Where can I study sport in the UK?

The UK is home to the best university for sport in the world – University of Loughborough¹ – as well as two more in the top ten: University of Birmingham (sixth) and University of Exeter (tenth). But you’ll find world-class teaching and facilities right across the UK.

How long does it take to graduate?

Typically, undergraduate sports science degrees allow you to graduate in three or four years, with many universities offering a year of study abroad or a year’s work experience with affiliated teams or organisations. Postgraduate qualifications usually take one or two years to complete.

What is the course structure?

Sports science degrees in the UK can vary between universities, but you will be guaranteed several things wherever you study. The modular course structure favoured in the UK allows you to gain a broad knowledge of the subject in the first year, specialising and refining your learning as you go. Modules can cover everything from physiology and nutrition, to the latest psychological and motivational theory, and the global industry that surrounds sport.

Why is the UK a good choice to study sport?

UK universities are renowned for the quality of their teaching and facilities. As well as having access to state-of-the-art technology, you’ll be able to connect with supportive coaching and develop strong team bonds with your peers. Many universities also have links to teams and companies locally, as well as overseas. Wherever you study you’ll cultivate academic rigour under the careful guidance of creative professionals with real sporting expertise, meaning that you graduate well equipped with a broad range of transferable skills and knowledge.

Search study sport in the UK to find out more.
Are there any university sports teams I can join?

You’ll have almost 6,000 university sports teams to choose from in the UK. One-hundred and seventy universities compete across 50 different sports, so you won’t struggle to find something you’re passionate about. These university sporting events and championship tournaments are co-ordinated by their own dedicated body, British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS).

What is the sporting culture like in the UK?

Sport is a huge part of life in the UK, and there is a long history of sporting achievements and innovation. Many of the world’s best-loved sports – including rugby, cricket, tennis and football – were invented here, and we’re home to some of the most popular sports teams in the world.

Whether you want to watch cricket at Lord’s, visit the Manchester Velodrome or take part in a big event like the London Marathon, the UK is one of the best possible study destinations for a sports fan.

Are there any scholarships for sport students?

There are a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate sports scholarships in the UK, some for specific locations – such as EU students – and others open to anyone. As well as those created by universities themselves, there are many private bursaries such as the Helena Kennedy Foundation Bursary. Find out more about scholarships on the Study UK website.

What are my career options after I graduate?

Sports degrees in the UK will open doors to all kinds of careers, from becoming a coach or nutritionist to roles in sports therapy or sports psychology, and of course teaching or journalism.

Whatever career you choose – from playing to commentating – the global sports industry is expected to be worth $614 billion by 2022, providing an exciting and lucrative field with endless possibilities.

And from summer 2021, international students will be able to apply to stay and work in the UK for two years after graduating, through the new Graduate Route. Search Study UK Graduate Route to find out more.

To find out more about studying sport in the UK and find a course, search study sport in the UK.