



Think Education • Think Intelligent

Every week, education expert Sanjeev Verma will answer your queries on studying abroad. E-mail queries to features@gulf-times.com

What information can you give me about pursuing Tertiary Education in the UK?

— **Scott Smith**

The UK is the world's second most sought after student destination following the US in terms of international

student enrollment numbers. Nearly all the institutions in the UK are public institutions, thereby indicating a smaller involvement of private businesses or corporations.

The UK fosters an excellent selection stream from a variety of institutions with a sizeable number of them being very well ranked in the world. Historically there are two categories of universities wherein some have been universities that date back to the origin of the country and some are joining similar ranks from previous technical or vocational institutes.

In this regard, students who wish to focus more on taught courses tend to look at the historically established universities, while the applicants wanting practical instruction favour the historically polytechnic vocational based institutions. The most praiseworthy aspect about

the UK education system that makes it a preferred choice is that the undergraduate degrees are mostly for three years and graduate study is for one year. It is thought to be less expensive due to the shorter duration and hence less tuition and one is employable sooner.

Another praiseworthy aspect is that besides the English Language proficiency exam of IELTS, no other additional college entrance examinations are necessary. Furthermore, unlike US and Canadian institutions, UK universities don't charge any application fees.

(Sanjeev Verma began with Ernst & Young and progressed to set up the Gulf operations of IDP Education Pty. He now leads Intelligent Partners, developing a wide range of solutions in areas of international education)

Variables to consider

Variables	Excellent	V Good	Good	Fair	Difficult	V Difficult
Ability to find Budget schools		X				
Finding schools with good reputation	X					
UK degree reputation	X					
Financial aid					X	
Ease of application	X					
Entrance exam requirements	X					
Visa				X		