

75 Academic life



Word	Example	Meaning
higher education	<i>After he left school, he went on to higher education.</i>	education at a college or university after the age of 18 go on (to sth) = continue
educated <i>adj</i>	<i>She's a very educated and professional member of staff.</i>	having had a high standard of education
educate (often <i>passive</i>)	<i>I was educated at a local school and then Cambridge University.</i>	teach sb over a period of time at school, university, etc.
academic	<i>I enjoy academic subjects like history and biology.</i>	connected to education, especially to school or university
undergraduate	<i>Undergraduates usually do a three-year course.</i>	a university student studying for their first degree (see <i>spotlight</i>)
graduate	<i>She's an Oxford graduate. She graduated last year.</i>	a person who has finished their degree graduate <i>v</i>
tutor	<i>You can ask your tutor for advice about the essay.</i>	sb who teaches and looks after a student or a small group of students in a university
professor	<i>She's a professor of law.</i>	the highest level of teacher in a university
lecture	<i>I went to an interesting lecture on Italian politics.</i>	a talk given to a large group to teach them a subject. The person is a lecturer . (see <i>picture 1</i>)
take notes	<i>I always take notes during lectures.</i>	write down the most important information from sth
seminar	<i>Are you going to the seminar this morning?</i>	a class at a university where a small group discuss a subject with a teacher
laboratory ALSO <i>lab inf</i>	<i>When I did my physics degree, we spent a lot of time in the lab.</i>	a special room where scientists do research, tests, experiments, etc.
campus	<i>I lived on campus during my first year.</i>	the area where the buildings of a college or university are (see <i>picture 2</i>)
write a thesis	<i>I'm writing a thesis on artificial intelligence.</i>	do a long piece of writing on a particular academic subject
do research	<i>He's doing research for a PhD.</i>	do a long and careful study of a subject. The person is a researcher .
conference	<i>I'm going to attend a conference on climate change at Cambridge University.</i>	a large official meeting where many people with the same job or interest come together to discuss their views

SPOTLIGHT degree courses

Universities give **degrees** to students who complete special courses. In the UK these are normally courses of at least three years, and up to five years for subjects such as medicine. You **do a degree** or **study for a degree**.

- *I'm **doing a degree** in law.*
- *My sister is **studying for a degree** in English.*

If you go on to do a higher degree, e.g. a Masters or a PhD, that is called a **postgraduate degree**. A student is then a **postgraduate** (ALSO *inf postgrad*).

1 Is the pronunciation of the underlined sounds the same or different? Write S or D.

Use the **APP** to help you. Practise saying the words.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ▶ write / <u>h</u> igher | <u>S</u> | 3 professor / conference | 6 a graduate / to graduate |
| 1 <u>t</u> utor / <u>u</u> rn | | 4 <u>th</u> e / <u>th</u> esis | 7 <u>u</u> ndergraduate / campus |
| 2 research / lecture | | 5 degree / thesis | 8 educate / graduate |

2 Tick the words that are people.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| ▶ professor | ☒ | educated | researcher |
| thesis | | undergraduate | lecturer |
| tutor | | research | seminar |
| lecture | | campus | a graduate |

3 Match 1–7 with a–h.

- | | | |
|-------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| ▶ lecture | <u>d</u> | a a degree |
| 1 go on | | b in the lab |
| 2 study for | | c to higher education |
| 3 do | | d to a group of undergraduates |
| 4 take | | e a conference |
| 5 write | | f research |
| 6 attend | | g a thesis |
| 7 work | | h notes |

4 Underline the correct answer.

- ▶ I thought the thesis/lecture this morning was a bit boring.
- 1 He's in his second year, so he's still an undergraduate / a graduate.
- 2 We had an interesting discussion in the lecture / seminar this morning.
- 3 I have decided to live on campus / university this year.
- 4 The students all have to write a 10,000 word lecture / thesis this year.
- 5 You can talk to your lecturer / tutor if you need more help.
- 6 She's been a professor in that school / university for many years.
- 7 He finished his degree and now he's a postgraduate / an undergraduate student.
- 8 Scientists spend a lot of time in laboratories / seminars.
- 9 Where were you graduated / educated?

5 Complete the text.

In ▶ higher (1) e....., if you are an (2) u..... studying for a (3) d..... in history or English, you will spend a lot of time studying alone, but you also have to attend some lectures and (4) s..... In seminars, the discussion is usually led by a (5) t....., and you may have to express your opinions on a range of (6) a..... topics. At the end of the course you take exams, and if you are successful, you (7) g..... Some (8) g..... leave university at this point, but those with a good degree may decide to stay on and do (9) r..... or a higher degree. This may take one, two or three more years of study, and for arts students usually involves writing a (10) t.....

6 ABOUT YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY Write your answers, or talk to another student.

- How long are most degrees in your country?
- Which degrees usually take the longest time to complete?
- Do many students go on to higher education after they leave school?
- Do students often live on campus?
- Do many students go on to do postgraduate degrees?
- Do universities often hold conferences?



TEST YOURSELF