

Studying in English – a collection of sites with relevant information, including some practice tests

If you want to study at one of the world's top universities, you will need to impress them by your excellence. You can do this by:

- a good CV
- your personal statement
- your language proficiency including tests (Toefl, Cambridge, Ielts)
- your results in Abitur, and – for the USA – SATs
- the personal reference your teacher writes for you

Ranking the world's top 500 universities (also separate ranking for US and European universities)

<http://ed.sjtu.edu.cn/rank/2007/ARWU2007FullListByRank.pdf>

UK and American universities can offer excellent teaching and world-class conditions for their students.

Some well-qualified observers who have a good knowledge of both systems say that American universities can be better for students who wish to have a broader course of studies. It is easy to move between different subjects as your interest takes you.

UK universities are usually more focused on their subject, so may be better for those who already know where their interests lie.

Some might also say that courses at the top UK universities are probably more focused on teaching you to write and argue well.

UK Bachelor courses are usually three years, US Bachelor usually four.

Once you have found a university which might be the right one for you, thoroughly explore its website (subject pages, financials, etc.). Write to the professors to find out more information – this not only ensures you are applying to the correct institution, it makes your name known to them. (Remember specific questions have a better chance of being answered than vague, open-ended or ill-formulated ones.)

England and Wales

University league tables – ranking

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/universityguide2008/0,,2027789,00.html>

UCAS (Universities & Colleges Admissions Service)

all applications are made through UCAS

<http://www.ucas.ac.uk/>

International applications through UCAS

<http://www.ucas.com/studyuk/index.html>

Language proficiency

Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (occasionally First Certificate in English) are normally required at UK universities. More details here:

<http://www.ucas.com/students/nonukstudents/englangprof>

Personal statements (UK)

<http://www.personalstatement.info/>

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/virtualfairs/story/0,12854,898777,00.html>

Personal statements (USA)

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/pw/p_perstate.html

<http://uga.berkeley.edu/apa/personalstatement/>

Fees (how much it will cost)

At university you will pay tuition fees (for teaching).

<http://www.ucas.com/parents/money/tuitionfees>

Of course, you will also need money to live. EU citizens are eligible for the same maintenance loans as English students:

<http://www.ucas.com/parents/money/maintenanceloans>

Scotland

Scottish universities do not charge tuition fees and loans for additional expenses are quite generous. Moreover, as in England, students only repay loans when they are earning more than about €20,000 per year! This also applies to EU citizens (i.e. to you).

http://www.saas.gov.uk/student_support/eu_students/index.htm

United States of America

Studying for free? The top private US universities have generous financial packages (tuition and living costs) for good students, keeping parental contributions and students' own contribution via student loans to a minimum or even zero. The only requirement is that you are good enough for them to want to have you!

Which university?

<http://www.lib.nus.edu.sg/clb/sub/highedn.html>

(This page also has links for Australian, Canadian and Chinese universities.)

Common Application Form – used by 241 US universities and colleges

<http://www.commonapp.org/>

Various US tests

http://www.quintcareers.com/teen_testing.html

SATs (Scholastic Assessment Tests – essential for US university applications)

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about/SATI.html>

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about/SATII.html>

<http://people.howstuffworks.com/sat.htm>

SATs – practice

http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep_one/practice.html

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)

<http://www.toefl.org/>

<http://www.toefl.org/onsitetst/itpprac.html>

APIEL (Advanced Placement International English Language Examination)

<http://www.collegeboard.com/ap/apiel/colleges/>

Institute of International Education

<http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/>

Germany

IUB (International University Bremen)

<http://www.jacobs-university.de/>

Writing a CV

http://tellatale.eu/school_how2_cv.html