

Foundation programme

Universities have recently introduced Foundation Programmes that are designed for international students to enter specific undergraduate programmes at their universities. Some universities have merged this programme into their main degree programme; a standard three year degree programme then is of 4 years duration.

The duration of the programme is 9-12 months and there is some flexibility in the length depending on the academic background of the student.

Besides English and Mathematics, students study subjects that are directly relevant to a degree. The programmes are usually run on university campuses.

A levels/IB or Foundation?

Only you can decide: know the differences

A Levels/IB

2 years duration after O levels

Foundation

One year duration after O levels

A Levels/IB

Prescribed range of subjects

Foundation

Degree relevant subjects

A Levels/IB

Administered by external parties

Foundation

Administered by university

A Levels/IB

Academically strong. High benchmark

Foundation

Varying standard of difficulty. Higher pass rate. Better success rate

A Levels/IB

Recognised globally

Foundation

Designed for access to host university. Some highly selective universities might not recognise Foundation Programmes from other universities

A Levels/IB

Well suited for competitive degrees such as Medicine, Dentistry etc, especially if applying to more than one country

Foundation

Foundation programme is usually tied to host university. For Medicine or Dentistry, need to do specialised Foundation

A Levels/IB

School based learning - outcome is based on exams only

Foundation

University style teaching. Outcome based on assignments, projects, presentations etc. Eases transition to university as better prepared for university teaching. Easier to adjust to university life

International Year One

Offered by UK universities. The programme is designed for international students who narrowly missed the entry requirement for their preferred choice.

The one year intensive preparation course will allow you to reach the required level to enter the 2nd year of the undergraduate degree. In addition to studying for the material that covers the first year of a Bachelors degree, the programme also includes academic preparation in a smaller class setting with more individual support from lecturers and tutors and higher contact hours.

Compared to direct first year university entry, the International Year One carries more assessments to monitor the student's progress. This helps develop good study skills and highlight areas that might need further attention.

The programme is offered on university campus and covers entry into the second year of a wide range of programmes. Most programmes have multiple start dates