

*Because the language of higher education varies by country, The Glossary of Terms has been established as a living document to help the Global Community navigate those variances and reach a shared understanding of how we structure and define our institutions and programs. To make a contribution to the Glossary, email your submission to baker@ksu.edu.*

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# Global Glossary of Terms

A collaborative initiative by  
NACADA's Global Initiatives Committee (GIC)



# A

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## ACADEMIC ADVISOR

**Canada:** Academic advisors are usually professional staff but can also be faculty. Academic advisors assist students in matching programs and abilities with interests (and in some instances with career goals) and provide guidance on academic requirements and strategies and resources to support program planning and degree completion. In some cases, academic advisors will represent the school or faculty in recruitment events and support students transitioning to the program that they are representing.

**Greece:** Advising in Greece does not really exist in Public Universities, which are the majority. The reason is that the Greek educational system does not allow students to change majors (see [Major](#) for more). When the major is decided, students have a specific, straightforward curriculum that does not change. If students need clarification about course assignments, they can meet their professors during office hours.

At American universities in Greece, advisors are professional staff members responsible to provide advising to students until students complete 51 credit hours. Responsibilities include assisting with freshman orientation and explaining majors/minors and general education requirements, career paths, course selection, and registration processes. After 51 credits, students should meet with a faculty major advisor as long as they are in good standing (2.00 GPA).

**UAE:** A faculty member or administrator assigned to counsel students on academic matters such as degree progression, course registration, study skills, college success, career options, transition to university, etc.

## ACCREDITATION

**Netherlands:** The Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) was established by the Dutch and Flemish governments as an independent accreditation organisation tasked with providing an expert and objective assessment of the quality of higher education in the Netherlands and Flanders. The main tasks of NVAO are to assess and assure the quality of Dutch and Flemish higher education and promote a culture of quality in higher education. NVAO fulfills these tasks with an international perspective and in the context of the European Bologna process.

**China:** In terms of the degree conferral right and degree management, China implements a state authorization system and a three-level management system. The Central Committee has established the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council, following which provincial- and regional-level academic degree committees have been created. Moreover, universities and research institutions implementing graduate education have their own university-level academic degree evaluation committees. All degrees at each level are printed by the office of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council and issued by degree-conferring units. For the purpose of computer network querying and checking for counterfeits, the national unified numbering system is applied for every degree diploma. In a like manner, all professional degree diplomas are printed by the office of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council. Pilot professional degree conferring units can apply for degree

grants from the office of the Academic Degrees Committees of the State Council and are regularly supervised and controlled by that office.

## **ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE**

**Netherlands:** Higher professional degree of study that usually takes two years. This is a diploma at level 5 of the NLQF (see [Qualification Framework](#)).

## **ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES**

**Netherlands:** In the Association of Universities in the Netherlands, Dutch universities work together for a strong university sector. The 14 Dutch universities within the VSNU are models for fulfilling their social function; formulation shared ambitions relating to academic education, research, and valorization; and lobbying for the preconditions needed to realize these shared ambitions.

# B

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## BACHELOR'S DEGREE

**Netherlands:** After having obtained 240 credits (4 years of 60 credits), students are awarded a bachelor's degree (B) of an Applied University/HBO, being level 6 according to NLQF (see [Qualification Framework](#)). A bachelor of science and a bachelor of art at a university take 3 years of 60 ECTS to complete.

**UK:** The bachelor's degree with Honours meets in full the requirements for a higher education qualification at Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and is a first-cycle, end-of-cycle award in the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area established by the Bologna Process. Bachelor's degree classifications are:

- First
- Upper Second Class (this is normally considered a good degree by employers such as the Civil Service and is frequently the minimum required for a student to progress to postgraduate study; a student with a lower degree class would be unlikely to receive funding)
- Lower Second Class
- Third
- Pass

# C

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## CAREER COUNSELING

**Netherlands:** Study career counseling is an overarching concept for supervising students (not science content related). It concerns the phases from secondary school with information, recruitment, and selection, to progress and career counseling during the study. The final phase focuses on labor market orientation and transition to the labor market. During this entire period, a chain of activities and facilities are offered for the benefit of the student and in line with the needs and questions that arise. The chain of support options consists of activities and facilities offered by the faculties/programs, as well as activities and facilities offered by the central services and agencies.

**UK:** Universities offer specialized careers centres, which students are encouraged to visit by the beginning of their second year. They offer a wide range of services, including help with preparing applications and curriculum vitae (CVs), information about employers, and helping students to develop transferable skills. Career centres will organize regular careers fairs when employers visit the university. Some careers advisers have links to particular academic departments. Because the careers advisers are specialists, personal tutors or academic advisers do not normally give careers advice but encourage students to visit the careers centre.

## CHANCELLOR

**UK:** The titular, non-resident head of a university. Chancellors chair meetings of the University Court and carry out certain ceremonial duties, such as presiding at degree ceremonies. They may be assisted by a Pro-Chancellor.

## CLASS

**China:** A class is a basic unit of education and teaching, and it is also a fundamental organizational unifier for studying and living in Chinese universities and colleges. As such, Chinese classes have the following features:

- Students focus on maintaining a long-term stability and harmony. In other words, a class is formed first, and only then students in the class are enrolled to take different courses.
- Within the class, class-level student organizations exist (e.g. class monitor, class committee) that manage the class by self-governing or through assisting the class teacher, a practice that forms a special social community.
- As one of student management levels, classes in China undertake a large amount of management and education work.
- A class in China is not only a learning community, but also an organization where students live together and are educated and managed together. This cohesive learning community has a unique ecological environment.

## CLASS COUNSELOR

**China:** A class counselor works in the capacity of a friend and instructor to organize and help students perform a variety of educational activities. Their responsibilities emphasize the moral development of students and their extra-curricular activities and life outside the curriculums. One of the major

competency requirements of a class counselor is proficiency, knowledge, and experience in academic advising.

## CLASS TEACHER

**China:** Class teacher is a job title in modern schooling and it is a position created after the classroom teaching system appeared; in China, the class teacher is fully responsible for students' thinking, learning, health, and life and also works as liaison to other teachers, team organizations, family, and even society in general. In terms of administration, the class teacher reports to the associate dean of a department who is in charge of teaching.

## COLLEGE

**Canada:** A post-secondary institution; colleges grant diplomas, certificates, and bachelor's degrees in applied areas of study. Colleges also have pre-trades and apprenticeship training. Generally, a certificate is 1 year or less, and a diploma program is 2 or 3 years.

**UK:** A post-secondary institution; colleges grant diplomas, certificates, and bachelor's degrees in applied areas of study. Colleges also have pre-trades and apprenticeship training. Generally, a certificate is 1 year or less, and a diploma program is 2 or 3 years.

The US definition of college, as something we would call a faculty or department, is growing in popularity. Some universities (for instance, Cambridge, Oxford, London, etc.) are federal, being composed of different colleges, and students apply for admission to a particular college. Degrees are awarded by the university, but most teaching takes place in the college to which the student has been admitted, although it is possible to take some classes in a different college in the same institution. The facilities of the university as a whole are open to students from all colleges. For example, a student may apply, and be admitted, to King's College London and study in that college, but will be awarded a degree from the University of London and will be able to use the University Library, Sports Centre, Students' Union, etc., as well as the facilities offered by King's College.

## COUNSELOR

**Netherlands:** The Student Counsellor is a position with the goal to design and implement advice for students and draft and update student policy to allow students to function optimally within the study environment. Counsellors give advice to students and potential students regarding student policy, laws and regulations, and study skills. Counsellors may issue decisions to students on admission, credential evaluation, financial support, or deregistration. (For a psychologist on campus, see [Student Psychologist](#).)

**UK:** Used specifically as a term for mental health professionals. Specialist counsellors from the university Counselling Service may offer some training to personal tutors and academic advisers to help them in their interactions with students. However, it is made very clear that the boundaries of tutors' and advisers' competence must be clearly understood, and students should be referred to the Counselling Service for mental health support when this is appropriate.

# D

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## DEGREE

**China:** China has a three-tiered degree system for higher education consisting of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. Any citizen who meets the requirements of higher education institutions either through being an autodidact or more commonly through the normal channels of undergoing formal schooling can apply for corresponding degrees from degree-conferring units. In China, degree programs are divided into 12 program categories: philosophy, economics, humanities, law, natural sciences, technology, agriculture, medical sciences, history, pedagogy, management, and military affairs.

Degrees can also be categorized into Academic Degrees and Professional Degrees. The title of Academic Degree is reserved as a general term for degrees received in the fields of humanities and natural sciences (e.g. Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts, Master of Science), focusing on theoretical and academic research. Professional Degrees require a professional background and are offered to those possessing high-level expertise in particular occupations (e.g. Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Architecture, Master of Business Administration, M.D., Master of Law, Master of Engineering).

**UK:** Most degrees are awarded with Honours. Ordinary degrees (without Honours) are largely a thing of the past, although they may be awarded to students who have not achieved the number of credits necessary for an Honours degree. In Scotland, students may choose to take a General (not Honours) degree; after two years, they may elect to pursue the Honours route and are strongly encouraged to do this, as it involves greater specialization and is more respected by employers.

Traditionally, UK degrees have been Single Honours, concentrating on studying one subject in depth, usually with a subsidiary subject. However, Joint Honours (two main subjects), Combined Honours (three or possibly more main subjects) and Interdisciplinary programmes are now very widespread and are popular with employers. Some UK universities have also begun to offer Liberal Arts programmes. Major-minor programmes, with two-thirds of the curriculum in the major subject and one-third in the minor one, are also frequently offered, and students may be able to transfer into one of these after the first year of a single, joint, or combined programme. (Also see [Bachelor's Degree](#) and [Master's Degree](#).)

## DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION LAWS

**UK:** The Disability Discrimination Act (1995), now replaced in all parts of the UK except Northern Ireland by the Equality Act (2010), requires all institutions to make reasonable adjustments for all students and staff with disabilities.

**Netherlands:** The Higher Education and Research Act (2015) and the Equal Treatment Act (2015) in the Netherlands oblige Higher Education institutions to offer students with a disability reasonable means, support, facilities, and opportunities. Adequate support for students with a disability has also become a part of the university accreditation process. All institutions of higher education in the Netherlands have to meet and maintain minimum standards of the government

## DISSERTATION/THESIS

**UK:** A dissertation is a piece of original written work submitted as part of the assessment of a taught Master's degree. In the case of a Master's degree by research, the dissertation will usually constitute the entirety of the assessment. For a doctorate (PhD, etc.), the written work is called a thesis.

**Netherlands:** The report of a bachelor's or master's research at the end of the course can be called a thesis. A dissertation is an original scientific essay written by a PhD student to obtain the doctoral degree.



# F

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## FACULTY

**Canada:** A faculty member is a member of the regular teaching staff, including professors, associate professors, and assistant professors or instructors. A faculty is a group of related departments or schools.

**China:** Academic staff of various levels including lecturer, professor of practice, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor.

**Netherlands:** A department of a university or applied university.

**UAE:** Academic staff of various levels including lecturer, professor of practice, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor.

**UK:** A grouping of academic schools or departments: for instance, the School of English and the School of History are in the Faculty of Arts; the School of Chemistry is in the Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, etc. The head of a faculty is the dean, who may be supported by a pro-dean for learning and teaching and one for research. Not used in the UK to mean academic staff.

**USA:** Academic professionals with teaching (and often research) responsibilities. Some faculty have academic advising responsibilities, although at some institutions, academic advising is done primarily by professional staff members.

## FURTHER EDUCATION

**UK:** Further education refers to any study after secondary education that is not taken as part of a degree, as distinct from degree-level study, which is called higher education. Some universities now franchise the first level of their degree programmes out to an associated college of further education.

# G

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## GRADUATE STUDENT

**Canada:** A student who has received a bachelor's degree or equivalent and who is enrolled in a program leading to a master's or doctoral degree.

**UK:** Not a standard term in the UK (see [Postgraduate](#)).

**USA:** Student working towards a master's degree or higher degree.

# H

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## HIGHER EDUCATION

**Netherlands:** Higher education is a form of education that follows secondary education. It includes higher professional education that is taught at universities of applied sciences (HBO) and scientific education that is taught at universities (WO).

HBO courses are provided by colleges. In contrast to universities, higher vocational education programs focus primarily on the development of skills in close connection with professional practice in addition to the transfer of subject-theoretical knowledge. Higher professional education also has an associate degree. This usually takes two years and is a diploma at level 5 of the NLQF (see [Qualification Framework](#)). After obtaining 240 credits, students are awarded a bachelor's degree (see [Bachelor's Degree](#)).

# J

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## **JOB CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**

**Netherlands:** Under the UFO (a job classification system created in 2003), all Dutch university employees are assigned a job profile (a brief description of their job) and a corresponding job level. A handbook provides an explanation to the automated UFO classification instrument, which includes all 115 job descriptions. It contains information such as:

- the different steps in the classification process;
- the basic principles of the classification; and
- an overview of the job titles and levels.



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## **LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**UAE:** Software application typically used in schools and in higher education by faculty to deliver educational content, track student progress, and report on learning outcomes. There are many such software applications available in the market such as Blackboard and Moodle.

# M

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## MAJOR

**Canada:** The area of specialization within a degree program (e.g. a bachelor's degree with a major in history).

**Greece:** An academic major is the academic emphasis which an undergraduate student officially chooses to complete. In order for student to complete their degree, there are specific required major courses, usually all from the same department. Students complete the Greek National Examination once a year (usually every June with a maximum of 3 times), and based on their test results, students are able to select a few major options.

However, the final test score that specific schools require changes yearly based on the market needs and student demand. Unfortunately, this means that many students are not able to attend their dream school and need to major in their 3rd or 4th option. That is the reason many Greek students go to other European countries and the US, in order to study what they really like. They also attend some American Universities (private or non-profit) that exist in Greece and follow the American system.

**UAE:** The student's main field of study. A major is required for higher education degree completion.

## MASTER'S DEGREE

**UK:** The master's degree requires one or two years of postgraduate study. At Oxford and Cambridge (commonly referred to as Oxbridge), students may be awarded a master's degree some years after graduation on payment of a fee. A Scottish Master's of Arts (MA) typically refers to a first degree in humanities or social sciences awarded by certain universities in Scotland (St Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt, and Dundee). Most master's degrees are awarded with a classification of pass or distinction, although four-year integrated master's degrees are classified in the same way as bachelor's degrees (see [Bachelor's Degree](#)).

## MINOR

**Canada:** An optional program that allows a student to study in an area outside of their Honours, Major, or General Program area. It would be incorporated into the student's program.

**Greece:** A set of courses that a student takes, usually using the electives section of their degree, to complement their major. Generally, students who wish to earn a minor have to take about six to seven courses that relate to the minor area.

**Netherlands:** A minor subject that is studied during the bachelor's degree which usually requires 30 ECTS.

**UAE:** Secondary field of study typically requiring 18 or more credits. This is supplementary and therefore not required for higher education degree completion

# P

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## PERSONAL TUTORING

**UK:** Personal tutoring has traditionally been delivered in the UK by academics, although some universities are exploring the possibility of providing professional academic advisors that sometimes liaise with academics. The situation is fluid. Personal tutoring may be either academic or pastoral, or a combination of the two. Responsibilities of the personal tutor are:

- to be a responsible person in whom the student may confide;
- to provide support and encouragement;
- to monitor the student's progress and provide appropriate feedback (if the tutor is also an academic tutor);
- to be a link between the tutee and the institution;
- to assist tutees in finding how they may resolve problems; and
- to refer tutees to sources of professional support and not to feel obliged to become experts in all areas.

## PROFESSOR

**Canada:** Academic career progression begins with assistant professor and moves to associate professor with promotion. A full professor is, as in the UK, the most prestigious academic title.

**UK:** The highest and most prestigious academic title, usually bestowed for achievement in research, although some now receive this for excellence in teaching and its development. A small department might have only one professor; a large one might have several. A professor occupies a Chair, which may be a personal one or endowed. For instance, at Leeds, the Professor of Spanish is the Cervantes Professor, and occupies the Cervantes Chair of Spanish; at King's College London, the Professor of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies is the Camões Professor and holds the Camões Chair.

## POSTGRADUATE

**UK:** A student who has received a bachelor's degree or equivalent and who is enrolled in a program leading to a master's or doctoral degree. The student may be PGT (postgraduate taught) or PGR (postgraduate research). Someone studying for a first degree is an undergraduate.

## PRESIDENT

**Canada:** The duties and responsibilities of the president and vice-chancellor are summarized in the University Act. As the chief executive officer of the university or college, the president is responsible for providing overall leadership. The president directs operations, including academic work, business affairs, alumni relations, government relations, and engagement with the broader community.

**UK:** See [Vice Chancellor](#).

## PRIVATE SCHOOL

**Canada:** Private schools are fee-paying. Organized like public schools, the curricula and approach can differ considerably, from experimental to traditional. Private schools include boarding schools, single-sex schools, schools sponsored by religious groups, and independent schools.

## PROBATION/PROBATIONARY STUDENTS

**Greece:** If a student has a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or above, they are in good standing. When student's cumulative grade point average falls below a 2.00, they are placed on academic probation and will be subject to some restrictions. At the beginning of the semester, students on probation receive notification of probation and information regarding the suspension policy. As long as the student maintains a 2.0 semester GPA, the student will be able to continue taking courses, even though the student may remain in probationary status if their cumulative GPA remains below a 2.0. If the student's semester GPA drops below a 2.0 during the probationary period, they will be placed on academic suspension.

## PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES

**UK:** Some professional institutions are colleges. Examples are the Royal College of Nursing, the Royal College of Physicians, and the Royal College of Surgeons.

## PUBLIC SCHOOL

**Canada:** Primary and secondary public schools in Canada are the responsibility of individual provincial departments of education. Provincial departments of education allocate funds, set policy, and certify teachers.

**UAE:** Uses the term government school (vs. private school). Government schools receive funding from the government and follow the UAE National Education Curriculum

**UK:** An independent, fee-paying school, usually one of the more prestigious (and expensive) ones. Public schools are also known as private schools, but there are many private, fee-paying schools which are not normally known as public. State schools are those funded by the government.



# Q

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## QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK

**Europe:** The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) is a common European reference framework for standardization across different countries. The framework provides qualifications at all levels and an overview of qualifications in the 39 countries currently linking their framework to the EQF. This allows countries to be transparent about their education systems and easily understand other qualification systems.

**Netherlands:** The Dutch qualifications framework (NLQF) is a framework for the classification of all possible qualifications from basic education to a doctorate. NLQF makes it possible to compare formally regulated qualifications to non-formal qualifications (often provided by private institutions). The framework is useful for employers so that they can see what a (potential) employee knows and is able to do and provides insight for further career development. The levels of the NLQF are linked to the levels of the EQF: European Qualification Framework.

The framework consists of eight levels and one entry level. Each of the 8 levels is defined by a set of descriptors indicating the learning outcomes relevant to qualifications at that level. The levels are based on descriptions of what someone knows and is able to do after completion of a learning process, regardless of where and, to an extent, in what timeframe this took place. These descriptions of the levels of knowledge, skills, autonomy, and responsibility are referred to as learning outcomes.

# R

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## RECTOR

**UK:** In Scotland, the Rector chairs meetings of the University Court, the governing body of the university, and is elected by the students at regular intervals (usually every three years to enable every undergraduate who obtains a degree to vote at least once). The Rector has a key role in supporting students, attends meetings of Court, works with the Students' Union or Students' Representative Council, and brings student concerns to the attention of the management of the university. The Rector is frequently a well-known public figure: recent Rectors at Scottish universities have included the actor Sir Patrick Stewart, the Member of Parliament Charles Kennedy, and the prominent human rights lawyer Aamer Anwar.

**Netherlands:** Rector Magnificus (or rector) is the title of the professor-director of a university, a member of the executive board. They are usually elected (in Belgium) or selected (in the Netherlands) because they are a respected member of the professor corps and would like to fill the position.

# S

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## SCHOOL

**Canada:** Refers to elementary or primary grades (kindergarten and grades 1–6) or secondary grades (junior high school and senior high school).

**UAE:** Refers to primary or secondary educational institution. Some American Curriculum Universities may include a school at the higher education level.

**UK:** The primary meaning of this is a primary or secondary school, where students go from the age of 5 to 16, 17, or 18. A person saying, “I go to school at . . .” would never be understood as going to college or university. The word may also mean a university department. It would usually be a fairly large department and would probably teach more than one subject.

## SIGNPOST

**UAE:** See [Learning Management System](#).

**UK:** Software application typically used in schools and in higher education by faculty to deliver educational content, track student progress, and report on learning outcomes. There are many such software applications available in the market such as Blackboard and Moodle.

## SOCIAL PRACTICE

**China:** Social practice of college students refers to a series of activities in Chinese universities and colleges which involves organizing students for the purpose of participating in social, political, economic, and cultural activities in a planned way that meets the goals of a Chinese college education. As an important means and efficient form of education, it has two common forms:

- activities included in program curriculums which are implemented by education departments (e.g. probation, public welfare labor, internship, graduation design, military training, etc.);
- activities excluded in program curriculums but organized by the Communist Youth League, student unions and societies, or students themselves (e.g. social investigation, science technology and cultural services, work-study programs, volunteer works, and so forth).

Therefore, in China, class teachers and counselors share suggestions or instructions with students on how to best achieve their social practice activities for their further development.

## SPONSORED STUDENT

**Canada:** Students who receive a portion of their tuition and fees directly funded by an independent approved third party. Scholarships are non-repayable funds that recognize outstanding academic achievement. Bursaries are non-repayable awards designed to help fill any unmet needs between a student’s assessed financial need and the available government assistance.

**UAE:** Student receiving partial or full funding for their higher education by a private or government entity. Students may also get an additional living allowance under some sponsorships. Sponsored students have to meet the various conditions for sponsorship that often include nationality, grades, community service, and majors. Students are also often guaranteed jobs post-graduation with the sponsoring entity.

**UK:** Some students may be eligible for sponsorship from various bodies such as their or their parents' employers, the Armed Forces, etc. (Also see [Student Finance](#).)

## STUDENT FINANCE

**Netherlands:** Student finance is the financing that students receive from the Dutch government to pay for their study costs, tuition fees, health insurance, and living expenses. There are a number of conditions that a student must meet in order to qualify for student finance. The amount of the final student grant may also differ. All matters concerning student finance are provided by the Education Executive Agency (DUO) in Groningen. The current system of student finance is distinguished and the old system that applies as a transitional arrangement still applies.

**UK:** Most undergraduate students do not have to pay their tuition fees up front; they may apply for a loan, which is repayable after they have finished their studies and their income is above the repayment threshold. Eligibility depends on personal circumstances, the course, and the student's nationality or residency status. Extra help may be available for those with a disability, a child, or an adult dependent. Grants and bursaries are also offered by various charitable bodies, trusts, and learned societies. For postgraduate students, loans to help with tuition fees and living costs are available. There are also studentships, which are normally funded by the UK Research Councils. Some postgraduates may be able to undertake some teaching or demonstrating, which is paid.

## STUDENT PSYCHOLOGIST

**Netherlands:** A university position that requires guiding students and providing short-term psychological help to students with regard to psychosocial factors in relation to the study situation, according to (internal) guidelines and in line with the professional code, in order to contribute to the study progress.

## STUDENT SUPPORT

**UK:** All UK universities offer a wide range of student support services, including counselling, careers, financial advice, disability support, health and wellbeing, chaplaincy, skills development, international student advice, etc. Frequently these are offered in conjunction with the Students' Union.

## STUDENT UNION

**UK:** The Students' Union, which exists in the vast majority of higher and further education institutions, is a charity run by students for students. The umbrella organization is the National Union of Students. It is usually accorded its own building on the campus and is dedicated to the support and representation of students, both within the institution and externally. The unions provide a variety of services, including shops, academic support, financial and legal advice, and sporting or social societies. In some universities, the Students' Union is called the Guild of Students or the Students' Association.

## STUDY ADVISER

**Netherlands:** A position meant to advise and guide students on their approach to study, study progress, and method of study based on the faculty curriculum. Study advisors hold individual conversations with students or group trainings about the study program, progress, load, and behavior. This role mediates with faculty authorities about individual arrangements for students. This position is also called study counselor, student counselor, academic advisor, or academic counselor.

# T

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## **TRANSFERS/TRANSFER STUDENTS**

**UK:** Most UK university programmes are now modular and credit based, which makes it easier to transfer to a different institution. Transfers will depend on how well the two programmes fit together, if any prerequisites specified by the receiving institution have been completed, and how competitive entry is to the programme concerned.

# U

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## UNDECLARED STUDENT

**Canada:** Any student who has not formally declared their academic program or major of study is undeclared.

**Greece:** All students entering the school who have not decided on a major/minor. Usually they remain undeclared until the end of their sophomore year. When they reach that point, they have completed most of their general education courses, have the required GPA 2.00, and have 51 credit hours completed.

**UAE:** A student who is not yet formally admitted into their major in higher education. It may be because the student has not yet decided on a major or it may be because the student has not yet fulfilled the admission criteria for entrance into the major.

**UK:** Not a term which would be understood in the UK. Students choose their main programme of study before entering the university, and, although some degrees (particularly Joint Honours and Combined Studies) have more flexibility than others, and some electives may be permitted, they follow a structured programme of study. They are not able to pick and mix credits. In Scotland, most students take a wider range of subjects in the first year, choosing their main programme at the end of that year.

## UNIVERSITY

**Canada:** All universities have undergraduate (bachelor's) degrees, and many have graduate (master's and doctoral) programs. Although they receive funding from provincial governments, each institution is self-governing and regulates its own programs, admissions, and faculty. Undergraduate degrees usually take 3 to 4 years to complete, depending on the province, with full-time study. In Ontario, an honours degree (the fourth year) is required if you want to go to a graduate program (master's degree). In British Columbia, degree programs are 4 years. Many universities also offer professional programs, such as medicine, dentistry, and law.

**Netherlands:** An educational institution for higher education and scientific research.

## UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

**Canada:** All post-secondary institutions have an admission process, including marks gained in high school (generally grade 12, but some schools also consider grade 11 marks). Entrance qualifications also include any external tests or English proficiency verifications that might be required.

**Netherlands:** Known as admissions requirements.

**UK:** In most parts of the UK, GCSEs (taken at 16), Advanced Supplementary Levels (at 17), and Advanced Levels (at 18) are still the most common school-leaving qualifications. Most institutions would require applicants to have three good A levels, or two good A levels and two at AS. However, a much wider range is now apparent; many institutions offer the International Baccalaureate or European Baccalaureate, which require students to study more subjects, and an English Baccalaureate is being introduced. A Welsh Baccalaureate also exists. In Scotland, students take Standard Grades, followed by Highers, which will enable them to enter many Scottish universities; Advanced Highers also exist. Most English universities would require Scottish students to have at least two good Advanced Highers and three Highers.

# V

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## VICE CHANCELLOR

**UK:** The senior manager of a university is usually the Vice-Chancellor, who is an academic; they may be supported by Pro-Vice-Chancellors, with varying portfolios such as Research, Learning and Teaching, Students, etc. The head of a college (also an academic) is the Principal or the Provost.

## VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

**Netherlands:** In contrast to universities, higher vocational education programs focus primarily on the development of skills in close connection with professional practice, in addition to the transfer of subject-theoretical knowledge. Secondary vocational education (MBO) offers courses such as construction, technology, healthcare, and social professions; economic professions are given at Regional Training Centers. These courses fall under the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. Green training courses (agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food, animal husbandry) are given at Agricultural Training Centers (AOC). These fall under the Ministry of Economic Affairs. In addition, there are professional institutions; they provide MBO courses in one sector (e.g. graphic design). Apart from public or special institutions funded by one of the ministries, there are also numerous private training institutes that are allowed to issue approved MBO diplomas. Hairdressing schools and beauty institutes in particular are often private training centers. Secondary vocational education is regulated in the Adult and Vocational Education Act.

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