

# ***Higher Education in the United Kingdom 1991-92***

*A handbook for  
students and  
their advisers*



  
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The Association of Commonwealth Universities

# **Higher Education in the United Kingdom 1991-92**

a handbook for students and their advisers

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## GET A CLEAR VIEW OF WHAT LIES AHEAD

To help students gain a clear view of what lies ahead in higher education, Wolverhampton Polytechnic have put together a comprehensive information pack.

This covers everything from information on courses (you'll need to tell us which subjects you are interested in) to local magazines and literature which will give you an insight into the quality of life in this region.

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Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SB**

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**Further details available from:**

**The Admissions Officer, The Buckinghamshire College, Newland Park,  
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MEd	Education, and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL).
MMus	Music.
MSc	Applied Hydrobiology, Applied Psychology, Artificial Intelligence with Engineering Applications, Civil Engineering, Computing, Computing with Statistics, Electrical & Electromagnetic Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Energy, Geotechnical Engineering, Marine Law & Policy, Maritime Studies, Ore Petrology & Process Mineralogy, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Statistics, Structural Engineering, Systems Engineering, Town Planning, Transport, and Urban Planning in Developing Countries.
MSc Econ	Applied Social Studies, Criminology, Employment Studies, International Economics & Banking, and Population Policies & Programmes.
MTh	Christian Doctrine, Church History, New Testament, Old Testament Studies, Pastoral Theology, and Social Ethics.
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## UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Three-year full-time, four-year sandwich and four-year enhanced engineering courses are available. Full lists of courses and entry requirements are given in the Prospectus.

For further information, write to: **The Academic Registrar, University of Wales College of Cardiff, PO Box 68, Cardiff, CF1 3XA, Wales, United Kingdom.**

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# HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY

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- With some 5,000 students, Heriot-Watt is a small to medium-sized University. The main campus at Riccarton in west Edinburgh combines excellent facilities in modern buildings with an attractive old estate of landscaped park and mature woodland. The University has the full range of student support facilities including accommodation, careers advice, health service, welfare and counselling, and sport and recreation.
- Heriot-Watt University has a long tradition of welcoming students from overseas, who currently make up some 15% of our student complement, from some 60 different countries.

Full details of undergraduate courses (that is 'first' or 'Bachelors' degrees) are given in the **Guide for Applicants**, and of postgraduate courses and research opportunities in the **Guide to Postgraduate Study and Research**, both freely available from the University. The main fields of study and research are:

**SCIENCE** - Actuarial Mathematics & Statistics, Biological Sciences and Brewing & Distilling, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics & Optoelectronics

**ENGINEERING** - Building Engineering & Surveying, Civil & Structural, Chemical & Process, Mechanical, Offshore, and Petroleum Engineering

**ECONOMIC & SOCIAL STUDIES** - Accountancy & Finance, Business Organisation, Economics, Languages

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES** - Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Planning & Housing

**ART & DESIGN** - Design & Crafts, Drawing & Painting, Sculpture

**TEXTILES** - Textile Design, Textile Technology including Colour & Materials, Textile Management

**For further information contact:**

**The International Office, Heriot-Watt University,  
Riccarton, Edinburgh, EH14 4AS, Scotland**

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The Scottish Vocational Education Council

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# UNIVERSITY OF WALES

## SWANSEA

**The University College of Swansea** is a constituent institution of the University of Wales (founded in 1891). The total student population of the College is 5105. Currently 667 students are from overseas, and the College has appointed a Dean of Overseas Students, assisted by the Academic Registrar, with responsibility for academic and pastoral matters.

The University College provides first degrees and post-graduate training in Physical and Biological Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics and Computing, Art and Humanities, English Language and Literature, Economic and Social Studies, Education, Management and Planning.

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Genetics	Educational Psychology
Mathematics	Foreign and Second Language Education
Physics	Special Education
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Chemical/Biochemical Engineering	Social Policy
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Machinery Condition Monitoring	Epidemiology and Health Planning

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### Bridging Courses

One-year courses at A-level standard are taught entirely in the College and prepare candidates for admission to Honours degree schemes in Science, Engineering, Social Science, and Business Studies.

English Language is included.

### Tuition in English

Full-time preparatory courses are provided within the College by the Centre for Applied Language Studies.

25 hours per week, for 3, 6, 9, or 12 months.

*Admission:* October, January, April and July.

### Enquiries

The Academic Registrar,  
Singleton Abbey, University College of Swansea  
Singleton Park, SWANSEA SA2 8PP, UK

Telex: 48358 ULSWAN G  
Telephone: +44 792 295155  
Fax: +44 792 295618

## THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITIES

Founded in 1913, the Association is the oldest international association of universities in the world, and its membership of 340 university institutions includes all the universities in the United Kingdom. Among the activities of the ACU's secretariat in London are various services for students.

### Information service

The Association provides factual information about university study and scholarship opportunities. It does this in three ways:

- through *publications*, such as this handbook; the big 'Commonwealth Universities Yearbook'; directories like 'British Universities' Guide to Graduate Study'; and four awards guides which between them contain some 650 pages of scholarship information, including many schemes open to candidates in both Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries. For details, see the section 'How to Find Out More' in the following pages. ACU publications can be consulted in universities throughout the Commonwealth and in many British Council and other reference libraries
- through a free *personal information service* for any student who wishes to write to, telephone, or (if in London) call at the ACU office at John Foster House, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF. Two student information papers about university study in the UK – 'Graduate Study at Universities in Britain' and 'Taking a First Degree at a University in Britain' – are available, without charge, if the request is accompanied by two international reply coupons (or, within the UK, by a stamped, addressed envelope) for each paper required
- through the *ACU reference library*, in which anyone able to visit the ACU during office hours can consult UK university calendars and prospectuses as well as ACU and other guides to courses, awards, etc.

### Appointments service

For graduates with superior qualifications who are interested in applying for academic posts in universities in certain Commonwealth countries – notably, but not solely, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Zimbabwe, Brunei and the West Indies – this service can provide information about any current vacancies of which it has been notified.

### Scholarship schemes

The main scheme in which the Association plays a principal role is the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, which enables graduates in any one country of the Commonwealth to study at postgraduate level in another, including, of course, Britain. The Association provides the secretariat for the British national agency for the Plan, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom, and for the Overseas Development Administration Shared Scholarship Scheme – see the section on 'Money Matters' in the following pages.

The secretariat for the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission, which awards scholarships tenable at universities in Britain by students from the USA, is also provided by the ACU.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

### SCHOOL OF COMPUTER STUDIES

#### **MSc in Office Automation and Information Systems**

The School offers a one-year taught course in the above beginning in October and covering the topics given below:-

– Business Information Systems;  
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The course consists of a variety of components which include:-

– an induction course; laboratory work; lectures; seminars by outside experts and an individual project.

#### **Enquiries to:**

**MSc Course Tutor  
School of Computer Studies  
The University  
LEEDS LS2 9JT  
Tel: 0532-335763/5430  
Telex: 556473 UNILDS G**

**E-mail msc@uk.ac.leeds.dcs  
Fax: 0532-335468**



## UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS DEPARTMENT OF TEXTILE INDUSTRIES

We welcome applications from students with suitable qualifications (usually an appropriate degree or equivalent) for entry to the following courses:

- Postgraduate Diploma in Textile Industries,
- Postgraduate Diploma in Clothing Technology,
- Postgraduate Diploma in Textile Design,
- MSc in Textile Science and Engineering,
- MSc in Dyeing and Finishing.

The Department has a large research programme and offers supervision for students reading for

- MSc (1 year),
- MPhil (2 years),
- PhD (3 years),

in all areas of textiles and clothing. Some CASE and other awards are available.

Special conversion courses of six months duration can often be arranged.

For further details and application forms please contact:

*Professor J E McIntyre,  
Department of Textile Industries,  
The University, LEEDS, LS2 9JT.  
Telephone: (0532) 333731.*



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## FOREWORD

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British universities, polytechnics and colleges welcome qualified applicants from overseas. There is a wide diversity of courses and of institutions in the United Kingdom to meet the varying interests and expectations of the great majority of students. The distinctive and unifying feature of the system is its insistence on consistently high standards for each level of course. These standards are maintained by careful and continuous processes of professional and academic co-operation between institutions, to ensure that courses are well planned, taught and examined, and that the resulting qualifications will be recognised, both in the UK and abroad, as evidence of achievement and excellence.

At the individual level, students are carefully selected before they are accepted on courses of higher education. Often they are trained in small groups and enjoy regular and personal contact with teaching staff of a high calibre. The staff to student ratio is one of the lowest in the world. The proportion of Nobel Prize winners, some of them originally from overseas, is one of the highest in the world. Many institutions of higher education in the UK are smaller and less impersonal than those in other countries and a student here can enjoy the friendly and lively atmosphere of a community of students, teachers and researchers.

This intensive study, supported by individual attention in a stimulating environment, leads to a very high rate of success in a shorter time than is common in many other countries. In the UK there is a much closer correspondence than elsewhere between numbers of students accepted and numbers of students who graduate. Once accepted on a course, you are likely to succeed if you are willing to work. Because many first degree courses last only three years, you might well find that the total costs (academic fees and living costs combined) of your stay in the UK will compare favourably with the total costs of studying for a longer period elsewhere.

Many institutions in Britain have a long tradition of welcoming overseas students, and they have experience of providing carefully designed, intensive pre-entry English courses. Living in the UK and studying at an advanced level in English will, of course, give a student the immense advantage of acquiring, in its country of origin, a language used internationally in business, journalism, scholarship and diplomacy. And when you are in the UK, all the rest of Europe is on your doorstep!



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**Further information from: The Registrar**

**University of Glasgow  
Glasgow G12 8QQ  
Scotland**

**International dialling telephone: 44-41-339 8855  
International dialling fax: 44-41-330 4808  
Telex: 777070 UNIGLA**

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## THE HIGHER EDUCATION SCENE

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*A major Education Reform Act passed in 1988 has introduced important changes to the structure, control and financing of publicly funded institutions. Many of these changes will for the time being have little direct impact upon students, courses, and the other topics dealt with in this handbook, but it is essential to obtain the latest available information direct from the institutions themselves.*

In the United Kingdom 'higher education' generally means education beyond the standard represented by the General Certificate of Education Advanced level examinations ('A levels').

The 46 universities in Britain are empowered, usually by Royal Charter, to award their own degrees. They include the independent University of Buckingham, which is supported by private benefactions and students' fees.

There are 30 polytechnics in England (29) and Wales (1). The degrees for which they provide courses are awarded by the Council for National Academic Awards, an independent body with its own Royal Charter. In Scotland there are 15 central institutions (their individual titles vary – college, institute, school, etc.), and these provide most of the full-time advanced courses that are available outside the Scottish universities and colleges of education.

Both universities and polytechnics/central institutions offer undergraduate courses leading to first degrees such as bachelor of arts or bachelor of science. Many subjects can be studied at both universities and polytechnics but there are often differences in course structures and teaching methods. Polytechnics in particular provide a wide range of vocationally oriented courses and have a significant commitment to non-degree and part-time studies. Original research, which is traditionally an important function of universities, is also undertaken by the polytechnics, where the emphasis is mainly on 'applied' research.

Colleges and institutes of higher education vary greatly in size and in the range of subjects that they teach. They provide degree courses validated by the Council for National Academic Awards or by a local university, as well as non-degree courses of various kinds.

A master's degree is granted after one or two years of postgraduate study (i.e. study beyond the level of a first degree), which may take the form of taught courses, or of research, or of a combination of courses and research. Sometimes the degrees held by graduates of overseas universities are either too narrowly or too broadly based to fit in with the UK pattern, but a number of institutions will admit such graduates to a preliminary year, often leading to a certificate or diploma that qualifies them for admission to a master's degree programme.

In many institutions graduates must first register for a master's degree before going on to do research for the degree of doctor of philosophy (PhD or DPhil). This enables students who decide to leave after just one or two years to do so with a recognised qualification, while those who do sufficiently well and wish to continue their studies can apply to change their registration to PhD/DPhil candidature.



Some institutions are prepared to consider, on an individual basis, applications from overseas graduates who wish to carry out part of their doctoral research in their home country, with suitable local supervision.

## ACCREDITATION

In addition to the institutions described above, there are in the United Kingdom many private colleges, including English-language schools and correspondence colleges, which are not mentioned in this handbook. Apart from the legislation relating to degrees - see below - *there is no formal, national, system for the 'accreditation' of UK institutions of higher education generally*. There are, however, three bodies to which private colleges may, voluntarily, apply for inspection and accreditation: the British Accreditation Council for Further and Higher Education; the British Council's Recognition Scheme for private/independent English-language schools; and the Council for the Accreditation of Correspondence Colleges. Anyone thinking of enrolling with an institution not named in this handbook may consult the appropriate accrediting body and should also seek the advice of their nearest British Council office.

In a somewhat different context, the term 'accredited institution' is now used of all the polytechnics and of some institutes and colleges to describe their relationship with the Council for National Academic Awards (see above). Institutions accredited by CNAA have authority, under the Council's charter and statutes, to validate, monitor and approve new courses on CNAA's behalf, and to review and modify existing courses, although all the degree, certificate and diploma awards continue to be made by the CNAA. Accreditation signifies that an institution has satisfied the Council that it has suitable experience of, and an appropriate organisation for, maintaining academic standards.

## Degrees

The power to confer degrees (i.e. qualifications with the title of bachelor, master or doctor) *is restricted by law to named UK bodies or institutions*. The Department of Education and Science (DES) issues lists of these 'recognised bodies', and of other institutions, etc., which provide courses for 'recognised' UK degrees or are parts of a 'recognised' UK university. Anyone thinking of studying for a degree offered by an institution or authority in Britain that is not mentioned in these DES lists should first consult the nearest British Council office.

## Other qualifications/courses

The National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) is establishing a framework of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) for the wide range of vocational qualifications offered in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. (A related scheme is being implemented in Scotland.) Qualifications are accredited by the National Council, and awarded by bodies it has approved. The Council's first priority is to incorporate into this scheme vocational qualifications up to the level of the Higher National awards (see 'Courses Available', below), but steps are now underway to extend the scheme to all qualifications beyond that level.