



Which sites can I use to search for my course(s)?

- ✓ University website, then go to find postgraduate courses
- ✓ The complete university guide. Use this to compare universities, courses, etc: <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses>
- ✓ Postgrad solution website e.g one provided on the Chevening website: <http://www.chevening.org/find-a-course>
- ✓ find a masters website: <https://www.findamasters.com/master-s-degrees/>
- ✓ post graduate prospects: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses>
- ✓ post graduate search: <https://www.postgraduatesearch.com/>
- ✓ [Study UK](#) – British Council website, with guidance for international students and a course and institution search
- ✓ [Steps to Postgraduate Study](#) – a guide to asking the right questions about taught postgraduate study in the UK
- ✓ [Postgrad.com](#) – information for postgraduate students, with a course search
- ✓ [Prospects](#) – information on postgraduate study in the UK
- ✓ [Research Excellent Framework 2014 results](#) – results of a system for

assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions

- ✓ [Steps to Postgraduate Study](#) – a guide to asking the right questions about taught postgraduate study in the UK
- ✓ [UCAS Postgraduate](#) – guidance on how to find and apply for a postgraduate course
- ✓ [Unistats](#) – the official website for comparing UK higher education course data
- ✓ <https://www.ukuni.net/universities>
- ✓ [UKCISA \(UK Council for International Student Affairs\)](#) – advice for international students on choosing a course of study

How to select a university and course?

- ✓ **Consider entry requirements** some universities require a masters degree as entry point for some countries. This is because they consider an undergraduate from some countries to be equivalent to an advanced diploma and a masters degree to be equivalent to an undergraduate for such countries. So make sure you check the university country page and click on your country name and see the type of documentation they consider for entry or mail the admissions office.
- ✓ **Course duration:** some masters courses are 9months, 12months, 18months, 24months etc. choose courses that meet the scholarship requirement e.g Chevening scholarship eligible courses should be 9-12 months long.
- ✓ **Apply to related course**
- ✓ **Course content:** select a course that will equip you with the skills you want. Read through the content or download the PDF course brochure.
- ✓ **University and course ranking:** see the links above, the following links are also useful;
 - <https://www.studentcrowd.com/best-universities-l1044923-united-kingdom>

- <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/by-subject>
 - <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings>
- ✓ **Accommodation and extracurricular activities;** consider location of the university, social activities available at the university and around, check university website under accommodation for the type of accommodation they have.
 - ✓ **Is it the staff at the university?** Have you had any contact with them?
 - ✓ **Consider application fees;** some universities require application fees which a scholarship will not pay for you, the following is a list of some universities that require application fees, check the university website if this is applicable:
 - London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
 - University of South Wales
 - University of Nottingham
 - University College London (UCL)
 - University of Warwick
 - University of Bath
 - Durham University
 - University of Manchester
 - University of Cambridge
 - University of Oxford
 - Imperial College London
 - SOAS, University of London
 - University of Edinburgh
 - University of Surrey
 Sources:
 - <https://thescholarsjourney.wordpress.com/2017/08/09/universities-part-2-applying/>
 - <https://www.ukuni.net/articles/these-uk-universities-charge-application-fees>

When should I apply?

While some courses do have official deadlines, programmes in most subjects accept applications continuously. However, in such cases offers are usually made on a first-come, first-served basis.

For this reason, you should aim to apply at least eight months before the course begins. Even if key documents such as your degree transcript aren't ready, you can often submit your application and receive a conditional offer.

Applying early is especially important if you're looking to secure funding and/or accommodation, as you may require an offer before applying for either - and funding deadlines for courses beginning in September often fall between January and March. You must aim to apply very early, as an unconditional offer is required before scholarships and visas can be applied for.

Despite all of this, late enrolments are fairly common - so there may be time for a last-minute application.

How do I apply for a Masters degree?

Typically, a masters degree is a one-year course in a subject area you want to specialise in. There are different types of masters courses, such as MA, MSc, MRes, MBA, LLM amongst others. The university's online application system will tell you exactly what information is required in order to complete your application.

The following items are common:

- ✓ A scan of your passport
- ✓ A completed masters application form
- ✓ A [personal statement](#) which is specific to the course you are applying for
- ✓ Scans of your academic qualifications, with certified translations if they are not in English
- ✓ Reference letters or contact information for your referees
- ✓ Proof of [English language ability](#)
- ✓ [research proposal](#), if required;

Applications are often made online, directly to your chosen institution - although [UCAS's UKPASS](#) service provides a centralized admissions service for 18 universities and colleges. Alternatively, you can usually download an application pack from your chosen institution's website or request one by phone, and then apply via post. There's no limit to the number of applications that you can make, but time pressures will probably restrict you.

Methods of dealing with applications are typically the same across the board. The general admissions department will screen your application and send it to the specific admissions tutor for your particular course, who will then make the final decision.

Each institution has its own guidelines on timeframes - these are often published on their websites, so you can check when you can expect a decision. However, it usually takes between two weeks and two months before you discover your fate. Some universities may even suffer unforeseen setbacks in turning applications around, increasing your wait further. These include a lack of staff, an unexpectedly large volume of applications or changes in internal procedures.

You should note that application processes are different for some subjects.

What happens after I've applied?

The most common outcomes are:

- ✓ **Unconditional offer** - You've met all of the entry requirements and have a confirmed place on the course.
- ✓ **Conditional offer** - You're being offered a place on the course, provided that you meet certain requirements i.e conditions.
- ✓ **Interview** - You must attend an interview before a final decision is made.
- ✓ **Unsuccessful** - You've failed to gain a place on the course.

If you've been unsuccessful, try to remain positive. Request feedback from admissions staff, and ask for advice on how to improve future applications. You could also contact your university's careers service to discuss your options, while most institutions will have an appeals procedure.

How do I prepare for a postgraduate interview?

Many postgraduate courses ask applicants to attend an interview as part of the selection process. Knowing how to prepare and perform well at these can make all the difference.

Refresh your understanding of the course and university, so you can clearly articulate why you chose to apply there. You should also ensure that you're familiar with everything you wrote in your application, and explain how you'll pay for the course and where you plan to live. You should also think about any questions that you have for them.

You can't be 100% sure what you'll be asked. However, there are a number of topics that you can safely assume will come up.

- ✓ **Academic interests** - this could include why you chose your undergraduate degree, why you chose your dissertation topic, and what modules you enjoyed and performed well in. You want to show genuine interest in your subject, and how what you've studied so far has prepared you for studying at a higher level.
- ✓ **Academic knowledge** - this is something you'll have to prepare for. You may be asked about a particular issue in your field, so do your homework.
- ✓ **Career goals** - explain how you plan to become successful and be as specific as possible. Set yourself goals for the next five or ten years.
- ✓ **Experience** - if the course is relatively vocational, the interview may focus

more on your experience than on your academic background. Be prepared to talk about any paid or voluntary work you have that's related to your area of study, as well as the more general transferable skills you've gained.

- ✓ **Funding** - tell the interviewer what funding measures you have in place.
- ✓ **Reasons for choosing the course and university** - show that you've researched the institution and course, explaining how it has impressed you. Explain why you feel it is your best option and how the course will help you achieve your career goals.
- ✓ **Strengths and weaknesses** - list your best skills and provide evidence. If asked about your weakness, mention one attribute that you're looking to develop.

You must ensure that you evidence your answers throughout. Try using the **STAR** technique. When responding to a question about your skills or experience, structure your answer by explaining a Situation you found yourself in, the Task you had to perform, what Action you took, and what the Result was. Remember to listen to and engage with the interviewer, avoid jargon and, most importantly, be yourself.

Let's look at last year's Chevening question

Outline **why you have selected** your chosen **three university courses**, and explain **how this relates to your previous academic or professional experience** and your **plans for the future**. Please do not duplicate the information you have entered on the work experience and education section of this form (minimum word count: 50 words, maximum word count: 500 words).

- ✓ Before answering the why remember to talk about your qualifications and what you have been doing professionally and the impact it is making. It may not directly be related to your academic qualifications, but you are doing

something that has some impact now. So identify challenges, gaps and limitations that going for masters in your chosen course will overcome. You must be able to prove that the Chevening scholarship can make your professional career and experiences better and have greater impact on your leadership skills and the society.

- ✓ Before you write this essay please ensure you have an idea of what the programme is about, research, Google. You cannot answer this question if you don't know what the course is about and why you want to study it. Basically your **why** is the solution to something (usually a gap/challenge). Your why could also be your interest. So please give proper convincing reasons of why you want to study that particular program. Please this is not the best time to mention, you want to get a bigger pay, or you just want to do a masters because it is on your to do list or because you are bored. Remember you are competing, it would be nice if you also choose similar programmes as this will be easy for you to explain during interview and also it shows a clear direction. But if you want, you can choose complete opposite of programmes. There is still no harm.
- ✓ You can relate academically, by showing how you found this course / subject in university. How you passed and so on. Professionally you can talk about your work and how you need to pursue a master so it strengthens your work etc.
- ✓ how you intend to use the program (plan for the future)? For example, If you are doing a masters in teaching you can say I intend to teach ABC, or work with organizations teaching ABC something like that. You just show how that program will help you. If you want, you can explain each course or collectively do it.

- ✓ don't mention what you entered in your work experience.

It is wrong to say; **because I have always been good at ABC and it challenges my mental abilities.** It is good to say; because XYZ is a major challenge in my district that's why I initiated FHK to help reduce CCC. Therefore ABC will give me a greater understanding and help me address this issue. Something like that, it's a competition, ensure you convince. Show that you know what you are talking about and that you have already started doing it, now the Masters will just be the cream on the cake and be realistic, don't say "so that you can end world hunger" That's unrealistic, you can't end it but you can help reduce it.

You can view a sample essay here:
<https://essayforum.com/scholarship/first-choice-higher-education-chevening-78042/>

****Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed are those of the author and editors' experiences and do not reflect that of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its partner organizations.***

References:

- ✓ The [scholar journey website](#).
- ✓ Google
- ✓ Notes by previous scholars.

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Compiled by # certified