

Zahraniční vzdělávací mobility pedagogů SGO

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A brief introduction to the education system in the UK, including primary schools, secondary schools and university preparation in the UK

- Education principles differ slightly in the four countries which constitute the UK

# Primary education in the UK

- In England and Wales, the law states that all children aged five to sixteen must receive full-time education.
- In Northern Ireland, the compulsory age for starting school is four.
- For children under age of five, publicly-funded nurseries and pre-schools are available for a limited number of hours each week.

- Children leave primary school at the age of eleven, moving on to secondary school.
- Parents can choose to educate their children at state or private schools.
- All children in the UK between the ages of five and sixteen are entitled to a free place at a state school, in contrast with the private education sector, where taxes are quite expensive.

- In the UK there are four main types of state schools.
- First is the community school, which is run by the local authority and has strong links with the local community, sometimes offering use of their facilities and providing services like childcare and adult learning classes.
- Foundation schools are run by their own governing body, which employs the staff and sets the admissions criteria; while a trust school is a type of foundation school which forms a charitable trust with an outside partner. Voluntary-aided schools are mainly religious or 'faith' schools, although anyone can apply for a place. As with foundation schools, the governing body employs the staff and sets the admission criteria. Voluntary-controlled schools are similar to voluntary-aided schools, but are run by the local authority.

# Secondary education in the UK

- At the age of eleven, children start their secondary-school education.
- From the age of eleven to fourteen, students in British state and private schools study a broad range of 10-15 subjects.
- Among them are: English, Maths, Science, Design and Technology, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Art and Design, Music, Citizenship, Physical Education.
- Careers education and guidance, Sex and Relationship Education and Religious education may also be included in the education curriculum.

- Secondary school graduation covers the period from age fourteen to fifteen.
- After this two-year period, students take GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) state examinations.
- The GCSE is a single-subject examination, set and marked by independent examination boards.
- Students usually take up to ten (there is no upper or lower limit) GCSE examinations in different subjects, including mathematics and English language.
- After this examination, students may choose to either leave school or continue with their education.
- They may continue at vocational or technical colleges, or pursue higher education in a university.

# University preparation in the UK

- At the age of sixteen, following two years of study, students may take A-Levels (Advanced Level examinations) required for university entrance in the UK.
- Over these two years following secondary school education, students specialise in three or four subjects that are usually relevant to the degree subject they wish to follow at university.
- At the end of the first year, students take AS level examinations.
- They continue with three or four of these subjects in the second year and convert them into full A level qualifications at the end of the year.
- A-Levels are state examinations and are recognised by all UK universities, and by institutions worldwide.
- Schools in the UK do not generally rank pupils within their year; currently, the principal standards are the GCSE, SCE and AS and A-Level examination results.

# 18 Plus

- The first three years of a university education will be in an undergraduate degree programme.
- An undergraduate degree may be a BA (Bachelor of Arts), BEng (Bachelor of Engineering), and BSc (Bachelor of Science).
- On completion, a student may also apply for a postgraduate programme and a PhD.
- And, since higher education is optional, expect to finance your Bachelor's degree by yourself.