



University Buzzwords

Bachelors degree

The most common form of undergraduate degree is a bachelors degree. Bachelor is often abbreviated to BA for Bachelor of Arts, or BSc for Batchelor of Science, depending on the course studied.

Campus university

A campus university is a university where everything is based on one site, including student accommodation, lecture rooms and libraries. A campus university may still have more than one site, but each site will have its own facilities.

City university

A city university will have different buildings across a town or city, rather than on one site. The buildings are still often close to one another and located in a central area.

Clearing

Clearing is a service run by UCAS that begins in July. This is how applicants can secure a place at university if they didn't secure a place before the deadline, or if they didn't achieve the qualifications for the course they have chosen.

Conditional offer

An applicant is made a conditional offer by a university if they are predicted to meet the entry requirements of the course. The offer is dependent upon the applicant meeting the requirements, for example achieving certain results in their A Levels.

Entry requirements

Entry requirements are the criteria that applicants must meet to be offered a place on a course, such as achieving certain results at school or college. Different universities and different courses will have different entry requirements which will be listed on UCAS, university websites and university prospectuses.

Higher education

Higher education refers to optional study taken after secondary education. Higher education can be studied at a range of institutions including universities and further education colleges. Higher education is sometimes abbreviated to HE.



Open days

Open days are when applicants and their families can go and look around a university. They are an opportunity to see the universities facilities and speak to staff and students to get a feel for what studying there might be like.

Oxbridge

Oxbridge is a combination of Oxford and Cambridge, and is often used as a quick way to refer to both universities at once. Oxford and Cambridge are separate universities.

Russell Group

The Russell Group is a self-selected group of 24 universities in the UK, which have a focus on producing research, high quality teaching and links with businesses.

Student finance

Student finance refers to the student loan provided by the government to help students pay for course fees and living costs. Most students apply online through Student Finance England. The amount of money available depends on the course studied and household income.

Tuition fees

Tuition fees are the actual cost of the course studied at university. This is most often paid by the government directly to the university as part of a student loan.

UCAS

UCAS stands for University and Colleges Applications Service. Almost everyone who is applying for an undergraduate degree course at a UK university will use the UCAS website to apply for university.

Unconditional offer

An applicant is made an unconditional offer by a university if they have already met the entry requirements of the course they are applying for. Some universities may also issue unconditional offers to applicants who are predicted very good results.

Undergraduate

An undergraduate degree is the first level of study undertaken at university. Students studying their first degree are called undergraduate students or sometimes undergrad students.