

Higher Education in the United Kingdom 1984-86

A handbook for students and their advisers

published for
The British Council and
The Association of Commonwealth Universities

Higher Education in the United Kingdom 1984–86

a handbook for students and their advisers

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DIRECTORY OF SUBJECTS: MAIN SUBJECT HEADINGS

Accountancy
Acoustics
African Languages and Studies
Agriculture and Forestry
Anaesthetics
Anatomy
Anthropology
Archaeology
Architecture
Art and Design
Arts and/or Science (Joint or Combined)
Arts (General)
Asian and Middle Eastern
 Languages and Studies
Astronomy and Space Science
Aviation, Civil
Bacteriology and Virology
Banking
Beauty Therapy
Biochemistry
Biology
Biophysics
Building Science and Technology
Business and Management Studies
Canadian Studies
Cancer Research
Cardiology
Chemistry
Chest Diseases
Commonwealth Studies
Computer Science and Technology
Criminology
Crystallography
Dentistry
Dermatology
Development Studies
Dietetics and Nutrition
Drama and Theatre
Economics
Education
Educational Technology
Energy Studies
Engineering
Engineering, Aeronautical
Engineering, Agricultural
Engineering, Automobile
Engineering, Chemical
Engineering, Civil
Engineering, Control
Engineering, Electrical

Engineering, Electronic
Engineering, Marine, and Naval
 Architecture
Engineering, Mechanical
Engineering, Medical
Engineering, Nuclear
Engineering, Production
Engineering, Public Health and
 Municipal
English as a Foreign Language:
 Courses for Teachers
English Language and Literature
Environmental Studies
Ergonomics and Cybernetics
Estate and Farm Management
European Studies
Food Science and Technology
French Language and Literature
Fuel Technology
Genetics
Geography
Geology
Germanic Languages and Studies
Greek and Latin
History
History and Philosophy of Science
Home Economics
Hospital and Health Service
 Administration
Hotel and Institutional Management
Irish, Scottish and Welsh Studies
Italian Language and Literature
Landscape Architecture
Language Studies
Laryngology and Otology
Latin American Studies
Law
Librarianship and Information Science
Materials Science and Technology
Mathematics
Media and Communication Studies
Medical/Health Physics
Medical Laboratory Sciences
Medicine and Surgery
Medicine, Forensic
Metallurgy
Meteorology
Microbiology
Mining and Mineral Sciences
Movement and Dance

Museum Studies
Music
Nautical Studies
Neurology
Nursing
Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Occupational Therapy
Oceanography
Operational Research
Ophthalmic and Dispensing Optics
Ophthalmology
Orthopaedics
Orthoptics
Paediatrics
Palaeography
Parasitology
Pathology
Peace and Conflict Studies
Pharmacology
Pharmacy
Philosophy
Photography
Physical Education and Sports Science
Physics
Physiology
Physiotherapy
Political Science
Polymer Science and Technology
Portuguese Language and Literature
Printing and Publishing
Psychological Medicine

Psychology
Public Administration and Finance
Public and Industrial Health
Radiobiology
Radiography
Radiology
Recreation Studies
Religious Studies
Science and Technology
Secretarial Studies
Secretaryship, Chartered and
Incorporated
Slavonic and Other East European
Languages and Studies
Social Work
Sociology
Soil Science
Spanish Language and Literature
Speech Therapy
Statistics
Surveying
Surveying, Land
Textiles
Town and Country Planning
Transport
Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
United States Studies
Urology and Venereology
Veterinary Medicine and Surgery
Youth Services

FOREWORD

British universities, polytechnics and colleges welcome qualified applicants from overseas. The wide diversity of courses and of institutions in the United Kingdom will satisfy the varying interests and expectations of the great majority of students. The distinctive and unifying feature of the system, however, 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 cooperation 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 very 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!

British Council officers in your own country will be pleased to meet you, to talk to interested groups about opportunities for higher education in Britain, and to provide individual advice on the course and institution which will most fully meet your particular needs and interests. They will also negotiate with British institutions the provision of specially designed courses for groups with training needs which existing courses do not wholly satisfy.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION SCENE

British *universities* are self-governing institutions empowered (usually by Royal Charter) to award degrees. There are 46 universities in the United Kingdom, including the Open University (about which information is given on page 11) and the University of Buckingham which is independent of direct government aid and is supported by private benefactions and students' fees.

Polytechnics are maintained and funded by local education authorities and their degrees are awarded by the Council for National Academic Awards, an independent body with its own Royal Charter. There are 30 polytechnics in England and Wales and 16 corresponding institutions, called Central Institutions, in Scotland. The polytechnic in Northern Ireland is amalgamating with the New University of Ulster to form a new institution which is expected to admit its first students at the beginning of the 1984–85 academic year.

Both universities and polytechnics offer courses leading to first degrees, which usually last for three or four years. Most of these degrees are called Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, although some universities also offer a first degree with the title of Master. For a fuller description of the very complex pattern of UK university degree courses and titles, see page 11. There is some overlapping of subjects studied at universities and polytechnics but, in general, many of the more vocationally orientated courses are taught in polytechnics and the more academic are taught in universities. Universities are also traditionally more involved in original research, whereas polytechnics are primarily teaching institutions, strongly linked to industry and with a significant commitment to courses at sub-degree level as well as on a part-time basis.

Colleges and institutes of higher education are amalgamations of previously separate teacher training colleges and colleges of art, drama and commerce, and vary greatly in size. They have a strong emphasis on teacher training. Their courses are validated by the Council for National Academic Awards, by the local university, or by professional bodies. Polytechnics as well as colleges and institutes of higher education offer a high proportion of courses leading to professional or vocational qualifications other than degrees.

A few universities and polytechnics have arrangements with their local colleges for 'bridging courses' in some subjects for overseas students whose qualifications are inappropriate or whose English is insufficient for degree level work in the United Kingdom. These courses last between one and three years and combine English language tuition and academic study, after which successful students can apply for admission to a degree level course. In some cases direct entry to such a bridging programme means that you can begin your studies in Britain on the basis of your own school-leaving qualifications and that formal study for British Advanced Level examinations will not be needed.

A Master's degree is awarded after one or two years of postgraduate study, which may take the form of taught courses, or of research, or of a combination of courses and research. At a number of institutions, graduates of overseas universities whose degrees may be either too narrow or too broad to fit in with the UK pattern may be admitted to a preliminary year, usually leading to a certificate or diploma that qualifies them for entry to study for a Master's degree.

In many institutions graduates must first register for a Master's degree before going on to do research for a PhD. After a year or two, students who decide to leave can thus do so with a recognised qualification, while those who do well and wish to continue their studies can apply to change their registration to a PhD.

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

COURSES AVAILABLE

All universities, polytechnics and colleges in the United Kingdom welcome enquiries about admission from overseas students. If you are considering studying in the UK, your local British Council office would be your best initial source of information on entrance requirements, on the range of courses available, and on living conditions. Each institution controls the admission of students to its own courses and will be happy to advise you on its entrance requirements, on the courses that it offers, and on accommodation and the cost of study and residence.

Courses at universities (and Cranfield Institute of Technology and Royal College of Art)

Note—Students who wish to learn more about the individual universities named in this Handbook, and about Cranfield Institute of Technology and the Royal College of Art, before deciding to which of them they will send a direct enquiry, may find it useful to consult the *Commonwealth Universities Yearbook* (see page 277). The Yearbook contains a separate chapter for each of these institutions, and each chapter includes detailed notes on degrees, diplomas, etc.

Universities provide *undergraduate* courses which normally lead to a first degree, and also offer opportunities for *postgraduate* work, which usually (although not necessarily) involves preparation for a higher degree or diploma. (For Cranfield Institute of Technology and the Royal College of Art, see page 16.)

Attendance at the university institution granting the degree, diploma or certificate is normally required, except for (i) first degrees of the

Open University which are not dealt with in this Handbook, (ii) degrees of the University of London open to external students, and (iii) students who are enrolled at an institution (e.g. a college of higher education) associated with the university awarding the degree.

The Open University admits full-time postgraduate students to read for higher degrees (and is therefore mentioned under 'Research facilities' under the relevant subject headings in the Directory of Subjects). Its undergraduate programme however involves tuition by correspondence supplemented by closely-linked radio and television broadcasts, residential summer schools, and an extensive counselling and tutorial service operating through a network of local study centres. With the exception of special schemes for residents of Belgium, and members of the British armed forces overseas, it is not possible for students to register in this programme while living in another country.

The University of London awards its degrees to external students solely on the basis of their performance in examinations. While the University does not offer courses of instruction to external students it is possible for students to prepare for their examinations by attendance at full- or part-time courses at institutions in the private sector, by part-time courses in the public sector, by correspondence courses or by private study. The registration of external students is available worldwide and examinations will be held at centres overseas until 1990. Before 1985 the University will announce its policy towards examination centres overseas after 1990.

Undergraduate courses

The qualifications to which undergraduate courses at universities lead are usually degrees with the title 'Bachelor'—for example, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Science—and are often referred to as 'first' degrees. (Most diploma and certificate courses at universities are open only to graduates, or to students with comparable qualifications or experience—see page 15). However, not all Bachelor's degrees are first degrees, and some first degrees have a different title. At five Scottish universities (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews) the first degree in arts is almost always called Master of Arts; and several universities award first degrees in Engineering with the title of Master. Moreover the title of a degree does not necessarily reflect the field or faculty in which the student has studied; for example, at several universities the Bachelor of Arts is awarded to students in all, or almost all, disciplines—Science, Engineering, etc—as well as in Arts subjects.

Almost all first degree courses involve full-time attendance at the university or college concerned (although for BEd, see page 22).^{*} Except at the University of Buckingham, the courses in Arts or Science

^{*}Birkbeck College, of the University of London, provides no full-time first degree courses. The College specialises in providing part-time study facilities for mature students. It is a condition of admission to its first degree courses that students must be engaged in earning their livelihood during the daytime.



Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art
Perth Road, Dundee DD1 4HT
Tayside Scotland

Degree and Honours Degree courses are offered in the following subjects

Drawing and Painting	Illustration	Interior Design
Sculpture	Architecture*	Jewellery & Silversmithing
Textile Design	Town & Regional Planning*	Ceramics
Graphic Design		Woven Textiles

Also: Diploma in Home Economics Higher Diploma in Hotel Catering and Institutional Management.

*In conjunction with the University of Dundee

If you require full information please send large stamped addressed envelope to Admissions Office, Department L at the above address.

WEST OF ENGLAND MANAGEMENT CENTRE
Engineering Employers' Association
The Promenade, Clifton, Bristol. Telephone: 0272-731471

The Centre was established over 30 years ago and has acquired an enviable reputation of practicality and quality through its comprehensive range of courses for Managers and Technical Staff.

These courses are designed to develop management skills and increase the technical understanding of the delegates over a wide range of subjects.



College of St Mark & St John

STUDY AT A COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN DEVON

B.Ed. (Hons.) This 4-year course prepares students for Primary or Secondary school teaching.

Primary students may choose any of the following subjects: *Creative Design, English, Geography,

History, *Mathematics, *Physical Education, Religious Studies and Science.

Secondary students may choose only those subjects asterisked.

(3 year B.Ed. (Ord.) course available for mature students only.)

B.A./B.A. (Hons.) in Humanities—3-year course

Major subjects: English, Geography, History, Religion and Philosophy, Sociology.

Minor options include French, Film Studies, TV Studies, Computing Studies, Audio-Visual Communication, South West Studies and Social Psychology.

B.A. Recreation and Community—New 3-year degree course

All students follow elements of Recreation Studies and Community Studies. They also choose either Creative Design or Physical Recreation as an additional option. Throughout the course students also undertake complementary experience in the community setting.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT: The Admissions Officer (HEUK), College of St Mark and St John, Derriford Road, Plymouth, Devon PL6 8BH. Telephone: Plymouth 777188.

subjects generally last three years, although four years' study may be required in some cases (e.g. in modern languages, if the course involves spending a year abroad, and for Honours degrees at Scottish universities, for which the courses are a year longer than those for Ordinary degrees). At the University of Buckingham first degree courses involve eight 10-week terms of study within two calendar years, except for students taking European Studies who spend an additional academic year at a university in another European country. For first degrees in other disciplines—Engineering, Architecture, Dentistry, Medicine, etc—the courses vary in length from three to six years; and if the usual period of study for a first degree in a particular subject is more than three or four years, the length of the course is indicated under the relevant heading in the Directory of Subjects.

Examinations are not necessarily held annually. At many universities there are only two major examinations for the BA or BSc—one at the end of the first year and the 'final' examination—but in all subjects both the intervals between examinations and the methods by which students are examined may vary from one university to another. At some universities the students' work may be assessed at regular intervals throughout the course, and the results of these assessments taken into account in determining their final degree classification. In all examinations, however, written work plays a much greater part than oral tests.

First degree courses in Arts and Science are of two main kinds: those in which students specialise with some intensity in just one or two subjects, and those which allow them to spread their studies over a wider field but less intensively. The degree obtained at the end of a specialised course is usually called a degree with Honours, or in some universities a Special degree (Special degrees are usually awarded with Honours). The term Joint (or Combined) degree, with or without the designation Honours, is sometimes used for degrees with specialisation in two (or, as may occasionally be possible, three) subjects, to distinguish them from single subject degrees; but it is important always to remember that the same word may denote different types of course at different universities—'Combined', for example, is in some cases used to describe a quite broadly based course and not a specialised one. However, degrees obtained at the end of the less specialised type of course in Arts or Science subjects are usually called Ordinary or General degrees. In some universities General degrees, too, may be awarded with Honours; and in certain professional subjects, such as Dentistry, Medicine and Veterinary Science, the word Honours is used solely to denote that special merit has been shown in the final degree examinations.

Some universities, particularly the newer ones, offer degree courses that do not conform to either of the two most usual patterns described in the previous paragraph (see also page 52).

At certain universities many undergraduate courses, especially those in applied science and technological subjects, are four-year 'sandwich'



Halls of residence

courses in which academic study in the university is combined with training in industry or in an appropriate professional establishment. This combination may be achieved in various ways—for example, in some courses three or four periods of industrial training may be intercalated with periods of full-time university study, while in others students spend a whole year (usually the third) in industry and the remaining three years at the university. Sandwich-course students at universities may be ‘industry-sponsored’ or ‘university-based’, in the way described on page 32.

Post-graduate courses

Postgraduate students may carry out independent research under the supervision of a senior member of the university department in which they are working, or may follow a formal course of instruction which involves regular attendance at prescribed lectures, seminars, etc, and perhaps also the preparation of a dissertation or essay on a topic or project of the student’s own choosing. Universities can usually provide facilities for supervised research in at least some aspects of the subjects that they teach at undergraduate level, and such facilities are therefore much too wide-ranging to describe in detail in this Handbook. However, lists of the formal courses of instruction that universities offer at the postgraduate level are given under the various headings in the Directory of Subjects.

Postgraduate research may lead to a variety of higher degrees, most of which are Master's or Doctor's degrees although some may have the title of Bachelor (e.g. Bachelor of Letters—BLitt, or Bachelor of Philosophy—BPhil). Postgraduate courses of instruction usually lead to Master's (or in some cases Bachelor's) degrees; but a number of them are for postgraduate diplomas or certificates, and some may lead to either a higher degree or a diploma or certificate (depending upon such factors as the qualifications that the candidates already hold; the standards that they achieve; or whether they complete a satisfactory dissertation or project in addition to passing the examinations).

Most Master's (or postgraduate Bachelor's) degrees require a minimum of one or two years' postgraduate study, and universities do not use a uniform nomenclature to distinguish between those taken by course work and those taken by research. Indeed some universities use the same titles—Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MSc), etc—for degrees taken by either method. Others may use titles such as MA and MSc for degrees taken by course work, and offer the degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) for research work at Master's level. The MPhil may (like the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at a higher level) be taken in different faculties—Science, Engineering, Medicine, etc, as well as Arts—but it is not necessarily a research degree, because in some cases it may, like MA, MSc, etc, be awarded either for research or on successful completion of a formal course.

The whole apparatus of degrees at both undergraduate and postgraduate level is so complex that prospective students *must* refer to the officers or publications of the universities in which they are interested to interpret it in relation to their own needs. The Master of Arts provides a good example of the way in which the varied history of the universities in the United Kingdom has resulted in a variety of nomenclature of both first and higher degrees: usually the MA is awarded only after a prescribed period of postgraduate study, followed by an examination or thesis (or both); but at five Scottish universities (see page 11) it is a first degree in Arts; and at Oxford and Cambridge the holder of a BA of the university may, after a lapse of time, become an MA on payment of a fee and without any further examination.

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy—PhD (DPhil at Oxford, Sussex, the New University of Ulster and York)—is awarded after a minimum of two or three years' research and indicates a higher level of attainment than a Master's degree in the same subject. (A few universities will now award a PhD on the basis of published work, but *only* to their own graduates or to members of their own staffs.) Other doctorates—of Letters (DLitt), of Science (DSc), etc—are conferred only upon scholars distinguished by outstanding contributions to knowledge, and for many of these 'higher doctorates' candidature is restricted to those who are already graduates of the university concerned.

Most diplomas and certificates (e.g. in Education) are open only to graduates, or to students holding similar qualifications or with substan-

tial practical experience in an appropriate field. Because they usually involve a course of study rather than supervised research, they are included among the courses listed by name in the Directory of Subjects. In certain cases it may be the college of a university (and not the university itself) which awards the diploma or certificate, e.g. Imperial College of Science and Technology (University of London) awards its own diploma (DIC).

Many universities are willing to admit, where resources permit, a limited number of suitably qualified graduates who wish to undertake a period of advanced study or research without completing the requirements for a degree, diploma or certificate.

Cranfield Institute of Technology and Royal College of Art Cranfield Institute of Technology and the Royal College of Art are very well-known specialised institutions which have by Royal Charter the power to award their own degrees. Cranfield awards higher degrees (Master's and Doctorates) in various branches of Technology, Applied Sciences and Management; a first degree in Agricultural Engineering; and several diplomas and certificates. The Royal College of Art offers courses at the postgraduate level only and awards higher degrees (Master's and Doctorates) in Art and Design.

Courses in polytechnics and colleges and institutes of higher education In non-university institutions which do not award their own degrees, courses are validated and degrees are awarded either by the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA) or by a university. The CNAA is an independent body empowered by Royal Charter to award degrees to students who complete approved courses successfully, and its degrees are comparable in standard to university degrees.

First degrees First degrees (BA, BEd or BSc) can be single subject but are frequently inter-disciplinary. Under modular degree schemes, students can choose a set number of modules (courses of standard length and work load) within limitations designed to ensure a coherent pattern of studies. Sandwich degree courses, in which industrial training or professional experience outside the institution is interspersed with periods of academic study, are concentrated mainly in the polytechnics. Opportunities for part-time study (available mainly to British and European Community students) are much greater in non-university institutions. Full-time students normally take three or four years to obtain their first degree.

Diploma of Higher Education Entry requirements for the DipHE are a little more flexible than for a three- or four-year degree. The DipHE gives students the opportunity to achieve a qualification after two years of full-time study. If they decide to continue they can then transfer to a degree course and obtain a full degree after one or two more years of related study.