



Do you speak Uni?

A

Academic year

The university year, usually from Sept/Oct to June/July, but can vary per country/location so check the university calendar online.

Applicant taster or open days

An opportunity for applicants to spend a day at the university and get a better insight into their chosen course.

B

Bachelors degree

The qualification an undergraduate student achieves after successfully completing their 3 or 4 year course.

Bursary

A financial award from the university or student fund, usually awarded on the basis of personal circumstances to reward achievement or help those in financial need, and does not have to be repaid ... free money!

C

Clearing

Clearing allows prospective students without a university place to apply while places are still available. Clearing runs from July to September.

Combined or joint honours degree

A type of degree that allows you to study two subjects equally (50/50) to form one degree, i.e. Modern Languages & European Studies

D

Dissertation

A dissertation is a long essay on a subject of your choice, written during your final year of study and worth a significant part of your final degree classification (grade).

Degree classification

Your degree classification is the final grade you achieve after studying a degree course.

E

Employability

A person's suitability for employment.

Enrolment

This is when a student officially starts at university and receives all the necessary information (e.g. timetable, identity card, student documents). Sometimes enrolment can be completed online.

F

Foundation degree

Foundation degrees offer an alternative route to university for students who may not meet the course entry requirements for a course, or who simply need a confidence boost. Foundation degrees last for one year and students usually progress to a bachelors degree in the same subject on successful completion.

Fresher

The term given to students in their first year at university.



G

Graduate

A student who has completed their undergraduate (Bachelor's) degree course and received their qualification.

Gap year

Some students pause studies for a year out before starting university or after they have graduated. Students will often use this time to travel, volunteer with a charitable organization, or gain work experience.

H

Halls

On-campus accommodation provided for first-year students.

Hardship fund

Funding available to help students in financial difficulty to complete their studies.

I

Insurance choice

An applicant's second choice of university/course offer on UCAS. Students usually put this down as a reserve option in case they do not get into their first (firm) choice.

International students

Students who live outside the country where they have chosen to study.

L

Lecture

A lesson delivered by a member of academic staff, usually to a larger number of students than would normally attend a class. Students are expected to take notes and digest the information in independent study or seminars.

Lecturer

Academic staff (teachers) at a university who teach the courses.

M

Maintenance loan

A loan provided by a Student Finance fund to assist students with living costs (i.e. accommodation, travel, and food), which must be repaid by the student over an agreed period of time.

Module

A unit of study that explores a particular area or topic. University courses can include compulsory and optional modules, allowing you to tailor your course to suit your interests.

N

National Union of Students (NUS)

The NUS is a group of organisations across the UK that support and represent the interests of UK-based university students.

O

Open days

Open days are an opportunity for prospective students to see a university and its facilities and talk to staff and students. Activities include subject of financial presentations, campus and accommodation tours.

P

Personal tutor

A member of staff assigned to look after your personal welfare during your time at university. Your personal tutor is usually a member of academic staff from the same subject department as your course.



S

Sandwich course

This is a course that allows you to undertake a placement in an industry of your choice for one year (usually Year 3 of a 4 year Bachelors degree course).

Student Union (SU)

Student unions are organised and run by students, for students. They are the voice of the students, and represent their interests. The student union will often organise activities and events for students throughout the academic year, but especially during Freshers Week to help integrate new students.

T

Tutor

An member of staff who is responsible for your personal welfare during your time at university. Your personal tutor will usually be an academic from the same department as your course.

Tuition fee loan

Money lent by Student Finance to cover the cost of tuition fees. This loan is paid in instalments directly to the university.

U

Undergraduate

The term used to describe a a student studying for a first undergraduate (Bachelors) degree, which can last between 3 and 4 years. An undergraduate degree is the first level of higher education.

Undergraduate with combined Masters

Typically a four to five year course that combines three years of undergraduate study with an additional year to gain a Masters degree qualification.

V

Varsity

The highest ranking sports team or a sporting event between two university teams.

W

Webinar

A short web-based seminar.

Wellbeing

Emotional, physical and mental health support provided for students

Y

Year abroad

Spending an academic year abroad, studying or working in order to gain personal and professional experiences

Year chart

Detailed annual calendar including holidays, study and examination periods