



HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE UK

NEW WORDS:

education	образование
university	университет
ancient	древний
prestigious	престижный
degree	научная степень
accommodation	размещение, жилье
discipline	предмет, дисциплина
tutor	тьютор, наставник
scholarship	стипендия
career	карьера



UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN GREAT BRITAIN: OVERVIEW

The UK education system is worldwide reputed for its high quality and standards. The British education system has five stages: early years, primary years, secondary education, further education and higher education.

So after finishing secondary school and getting the results of a General Certificate of Secondary Education students may take Advanced Level exams known as A-levels. Good A-level results in at least 2 subjects are necessary to get a place at a university. However, it is not enough. Universities choose their students after interviews and discussions with local educational authorities.

English universities greatly differ from each other. They differ in date of foundation, size, history, tradition, general organization, methods of instruction and way of student life.

The 2 intellectual eyes of Britain – Oxford & Cambridge Universities – date from the 12 & 13 centuries and are called ancient universities. They are known for all over the world and are the oldest and most prestigious universities in Britain. They are often called collectively Oxbridge, but both of them are completely independent.

In the 19th and the early part of the 20th century the so-called Redbrick universities were founded. They got their name because of the material they are built with and are located in Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds. They differ from the ancient ones because of being non-collegiate and they used to admit only men and focus only on “practical subjects”. Red Brick Universities were started as preparatory courses, but nowadays they award their own degrees.



UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN GREAT BRITAIN: OVERVIEW

New universities are subdivided into two types: the campus and the newer civic ones. The ones founded in the 1960s after the educational reform are considered “Plate Glass Universities” (or “concrete universities”). Among them are the universities of Sussex, York, East Anglia and some others.

The Campus Universities are situated in the countryside, have enough accommodation for international students, provide teaching in small groups and put an emphasis on relatively new disciplines. The New Civic Universities (got this status after 1992) used to be technical colleges or “polytechnics”. Nowadays the academic year consists of 3 terms with vacations in Christmas, Easter and summer and provides 2 year courses in such spheres as typing, engineering, town planning, cooking, or hairdressing, full-time and part-time or sometimes 3 more years of further learning if the graduate specializes in some particular subjects (commerce, industry, law).

There’s an interesting form of studies which is called the Open University. It centers on a distant learning. The administration of it is based in Buckinghamshire and it has 13 regional offices all over the country. The students get information from media and internet on-line sources; having tutors, who check their works and discuss them. In summer there are short residential courses according to the field of study.

British Universities are very reputable and attract thousands of students from different countries. British Universities support their students awarding them with grants, special scholarships or other benefits helpful in the future professional career.


UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN GREAT BRITAIN: OVERVIEW

3. a) Give the Russian equivalents for the following:

education; worldwide; subject; full-time; part-time; professional career; distant learning; on-line sources; residential course; graduate; law; sphere; degree; international student; non-collegiate.

b) Find the English equivalents in the text:

обсуждать; грант; наставник; сфера образования; стипендия; преимущество; каникулы; учебный год; дисциплина; курс подготовки; качество; традиция; престижный; подразделять; университетский городок.



UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN GREAT BRITAIN: OVERVIEW

4. Fill in the missing prepositions according to the textual meaning:

The UK education system is reputed _____ its high quality and standards.

Universities choose their students _____ interviews and discussions.

English universities greatly differ _____ each other.

Redbrick universities got their name _____ of the material they are built with.

New universities are subdivided _____ two types.

The Campus Universities are situated _____ the countryside.

There's an interesting form _____ studies which is called the Open University.



UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN GREAT BRITAIN: OVERVIEW

5. Answer the following questions (preferably without looking at the text or reading out from it) in your own words:

How many stages are there in English education system?

What is the procedure to apply to English universities?

How do English universities differ from each other?

When were Oxford & Cambridge founded?

Why do Redbrick Universities differ from the ancient ones?

What is the structure of the academic year in Great Britain?

How does the Open University function?

What are the advantages of British Universities?