

ENGINEER YOUR CAREER

STEP 4: EXPLORE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



WHAT IS POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION?

Postsecondary education is education obtained after secondary school at a variety of institutions including colleges, universities, and vocational programs. Postsecondary education typically leads to a degree or certification in a particular area of study and can improve your career opportunities and earning potential.

TYPES OF POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS



FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES

These institutions provide additional academic or vocational education to students typically after compulsory education ends. These schools offer programs to help students gain further qualifications to continue into higher education or to begin employment.



UNIVERSITY

These are schools that offer programs of study that lead to a bachelor's degree. Some may also offer master's and doctoral degrees. Universities usually require students to have A-level or equivalent qualifications and offer a variety of programs to study. The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) handles applications for undergraduate degrees at UK universities.

TYPES OF POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS (CONT.)



APPRENTICESHIP

These are training programs that combine on-the-job training and educational study. Students are matched with an employer and are typically paid throughout the program. The length of apprenticeships vary, but apprentices who complete their studies will gain experience to advance in their chosen field.



REFLECT

Think about what you have heard or already know about postsecondary institutions. Reflect on your answers the questions below or discuss them with a trusted adult:

- Which type(s) of institutions are available in my local area?
- Do I have a preference for one type of institution over another? Why?
- What else do I want to know about each type of institution?
- Who could I talk to learn more about each option?



In the chart on **page 7** you can gather information to compare and contrast postsecondary institutions.

FACTORS INFLUENCING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION CHOICES

Many factors can impact your choice to enroll in a postsecondary program. As you learn about and consider programs, think about some of the factors below – which ones are most important to you?



IDENTIFY YOUR INFLUENCING FACTORS

Review the table below and circle the top five factors that are important to you as you consider institutions. You can also write in additional areas you would like to consider.

Availability of major or program of interest	Cost of tuition	Look and feel of campus
Academic reputation	Financial aid / scholarships / bursary awards	Size of student population
Proximity to home	Diversity of student population	Extracurricular activities
Cost of application	Friend or family member attended	Sports teams/athletics
Other: -----	Other: -----	Other: -----

FUND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION



Paying for postsecondary education can seem like a daunting task for a young person and their family. There are many costs to consider such as tuition, application fees, study materials, transportation, and room and board.

Financial aid is available that can make paying for these expenses more affordable. Review the resources listed below and consult with a local school counselor or financial aid advisor to learn more.

COMMON FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS

SCHOLARSHIP

Money given by universities or organizations to support education. They are usually awarded based on academic or other achievements.

- May have specific conditions for eligibility
- Can be very competitive
- Does not need to be repaid
- Typically a one-time award and not renewable

BURSARY

Money given by a university, employer, or organization to support education. They are awarded based on household income, background, or personal circumstances (e.g. students with disabilities)

- Specific eligibility criteria
- Typically a one-time award

GRANT

Money given by a charity or organization to support education, typically for underrepresented groups.

- Specific eligibility criteria
- Typically a one-time award
- Can be used for specific purposes set by the donor



LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS

Use the resources below to research the costs of postsecondary education and to find scholarship opportunities. Next, lookup scholarships using the resources on **page 6**, and list any awards that you may be eligible for now or in the future.

Visit UCAS to learn more about student finance, scholarships, bursaries, and more:

<https://www.ucas.com/money-and-student-life>



FIND AND COMPARE INSTITUTIONS



Comparing and contrasting different types of postsecondary institutions will help you determine which school or program is the best fit for you.

‘Best fit’ is how well a program meets your academic, social, financial, and other needs. Consider all of these areas when applying to and selecting a program.



FIND POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

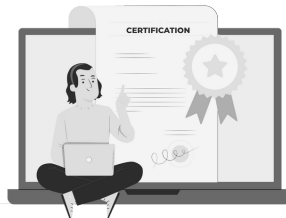
Use the sites listed below to gather information about various academic and training programs. You can also visit the websites of specific institutions you are interested in attending to see if they offer virtual or in-person tours to learn more.

UCAS
ucas.com



Search for courses of study and apply to colleges, apprenticeships, and universities all in one place.

Apprenticeships
gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship



Learn how apprenticeships work and find and apply to opportunities.

Global Universities
topuniversities.com



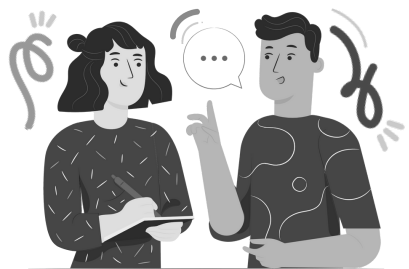
Search for colleges and universities around the world by location, degree, and program.



COMPARE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Choose 3-5 institutions you are considering and fill in the chart on the **page 7**. Use the last column to add any additional information that you think will help with your decision making.

STEP 4: EXPLORE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



As you gather information from the steps above, fill in the charts on pages 6 and 7.

If you need more space, print additional copies of these pages or create your own digital table in Excel or Google Sheets. Be sure to discuss your findings and questions with a family member, school counselor, or other trusted adult.

SCHOLARSHIP TRACKER

Look up scholarships that you may qualify for and track them in the chart below. Reach out to your school counselor to learn about awards from local community organizations.

Scholarship Name	Amount	Renewable	Eligibility/Application Requirements	Due Date	Contact Information
		☐ yes ☐ no			
		☐ yes ☐ no			
		☐ yes ☐ no			
		☐ yes ☐ no			
		☐ yes ☐ no			

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POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMPARISON CHART

Institution Name	Location	Size # of students	Academic Program of Interest	Required Tests and Scores	Cost per Year Note if rates change year-to-year	Financial Aid Options	Application Deadline	Notes