

HIGHER EDUCATION JARGON BUSTER >>

STUDENT LIFE

Catered halls: Accommodation where you're provided with meals that are included in your rent.

Fresher: An informal name for a first year student.

Lecture: A method of teaching at university. Large classes in a room with tiered seating and a lecturer talking at the front while you take notes.

NUS: National Union of Students.

Professor: A teacher and/or researcher of the highest academic level at university.

Self-catered halls: Accommodation where you'll normally share a flat with a communal living and kitchen area in which to cook your own meals.

Seminar: Small group teaching, where you'll engage in discussion with other students and a member of staff. This is more like a class at school.

Students' Union or Students' Guild: An organisation found in all universities that is run by students and is dedicated to the representation and support of the students at the university. In addition, they promote an active social life.

Undergraduate: A student usually studying for their first degree on a programme which normally lasts for three or four years. You could be based either at a university or a Further Education college.

Postgraduate: A student who has completed an undergraduate degree and is studying for a higher degree, such as a Masters or PhD.



ACADEMIC

BA: Bachelor of Arts: The qualification most commonly associated with undergraduate arts, humanities and some social science degrees.

Bachelor's degree: A degree awarded by a college or university to a person who has completed undergraduate studies.

BSc: Bachelor of Science: The qualification commonly associated with undergraduate science and some social science degrees.

Degree Apprenticeship: A programme where you are predominantly based with an employer and earning a wage whilst studying for a degree level course. These courses normally have a different teaching format and are longer than your traditional degree programmes.

Foundation degree: A work-related qualification designed together with employers. Normally lasts two years full-time. You can progress from a foundation degree to an Honours degree at university or college in the same subject. At the University of Exeter, we currently do not offer foundation degrees to UK students.

Humanities: Typically covers 'Arts' subjects such as history, literature, classics, theology film, modern languages and drama.

Honours degrees: The name given to undergraduate programmes which include a dissertation or research project in your final year. All programmes at the University of Exeter are Honours degrees.

Combined or Joint Honours degree: A type of degree where you study more than one subject.

LLB: Bachelor of Laws. The accreditation given to Law degrees which allows for progression onto further training to become a barrister or solicitor.

Undergraduate Masters: Four year degrees such as Masters of Engineering (MEng), Masters of Science (MSci), etc, which comprise three years of undergraduate level study, with a further year to gain a Masters qualification.

Masters: A higher level taught degree typically taken after completing an undergraduate degree.

PhD: Also known as a doctorate, this is the highest form of degree awarded and involves you carrying out research with little or no teaching. You need to have completed at least an undergraduate degree to study at this level.



FINANCE

Bursary: This is extra financial help provided by a university or college for students from households on lower incomes. It does not have to be paid back.

Student Loans Company (SLC):

The SLC provide financial assistance in the form of loans to pay your fees and living costs. They also manage your repayments once you've graduated.

Scholarship: A financial award made on the basis of a range of criteria such as household income, excellent academic, sporting or musical achievement. They are specific to each institution.

Student loan: This is the loan made by the SLC to cover your fees and living costs. The loan will have to be paid back but only once you are earning over a certain amount. You apply via different organisations depending on which part of the UK you live in. This could be Student Finance England (SFE), The Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS), Student Finance Northern Ireland, or Student Finance Wales. If you are from the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man you should contact the education authority.

Tuition fees: Tuition fees cover the cost of your study and may vary depending on what and where you study.

APPLYING TO AND CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY

Campus university: A university situated on one dedicated site, with student accommodation, teaching and research facilities, and leisure activities all together. The University of Exeter is a campus university with three campuses.

Open days: Are days when the university is open to students who are considering applying. They often include activities such as campus tours, subject talks, accommodation tours and finance talks. These are often visits in person, but they may also take place online.

Oxbridge: This is the informal name for both Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Personal statement: This is the section of your UCAS application form where you can tell universities and colleges about your suitability for the course(s) that you hope to study. You only have one statement for all five of your application choices.



Prospectus: These are guides produced by individual universities detailing the unique information about that university and the courses it offers. These are also available online via university websites.

Russell Group universities:

The Russell Group represents the leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, plus an outstanding teaching and learning experience. The University of Exeter is a Russell Group university.

UCAS: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. This is the organisation that handles nearly all university applications. The application process (including choices and personal statements) is all done online via ucas.com

OTHER

Further Education (FE):

The level of education after GCSEs.

Gap year: A year away from education that some students take before going to university. Often students will use their gap year to travel or to gain work experience and additional qualifications.

Higher Education (HE): The level of education that involves undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

University: A Higher Education institution that offers degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate level as well as being where academic research takes place.



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