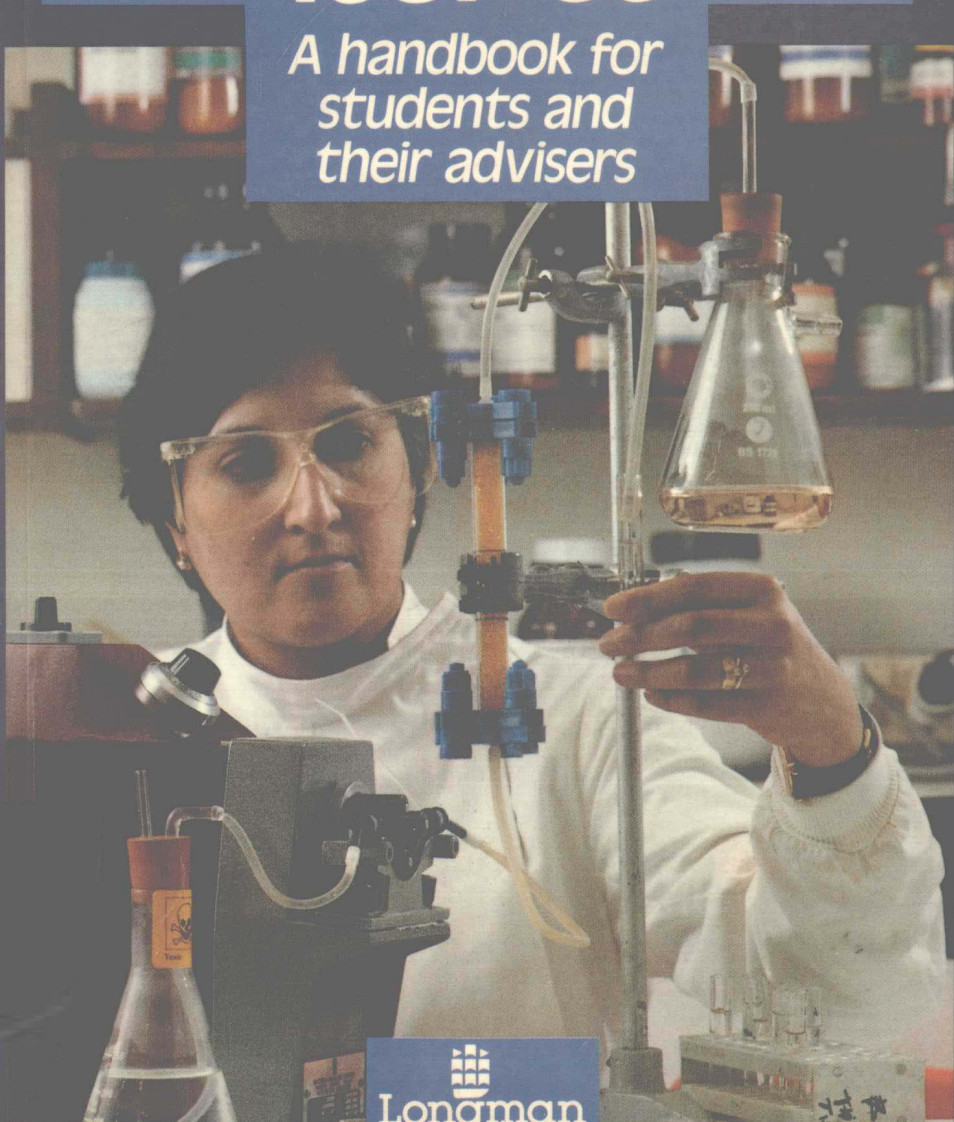


Higher Education in the United Kingdom

1987-89

A handbook for
students and
their advisers




Longman

For the Association of Commonwealth Universities

**Higher Education
in the United Kingdom
1987–89**

- Places in which there are university institutions
- Polytechnics
- Scottish central institutions



published by Longman for
The Association of Commonwealth Universities

Higher Education in the United Kingdom 1987-89

a handbook for students and their advisers

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Map 2



University of Wales

UNIVERSITY OF WALES INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

UWIST, a constituent college of the federal University of Wales, currently has 570 postgraduate and undergraduate students from overseas. Situated in the centre of Cardiff, the capital city of Wales, UWIST is well placed to offer students varied cultural and leisure activities to complement their studies.

ACADEMIC ORGANISATION

UWIST has 15 academic departments: Applied Biology, Applied Chemistry, Applied Psychology, Welsh School of Architecture, Business and Economics, Civil Engineering and Building Technology, English, Law, Maritime Studies, Mathematics, Mechanical and Manufacturing Systems Engineering, Optometry, Welsh School of Pharmacy, Physics, Electronics and Electrical Engineering, Town Planning.

There are also specialist centres such as the Centre for Marine Law and Policy, the Automation and Robotics Centre and – jointly with University College – the Semiconductor and Microelectronics Centre. The Cardiff Business School has recently been formed to promote postgraduate study in business education.

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

All departments offer postgraduate studies, either by research or taught courses, leading to the degrees of MA, MBA, LL.M, MSc, MSc Econ, MPharm and PhD.

TAUGHT COURSES

MSc	Applied Hydrobiology; Electronic Engineering; Marine Law and Policy; Maritime Studies; Pharmaceutical Sciences; Applied Psychology; Systems Engineering; Town Planning; Transport; Urban Planning in Developing Countries; Information Technology & Planning
MEd	Teaching of English as a Foreign Language
Master	Business Administration
MSc Econ	International Economics and Banking
LLM	Legal Aspects of Marine Affairs
Diplomas in	Electronic Engineering; Business Administration; Teaching of English as a Foreign Language; Port and Shipping Administration; Psychology.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Association of Commonwealth Universities gratefully acknowledges the advice and assistance of the following in the preparation of this handbook:-

The British Council
The Committee of Directors of Polytechnics
The Council for National Academic Awards
The Educational Guidance Service for Adults (Northern Ireland)
The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (England and Wales)
The Regional Advisory Council for Further Education (London and South Eastern Region) (on behalf of the nine Regional Advisory Councils for England and Wales)
The Scottish Vocational Education Council
The Universities Central Council on Admissions

Cover photograph by courtesy of University of Kent at Canterbury
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S. Martin's College
Lancaster

Lancaster University awards

B.A. DEGREES

**English
Geography
History
Social Ethics
Youth Studies**

B.ED. DEGREES

**Eight Subjects
Primary Teaching or Secondary
Teaching with Youth Work**

First year common to all degrees.
Two 'A' Level minimum entry.

**POST-GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN
EDUCATION for Degree holders
M.A. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

*Details from: Registrar (Dept. HE)
S. Martin's College, Lancaster
LA1 3JD (0524) 63446*



LONDON COLLEGE OF MUSIC

**President: Sir MICHAEL TIPPETT,
OBE, OM, CH**

**Vice-President: RICHARD RODNEY
BENNETT, CBE**

Director: JOHN McCABE, CBE
Mus.B., FRMCM Hon. FLCM, Hon. RAM

The London College of Music offers full-time professional training for performers and teachers. Internal diplomas include G.L.C.M. Honours and General (confering Graduate status), and other diplomas in music performing and teaching.

The Junior Music School meets on Saturday mornings and offers tuition in all subjects to pupils over a wide age range. Prospectus on application.

Diplomas and grade examinations in Music, and in Speech and Drama are held three times a year throughout the British Isles.

Details from:

**THE SECRETARY
47 GT. MARLBOROUGH STREET,
W1V 2AS**

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
ROYAL HOLLOWAY & BEDFORD NEW COLLEGE**

**A Campus College with 2,800 Students
(More than 200 from outside the UK)**

London, one of the world's most famous universities, is made up of a total of 50 colleges, nearly all of which are sited in and around the centre of the city. Of the six largest colleges, only one, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, is situated outside London, occupying a 100 acre campus at Egham Hill, a few hundred metres from Windsor Great Park. The RHBNC campus allows students to live and work in the peace of the Surrey countryside while being only 30 minutes by train from the attractions of one of the great capital cities.

THE CAMPUS

Although still dominated by the 100-year-old Founder's Building, which has been variously described as "the most ebullient building in the south of England" and as "Thomas Holloway's dream palace", the campus also contains some of the most modern university facilities in Europe. In 1982 the College embarked on the UK's largest university building programme for many years and by the summer of 1986 £20 million worth of new buildings had been completed, providing purpose-built accommodation for many academic departments as well as new, on-campus, halls of residence.

STUDENT RESIDENCE

Finding somewhere comfortable to live is particularly important for students from overseas who need to settle into a new and a rather different society. Students at RHBNC are particularly fortunate in that we have halls of residence for almost 1,700 of our 2,800 students and all the halls are in most pleasant surroundings. Students from overseas will be in hall for at least two of their three years at the College.

ACADEMIC WORK

As you would expect in a college of one of the world's great universities, academic standards are extremely high and much is expected of our students. The essential teaching methods of lectures and practical work are backed up by a long established tutorial system which ensures that students are given every help to achieve these high standards.

The main single honours courses are:-

SCIENCE: BIOCHEMISTRY, MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, BOTANY, CHEMISTRY, COMPUTER SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY, MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS, PSYCHOLOGY, ZOOLOGY.

ARTS: CLASSICS, GREEK, LATIN, DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES, ECONOMICS & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, ENGLISH, FRENCH, GEOGRAPHY, GERMAN, HISTORY, ITALIAN, MUSIC, SOCIAL POLICY.

All departments offer research programmes leading to the degrees of MPhil or PhD. Among the taught Masters' Degrees are - MSc in Chemistry; Applied Mathematics; Pure Mathematics; Nuclear and Elementary Particle Physics; Geography; Basin Evolution and Dynamics.

MA in Drama and Theatre Studies; English Language and Stylistics.

FOREWORD

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 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!

The University of Hull

ADVANCED COURSES IN EDUCATION

One year Degree and Diploma courses for Qualified Teachers available in:

Organisation and Management, Secondary or Primary
The Computer in the School Environment
Personal, Social and Moral Education
Technology and Media in Education
Science Education
Multicultural Education
Mathematical Education
Special Educational Needs
Religious Education

and in many other specialities.

For further information contact The Administrative Assistant, Institute of Education, 173 Cottingham Road, Hull HU5 2EH (Telephone: 0482 465031).



WRITTLE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Applications are invited for:

- ★ National Certificate in Agriculture
- ★ ANCA in Arable Mechanisation and Crop Management
- ★ National Diploma in Agriculture
- ★ Higher National Diploma in Agriculture with options in:
 - General Agriculture
 - Fruit and Vegetable Production
 - Arable Mechanisation

Courses in Horticulture

- ★ National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture
- ★ National Diploma in Commercial Horticulture
- ★ Higher National Diploma in Commercial Horticulture
- ★ Higher National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture

Courses in Agricultural Engineering

- ★ Higher National Diploma in Agricultural Engineering
- ★ Pre-HND Diploma in Engineering (Agriculture) – THIS IS A NEW COURSE

Full details of the above courses and of short post-experience and day-release courses in agriculture, horticulture and agricultural engineering together with impartial advice on careers are available from:

Mrs Pam Wright, Student Registration Officer, Dept. 6/41, Writtle Agricultural College, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RR. Telephone: (0245) 420705.

THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITIES

Founded in 1913, the Association is the oldest international inter-university body in the world, and its membership of 300 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 almost 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, foolscap envelope) for each paper required
- through the *ACU reference library*, in which anyone able to visit the ACU office during the library's opening hours (available on application) 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 and Zimbabwe – this service can provide information about any current vacancies of which it has been notified. It does not operate as a placement or registration service, but it can offer some general guidance on sources of information about academic vacancies in some of the Commonwealth universities that do not normally use the service.

Scholarship schemes

The main scheme administered through the Association 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 secretariat for the British national agency for the Plan, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom, is provided by the ACU – see the section on 'Money Matters' in the following pages.

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

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

THE UNIVERSITY: A CENTURY OF LEARNING

THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL is just over a century old, having been founded by the citizens of Liverpool in 1881. The distinctive appearance of the building they erected, the Victoria Building, gave rise to the term 'Redbrick University', which is used to describe Britain's large, well established civic universities. From this one building the University has now expanded into an attractive 34 hectare precinct. Eight Faculties — **Science, Engineering, Law, Medicine** (including Dentistry and the School of Tropical Medicine), **Social and Environmental Studies, Veterinary Science, Education and Extension Studies, and Arts** — have a total of over 7,500 full-time students and 850 full-time academic staff. Students studying at Liverpool have access to laboratory facilities, equipment and support services of the highest standard.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

The University of Liverpool offers around 160 undergraduate courses in a very wide range of subject areas including courses in most branches of **Science and Engineering, Business Studies, Law, Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Science**. Details of all the courses available are given in the University's Undergraduate Prospectus.

POSTGRADUATE STUDY

The University of Liverpool offers unrivaled facilities for postgraduate work. It offers a very wide range of postgraduate study to well qualified graduates. Facilities for postgraduate research usually leading to the degree of Ph.D. are available in almost all departments of the University where students receive training in research in the most advanced techniques in well equipped laboratories with access to powerful computer facilities. Many departments also offer advanced postgraduate courses which lead to the award of a Master's degree or a Diploma. Over 70 different courses are available. All courses can lead on to a postgraduate research programme. Details of all postgraduate opportunities are given in the University's Postgraduate Prospectus.

Further information and copies of the University's Prospectuses are available free of charge from:

The Registrar
The University of Liverpool
P.O. Box 147
Liverpool
L69 3BX
United Kingdom



THE HIGHER EDUCATION SCENE

In Britain, 'higher education' generally means education beyond the standard of the General Certificate of Education Advanced level examinations.

The 46 *universities* in the United Kingdom are self-governing institutions empowered, usually by Royal Charter, to award degrees. With one exception their funds come mainly from government. The exception is the independent University of Buckingham which is supported by private benefactions and students' fees.

Polytechnics are funded and maintained by local education authorities and the degrees for which they provide courses are awarded by the Council for National Academic Awards, an independent body with its own Royal Charter. There are 30 polytechnics, all in England and Wales. In Scotland there are 16 colleges/institutes called *central institutions*, and these provide most of the advanced full-time courses that are available outside the Scottish universities and colleges of education.

Both universities and polytechnics/central institutions offer courses leading to first degrees, i.e. undergraduate courses to which students can be admitted on the basis of appropriate school-leaving qualifications. Most of these degrees are called 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.

Some universities and polytechnics have arrangements with nearby colleges for 'bridging courses' in some subjects for overseas students whose qualifications are inappropriate or whose English is not good enough 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 certain cases direct entry to such a bridging programme means that students can begin their studies in Britain on the basis of their own school-leaving qualifications and that formal study for British Advanced level examinations will not be needed.

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. At a number of institutions, graduates of overseas universities whose degrees may be either too narrowly or too broadly based 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 the degree of doctor of philosophy (PhD or DPhil). Thus students who decide to leave after just one or two years can do so with a recognised qualification, while those who do 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.

There is in Britain no formal, national, system for the 'accreditation' of institutions of higher education; and the power to confer degrees is not restricted by law to particular bodies or institutions. Anyone thinking of studying for a degree offered by an institution or authority in the United Kingdom that is not mentioned in this handbook should first consult the nearest British Council office.

THE ACADEMIC YEAR

At most higher education institutions in Britain the academic year begins in September or October and is divided into three terms. There are however



A BEd seminar

special arrangements for 'sandwich course' students (see 'Courses Available'); and for some courses, or at certain stages of some courses, the periods of attendance required may not conform to the usual three-term pattern.

University terms usually last for eight to ten weeks each – the first from the beginning of October to mid-December, the second from mid-January to about the end of March, and the third from late April to late June or early July. Two universities – Stirling and (for certain courses) The City – have two 'semesters' a year, starting in September. At the University of Buckingham the academic year begins in January and is divided into four terms of ten weeks each.

The term at polytechnics and other institutions of higher education is usually longer than the university term. Normally the first term runs from about mid-September to mid-December; the second from early January to the end of March; and the third from mid-April to early July.

COURSES AVAILABLE

Post A-Level Courses

First degrees

Diploma of higher education

Higher national diplomas and certificates

Other diplomas

Postgraduate Study

Postgraduate (including post-experience) courses

Research

'Occasional' Students

Professional Training and Qualifications

Vacation Courses

Adult Education

POST A-LEVEL COURSES

This section describes courses to which students can seek admission on the basis of studies completed up to the standard of the Advanced (A) level examinations of the UK General Certificate of Education (GCE).

First degrees

Undergraduate courses leading to first degrees are provided by universities and by many other institutions of higher education. With certain exceptions mentioned under 'Universities' below, students wishing to obtain a British first degree must come to Britain to follow approved courses and take the relevant examinations.

Universities

The long and varied history of the universities in Britain, and the freedom that each one has to decide what qualifications it will offer, have resulted in a wide variety of degree titles. For example, although most first degrees are

BATH COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The College has the many advantages of one of the most attractive cities in the west of England. It occupies sites within the Georgian city of Bath and in beautiful rural environs nearby.

COURSES VALIDATED BY THE CNAA

BA Honours in Art and Design (three years) Main studies: Fine Art, Graphic Design, Three-Dimensional Design: Ceramics.

BA Honours Combined Studies (three years) Subjects include: English, Environmental Biology, Geography, Modern History, Music, Numerical Methods and Statistics (one year course), Sociology (one year course).

BEd Honours (four years) Secondary courses in Fashion and Textile Design Studies, Home Economics. Primary course subjects include Art, English, Environmental Biology, Geography, Modern History, Music, Numerical Methods and Statistics, Religious Studies, Sociology, Studies of Childhood.

BA Honours Music (three years) This course combines practical and theoretical studies for students seeking a career in music.

Diploma of Higher Education (two years) A course particularly well suited to students who wish to undertake higher education before professional or business careers. The Diploma may also lead to degree or other continuation courses.

COURSES VALIDATED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF BATH

BSc Honours Home Economics (three years)

Foundation Course in Art and Design (one year)

Enquiries and applications to:

The Registrar

Bath College of Higher Education

Newton Park, Bath BA2 9BN

Telephone: 02217 3701