

A

Subjects

You can **do/study** these subjects at university but not always at school.

medicine (to become a doctor)

engineering (to become an engineer)

economics (to become an **economist**)

business studies (to become a **businessman/**
woman and **go into business**)

law (to become a lawyer)

architecture (to become an **architect**)

psychology (to become a
psychologist)

B

Studying at university

Some students go to university because they enjoy studying, others just want a **qualification**¹. First, however, you have to get good **grades** in your final school exams to **get a place** at many universities. You can then **study for / do a degree**². If you complete the course **successfully**, you get your **degree**³ and receive a **certificate**⁴. In the UK, most degree courses **last**⁵ three years, although some take longer, e.g. medicine or law.

Teachers at university are usually called **lecturers**, and most of the **teaching** is done through **lectures**⁶. The most senior lecturers have the title **Professor**. Students doing **arts** subjects, e.g. English or history, will spend time working in the **library** and writing **essays**⁷.

Students doing **science** degrees, e.g. physics or chemistry, will probably spend a lot of their time working in a **laboratory** (*infml lab*).



library



laboratory (lab)

¹ something that you get when you are successful in an exam

² do a course at university

³ (also the word for) a university qualification

⁴ a document that shows you have completed a course successfully

⁵ continue for

⁶ the lecturer talks and the students listen

⁷ short pieces of writing on a particular subject

Language help

noun	verb	adjective
qualification	qualify	qualified
success	succeed (in sth / in doing sth)	(un) successful

C

Postgraduate degrees

When students are doing their first degree, they are called **undergraduates**. When they complete their degree, they are **graduates**. Some graduates **go on to do** [do something in the future] a Master's, e.g. in the UK an MA (Master of Arts) or MSc (Master of Science). These are called **postgraduate degrees**. The longest one is a PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) where students **do research** [make a detailed study of one particular subject] for at least three years.

Exercises

34.1 Complete the sentences.

- 1 To become a psychologist you need to study psychology.
- 2 To become an engineer you need to study
- 3 To become a doctor you need to study
- 4 To become an economist you need to study
- 5 To become a lawyer you need to study
- 6 To become an architect you need to study

34.2 Put the sentences in the correct order.

- I did a degree course.
I passed with good grades.
I got a Master's.
I did a postgraduate course.
I did my final exams at school.
I became an undergraduate.
I got a place at university.
I got a degree in business studies.

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34.3 Are the sentences about English universities true or false? If a sentence is false, correct it.

- 1 The teachers are all called professors. *False. Most teachers are called lecturers.*
- 2 Anyone can go to university if they want to.
- 3 Some students go to university just to get a qualification.
- 4 Most university degree courses in the UK last two years.
- 5 Students go to lectures at university.
- 6 If you are unsuccessful, you get a degree.
- 7 Students studying for their first degree are called graduates.
- 8 Science students have to write a lot of essays.
- 9 A PhD is a postgraduate degree.
- 10 If you study arts subjects, you work in a laboratory.

34.4 Complete the text.

Stephen got very good ¹ grades in his final school exams, and he went to university and got a ² in economics. He then ³ to do an MSc. The course ⁴ a year, and at the end of it, he had an offer to go ⁵ business with a friend. After two years though, he decided to go back to university to do ⁶ for a PhD. He knows it will be three years' work without much money, but he loves studying, and never went to university just for a ⁷ that would get him a good job earning a lot of money.

34.5 Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

- 1 Do you need to pass exams before you can go to university in your country?
- 2 How long do most degree courses last?
- 3 In England the first degree is called a BA or BSc. What are they called in your country?
- 4 Do you have similar postgraduate degrees in your country?
- 5 Do you get a certificate when you finish your degree?