



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities



Home Office

Welcome Workshops

Cultural Orientation Programme

Education

With thanks to the Department for Education, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
and Morley College London

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Learning Objectives:

1

- To understand the structure of the education system in the UK

2

- Understand a typical school day

3

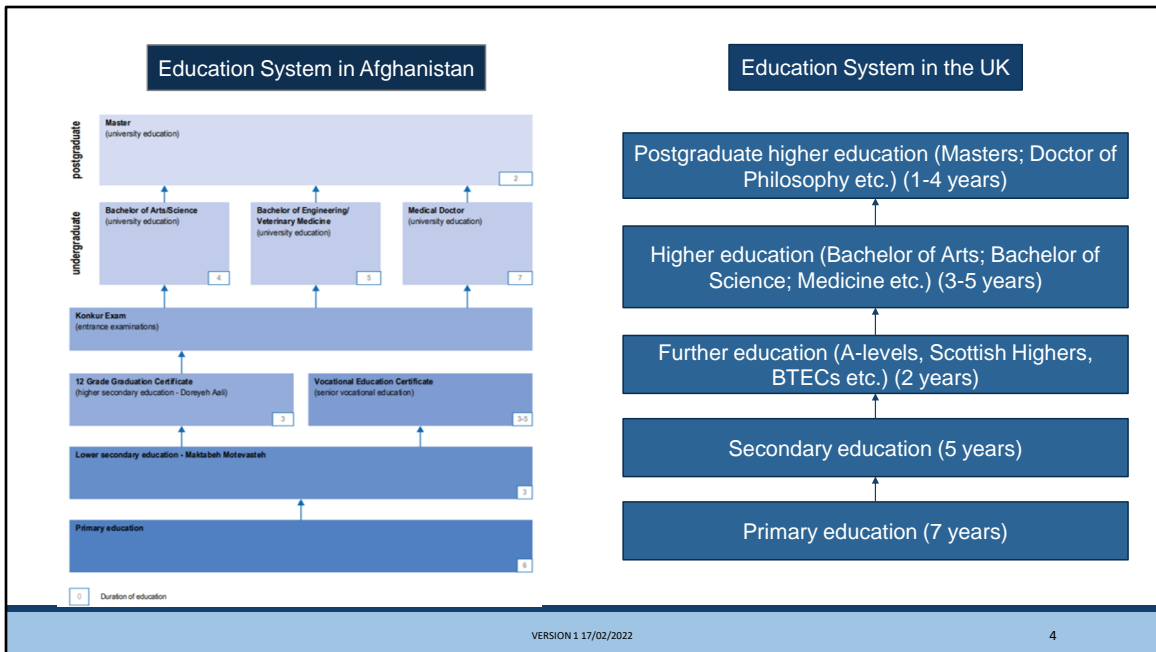
- Understand expectations for both children and parents

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- Understand how to help your child stay safe and supported in school

Section 1:
Education for
Children in
the UK





Option to ask the group to discuss briefly compare the UK and Afghan education systems.

Your child's right to education in the UK

- Families in the UK who arrive under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP), Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), British Nationals and the Ex-Gratia Scheme (EGS) or if they are seeking asylum, are entitled to a school place if they have children aged 5-16.
- 4-year-olds will normally receive a full-time education in primary school, but they can also attend part-time until the start of the term immediately after they turn 5.
- Parents are required to ensure their children receive a full-time education.
- If you have children, they may already be in school, and you may already have some knowledge of the education system.
- If not, you should contact your local council to ensure your children are registered in an age-appropriate school.

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Applying for a school place in England: <https://www.gov.uk/schools-admissions>

In Scotland: <https://www.mygov.scot/register-your-child-for-a-school>

In Wales: <https://gov.wales/school-admissions>

In Northern Ireland: <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Refugee Education have produced some excellent resources on the education system in England specifically for Afghans. They are available in English, Pashto and Dari: <https://www.reuk.org/welcome>

The Educational Institute for Scotland has produced a [suite of educational packs to welcome young people from migrant and refugee families into Scottish schools](#):

<https://www.eis.org.uk/Policy-And-Publications/WelcomeToScotland>

Nursery

- Day nurseries tend to provide childcare for children from the ages of **six weeks to 5 years**.
- Opening hours vary but an average day nursery is likely to open between 7am and 8am and close between 6pm and 7pm.
- Playgroups and pre-schools offer care and education to children aged 2-5 years, with sessions lasting 2-4 hours. These operate during term time, tend to be smaller, and may have morning and afternoon sessions.
- Nurseries can be run by private businesses, local councils, voluntary/community groups, schools, colleges or employers.
- More information on finding a nursery school place for your child can be found on your local council's website.



Find a nursery place in England and Wales: <https://www.gov.uk/find-nursery-school-place>

In Scotland: <https://www.mygov.scot/nursery-place>

In Northern Ireland: <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>



Nursery and childcare

- Childcare schemes and costs vary across the the UK.
- You may be entitled to a certain amount of free childcare depending on where you live.
- More information can be found on the UK Government and Devolved Governments' websites.
- If you need further assistance please contact your local council, where somebody will be able to assist you further in finding a school, nursery or childminder

England: <https://www.gov.uk/get-childcare>

Scotland: <https://www.mygov.scot/childcare-costs-help/funded-early-learning-and-childcare>

Wales: <https://gov.wales/childcare-3-and-4-year-olds>

Northern Ireland: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/parenting-and-childcare/childcare>

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In England, you could be entitled to up to 30 hours of free childcare. On top of the universal 15 hours entitlement for 3 and 4-year olds, an additional 15 hours is available to parents in England who meet the eligibility criteria:

<https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare> Many parents in England also choose to pay for childcare in addition to these free hours. For more information, please go to: <https://www.gov.uk/get-childcare>

Info on childcare in Scotland: <https://www.mygov.scot/childcare-costs-help/funded-early-learning-and-childcare>

In Wales: <https://gov.wales/childcare-3-and-4-year-olds>

In Northern Ireland: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/parenting-and-childcare/childcare>

Primary education

- **Primary school education in the UK covers ages 5-11.** This is **compulsory** for all children.
- **Girls and boys are usually taught together**, though some same-sex schools do operate. Most schools will also have separate gender toilets.
- Primary school helps children make friends, learn social skills, get along with others, and learn basic knowledge such as shapes and numbers, moving on to simple mathematics and language.
- Primary schools also encourage pupils to engage in sport through PE and sports days, music and the performing arts through choirs and school plays, and organise school trips to assist learning.
- In the UK, schools must open for at least 380 sessions (190 days) during a school year. The school hours are determined by each school but on average this is about **5-6 hours per day**.



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Video of a virtual open day at St Martin's CofE Primary School in Folkestone, Kent, England: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lw3GKiwBklw>

Video of facilities at Crieff Primary School in Crieff, Perth and Kinross, Scotland: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_MkDCXe9cA

Secondary education

- Secondary education covers those aged 11-16 and is also compulsory.
- Some schools are 'same sex' only, but the majority teach **boys and girls together**.
- Secondary education builds on primary education and teaches a range of academic subjects (such as the sciences, mathematics, English language and literature and foreign languages), alongside practical subjects (such as music, design and technology, physical education and IT).
- Secondary schools are different depending on where you live and the type of school your child may attend could be a comprehensive school, an academy or a grammar school.
- At 16, students sit examinations known as the General Certificate of Secondary Education (**GCSEs**) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In Scotland, the equivalent are the National 5 (**N5**) examinations. These exams are important for progression into further education and/or employment.



Typical School Day



Primary

- ❖ 8:30-9:00 start
- ❖ 15:00-15:30 finish
- ❖ Regular breaks each day (e.g. Mid-morning, Lunch and Afternoon)
- ❖ Core subjects: Reading, Writing, Maths and Science
- ❖ Science, Art, Music, Geography, History, Physical Education, Religious Education, Computing, Design & Technology, Personal Social & Health Education (PSHE)

Secondary

- ❖ 8:30-9:00 start
- ❖ 15:00-15:30 finish
- ❖ 2 breaks in a school day (usually Mid-morning and Lunch)
- ❖ Lessons: English, Maths, Science, Physical Education, Religious Education, Modern Foreign Languages (e.g. French), Drama, Music, IT, Technology (Textiles, Woodwork, Graphics, Food), Geography, History, Sex and Relationships Education
- ❖ 5-6 lessons in a day



School uniforms and behaviour

- Schools will expect a certain standard of behaviour and often follow their own set of rules.
- In the UK, it is expected that all pupils will attend school, **be on time, engage and enjoy learning, communicate with their teachers and peers, be respectful to others, not eat in class, and not use inappropriate language.**
- Every pupil's **attendance is also recorded in a daily register.**
- Most schools in the UK require their **pupils to wear a school uniform.**
- Check your school's website or speak to a teacher at your child's school to find out about their uniform policy. Some schools can help families pay for their uniforms.

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More information on support to meet costs of school uniforms/PE kits:
<https://www.gov.uk/help-school-clothing-costs>



School meals

- Schools will also often provide meals at lunchtime for a **small cost**, though **some children** are entitled to **free school meals**.
- All schools will cater for a child's dietary requirements e.g. halal or allergies etc.
- Find out if your child is entitled to free school meals and how to apply for them by searching '**apply for free school meals**' **on the internet** and checking the relevant Government website.

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Links to further information on free school meals:

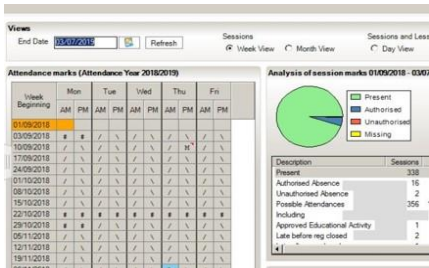
In England here: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> In Scotland: <https://www.mygov.scot/school-meals> In Wales: <https://gov.wales/free-school-meals-frequently-asked-questions> In Northern Ireland: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/nutrition-and-school-lunches>

Some children in England may also be eligible for Pupil premium. Pupil premium is funding to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools in England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium>

School Attendance

Register:

- All schools in the UK record pupils' attendance with a register. This is usually taken in the morning and sometimes in the afternoon too.



If your child is unwell

- ❖ Temperature, vomiting, diarrhoea = **keep at home**
- ❖ Demonstrating covid symptoms = **monitor and test**
- ❖ Headaches, stomach aches, period pains, etc = **Send into school, they can monitor**

Absence

- If your child is going to be absent from school, you should always contact the school to inform them.
- The school will contact you if your child is absent and they do not hear from you.
- If they continue not to hear from you, or you ignore their attempts to contact you, they may contact emergency contacts, such as local authority staff.

Appointments

- If your child has an appointment during school time (e.g. with a doctor), you should inform the school of the appointment in advance.

Activities in school and participation

Most schools have a number of activities for both parents and children. You can also find more information on your local council's website or through your child's school.

After-school clubs

- Sports
- Musical instrument/choir
- Variety of different activities
- Homework clubs

Coffee Mornings

- Chance to meet other parents and members of the school

Assemblies

- Opportunity for children to share a project they have been working on
- Key themes throughout the year (for example anti-bullying)

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) & Parents' Evenings

- Small group of parents, teachers and other members of school community who meet to ensure everyone is working closely together .
- All schools also have Parents' Evenings where you can meet your child's teachers and discuss their progress.



Most schools have a number of ways in which both parents and pupils can participate in activities or the running of the school.

PTA UK: <https://www.pta.co.uk/>

School Year and Holidays

- The school year in the UK begins in either August or September and ends in July.
- The school year is usually split into three 'terms'.
- Your child's school will inform and remind you of any upcoming holidays and return dates.

Autumn Term/Term 1: **August/September-December** (1-2 week break in October).

Spring Term/Term 2: **January-March/April** (1 week break in February and 2-week Easter break)

Summer Term/Term 3: **April-July** (1 week break in May and summer holidays July to August/September)

- You can find out more about your local school's term times and holidays on your local council's website, including policies on religious holidays.

2022

JANUARY					FEBRUARY					MARCH				
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31														

MAY					JUNE					JULY				
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER					NOVEMBER				
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1

School term time and holiday dates in England and Wales:

<https://www.gov.uk/school-term-holiday-dates>

In Scotland: <https://www.mygov.scot/school-term-holiday-dates>

In Northern Ireland: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/school-holidays>

School transport



Your children may be able to get free transport to school depending on how far the walk is, any special needs they have and whether the walk is safe.

All children between 5 and 16 qualify for free school transport if they go to their nearest suitable school and live at least:

- 2 miles from the school if they're under 8
- 3 miles from the school if they're 8 or older

There are additional entitlements to free home to school transport for children of families on low incomes.

Find details on free school transport from your local council here:
<https://www.gov.uk/help-home-school-transport>

Further education – 16-18



- Further education for young people aged **16-18** can be provided in schools (often as part of a continuous educational journey from the age of 11 to 18), sixth form or colleges, or independent training providers.
- Students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can do A-levels, but other qualifications are available, such as BTECs which build on practical skills.
- In Scotland, the equivalent of A-levels are called Scottish Highers and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) are also available.
- Students can also be part of the study programme for 16-18 with a main technical or academic qualification and work experience.
- Completing further education is usually necessary to apply for **university** and can often assist in gaining **employment** in some trade professions.

Quick Quiz (5 minute group exercise)

1. What are children expected to wear to school?
2. What should you do if your child has an appointment which is during school time?
3. When does the school year begin and end in the UK?
4. How do schools record pupils' attendance?
5. At what age do children begin secondary school?



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1. School uniform.
2. Inform the school in advance – authorised absence.
3. Begins in August/September and ends in July.
4. In a daily register.
5. 11

Section 2: Educational Responsibilities and Support



Educational rights and responsibilities

- As a parent you are responsible for ensuring that your children of compulsory school age receive a full-time education.
- Councils have powers to **enforce school attendance**, including the power to prosecute and fine parents who fail to ensure their child's regular attendance at school.
- **Education for children is free and compulsory.** Children between the age of 5 and 16 must be in full-time education.
- **Not having a birth certificate is not a barrier to accessing early years and school education.** Schools cannot refuse a child if there is uncertainty about their age.

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

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Children with special/additional educational support needs and disabilities

- Some children have difficulties in learning or in their behaviour or have a disability. UK schools help and support these children.
- Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) is the term used in England, Special Educational Needs (SEN) in Northern Ireland, Additional Support for Learning (ASL) in Scotland, and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) in Wales.
- Schools will engage with parents/carers and their child to work out how best to help them.
- In the UK, almost all children are educated in mainstream schools. This includes almost every child who experiences a range of barriers to learning. Mainstream schools receive Government funding to help children with special/additional needs.
- A very small number of children (around one in a 100) with very complex needs attend specialist schools.

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Guidance for parents and carers in England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

In Scotland: <https://enquire.org.uk/advice-for-parents/>

In Wales: <https://gov.wales/special-educational-needs-guidance-carers-and-parents>

In Northern Ireland: <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/special-educational-needs-sen>

Code of practice in England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

In Scotland: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-childrens-learning-statutory-guidance-education-additional-support-learning-scotland/>

In Wales: <https://gov.wales/special-educational-needs-code-practice>

In Northern Ireland: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/special-educational-needs-code-practice>



Types of special/additional educational needs

Children can have a range of different difficulties and needs that affect their learning and behaviour in school.

Examples include:

- Hearing difficulties
- Visual difficulties
- Autism
- Physical difficulties
- Specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia
- Developmental difficulties, which can be very severe
- English as an additional language (EAL – for children whose first language is not English)

Sometimes a child's life at home, as well as their social, emotional or mental health difficulties, can cause issues at school.

Help and advice



- If you think your child may have special educational needs, or you are worried about your child's progress at school, contact the school.
- You may want to speak to the school's Special Education Needs coordinator/Additional Support for Learning Assistant (SENCo/ASL) or the headteacher.
- If your child is not in a school or nursery, and you are worried about how they will manage in school, then contact your local council.
- Your local Information, Advice and Support (IAS) Service can give you advice about SEND. This is an impartial service that provides advice and information for parents and carers.
- Search on the Council for Disabled Children's website for your local IAS service. In Scotland, you can also contact Enquire, which is the Scottish advice service for ASL.

IAS Service website link: <https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/what-we-do-0/networks/information-advice-and-support-services-network/find-your-local-ias-service>

Enquire (for Scotland): <https://enquire.org.uk/advice-for-parents/>



Safeguarding in education

- If a child shares something they are worried about or of concern to a teacher, they have a “**duty of care**” (responsibility) to share that with you and depending on the concern, with the local council.
- Depending on how serious a child’s problem is the school will usually share it with a parent first, but if they are unable to do so, they will let you know the actions the school had to take and why.
- Examples could be; hitting, seeing parents argue more than usual, being left alone at an inappropriate age, physical abuse etc.

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The statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' in England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

In Scotland: <https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/who-we-are/policies-and-information/safeguarding/>

In Wales: <https://gov.wales/keeping-learners-safe>

In Northern Ireland: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/protecting-and-safeguarding-our-children>

Parents' concerns and bullying

- If your child is having problems at school, it is usually best to talk to your child first and then talk to their teacher. If that doesn't solve the problem, there are other steps you can take.
- If your child's teacher doesn't or is unable to resolve the problem, you can ask to speak to the headteacher.
- If you are still not happy, you can make a formal complaint. All state schools should have a complaints procedure.
- If your child is being bullied, you need to talk to the school. Start by contacting your child's form teacher.
- Some bullying is illegal, including assault or sending frequent threatening texts. You should tell the police if this happens.

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Citizens' Advice: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/family/education/sorting-out-school-problems>

Further information on school complaints can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/complain-about-school>

Find out about reporting illegal bullying to the police here:

<https://www.gov.uk/bullying-at-school>

You can get advice on dealing with bullying from the Anti-Bullying Alliance:

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/>

True or False? 5 Minute Group Exercise

1. Education for children aged between 4 to 17 in the UK is very expensive.
2. In the UK, education is available regardless of the person's race, religion, social status or age.
3. In the UK, children are disciplined in schools by being asked to stay after school (detention) and by being suspended for bad behaviour or even expelled. Corporal punishment is not permitted.
4. Children from different racial/ethnic backgrounds are taught in separate classes.
5. School attendance for children aged 4 to 17 is optional.
6. You as a parent are held responsible if your children do not attend school regularly.
7. You are expected to play an active role in teaching your children and to regularly meet with their teachers during the year.
8. If your son or daughter is 12 when they arrive in the UK they will be registered in a primary school.
9. Boys and girls are always taught in separate classes.



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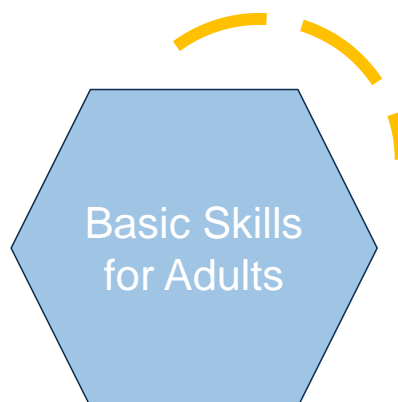
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1. False – education for 4-17 year olds in the UK is free.
2. True.
3. True.
4. False – children from different racial or ethnic backgrounds are always taught together.
5. False – school attendance is compulsory and parents can be fined/prosecuted if their children do not attend school.
6. True.
7. True.
8. False – they will be registered in a secondary school.
9. False – most schools in the UK teach boys and girls together.



Section 3: Education for adults in the UK

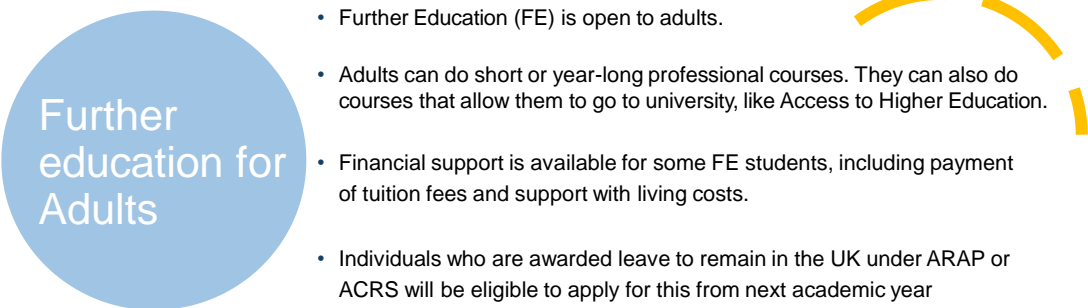
- Adults with 'indefinite leave to remain' in the UK are eligible to take courses in **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** through adult education providers which may include the local authority, local colleges and other providers.
- ESOL courses may range from complete beginners up to what is known as "Level 2" and learners may also be eligible to attend mainstream English and maths (including GCSE levels), as well as classes for basic computing skills.
- Depending on your employment status and income these courses will be either free or part-funded.
- For more information on ESOL and other basic skills courses, please contact your local council, college or adult education providers. Further information may also be found on the council's website.



ESOL Government Campaign Page:

<https://skillsforlife.campaign.gov.uk/courses/essential-skills-english-esol/>

Further information on funding eligibility in Scotland can be found on the Student Information Scotland (SIS) website: <https://www.studentinformation.gov.scot/>



Further education for Adults

- Further Education (FE) is open to adults.
- Adults can do short or year-long professional courses. They can also do courses that allow them to go to university, like Access to Higher Education.
- Financial support is available for some FE students, including payment of tuition fees and support with living costs.
- Individuals who are awarded leave to remain in the UK under ARAP or ACRS will be eligible to apply for this from next academic year (2022/23).
- You can use the National Careers Service website to find further education courses by course name, provider or subject. Your local council will also be able to provide further advice.

National Careers Service website: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/find-a-course>

Further information on further education and available funding:
<https://www.gov.uk/further-education-courses>

Higher Education

Higher Education courses are usually taught in:

- Universities
- Colleges
- Specialist institutions like art schools or agricultural colleges

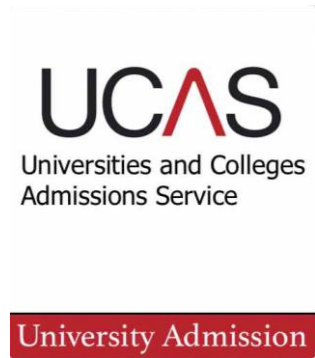
Higher Education qualifications include:

- Diploma or Certificate of Higher Education
- Higher National Diploma or Higher National Certificate
- A course for the initial training of teachers
- Foundation degrees
- Bachelor degrees (e.g. Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science)
- Postgraduate degrees (e.g. Masters and Doctorates)



How to apply for a Higher Education course

- You can search and apply for most higher education courses on the internet.
- Most applications for university in the UK are submitted using UCAS. Further information can be found on their website.
- Some universities also accept applications directly.
- If you want to study by distance learning with the Open university then you should apply to them directly.
- Universities control their own admissions policies and requirements so you should contact them directly if you have any questions.



UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-to-university>

Can I get financial support for higher education?

To be eligible for financial support you must meet the following conditions:

- Have been granted leave under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) or the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS);
- are living in the UK on the first day of the first academic year of your course; and
- have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands from the date your most recent leave was granted.

OR

- Be an eligible family member who has been granted leave in line with the ARAP or the ACRS, where the family member:
 - is living in the UK on the first day of the first academic year of your course; and
 - has been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands from the date their most recent leave was granted.

What financial support can I receive for higher education?

Undergraduate courses

- In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, you can apply for a loan to pay your tuition fees. This is paid directly to your university or college. In Scotland, university tuition is free for Scottish residents.
- You can also apply for a Maintenance Loan to help pay for **your living costs** such as books and to pay for your accommodation.
- How much you can receive depends on your household income, and where you live and study. There is extra help if you have children or an adult who depend on you financially.
- Any loans you take out must eventually be paid back. Further information on student loan repayments can be found online.
- You can also get a Disabled Students' Allowance to help with additional course related costs (both undergraduate and postgraduate) if you have a disability.
- The Government have announced there will be further funding for up to 300 undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships for Afghans at UK universities.



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Further information on student finance in England (including student loan repayments): <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

In Scotland: <https://www.mygov.scot/student-finance-apply>

In Wales: <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/>

In Northern Ireland: <https://www.studentfinancenir.co.uk/>

Government announcement on 300 undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships for Afghans at UK universities: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operation-warm-welcome-underway-to-support-afghan-arrivals-in-the-uk>

What financial support can I receive for higher education?

Postgraduate courses

- If you are studying a postgraduate degree, **you can apply for a loan to help with course related costs.** How much you can borrow usually depends on the course, which part of the UK you live in and sometimes your household income.
- Universities and colleges may offer their own **scholarship and bursary schemes**, including discretionary funding to help with the costs of studying. You need to apply to them directly. More information can be found on universities' own websites.
- You can also get a **Disabled Students' Allowance** to help with additional course related costs if you have a disability. This includes a long-term health condition, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty. The amount you can get depends on your needs, not your household income. You do not need to pay it back.
- You will have to repay any loans you borrow. How much you repay each month depends on your income, not how much you borrowed. You won't have to repay anything until you're earning over a certain amount. Any loan remaining 30 years after you're due to start repaying will be cancelled.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study>



Thank you

Any
questions?