

Reaching Wider Glossary: University Terms



Campus

A term used for a space where there are lots of university buildings. This includes a library, shops, classrooms, teaching offices, student accommodation, and sometimes a cinema, doctor's surgery, and a nursery.



Degree

After completing their university studies, students are awarded a degree. This is a type of qualification. Most degree courses are 3 years long.

Lecture

A lesson where lots of students (50-700!) sit in a big classroom called a **lecture theatre**. The lecturer teaches and the students listen and make notes.



Seminar

A lesson where smaller groups of students (10-20) discuss ideas from the lecture. Seminars are led by lecturers, too, but students do most of the speaking.

Halls

Halls of Residence, or Halls, refers to student accommodation. If you decide to live at university, this is often where first year students choose to live. They are like flats, where each student has their own room, and then a shared kitchen area. Some students have an en-suite bathroom, and others share.



Graduation

Once students have completed their degree, they attend a graduation ceremony where they are officially awarded their university qualification. Once they have graduated, students are called **graduates**.



Undergraduate

There are different types of degree courses, but the first type of degree most people do is an undergraduate degree. Often, you need A-level or BTEC qualifications in order to start undergraduate studies. You are called an undergraduate until you graduate.



Postgraduate

Some people decide to complete postgraduate studies. A postgraduate course covers a higher level of study than an undergraduate degree, and you generally need an undergraduate degree and/or lots of work experience to do one. Master's degrees and PhDs are postgraduate courses.



Student Loan

Unlike school, going to university costs money, but don't worry! You don't have to pay anything up front. You can apply for student loans which you get before you start your course, and these can cover the costs of your university course as well as rent, food, books, and so on. You pay these loans back monthly once you have graduated AND once you have a job earning more than £21,000 a year.



Tuition Fees

Everyone who does a university course has to pay tuition fees - student loans normally cover these. The money for tuition fees goes from the Student Loans Company to the university, so it never goes into your bank account - it's done for you. Tuition fees cover all teaching, access to university facilities like the library and classrooms, as well as the graduation ceremony.

Grant

Unlike student loans which you have to pay back, lots of students are entitled to money that you DON'T have to pay back, called a grant. Grants are often **means-tested** (based on household income). This means that people with less money can have a grant *as well as* student loans. There are lots of different grants available, including an Income Grant.



Scholarship

Like grants, scholarships are something you DON'T have to pay back. Scholarships are available to a range of students - high-achievers, people from particular areas, or people that the university especially want on their course for whatever reason. Scholarships are usually quite competitive.



Bursary

Similar to scholarships and grants, bursaries DON'T have to be paid back. While scholarships are competitive, bursaries aren't, and are for students who need the money. Sometimes bursaries are for specific things, such as to cover course equipment or trips.



Society

University students are often part of societies - societies are where groups of students with similar interests meet up outside of classes. There are sport societies, Harry Potter societies, baking societies, gaming societies, and much much more!

Foundation Course

A one year course that gives students the skills they need to start their undergraduate degree. These are offered in a range of subjects across lots of universities.



Single / Joint Honours

In British universities, students study one or two subjects. A student studying one subject (ie English Literature) is a Single Honours student, and a student doing two subjects (ie English Literature and History) is a joint honours student. You can combine a range of subjects at university.

