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Education in GB

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It is impossible to imagine the UK developed in all areas without a clear, verified educational process over the years. Despite a certain conservatism in the educational sphere, we must admit that it is one of the best in the modern world.

Speaking about education in the United Kingdom, it is worth understanding that there are actually 2 different systems there – one in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the other in Scotland. Both of these systems are thoroughly developed and fully meet the needs of society.

Features of the educational system

For more than 70 years, the education system in the UK has been regulated by the "education Act", signed in 1944. This important document is more concerned with school education, but it also highlights many aspects of the entire educational system.

Education in the UK is divided into 5 stages:

- preschool – for children 3-4 years old;
- primary – for students aged 5-11;
- secondary – for students aged 11-16;
- post-secondary – for students aged 16 to 18;
- higher education - for students over 18 years of age.

Education for children from 5 to 16 years is mandatory. Whether a child should study before the age of 5 is decided by his parents, and whether it is necessary to get an education after the age of 16 is decided by the citizen himself. The system is designed so that students can complete some educational stages in one institution, while others require training in specialized institutions.

Preschool education

Pre-school education in the UK is an integral part of full-time education, and it is not uncommon for kindergartens to be part of primary schools. Children aged 3-4 years can attend kindergartens or nurseries at the request of their parents. There kids are taught to write, read and count, comprehensively develop them through games. There are public and private preschool institutions.

British pre-school education is limited to ages 2-7, but, in fact, most children are in a nursery from 2 to 4 years, then they are sent to primary school.

You must pay for full-time kindergarten services or send your child to a free nursery, but they are only designed for 2-3 hours a day. The average cost of British pre-school education is significantly higher than in other European countries, so the country provides parents with special credit programs.

Elementary school

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, primary school education can start at different ages:

- from 4 to 11 years (Primary School) with a 7-year period of study;
- * from 7 to 13 years (Junior School) with a 6-year training period.

In Scotland, the primary school admission policy is somewhat different in that the formation of school groups depends on what month of the year the child was born

- * children born from March to August go to school from 5-5. 5 years;

* children born between September and February go to school at 4 years – 4 years and 11 months.

Experts believe that the Scottish system of forming school groups is more flexible.

Primary school students study geography, history, mathematics, English, music, art, and industrial technology. All these subjects in primary school are chosen by parents for their children.

Students in UK schools study for 6 semesters or terms, starting in September and ending in July. The school year lasts 38 weeks, there are also 2-3 weeks of holidays for Christmas and Easter holidays, as well as 6 weeks in the summer. In the middle of each trimester, children are given another 1-week break. In most cases, education in schools is 5 days.

Schools have their own examination systems. In Primary School, this is the SATS, which is held 2 times: one 2 years after the start of training and another at the end of the educational stage. In Junior School, the "11+" exam is held – it is the final one for training. Both of these exams are required for the transition from primary to secondary school.

High school

Common feature

At the age of 11-13, children go to secondary school and study there until the age of 17. This period of study is also mandatory for all UK citizens. At the end of school, students receive a GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) – a certificate of secondary education. There are also schools in the country that issue the GNVQ (General National vocational Qualification), a certificate of professional qualification.

Children of immigrants are also enrolled in secondary schools from the age of 11-13, but most often they are assigned to boarding schools.

After 2 years of high school, all students take the "13+" General entrance exam or Common Entrance Examinations in subjects such as:

- English (British and international);
- math (counting in the mind, with or without a calculator);
- geography, history;
- Latin and Greek writing;
- chemistry, physics, or biology;
- Irish and Welsh (for Northern Ireland and Wales, respectively);
- foreign languages to choose from.

Based on the results of the exam, students receive a pass to further study in high school. In the period of 14-17 years, students prepare for the General Certificate of Secondary Education exams – this is the final test for obtaining a certificate of secondary education. The list of exam subjects is repeated by analogy with "13+" with the addition of several more disciplines.

School education in the UK is strictly disciplined, for example, for absenteeism or poor academic performance, a student may be excluded from school.

If parents want to teach their child at home, they need to obtain official permission from the Board of education.

Private school

Private schools in the UK are called public schools – these are educational organizations of full or partial boarding, which is less common. They are closed educational institutions where students are fully supported, that is, they study and live there. These schools have become traditional in the United Kingdom, and are a prominent feature of British private education.

Private schools undoubtedly have advantages over public schools – they have more subjects to study, a strong material base, and highly

qualified teaching staff. All this has led to the fact that graduates of private British schools are more likely to enter higher education.

Secondary special education

In addition to schools, in the United Kingdom there are institutions called Tertiary Colleges where students can get a professional education, i.e. a specific profession (the English equivalent of our vocational schools). Training in such institutions is an alternative to the A-Levels programs, which will be discussed later, but unlike them, Tertiary Colleges involve further professional activity, that is, a less flexible approach to further possible training.

For institutions of this type, private changes in educational programs are typical.

Post-secondary education

After graduating from high school, every British person has two options: either go to work, or continue their studies at a College or University. If a person chooses the second option, then they must receive additional preparatory education, that is, pass two-year A-Levels courses. They are the study of 4-5 specialized disciplines in the first year and 3-4 more disciplines in the second year. The student chooses which subjects to study, because they determine their future specialization.

Each year, students must take exams, but they are not clearly regulated, the student can choose the subjects that he wants from the total number of proposed disciplines.

If a foreigner comes to the UK for higher education, then their path begins with a-Levels courses. For foreigners, a more simplified, but more intensive option is also possible (for only 1 year) under the Foundation program. Its peculiarity is that the student pays attention to only 1-2 specialized subjects and in-depth language study in order to understand the academic English University vocabulary in the future.

Higher education

General information

The last stage of students is higher education, which students enter at the age of 18. It begins with a bachelor's degree, which lasts 3-4 years (in the field of medicine-6 years). If the bachelor's degree takes 4 years of the student's time, then the 4th year offers knowledge for the first level of the master's degree.

Anyone who has received a bachelor's degree can continue their education at the following educational levels:

- Master's degree (1-2 years of study).
- Postgraduate course (3 years of study).

There are three types of colleges in the United Kingdom:

- Classic (they have been accredited and can issue a bachelor's degree).
- Technical (have a narrowly focused training program and provide practical basic training in a specific work specialty).
- Further education (they provide special professional education, for example, in the field of mechanical engineering, design).

There are two types of universities in the UK:

- Unitary (they include faculties and departments).
- Collegiate (they combine several dozen colleges), such as Cambridge and Oxford universities

Higher education for all residents of the UK, including foreigners, is paid. However, citizens of the country have some privileges in payment, while foreign students must pay the full cost of their studies. In the country, there is support for students in the form of scholarships and grants that can be received by especially gifted students.

The start time of classes in higher education institutions is October. The academic year is divided into trimesters, which in turn last 8-10 weeks. The main forms of work in colleges are lectures, seminars, and laboratory work. In addition, there are also tutorials for groups of students of 2-10 people, for which the teacher (tutor) conducts their own classes. Students' vacations last from June 1 to September 30.

Features of higher education in the UK

More than 600 colleges in the United Kingdom (both public and private) offer young people professional majors in various fields. Prospective students can choose between studying at an Institute, University, or Polytechnic College (where they are supposed to receive a scientific or doctoral degree). Doctoral degrees are awarded to students for invaluable and outstanding contributions to science or for special inventions or research for practical application.

University students are offered a large number of electives to choose from, and they have access to research laboratories and state-of-the-art libraries. And the educational program is so flexible that it allows you to get 2 academic degrees in different directions at once as a result of successfully completed training.

In the United Kingdom, distance learning in higher education is also encouraged. In this case, the student learns independently, focusing on specially designed educational packages. At the same time, they have the opportunity to communicate with teachers and consult them by email or online.

Education in the UK can be called elite, so many high-ranking parents from around the world are trying to help their children enter British universities. Despite the high cost of education, students gain in-depth knowledge, learn social manners, and most importantly, acquire valuable connections in business and politics. Diplomas from UK universities are the most prestigious in the world, every year up to 3.5 million students study here, of which more than 400 thousand are foreigners.

The success of the developed educational system in the UK is also evidenced by the fact that its principles were adopted in Canada and Australia.

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