

# 75 Academic life



Word	Example	Meaning
<b>higher education</b>	<i>After he left school, he went on to <b>higher education</b>.</i>	education at a college or university after the age of 18 <b>go on (to sth)</b> = continue
<b>educated</b> <i>adj</i>	<i>She's a very <b>educated</b> and professional member of staff.</i>	having had a high standard of education
<b>educate</b> (often <i>passive</i> )	<i>I was <b>educated</b> at a local school and then Cambridge University.</i>	teach sb over a period of time at school, university, etc.
<b>academic</b>	<i>I enjoy <b>academic</b> subjects like history and biology.</i>	connected to education, especially to school or university
<b>undergraduate</b>	<i><b>Undergraduates</b> usually do a three-year course.</i>	a university student studying for their first <b>degree</b> (see <i>spotlight</i> )
<b>graduate</b>	<i>She's an Oxford <b>graduate</b>. She <b>graduated</b> last year.</i>	a person who has finished their degree <b>graduate</b> <i>v</i>
<b>tutor</b>	<i>You can ask your <b>tutor</b> for advice about the essay.</i>	sb who teaches and looks after a student or a small group of students in a university
<b>professor</b>	<i>She's a <b>professor</b> of law.</i>	the highest level of teacher in a university
<b>lecture</b>	<i>I went to an interesting <b>lecture</b> on Italian politics.</i>	a talk given to a large group to teach them a subject. The person is a <b>lecturer</b> . (see <i>picture 1</i> )
<b>take notes</b>	<i>I always <b>take notes</b> during lectures.</i>	write down the most important information from sth
<b>seminar</b>	<i>Are you going to the <b>seminar</b> this morning?</i>	a class at a university where a small group discuss a subject with a teacher
<b>laboratory</b> ALSO <i>lab inf</i>	<i>When I did my physics degree, we spent a lot of time in the <b>lab</b>.</i>	a special room where scientists do research, tests, experiments, etc.
<b>campus</b>	<i>I lived <b>on campus</b> during my first year.</i>	the area where the buildings of a college or university are (see <i>picture 2</i> )
<b>write a thesis</b>	<i>I'm <b>writing a thesis</b> on artificial intelligence.</i>	do a long piece of writing on a particular academic subject
<b>do research</b>	<i>He's <b>doing research</b> for a PhD.</i>	do a long and careful study of a subject. The person is a <b>researcher</b> .
<b>conference</b>	<i>I'm going to attend a <b>conference</b> 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 / <u>l</u> ecture  |          | 5 <u>de</u> gree / <u>th</u> esis | 8 <u>e</u> ducate / graduate     |

**2 Tick the words that are people.**

- |             |                                     |               |            |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| ▶ professor | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | educated      | researcher |
| thesis      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | undergraduate | lecturer   |
| tutor       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | research      | seminar    |
| lecture     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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**