34 University education

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.	1
I became an undergraduate.	☐
I got a place at university.	☐
I got a degree in business studies.	☐

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?

LIVEWORKSHEETS