

Frequently asked questions about studying in the UK

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Q1. How can the British Council in Japan help me with my plans to study in the UK?

A. We provide access to the information about studying in the UK that you need in order to make your own study plans. We do this through a variety of routes such as this website, Education UK seminars and other events, or the Education UK Guidebook (published in Japanese). Using these, you can find information on topics such as choosing a university and course, or applying. You can also find links to further information sources.

However, we are unfortunately unable to provide individual, specialist guidance on course choice or applications. As an official organisation, we cannot recommend particular courses or institutions to enquirers. If you require personalised support, we suggest that you use the services of a study abroad agent.

*If you work for a UK education institution, please contact us at the following address:
ihe@britishcouncil.or.jp.

Q2. I want to study in the UK. Where do I start?

A. As the UK's official body for cultural relations, we provide information on studying in the UK via a range of activities. The majority take place in Japanese, but those below are also available in English:

- Education UK events: we hold events throughout the year for anyone thinking of studying in the UK, whether you are just beginning to wonder about the options, or already have a concrete study plan. See our [event information](#) for details (N.B. This page is in Japanese, and some events take place in Japanese. However, presentations by staff of UK institutions take place in English, and the dates and times are given in English).
- [Education UK website](#) (if you access the site from Japan, you may be automatically redirected to the Japanese version. Click the arrow on the top right to choose the Global version): the site gives a comprehensive overview of studying in the UK. You can search for courses, institutions and scholarships, and read more about the different study options.
- [Facebook page](#): the latest updates on UK study and our activities, in a mixture of Japanese and English.

Q3. How can I find an institution and a course?

A. As well as the "Find a course" function on [this site](#), the links below allow you to search for institutions and courses using a range of criteria:

- [Hotcourses](#) (courses at all levels)
- [English UK](#) (English-language courses)
- [Independent Schools Council](#) (private preparatory and senior schools)
- [UK Boarding Schools](#) (private schools offering boarding facilities)
- [UCAS](#) (undergraduate courses)
- [Prospects](#) (postgraduate courses)

You can find information about the quality of undergraduate and postgraduate education on the following sites:

- [Unistats](#): this official site provides statistics on student satisfaction rates, graduate employment etc. You can compare results by course and institution.
- [RAE 2008](#): the results of the national Research Assessment Exercise, carried out every few years. “Results”>”View by unit of assessment” will take you to the results for each subject area.

Please note that as an official organisation, we cannot recommend any particular course or institution.

Q4. Can I talk with someone about my study plans?

A. We are unfortunately unable to answer individual UK study enquiries, whether by email, telephone or at our centre. However, we hold regular [events](#) (information primarily in Japanese) such as the Education UK Fair, seminars, and interview sessions with representatives of UK institutions, at which you can ask us and UK staff about your study plans.

Q5. Do you have any scholarships?

A. Many UK universities and grant-awarding bodies offer scholarships for international students (usually for courses at postgraduate level). You can search for these using the “Find a scholarship” function on this site. You may also be able to find information on scholarships offered by grant-awarding bodies in your native country on the appropriate [British Council site](#).

Q6. Where in Japan can I study for A-levels?

A. Within Japan, [The British School in Tokyo](#) teaches a UK curriculum, including A-levels. There are also some UK institutions which offer A-level courses via distance learning. You can search for these on the [Hotcourses](#) site. We can hold [A-level examinations](#) here at the British Council.

There are other options for students who want to progress to a UK undergraduate course. The International Baccalaureate is highly regarded by UK institutions, and is offered by [several schools](#) in Japan. Meanwhile, there are many [foundation courses](#) offered in the UK in order to allow overseas high school graduates, such as those from Japan, to continue on to UK universities.

Q7. How do I qualify to pay home fees?

A. Tuition fees at UK universities are divided into “home” and “overseas” rates. Which category you fall into depends both on your nationality and on your country of residence during the three years before entering university. See the guidance notes ["Tuition fees: will I pay the 'home' or the 'overseas' rate?"](#) on the UKCISA site to check your fee status. Ultimately, however, it is up to the university you attend to make this decision, so the most certain way is to ask them directly.

Q8. How can I obtain an authorised copy of/an authorised translation of my certificates?

A. The options are as follows. Please note that the British Council does not have the power to authorise copies or translations of certificates.

- Degree certificates, e.g. for Bachelor's or Master's qualifications, are usually issued by each university. Most universities have a page on their website, e.g. in the alumni section, from which you can request additional copies. However, if you cannot find this information, please contact the university directly.
- UK qualifications other than degrees (e.g. GCSE, A-level etc) are generally awarded by examination boards. Some of the major boards are [Edexcel](#), [AQA](#), [OCR](#), and [University of Cambridge International Examinations](#) , but you can find a full list on the [OFQUAL site](#).
- Your Embassy in Japan may be able to authorise copies of qualifications from your country, or tell you where these can be obtained.