

Succeed at university and beyond

OXFORD **AQA**
INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS



Going to university *in the UK*

> Find out more inside

Choosing a university course is a very important decision.

You will need to think about:

- The type of university you are most interested in
- The location
- The cost
- The choice of activities on offer
- The courses offered

What you need to know about studying in the UK

UK students in state schools follow a statutory national curriculum. There are some variations between the curriculums in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

In England, most students take GCSEs at age 16 before specialising

in three A-levels. A-level courses normally take two years between the ages of 16 and 18. Students aged 14 to 16 study core subjects (English, mathematics and science) and foundation subjects in computing, physical education and citizenship. Schools must also offer at least one course in each of the arts, design and technology, the humanities and modern foreign languages.

English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and assessment

- The EBacc measures attainment in a combination of subjects that the UK government thinks are important for young people to study at GCSE
- Includes English language and literature, mathematics, the sciences, history or geography, and a language

England, Northern Ireland and Wales use GCSEs and A-levels for assessment. GCSEs are graded 9–1 in England. Wales and Northern Ireland have maintained the A*–G grading system for GCSEs, but recognise 9–1 grades awarded by exam boards in England. A-levels are graded A*–E.

Scotland has its own curriculum and assessments but universities in Scotland fully recognise GCSEs and A-levels.



University admissions *How the process works*

There are approximately 130 universities in the UK with many institutions, such as the University of Oxford, known for their history and tradition.

Many regularly feature highly in QS World University Rankings and they are known for offering a traditional, quality higher education, providing a wide choice of subjects.

Individual universities determine their own admissions policies. Subject and grade requirements* vary by university and course.

The Russell Group universities are highly selective. They publish a guide on their website, Informed Choices, which includes “advice from admissions professionals on the best subject combinations for a wide range of courses”.

Visit www.informedchoices.ac.uk to find out more

* Note: As A-levels are standard qualifications in the UK for university admission, no course credit is awarded.

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The Russell Group comprises 24 leading universities which are committed to the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the private sector.

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Apply to UK universities through UCAS

Through UCAS, the centralised admissions service, you can apply for up to five different courses/universities.

Many universities make offers using subject grades. They may specify certain grades in certain subjects relevant to the course. Some universities use UCAS tariff points to define entry requirements and grades are converted to points to determine a total point score which students must achieve.

International students whose first language is not English are required to demonstrate English proficiency.

The requirements vary by course and university and students should check with their chosen institution.

Typically, three A-levels are required. GCSE students are expected to have at least five GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English and mathematics.

For more competitive universities a wider range of GCSEs at higher grades will be expected, with high grades in subjects related to the course you wish to follow.

In many cases, International GCSE or A-level English is accepted. Some universities list specific Awarding Body syllabuses, others state generic requirements.



Did you know?

Most international students planning to study in the UK will require a Tier 4 (General) student visa.

Students must obtain a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) from their chosen university as part of their visa application. This includes the university's assessment of a student's English language ability.

Universities can choose how to assess a student's knowledge of English but in many cases this is the same as the course entry requirement for English proficiency.



Get the results *you deserve*



OxfordAQA qualifications are benchmarked to UK standards and our exams give every student the best possible chance to show what they can do and get the results they deserve.

They are valued by universities around the world as academically rigorous qualifications that equip students with

the skills they need to succeed, both at university and beyond.

Students with OxfordAQA qualifications have successfully progressed to some of the best universities all over the world, including the U15 Group, Oxford University, Ivy League universities, the Group of Eight in Australia, and the UK Russell Group.



Did you know?

100yrs

We achieve *Fair Assessment* by drawing on the expertise that AQA has developed over 100 years.



The Oxford Test of English

The Oxford Test of English (OTE) is an affordable, personalized test that fits you.

100% online, it's flexible, fast and available at approved test centres worldwide. Plus, it's the only proficiency test certified by the University of Oxford.

For details of institutions in the UK that accept the OTE as proof of English proficiency, please visit our website.

oxfordtestofenglish.com





International IPQ

Studies show that project-based learning considerably improves skills in time management, academic writing, referencing and critical analysis.

The OxfordAQA International IPQ is valued by Russell Group universities and some may include it as part of an offer made to a student.

When not included in formal offers, completing a project-based qualification can still be viewed favourably due to the valuable skills it develops. Students have also told us they found their projects useful for discussion in university interviews.



Did you know?

Typically, where International IPQ is included in an offer, the university will make two offers. One in terms of required A-level grades and an alternative offer at one grade lower. For example, AAA at A-level or AAB plus IPQ. Normally a grade A at IPQ is required.

Please see our website for details of the position of individual universities in relation to IPQ.



Prepare for success *at university and beyond*

As competition for top university places increases globally, the need for students to stand out from the crowd is greater than ever.

While you are considering which educational institution you would like to attend, you can rest assured that OxfordAQA qualifications are recognised by leading universities worldwide. We work closely with Ministries of Education to ensure that equivalence to local qualifications is validated, OxfordAQA qualifications are comparable to those taken in the UK, and our International GCSEs, A-levels and project-based qualifications have been independently evaluated.

Most importantly, our *Fairness First* approach to exams means that you will get the results you deserve!

Find out more

oxfordaqa.com/recognition

At OxfordAQA
we put fairness first