

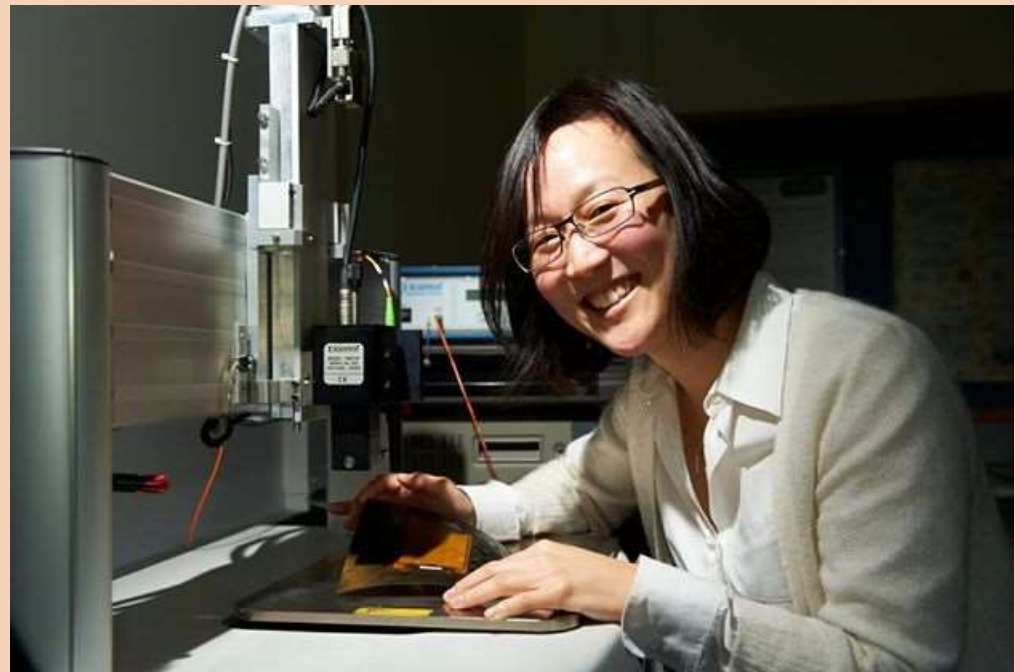
# UK education

10 December 2015

Conor Snowden

## A world-class education...

- Four of the world's top six unis
- Second in the world for university-industry collaboration
- Over half of university research classed as 'world-leading'
- 107 Nobel Prize winners
- More citations per article than any other research nation
- 109 universities and 133 colleges



## A friendly international community...

- Half a million international students from 200 countries
- Over 50% PhD students from outside UK
- Welfare and international student support officers
- Five universities in top 10 'most employable'
- Two thirds of UK businesses have links to universities
- English language skills





...and then there's the food...



## The 'great British weather'... oh well!



## Undergraduate degrees

- Three-year BSc
- Four-year MSci
- Foundation option
- Combined degrees
- Placements and work experience – ‘sandwich’
- Degrees are shorter
- Foundation/top-up options allow flexibility



# Postgraduate degrees

- Master's degree:
  - MA (Master of Arts)
  - MSc (Master of Science)
  - Subject-specific qualifications;  
MEng (Master of Engineering),  
MFA (Master of Fine Arts),  
LLM (Master of Laws),  
MArch (Master of Architecture), and more.
  - MBA (Master of Business Administration): Internationally recognised qualification for a successful management career.
- PhDs/doctorates
  - Highest academic level a student can achieve.
  - Careers in academia (as a lecturer or researcher).
  - Need at least a 2:1 result at undergraduate level, often also Master's

## More postgraduate degree options

- Postgraduate diplomas and qualifications: Study something new or build on the skills and knowledge already gained during their first degree.
- Professional and vocational qualifications: Improve skills or gain attributes required by specific jobs, with practical training and work experience
- Conversion courses: Short course to 'turn' your skills to a different area, e.g. Law Conversion course from an undergraduate in History



## Law and legal studies

- The UK's legal systems are globally recognised and used in commercial and financial centres around the world.
- As the UK is part of the European Union, the UK operates a consolidation of UK and EU law, and UK universities offer world-renowned courses in European law. Many international students choose to study European law here, or European law alongside other subjects.
- **Courses and qualifications:** three legal systems in the UK – one for England and Wales, one for Northern Ireland and another for Scotland
- You can study Law at under- or postgraduate level.

## Law and legal studies – Postgraduate level

- Law masters' programmes are usually studied full-time over one year and lead to a Master of Laws (LLM) or Master of Arts (MA) qualification.
- These can be taken by law or non-law graduates seeking specialist knowledge.
- If you have an undergraduate degree in a subject other than law, you can take a conversion course to join the legal sector.
- There are other postgraduate programmes in law, both taught and research.
- Many MPhil and PhD programmes are based purely on research, but some incorporate taught elements.

## Entry requirements

- There can be a lot of competition for places on law degree programmes.
- If English isn't your first language, many courses will also ask for evidence of your English language skills, such as an IELTS or equivalent qualification.
- **All schools, colleges and universities have different entry requirements, so make sure you read the course details thoroughly and ask your chosen institution directly if you have any questions.**



# How to choose your study path


- ‘Best university’ rankings – are they the full story?
  - QS world university rankings: [www.topuniversities.com](http://www.topuniversities.com)
  - Times Higher Education: [www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings](http://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings)
  - Guardian University Guide
  - Telegraph University Guide
  - Some have subject-specific rankings
  - But which one do you trust...?
- Plus there are some other factors to consider...
  - Location: Modern/traditional? North/south/east/west?
  - Cost: London generally more expensive
  - Course strengths

# Get the insider guide to studying in the UK!

[www.educationuk.org](http://www.educationuk.org)

- Course searches
- Scholarship searches
- Practical advice
- Real-life student experiences

## How to apply for a UK course

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Confused about which course to do, where to study, and how to apply? Have a look at our handy guide.

### 1. What do you want to study?

The first step in planning your UK education is to figure out what stage you are at, and what you want to achieve from your course – to gain skills and qualifications for a particular career? To improve your English? To build your knowledge of a subject you're interested in?

Here are the key stages of the UK's education system:

- There are thousands of **English language courses** you can join across the UK, for students of all ages and abilities. Find out more [here](#).
- Students **aged 16 and under** attend primary and secondary education. At this level you can study a wide range of subjects, such as maths, English literature, IT, languages, physics, biology, chemistry, geography and history. Find out more [here](#).
- From the age of 16, students in the UK can go on to **further education**. You can choose between **academic** courses (such as A-levels, the International Baccalaureate or Scottish Highers), which enable you to enter university, or **vocational** courses, which give you the skills, training and qualifications you need for a particular career. At this level you specialise in a few subjects. Find out more [here](#).
- With further education qualifications, you can then go on to **higher education – undergraduate** (e.g. Bachelor's degree, HND, Foundation degree, etc.), and then if you wish, on to **postgraduate** (e.g. Master's degree, PhD, MBA). At this level you normally specialise in one or two subjects. You can also take professional qualifications to help you in your career. Find out more [here](#).

# English Language Tests and Requirements

- Cambridge English Language Assessment exams:  
    Cambridge English: Advanced (some universities)  
    Cambridge English: Proficiency
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS)





# Cambridge English Language Assessment (CAE)

- **Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)**

Level of qualification: Advanced = C1 on the Common European Framework

Exam format:

- ✓ **Reading and Use of English**
- ✓ **Writing**
- ✓ **Listening**
- ✓ **Speaking**

# Cambridge English Language Assessment (CPE)

- **Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE)**

Level of qualification: Proficient = C2 on the Common European Framework

Exam format

- ✓ **Reading and Use of English**
- ✓ **Writing**
- ✓ **Listening**
- ✓ **Speaking**

Results

Results will be released four to six weeks after the date of the written exam

# IELTS (International English Language Testing System)

- What is IELTS?
  - ✓ A test of your ability to **communicate** in English:
    - tests all four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking
  - ✓ A test of **international English**:
    - cultural or linguistic bias minimised
    - content produced and checked internationally
    - variety of accents used
  - ✓ Recognition: over 9,000 organisations accept IELTS scores (USA!)
  - ✓ Two test versions: Academic and General Training
  - ✓ Fast results: released 13 days after test

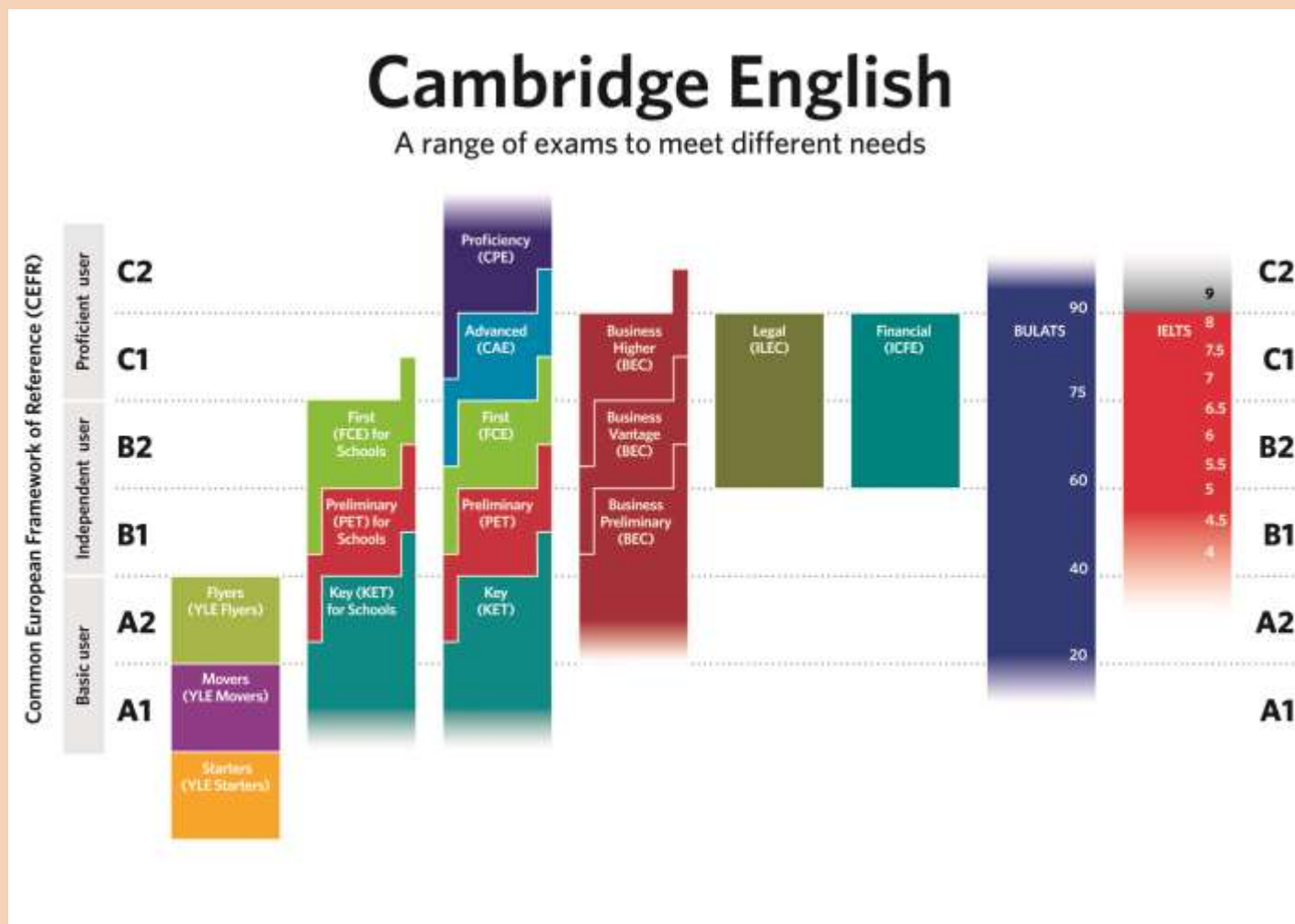


# IELTS (International English Language Testing System)

## IELTS 9-Band Scale

<b>9</b>	<b>Expert user</b>	Has fully operational command of the language: appropriate, accurate and fluent with complete understanding.
<b>8</b>	<b>Very good user</b>	Has fully operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriacies. Misunderstandings may occur in unfamiliar situations. Handles complex detailed argumentation well.
<b>7</b>	<b>Good user</b>	Has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.
<b>6</b>	<b>Competent user</b>	Has generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.
<b>5</b>	<b>Modest user</b>	Has partial command of the language, coping with overall meaning in most situations, though is likely to make many mistakes. Should be able to handle basic communication in own field.
<b>4</b>	<b>Limited user</b>	Basic competence is limited to familiar situations. Has frequent problems in understanding and expression. Is not able to use complex language.
<b>3</b>	<b>Extremely limited user</b>	Conveys and understands only general meaning in very familiar situations. Frequent breakdowns in communication occur.
<b>2</b>	<b>Intermittent user</b>	No real communication is possible except for the most basic information using isolated words or short formulae in familiar situations and to meet immediate needs. Has great difficulty understanding spoken and written English.
<b>1</b>	<b>Non user</b>	Essentially has no ability to use the language beyond possibly a few isolated words.
<b>0</b>	<b>Did not attempt the test</b>	No assessable information provided.

# Cambridge English Language Assessment



# English Language Tests and Requirements

**Any questions?**

[www.britishcouncil.si](http://www.britishcouncil.si)

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