

BRITISH HIGHER EDUCATION PECULIARITIES

We all know the UK as a country of classical university and vocational education. The system of education in this country is one of the best in the world. This fact is confirmed by high ratings of institutions and the feedback of students from around the world who have chosen this country for education. Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh universities, Imperial College London are well-known British educational institutions which occupy leading positions in all international ratings. And this is not full list of British universities. There are many other institutions which rank high every year and are in the top 100 best and most prestigious universities in the world. And the reasons are the quality of teaching, employment prospects and potential of scientific development.

The purpose of the study is to identify and analyze the features of higher education in the UK.

Higher education in the UK has a long history. Training has been documented since 1096 in Oxford. Until the 19th century, there were only several schools that provided higher education, but later rapid and drastic changes began to take place.

It was the 19th century that became the most significant in the formation of higher education in Britain. Therefore, in this century the British government has introduced free and compulsory education for all. Another significant change in history soon affected the higher education system. Previously, the universities were accessible and provided higher education only to people of a particular religion. However, with the founding of University College London in 1826, everything changed. It was this college that became the first institution to open its doors not only to people of all religions, but even to students who did

not belong to any of them. Following the example of this institution, the Royal College of London also has made the education accessible to all people, regardless of their religion. Institutions such as Lady Margaret Hall, Bedford College, Herton College, and Somerville College were also established in this century. Higher education became accessible to women afterwards. [1].

The 19th century saw a number of significant changes in the structure of British higher education, which led to the rapid development of education in the future. In the 20th century more than 40 new colleges and universities were already established, and in the 21st century – more than 50. New institutions were created which became more and more accessible for all people. Education could be obtained, regardless of human race, religion, gender and other factors. And now the UK has about 165 higher educational institutions, famous for their prestige and high education quality [1].

Higher education in the UK includes preparatory programs, bachelor's degree programs, postgraduate programs (masters, doctorates) and MBA (Master of Business Administration).

Preparatory programs. The UK school program lasts 13 years, unlike ours, which lasts only 11 years. Therefore, foreign students wishing to enter a higher education institution, should fill this academic gap in the programs. A-level is one of the programs lasting 2 years. At the end of each year, students are required to take exams, the results of which will be taken into account when entering some British university.

Foundation is the second program which lasts only one year. As part of the program, students intensively learn English language and 3-4 subjects in the future specialty. Students can go to the first year after passing this program without additional exams. There is also a program such as International Baccalaureate (IB). Unlike previous programs, this program prepares students to enter not only universities in the UK, but also the USA, Canada and Europe [5].

Bachelor. Higher education in the UK has a wide range of bachelor's programs. Training usually lasts three years, however, long and in-depth study

of specialities such as medicine or business can take up to four years.

Postgraduate programs. Some of the most prestigious universities offer postgraduate education. You have an opportunity to obtain a master's degree. It usually takes one year, but if your degree is based on research, it can take up to two years. You can get a doctorate degree in three-four years. This is available only if you have already obtained your bachelor's degree in an accredited university [2].

MBA. The MBA program is the most demanded and offered by many UK universities. Students are introduced to different aspects of the business world, which contains such spheres as marketing, finance and administration. This program also helps students to gain knowledge about planning, management and activities of the organization. The duration of the course is usually one year [3].

There are certain requirements for admission to British universities. Firstly, it is a proficiency in English. It is the thing that significantly influences the chance of approval to the desired university. To do this, students must be trained in IELTS or TOEFL [4]. Secondly, the average score is important. If you are entering a bachelor's degree, the university will take into account A-level or IB scores. The third requirement is passing GRE or GMAT exams. Here everything is individual and depends on the program. However, they are only needed if you want to enroll in a master's degree.

Higher education in the UK is quite expensive. It is paid for both foreign and British students. The price depends on reputation and prestige of each university. In addition, the price is still influenced by the popularity of subjects – the humanities are cheaper than scientific [4]. However, although the cost of studying in the UK is quite high, some high education institutions provide assistance for students in the form of scholarships.

Conclusion. The study showed that the UK is much appreciated for the quality of its education. British universities regularly rank first in international ratings, and higher education diplomas are valued by scientists and employers all over the world. Studying in the UK is based on age-old traditions. The

combination of classical education and innovative methods makes the education especially prestigious and effective. And this is its peculiarity. Besides, studying in England provides a wide range of educational programs. Nevertheless, higher education in the UK is quite expensive for students, and admission to education institutions is subject to rather rigorous selection and a number of important and complex requirements.

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