

# Higher Education Glossary

Use this glossary to create display boards around your school or college

## Degree

An academic qualification awarded to students after successful completion of a 3 or 4 year course in higher education, normally completed at a college or university.

## Foundation Year

A course for students who have the ability to study for a degree but do not have the required qualifications to enter directly onto it.

## Higher Education (HE)

An optional final stage of education that takes place after school and college or sixth form. This can be in the form of a degree at university or college, or as a higher or degree level apprenticeship.

## Undergraduate

A student who is currently completing their first degree (regardless of age).

## Preparing for higher education

### Bursary

Money from a university or college that certain students may be eligible to apply for, to assist with attending that university or college. It is usually based on financial need and is granted automatically if criteria are met. It does not have to be repaid.

### Clearing

The period after A-level results day in which students can apply to unfilled places at universities and other higher education institutions. It is an opportunity for any students without offers to find a course and for those who did not meet the required grades from their first place to find an alternative course. Students who achieved better than expected grades can also use this service to change courses.

### Maintenance Loan

This is a loan provided by Student Finance England. It is given directly to the student to cover living costs such as accommodation, food and socialising. The amount of money you are given depends on your household income.

### Personal Statement

The section of a UCAS application where students have the chance to tell the higher education provider you are applying to more about yourself. This is where you can show your passion for a course and detail things you have done outside of school or college.

### Scholarship

Money awarded by a higher education provider to the best students through a competitive process based on specific criteria such as academic success or wider achievements. Each institution will set their own requirements, deadlines, number available and application process. These are usually published on their websites.

### Student Finance England

The company which provides loans to all students wishing to enter higher education. They loan money to cover tuition and living costs.

### Tuition Fee Loan

This is a loan provided by Student Finance England to cover your course fees. The full amount is paid directly to your higher education institution and is not dependent on household income.

### UCAS

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service runs the universities and colleges application process. They open for applications in October for the following academic year.

# During higher education

## Campus

The area where all the college or university and related buildings are located. Many universities and colleges have more than one of these, so it is important to check where your course will be based.

## Dissertation

A detailed research project, usually between 10,000 and 15,000 words, written on a particular subject. Students conduct their own research and write it in the final year of their degree. Often, students choose their own subject so you get to write about something that interests you!

## Faculty

An umbrella group for related university departments, for example, the politics department may belong to the social sciences faculty. In some universities or colleges, these can also be called schools or departments.

## Fresher

An undergraduate in the first year of their course. Universities often organise events specifically for first year students to help them to settle in.

## Halls of Residence

Accommodation that all university students can apply to live in, though most only live there during their first year. They can vary in location and facilities.

## Integrated Masters

A four-year degree course which combines three years of undergraduate study with an additional fourth year at postgraduate (masters) level

## Joint Honours

There is the opportunity to study two different subjects alongside each other at degree level, such as history and English, depending on the institution.

## Lecture

A talk or presentation given by an academic, this usually takes place in a large hall and is delivered to a large number of students.

## Masters

An additional, more in depth course students can choose to study after their undergraduate degree. Some specialised careers require masters level study and in other competitive areas, masters level study can be an advantage.

## Mature Student

A student who is above the age of 21 when starting their undergraduate degree.

## Modules

Different units studied within a course. Some units will be compulsory, others will be optional, and you will be able to choose the ones that are best suited to your interests.

## Personal Tutors

An academic who provides academic and pastoral support to students on a one to one basis during their degree.

## Reading List

A list of books or articles which provide additional or background information on the subject being studied.

## Referencing

A way to name the sources which you have used when writing a piece of coursework. Different institutions use different referencing styles, but they all require the author of the source, the date it was published and usually where it was accessed from. The purpose is to make sure that you have not copied another person's work.

## Semester

The name for the two halves of the academic year at university. The first covers autumn and the second spring.

## Seminar

A class at university in which a topic is discussed by a teacher and a small group of students, usually based on previous lecture and reading.

## Societies

A student-led group of people who enjoy a common interest such as hobbies, sports and opinions. These groups are supported by the Student Unions, who can provide facilities and funding.

## Student Union (SU)

An association which is devoted to helping students by providing support for student activities such as events, sports and societies. It is also the name for a building where these activities may take place, and where student food outlets, bars and advice centres are.

## Year in Industry/Placement

A year students can take out to work in a chosen field before finishing their last year of study. Students can be paid by the employer while they are on a placement year.

## Year Abroad

Students can travel abroad to a partner university during their degree to study or work abroad.