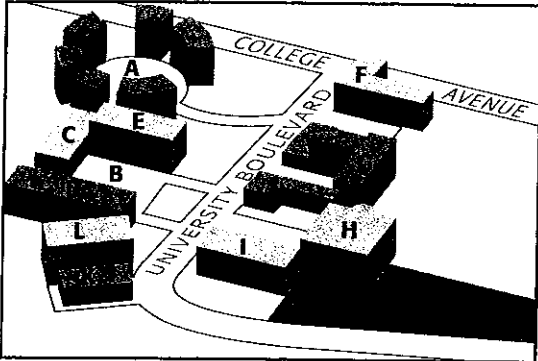


# 18 College and university: the UK system

## A Places



### Key

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A <b>Halls of residence</b> <sup>1</sup>      | G University Bookshop, Cafeteria and visitors' car park |
| B University Square, staff car park           | H University Library                                    |
| C <b>Administration</b> <sup>2</sup> Building | I <b>Student Union</b> <sup>5</sup>                     |
| D Arts <b>Faculty</b> <sup>3</sup> Building   | J Sports grounds  |
| E <b>Great Hall</b> <sup>4</sup>              | K <b>School</b> <sup>6</sup> of Engineering             |
| F University Health Centre                    | L Arts <b>Lecture Theatre</b> <sup>7</sup>              |

<sup>1</sup> a college building where students live <sup>2</sup> the main offices of the university, often shortened to 'admin' <sup>3</sup> a group of departments or schools (see 6) in a college which specialise in a particular group of subjects <sup>4</sup> a large hall where graduation ceremonies and other important events are held <sup>5</sup> a building

specially used by students to meet socially; the term also refers to the organisation of students which arranges social events and offers other services <sup>6</sup> part of a college or university specialising in a particular subject or group of subjects <sup>7</sup> a large hall with rows of seats, where lectures are held

## B People, structures and activities

Dr Ward, Adviser to International Students, is giving an introductory session for new international postgraduate students in the Department of English Language at Wanstow.

Dr Ward: Let me tell you about the staff. The Head of Department is **Professor**<sup>1</sup> Bradley. He will be giving some of the postgraduate **seminars**<sup>2</sup> as well as giving some of the first-semester **lectures**<sup>3</sup>. Then there are two **Senior Lecturers**<sup>4</sup>. They'll be handling lectures and **tutorials**<sup>5</sup>. Then there are six **lecturers**<sup>6</sup> – they're all listed in your information pack. You'll also meet our **Research Assistant**, Angela Gorski, and there are four **research students** doing PhDs. Each of you will be given a **personal tutor**<sup>7</sup>, who will be one of us. If you want to talk to any of us, our **office hours** are on the noticeboard and on the web page. Any questions?

Student: Is the personal tutor the same as our dissertation **supervisor**<sup>8</sup>?

Dr Ward: No. You'll be given a supervisor when you choose your dissertation topic. He or she'll supervise you during the **spring semester**<sup>9</sup> and the **summer vacation**<sup>10</sup>. Your personal tutor looks after your general academic welfare. You can also talk to a **student counsellor**<sup>11</sup> if you have any personal problems, and there's also a **postgrad rep**<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>1, 4</sup> and <sup>6</sup> **professor** is the most senior academic title; **senior lecturers** are below professors in academic rank, and **lecturers** are below senior lecturers <sup>2, 3</sup> and <sup>5</sup> **seminars** consist of a teacher and a group of students meeting to study and discuss something; **lectures** are more formal events where larger groups of students listen and take notes; **tutorials** are usually smaller groups where students discuss their work with a teacher <sup>7</sup> **teacher** who works with one student or a small group <sup>8</sup> **teacher** with responsibility for a particular student

<sup>9</sup> the university teaching year is normally divided into two semesters; the word **term** is also often used for the periods when students are in residence at a university <sup>10</sup> **period** when universities or colleges are closed; the word **holiday** is also used by students <sup>11</sup> **someone** trained to listen to students and give them advice about their problems <sup>12</sup> (informal) short form of *postgraduate representative* (someone who acts officially for that group of students)

## Applications and application forms

Here we look at applying for a place at a UK college or university. Institutions following the US system have different processes, which are usually described on their web pages.

### A Getting information

Read this information about preparing an application for postgraduate study.

#### What should I do first?

Do all you can to learn about the **careers**<sup>1</sup> that will be open to you after studying – and what **qualifications** you will need in order to get the job you want.

#### What qualifications do I need for postgraduate study?

A first degree **is required** to study at postgraduate level. The specific **entry requirements** for each course of study are listed on the individual course pages. If needed, **clarification**<sup>2</sup> may **be sought**<sup>3</sup> from the department you are applying to. Your performance in previous schooling is very important to your application **profile**<sup>4</sup>.

#### What are the requirements for international students?

In addition to the general admission requirements, international applicants must **submit**<sup>5</sup>:

- A **transcript**<sup>6</sup> of university courses and grades, translated into English, and
- Results of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), unless you have received **English-medium**<sup>7</sup> education for at least one year. Applicants must have a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 or a TOEFL score of 580.

#### Are any grants<sup>8</sup> or scholarships<sup>9</sup> available for international students?

Visit our **International Office** pages for details.

<sup>1</sup> the job or series of jobs that you do during your working life <sup>2</sup> making something clear by giving more details or a simpler explanation <sup>3</sup> past participle of *seek*: 'to look for' <sup>4</sup> overall character of the application <sup>5</sup> give something for a decision to be made by others <sup>6</sup> official document listing courses completed and

grades received <sup>7</sup> where all the classes are taught in English <sup>8</sup> money given specially by the government to a person to enable them to study <sup>9</sup> money given by a school, college, university, etc. to pay for the studies of a person with great ability

### B The application process

Look at this email from Tania to Liam. Tania is applying to study at Wanstow University.

Hi Liam,

At last I've **filled in** my application form and sent it off. It took ages. As well as all my personal details they wanted the names of two **referees**<sup>1</sup>, **financial guarantees**<sup>2</sup>, and I had to attach a **personal statement** saying why I wanted to go to Wanstow. Anyway, the **deadline**<sup>3</sup> is next Friday, then the website said they'd take about six weeks to **process**<sup>4</sup> the application after they **acknowledge**<sup>5</sup> it, then I might be **called for**<sup>6</sup> an interview.

By that time the **references** have to be in. I'm just hoping that because I'm a **mature student**<sup>7</sup> I might have a good chance of being **offered a place** – Wanstow has a lot of mature students and they have a strong **equal opportunities policy**<sup>8</sup>. The **fees**<sup>9</sup> are pretty high, but I can get a **student loan**<sup>10</sup> if I **get in**<sup>11</sup>.

Love, Tania

<sup>1</sup> person who knows you and who is willing to describe and, usually, praise you, to support your application <sup>2</sup> formal acceptance of financial responsibility and ability to pay (e.g. proof of a bank account) <sup>3</sup> final date by which something must be done <sup>4</sup> deal with documents officially <sup>5</sup> say that they have received it, NOT accepted-it <sup>6</sup> asked to attend

<sup>7</sup> a student at a college or university who is older than the usual age <sup>8</sup> principle of treating all people the same, regardless of sex, race, religion, etc. <sup>9</sup> amount of money paid for a particular service <sup>10</sup> money which must be repaid when one has completed one's studies <sup>11</sup> (informal) if I am accepted and given a place