It is important to make sure you have enough money to cover emergencies and any unexpected delays while you are travelling.

## Providing proof / identification

Some countries stipulate a timescale in which you must get in touch with the authorities to let them know you are in the country. You may also have to provide documents to them such as your passport, valid health insurance, proof of enrolment at your host university and so on.

To enrol at your overseas university or college, you will need to have a range of documents such as ID card/passport, notification of admission or the offer letter, original or certified copies of your entry qualifications, confirmation of health insurance, and any certificates for language exams which you may have had to take.

## Safety

It is really, really important! Check the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCDO) website for guidance on vaccinations, health issues, and safety precautions before you travel – if they advise against travel, contact your home or overseas course provider about postponing your trip.

## Insurance

You should have medical and travel insurance for the duration of your time abroad, including travel to and from the UK. Your overseas course provider will be able to advise you further. Also consider taking out an additional policy to insure your possessions if this is not covered by your current/family's insurance.

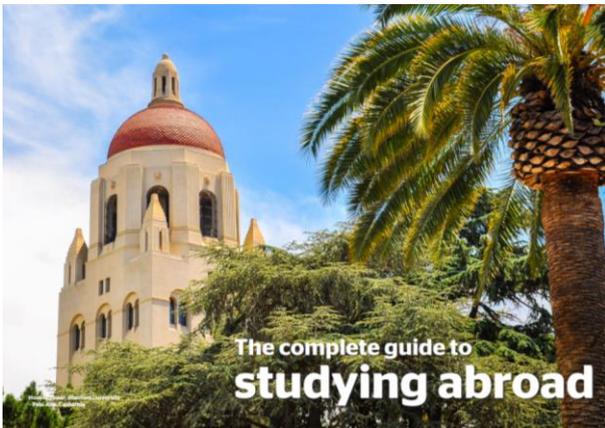
## Health

The EHIC card for the EU has now been superseded by UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). They provide the same access to healthcare in the EU.

A GHIC or EHIC is free of charge. Beware of unofficial websites, they may charge you a fee to apply.  
[www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/](https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/)

If you are going to be studying further afield, you may be required to have a medical examination and obtain a medical fitness certificate as a condition of obtaining a student visa, so check the requirements well in advance.

## More Information



[wwwucas.com/file/301176/download?token=JUKRFvGd](http://wwwucas.com/file/301176/download?token=JUKRFvGd)

## Useful UCAS websites

[wwwucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-overseas/applying-study-abroad](http://wwwucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-overseas/applying-study-abroad)

[wwwucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-abroad-consider-your-options](http://wwwucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-abroad-consider-your-options)

[wwwucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-overseas/what-are-pros-and-cons-studying-abroad](http://wwwucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-overseas/what-are-pros-and-cons-studying-abroad)

[wwwucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-overseas/what-you-need-know-about-studying-abroad](http://wwwucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-overseas/what-you-need-know-about-studying-abroad)

[wwwucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-overseas/general-visa-and-immigration-information-studying-abroad](http://wwwucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-overseas/general-visa-and-immigration-information-studying-abroad)

