

CONSIDERING POSTGRADUATE STUDY

Overview

Whether you are looking to deepen your subject knowledge, complete industry specific qualifications or certifications or change career direction, postgraduate study offers a wide range of options to take you to the next level of your academic and professional journey.

Options

- [Master's](#) degrees are available in a huge range of subjects which could enable you to build on your undergraduate knowledge, academic and professional skills, develop management, accounting or project management skills and research. Taught Master's degrees, such as MA, MSc and MPhil programmes typically include a dissertation, and some may offer internship opportunities. Courses usually last for one year on a full-time basis and may also be available part-time and via distance learning. Some courses have a January or February start date as well as an autumn one. A Research master's, MRes, offers the opportunity to develop your research skills. Courses may last one to two years.

Overseas courses may be longer than in the UK. Most Master's require a 2.1 Bachelor's Degree, although some programmes will accept a 2.2. Some employers may offer Master's-level [degree apprenticeships](#), where the employer pays the course cost. [Postgraduate loans](#) are available for most programmes.

- A [PhD](#) can provide the opportunity to research a subject of interest, usually over three years on a full-time basis, part-time options may also be available and are generally required for academic and research careers. Self-funded options are available and careful consideration and planning is required as to how you will cover tuition and living costs. PhD loans have recently been introduced and paid [Knowledge Transfer Partnerships](#) (KTP) may also offer funded training.

[Research Councils](#) fund research at universities and research institutes, and funded PhDs are available through research council funding, scholarships or bursaries which offer [studentships](#) to cover costs. It may be possible to apply for a PhD from undergraduate level if you have a First, or Upper Second-Class degree classification. Some PhD applications may require a [research proposal](#). The research is submitted as a thesis and presented and assessed at a [viva voce](#).

- **Teaching** offers [school](#) and [university](#) based training options, usually leading to a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) in Primary teaching or a secondary subject. University applications are submitted via [UCAS](#). [Bursaries and scholarships](#) may be available for shortage subjects and [Subject Knowledge Enhancement courses](#) are available. In addition to minimum GCSE requirements, [Professional Skills Tests](#) must now be passed before starting teacher training. Relevant work experience is essential.
- **Law** – non-Law graduates are currently required to complete a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL), before completing the Legal Practice Course LPC, required for those wanting to become a Solicitor. The [Solicitors Qualifying Exam \(SQE\)](#) will replace the GDL and LPC in autumn 2021. [CILEX](#) training and qualifications are available to those wishing to become a Chartered Legal Executive. The [Bar Practice Training Course \(BPTC\)](#) is required to become a Barrister.

- **Psychology** - [Psychology conversion courses](#) are available to non-Psychology graduates wishing to pursue a career as a Psychologist. The British Psychological Society (BPS) has a list of accredited [conversion courses](#). Specialist training is available to psychology graduates or professionals looking to work as [High Intensity Therapists](#) and [Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners](#).
- Industry accredited [professional courses](#) are available across a wide range of sectors including finance and accounting, marketing, journalism, HR, leadership and management, project management, sports and fitness, and technology. They are often sponsored by employers and required for senior level positions.
- A [Master's in Business Administration \(MBA\)](#) is globally recognised and available to experienced professionals, often with leadership and management experience to further develop their career, networking, management, commercial and strategic skills.

Finding Opportunities

findamasters.com

findamasters.com/study-abroad

findaphd.com

Jobs.ac.uk/phd

fulbright.org.uk (Postgraduate study opportunities in the US for UK students)

getintoteaching.education.gov.uk latest information on teaching in schools

researchersinschools.org

lawcareers.net (Legal course search and industry information)

[British Psychological Society \(bps.org.uk\)](http://British Psychological Society (bps.org.uk))

[National Council for the Training of Journalists \(ncjt.com\)](http://National Council for the Training of Journalists (ncjt.com))

Professional bodies may also be a source of contacts and networks.

Building Experience

Before undertaking any postgraduate qualification, it is important to know why you are doing it and where it will lead. Exploring career options and gaining work experience is important. Gaining work experience is essential for teaching, law and journalism as they are highly competitive and getting involved with clubs, societies, student media, volunteering and positions of responsibility can help you develop transferable skills.

Check [My Jobs Online](#) for internships and opportunities. Develop your research experience through projects and the [Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme \(UROP\)](#) and attend networking events, careers and study fairs and conferences. If you can raise awareness of your research by getting it published or presenting it will add value. Teaching or proctor experience is also helpful if you are considering an academic career.

Exploring Further

prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study

academiccareer.manchester.ac.uk

[UK Research Councils \(ukri.org\)](http://UK Research Councils (ukri.org))

[Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding \(postgraduate-funding.com\)](http://Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding (postgraduate-funding.com))

postgraduatesearch.com/funding

[QS World Rankings \(qs.com\)](http://QS World Rankings (qs.com))

