

Study in the United Kingdom.

An unusually broad course market with specialised degrees, different teaching formats and cities of very different sizes. The family needs to understand fee status and the complete cost before treating an offer as affordable.

Study language	Usually English; programme-specific evidence
Main route	UCAS for most undergraduate degrees
Institution types	Research universities, specialist and applied institutions
Budget pressure	Tuition status plus housing, particularly London
Good first question	What is the actual course and annual net cost?

For students coming from Spain or Italy, this guide brings the degree, admissions, economy, budget and everyday life into one decision. The examples are a starting point; always verify the exact programme and entry year.

THREE QUESTIONS TO SETTLE FIRST

Before the shortlist becomes a decision

1. The shape of the degree

Compare compulsory modules, assessment, placement or integrated-year options and the final qualification. Two degrees with similar titles may lead to different daily study.

2. The cost for this applicant

Check the university's fee classification and quoted tuition, then add housing, travel and any relevant entry or health charges. Test the whole degree, not just the first year.

3. The real application calendar

Create one line per course with its UCAS or direct route, published deadline, school document dates and any interviews or extra work.

01 / THE UNIVERSITY OFFER

What can the student actually study?

Course titles can conceal big differences: single and joint honours, placement years, integrated master's routes and varying assessment styles. Read compulsory first-year modules and later specialisms. Check whether a professional course has the accreditation required for the intended career.

Compare a small set of cities: London, Manchester or Birmingham, and a smaller university town. Ask about contact hours, placements, support for international entrants and the real travel time from accommodation. Rankings are one input, not the curriculum.

02 / ADMISSIONS AND LANGUAGE

The route from Spain or Italy

UCAS brings many undergraduate applications together, but the date depends on the entry cycle and the course. Oxford, Cambridge and some clinical programmes have earlier deadlines. Schools may have their own reference and submission deadlines. Check the live UCAS calendar for the intended year.

Universities assess Bachillerato or maturità results by course, including required subjects and grades. English language rules also differ. Keep a separate column for interviews, portfolios, admissions tests and funding dates. Confirm the exact fee assessment with the university; Brexit means EU nationality alone does not establish home-fee status.

03 / FEES AND THE REAL BUDGET

What a family should price

Tuition

The British Council gives an indicative annual international undergraduate tuition range of £11,400–£30,000. Particular courses, including medicine, can differ. Obtain the institution's offer-year fee and annual increase policy.

Living example

British Council guidance gives roughly £1,300–£1,400/month in London and £900–£1,300/month elsewhere. Treat these as planning ranges, then price an actual room and transport route.

Full degree

Add visa and health charges where relevant, accommodation deposit, travel, materials and possible extra year for a placement or integrated course. Convert currencies with a buffer.

Planning method: request the exact programme fee, price a real room, and add food, transport, insurance, travel home, deposits and a contingency. Recheck every figure before accepting an offer.

04 / ACCOMMODATION

Make housing part of the choice

First-year halls can simplify the arrival, but compare contract length, catered or self-catered terms and whether rooms are guaranteed. A private shared house may be cheaper later but can bring guarantor, deposit and utility obligations. Ask about accessible accommodation and move-in dates before accepting an offer.

05 / CITIES AND SETTINGS

Where might the student thrive?

London

Very wide course and cultural choice, but the highest typical living budget.

Large regional cities

Broad university markets and transport networks; costs vary by district.

Smaller university towns

Potentially shorter journeys and a close-knit campus; check housing supply and placements.

06 / ECONOMY AND CAREERS

Put the degree in context

The UK economy includes finance, creative industries, healthcare, advanced manufacturing and technology, distributed unevenly by region. A nearby employer does not make a placement automatic. Compare placement modules, employer engagement and careers outcomes for the particular course, and check current work-permission rules separately.

Picture an ordinary Tuesday

The student should test the everyday experience: academic workload, independent living, campus belonging, travel home and access to care. Ask the university how its personal tutor and wellbeing systems operate, not just whether they exist. A city that works on a weekend visit may feel different on a winter weekday.

A PLAN FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Five decisions to make together

1. Choose three real programmes. Save their module lists, admission pages and the exact degree awarded.
2. Check eligibility. Record qualification and subject rules, language evidence, application channel and every deadline.
3. Build one budget per city. Use the published tuition for this student, a real housing option and a full-year living estimate.
4. Test the daily experience. Ask about accommodation, travel, wellbeing, healthcare and who can help on arrival.
5. Assign the next action. Decide what the student researches, what parents verify and which questions need a university answer.

OFFICIAL STARTING POINTS

Verify for your entry year

[UCAS application dates ↗](#)

[British Council: cost of studying ↗](#)

[UK student visa guidance ↗](#)

Reviewed September 2026. Cost examples are sourced and dated where available. National averages are not offers. Requirements, fees, deadlines, housing and work or visa rules can change; the university and competent authorities are the final source for the student's circumstances.

Talk with us in English, Spanish or Italian: universityabroad.eu/consultation/