



Pearson
Edexcel

European Study Guide

A guide for international school students
applying to European universities



qualifications.pearson.com/progress-to-university

About Pearson

Pearson is the world's leading learning company. We provide world class assessments, digital content and learning experiences for schools to enable more effective teaching and learning and to help learners increase their skills and global employability prospects.

Our academic and vocational qualifications are world renowned and include Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and International A levels (IAL®), studied by students in more than 100 countries. Anchored in the quality and traditions of the British education system, our international qualifications and assessments are supported by an unrivalled package of teaching, learning, and exam resources and pre- and post-exam services.



About this guide

Studying Pearson Edexcel International GCSE and International AS/A level qualifications opens the door to higher education around the world. This guide highlights the main steps for international students to follow when applying to university in selected European countries.

Each country in Europe has different processes in place for applying to higher education institutions and this guide will help you understand the broad procedures for admission. Links are provided within each country section to national pages with full details on the process and opportunities in that country and to general information about higher education in each country.

You should use this guide as a starting point for research, but you will need to investigate the full range of factors that could influence your decision; such as fees, visas, accommodation, culture and lifestyle.

At the end of the guide, we have provided a glossary of key terms in different languages to help you understand the different systems.

Good luck with your applications!



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Applying to universities in Europe

General advice

- 1 Start to research the country, institutions and courses that interest you early. If you are set on a particular field of study and have a country in mind, it is advisable to look at the requirements of that country, institution and course before you make your International A level choices.
- 2 Check university application timings and deadlines, these vary considerably by country and are not the same every year.
- 3 Check the full range of application requirements, not just the academic requirements. These could include visas, proof of financial support, accreditation of language skills and more.
- 4 If additional language tests are required (e.g. DELF, DALF, DELE) give yourself time to practise and take the tests. Do not leave them until the last minute.
- 5 Expect things to be different. Despite the harmonisation of education systems in Europe, there are still considerable differences between systems, processes, and requirements. These are not meant to be barriers but do reflect the individuality of each nation or community.
- 6 Check out the availability of student accommodation at your chosen destination. Not every country or university has purpose-built provision.

Share your progression story with us!

We are always excited to hear from our Pearson Edexcel international student community so if you'd like to share your progression to university story with us once you're settled, please email us at internationalschools@pearson.com, we'd love to hear from you!



Apply to university in Belgium

Overview of higher education

Belgium is divided into different communities, each with varying processes for accessing higher education. English language bachelor degrees are available in both the French (Wallonia) and the Dutch (Flemish) communities.

There are three types of bachelor's degree available in Belgium:

- A professional bachelor's degree, which qualifies you for a profession immediately after completion of studies.
- A transitional bachelor's degree, which prepares you for the next cycle; the master's degree.
- An advanced bachelor's degree, to complement a first bachelor's degree, this can be obtained after having successfully completed an initial bachelor's degree.

Degree courses are available in Flemish, French, German and English.

How to apply

There are different application processes in Belgium dependent on the community.

Wallonia – French speaking community

The application period for undergraduate degrees opens in February and closes at the end of March. You should check the admission requirements for the course you wish to study.

You can access a study finder via the [Study in Belgium website](http://www.studyinflanders.be/programmes).

Students should apply using the application form provided by the university they wish to apply to.

As part of the application process, you may need to:

- Obtain a certificate of equivalence for your International A level and GCSE awards. This can be done by contacting the [Equivalence Department](http://www.equivalences.cfwb.be/index.php?id=844&L=1) of the Wallonia Government.
- Provide proof of funds.

Flemish Community – Dutch Speaking

You can research the course options for programmes in English or Dutch at the [Wallonia Government Equivalence Department website](http://www.wallonia.be/government-equivalence-department-website).

You should complete an application via the website of the Flemish university or university of applied sciences (and arts) of your choice. In general, applications open around November to December. You may be charged an application fee.

Once you have completed the online application, you will be asked to submit documents such as qualification certificates and identity documents to complete your application.

The minimum admission requirements are to have completed secondary education (International A levels) and the ability to demonstrate B2 level in English Language. You may also have to sit additional tests for certain courses. The university to which you apply will carry out an evaluation of your qualification. You should check with the university for the grades they require for admission.

Recognition of Pearson Edexcel qualifications

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and International A levels (IAL®) are recognised for admission by Belgian universities. Be aware that for some subjects, additional tests may be requested.

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Belgium study finder: <http://www.equivalences.cfwb.be/index.php?id=844&L=1>

Wallonia Government Equivalence Department: <http://www.equivalences.cfwb.be/index.php?id=844&L=1>

Flemish community course finder: <https://www.studyinflanders.be/programmes>

Apply to university in Denmark

Overview of higher education

Denmark has around 50 higher education institutions and over 60 degrees taught in English. There are two main types of bachelor's degree in Denmark:

- A professional bachelor's degree, that prepares you for a specific profession and takes between three and four years to complete
- A university bachelor's degree, that usually takes three years to complete in one of two subject areas.

How to apply

- First, check the range of degrees available via the [Study in Denmark website](https://studyindenmark.dk/portal).
- Next, you should check the general and specific entry requirements for your course. You can find this information on the website of the university.
- You should then apply through the [central admissions agency](https://www.optagelse.dk/admission/index.html).
- You can apply to up to eight courses.



Recognition of Pearson Edexcel qualifications

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and International A levels (IAL®) are recognised for admission by Danish universities.

To satisfy the general entry requirements for Danish universities, the following combinations are permitted.

For university bachelor's degrees

For entry to university bachelor's degrees, you will need a minimum of nine subjects (International GCSE, AS and A level) including at least six different subjects and at least three A levels. The three A levels can, alternatively, consist of two A levels + two AS levels or one A level + four AS levels. Or, if the prior learning is not based on the GCSE system, admission is based on two subjects at AS level and three subjects at A level (in total a minimum of five different subjects).

Subjects at A level can be replaced by subjects at AS level (two subjects at AS level replace one subject at A level). At least one subject must be at A level.

For professional bachelor's degrees

For entry to professional bachelor's degrees, you will need a minimum of seven subjects (International GCSE, AS and A level) including at least five different subjects and at least two A levels. The two A levels can, alternatively, consist of one A level + two AS levels.

If the prior learning is not based on the GCSE system, admission is based on two subjects at AS level and two subjects at A-level (in total a minimum of four different subjects).

Subjects at A level can be replaced by subjects at AS level (two subjects at AS level replace one subject at A level). At least one subject must be at A level.

There are no tuition fees for EU/EAA students, but non-EU/EAA students may have to pay a fee.

Apply to university in France

Overview of higher education

France has over 3,000 institutions offering higher education. There are a range of qualifications from two-year courses of study such as the DUT or the Licence (Bachelor degree) or longer qualifications from a Grande Ecole, highly selective institutions offering a five-year degree culminating in the award of a master's degree.

The majority of the programmes are in French although an increasing number are now taught in English.

How to apply

You can research programs available on the government platform [Parcoursup](https://parcoursup.fr/). If you are an EU student, you must apply using the [Parcoursup](https://parcoursup.fr/) application platform.

This application process is only in French. In the application you create a profile and upload supporting information, you can then search for a programme of study by subject, or by location. You can send your application to up to ten universities.

For each application you will see if there is a selection process or if it says "100% Taux d'accès" which means that all applications are accepted. If there is a selection process, you will be able to see what form this takes (i.e. entry exams) and what the criteria for selection are. The application process opens in January and closes in March.

If you live in one of these countries: Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia,

Iran, Israel, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Congo, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States or Vietnam, and you have the same nationality of that country and you are completing A levels then you may apply using the [Parcoursup](https://parcoursup.fr/) application system.

If you have a different nationality to the country you are living in, you will have to use the [Etudes en France](https://etudes-en-france.fr/) platform to complete a DAP ([Demande D'Admission Préable](https://etudes-en-france.fr/demande-d-admission-prealable)).

If you are a national of a country not mentioned above, then you must complete a DAP as above.

A DAP must be made the previous year October to December and you can opt for up to three universities.

Recognition of Pearson Edexcel qualifications

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and International A levels (IAL®) are recognised for admission by French universities.

The Centre ENIC-NARIC of France has confirmed that International A levels are considered comparable to Level four qualifications or the Baccalaureate (University Entrance Qualification) in France.

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Parcoursup: <https://dossier.parcoursup.fr/Candidat/carte>

Parcoursup application platform: <https://www.parcoursup.gouv.fr/>

Etudes en France Demande d'Admission Préable: <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/fr/dossier-blanc-demande-d-admission-prealable-dap-pour-une-premiere-inscription-dans-une-universite-46452>

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Study in Denmark: <https://studyindenmark.dk/portal>

Danish Central Admissions Agency: <https://www.optagelse.dk/admission/index.html>

Apply to university in Germany

Overview of higher education

Germany is a very popular destination for international students with over 430 universities and more than 400,000 international students from a total of 2.8 million students.

Germany has very low tuition fees and a wide range of courses. Universities are located throughout the country giving potential students a wide variety of regions and cities to choose from.

How to apply

Application to study at a German university can appear complicated but there is a clear process that you must follow which will depend on the subject and the language you wish to study.

- Work out when to apply. For a September start you should begin the application process in early May.
- Choose your subject. You can find a list of courses available on the [Study in Germany website](https://programs.studying-in-germany.org/) and filter them by language. The majority of bachelor's degree programmes are taught in German but there are over 100 programmes taught in English.
- Check any admissions restrictions for your chosen programme. There are two types of admissions restrictions: local and national. National restrictions are in place for subjects such as medicine, pharmacy, veterinary science and dentistry. Entry to these programs is regulated by the [Stiftung fuer Hochschulzulassung](https://www.stiftung-fuer-hochschulzulassung.de/). Local restrictions are set by the university, and you should contact the international office of the university for questions about requirements.

- Decide where to apply. This will depend on where you completed your secondary schooling:
 - If your chosen programme has national restrictions and you are an EU National, apply to the Stiftung fuer Hochschulzulassung.
 - If your chosen programme has national restrictions and you are based outside the EU, apply directly to the university.
 - If your chosen programme has local restrictions or no restrictions and you are an EU National and the university is a member of the Dialogorientiertes Service Verfahren DoSV, apply to the Stiftung fuer Hochschulzulassung. If it is not a member, you should apply to the university directly.
 - If your chosen programme has local restrictions or no restrictions and you are based outside the EU, you must find out if the university is a member of Uni-Assist and apply through this body. If it is not a member, you should apply directly to the university.
- Find out which documents are required. You should complete an application form which may be available through the Stiftung fuer Hochschulzulassung, Uni-Assist or from the university itself. Contact the university's international office to confirm. Additionally, you will also need:
 - A certified copy of your International A level/AS/ GCSE certificates
 - Passport and copies of photo page
 - Proof of language ability.

Recognition of Pearson Edexcel qualifications

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and International A levels (IAL®) are widely recognised in Germany. You can consult the recommendations of the KMK (German NARIC) on their online database [ANABIN](https://anabin.kmk.org/anabin.html). You should choose the section Schulabschlüsse mit Hochschulzugang > Grossbritannien > International Advanced Level.

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Study in Germany: <https://programs.studying-in-germany.org/>

Stiftung fuer Hochschulzulassung: <https://www.hochschulstart.de/index.php?id=startseite>

Uni-assist: <https://www.uni-assist.de/en/>

ANABIN database: <https://anabin.kmk.org/anabin.html>

Apply to university in Iceland

Overview of higher education

There are seven universities in Iceland offering a small range of English language degrees. Around 5% of students in Iceland are international. You can find a list of universities via the [Study in Iceland website](https://study.iceland.is/).

How to apply

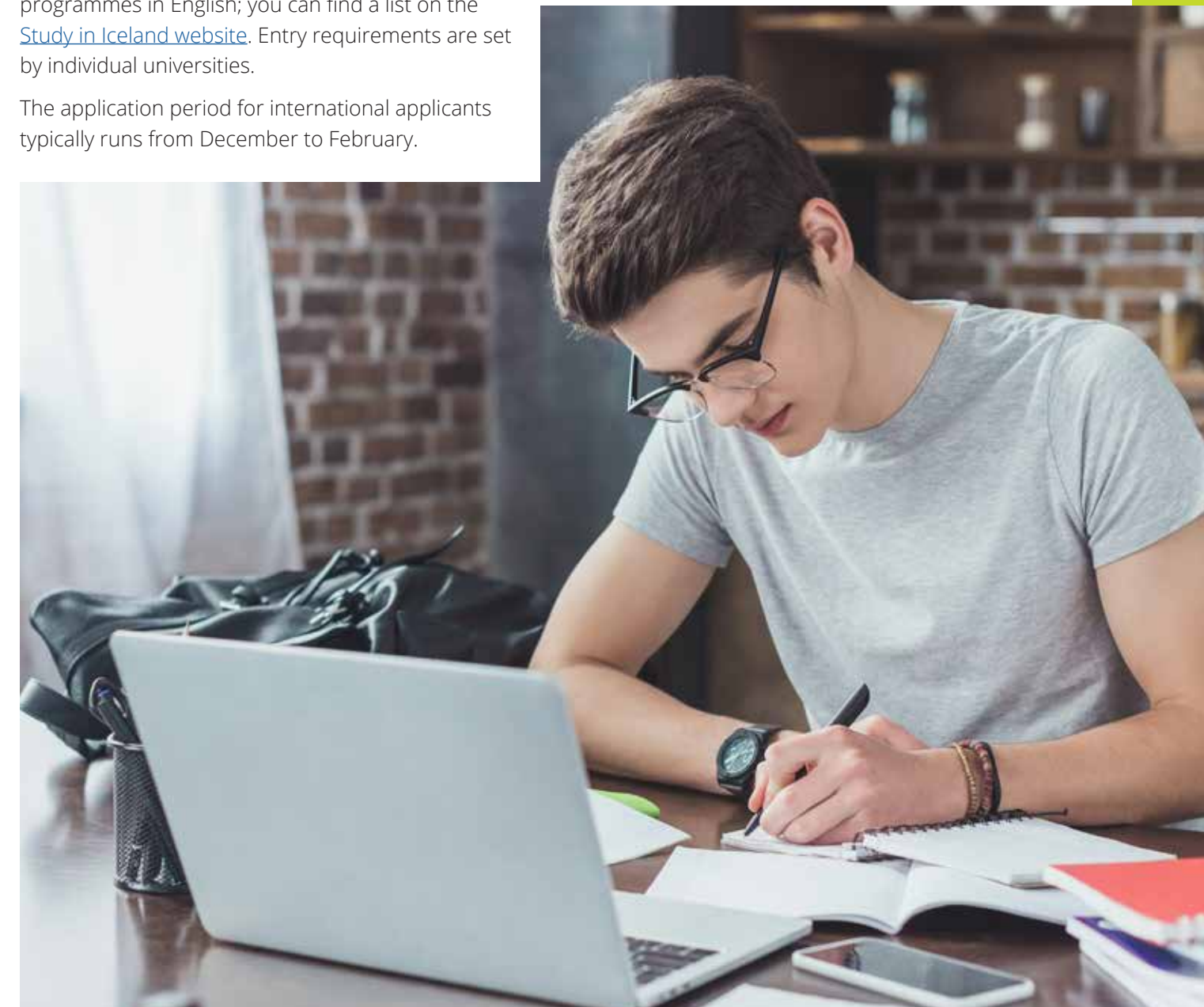
You should apply through each individual university using the application form on their website. There are a limited number of undergraduate programmes in English; you can find a list on the [Study in Iceland website](https://study.iceland.is/). Entry requirements are set by individual universities.

The application period for international applicants typically runs from December to February.

Recognition of Pearson Edexcel qualifications

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and International A levels (IAL®) are recognised for admission by Icelandic universities.

Typical entry requirements are a minimum of nine subjects of which three should be at International A level. You can present three International A levels, two International A levels + two International AS levels or one International A level + four International AS levels.



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Study in Iceland: <https://study.iceland.is/>

Apply to university in Ireland

Overview of higher education

There are four main types of higher education institution in Ireland: universities, institutes of technology, education colleges and private colleges. These institutions offer three- or four-year ordinary or honours bachelor's degrees.

Ireland has a [national qualifications framework](#) that explains the different levels of qualification available. You can find a full list of publicly funded higher education providers via the [higher education providers in Ireland website](#).

How to apply

You should apply by creating an account with the Central Admissions Office.

Once you have created an account you can add in your information and qualifications achieved. The application deadline is in late January or early February.

In your account, you can enter the exams, including all the International GCSE and International A level exams you have already achieved and those that you are still to sit. Your results are converted into a points score which is used for admission to programmes. You can see the tariff via the [Central Applications Office Ireland](#).

There are strict guidelines on which subjects are accepted and in which sitting you can take exams that will be accepted:

- The EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) is accepted at the same level as International or UK AS level and receives the same tariff points.
- Full tariff points will only be given to International A levels completed in one sitting i.e., in the same academic year.

- [Additional points](#) may be scored for International A level Maths with a grade of E or above.
- Whilst they do not count towards the final tariff score you should present your International GCSE results as well.
- When you receive your final results, you must post certified photocopies of certificates/statements of results for examinations to CAO, Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway, Ireland immediately. Certificates or statements of results must be issued by Pearson. Documents produced by schools will not be considered sufficient.

For a full list of accepted subjects, check the [National University of Ireland website](#).

Recognition of Pearson Edexcel qualifications

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and International A levels (IAL®) are recognised for admission by Irish universities.



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National qualifications framework: <https://www.qqi.ie/national-framework-of-qualifications>

Higher education providers in Ireland: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/5088c-list-of-publicly-funded-higher-education-institutions/>

Tariffs and additional points calculator: <https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=scoring&s=gce>

National University of Ireland list of accepted subjects: <https://www.nui.ie/college/entry-requirements.asp>

Apply to university in Italy

Overview of higher education

There are four main types of higher education institutions in Italy:

- Public universities
- Legally recognised non-public universities
- Online universities
- Higher schools and other institutions

A full list of higher education institutions is available via the [University website](#). The most common undergraduate degree is the three-year bachelor's degree or Laurea Triennale.

How to apply

You should identify the course and university that you wish to apply to. Most bachelor's degrees are taught in Italian but there are some undergraduate degrees taught in English or German.

You can search for available degrees via the [University website](#). You should note there are two types of availability: set quota or numero programmato courses and unrestricted access courses.

If you do not require a visa to study in Italy, you should apply to the university directly and provide them with any additional documentation they require.

If you do require a visa to study in Italy, you must complete a prior university pre-enrolment procedure.

Universities will ask candidates to their courses to access the [University portal](#) to complete the online 'domanda di preiscrizione' request for admission. Once within the portal applicants can find all the relevant information to complete their request. You can then start the process of requesting a visa which you must then indicate within the same portal the acceptance or refusal to issue the visa.

The deadlines for procedures relating to pre-enrolment for first- and second-cycle courses are defined by each individual university and published on their respective websites.

Additional documentation that may be requested could include:

- An attestation of equivalence for your International A levels and GCSEs, available from the [Italian NARIC \(CIMEA\)](#)
- A Declaration of Value: a document obtained from the Italian Consulate in your country which provides a form of verification for your qualifications obtained in that country.

You can find a download booklet here with full information on the procedures.

Recognition of Pearson Edexcel qualifications

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and International A levels (IAL®) are recognised for admission by Italian universities.

The Italian NARIC (CIMEA) recommends that the successful completion of three international A levels meets the minimum requirements for entry to higher education in Italy.



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Higher education institutions in Italy: <https://www.university.it/cerca-istituzioni>

University portal: <https://www.university.it/>

Italian NARIC (CIMEA): <https://www.cimea.it/EN/pagina-riconoscimento-accademico>

Study in Italy procedures: https://www.studiare-in-italia.it/studentistranieri/moduli/2023/Circolare_2023_2024_EN.pdf

Apply to university in Netherlands

Overview of higher education

The Netherlands is a very popular destination for international students and offers a large number of undergraduate and graduate degree programs in English. There are several different types of higher education institutions and each has different entry requirements.

These include:

- Research universities: offering academic oriented researched based degrees
- Universities of Applied Sciences: universities that focus on the practical application of Sciences and Arts
- University colleges: based on the US Liberal Arts model.

How to apply

You should start your research into programmes,, cities and universities well in advance. You should consider the course admission requirements and the International A/VAS level and GCSEs that they will accept for that course. At this stage you can also consider how competitive a programme is and the application process that you have to follow. Once you have identified the programme(s) that you wish to apply for, the process is as follows:

- Work out when to apply. Check the institution's website to see when the application deadline is. Some places have very early application deadlines in January.
- Choose a subject. Use the [Studyfinder](https://www.studyinnl.org/dutch-education/studies) website to find degree courses in English.
- Most international students will have to use the [Studielink](https://www.studielink.nl/) website to apply but you should check with the international office of the university to make sure before you apply. You will need to register and create an account.

- Check the course type. Some – some courses have a restricted number of places. They are called Numerus Fixus. These courses often have stricter entrance criteria and a January application deadline. You should check with the university if the course you wish to apply for is Numerus Fixus course. You may only submit a maximum of two applications for these courses and only one if you are applying for Medicine, Dentistry, Dental Hygiene and Physiotherapy programs. Applications will be ranked and if you are offered a place and do not accept within two weeks, the place will be offered to the next student on the list.

Recognition of Pearson Edexcel qualifications

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and International A levels (IAL®) are recognised for admission by universities in the Netherlands.

The [NUFFIC](https://www.nuffic.nl/en) (Dutch NARIC) recommends that a combination of three International GCSE subjects Grades 9-4 plus three International A Levels grades A*-C in six different subjects, including English and Maths, is considered equivalent to the Dutch VWO Diploma. The VWO diploma is the entry requirement to enter Dutch research-oriented universities.

It is essential that before applying you check the individual requirements for the university and course you wish to apply for. In the Netherlands because of the division between research universities and universities of Applied Sciences some International A levels subjects are considered to be vocational and so may not qualify you for entry to research universities.

Apply to university in Norway

Overview of higher education

There are three main types of higher education institution in Norway:

- specialised universities
- universities of Applied Sciences
- university colleges.

You can obtain a list of accredited universities from the [NOKUT website](https://www.nokut.no/en/higher-education/higher-education-institutions/).

There are a limited number of bachelor's degrees taught in English. Most undergraduate programs are taught in Norwegian.

How to apply

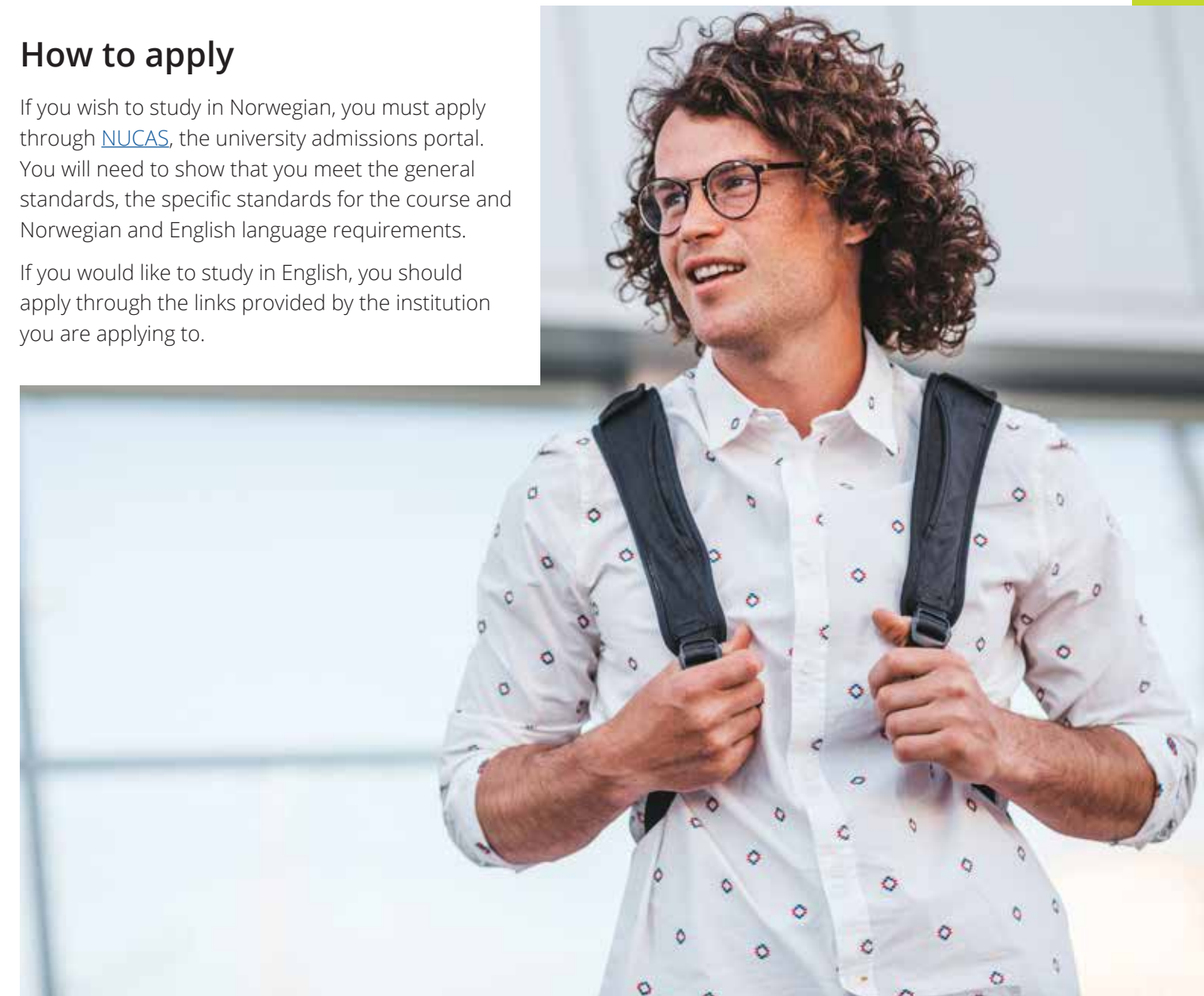
If you wish to study in Norwegian, you must apply through [NUCAS](https://www.nucas.no/), the university admissions portal. You will need to show that you meet the general standards, the specific standards for the course and Norwegian and English language requirements.

If you would like to study in English, you should apply through the links provided by the institution you are applying to.

Recognition of Pearson Edexcel qualifications

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and International A levels (IAL®) are recognised for admission by Norwegian universities.

The minimum entry requirements for universities in Norway are three completed International Advanced Levels. You will need to check individual universities for their exact requirements. There are usually no additional English language requirements if you have completed two International A levels.



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Studyfinder: <https://www.studyinnl.org/dutch-education/studies>

Studielink: <https://www.studielink.nl/>

NUFFIC: <https://www.nuffic.nl/en>

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NOKUT: <https://www.nokut.no/en/higher-education/higher-education-institutions/>

NUCAS: <https://www.samordnaopptak.no/info/english/>

Apply to university in Spain

Overview of higher education

The majority of bachelor degrees (Grado/Grau/Gradu) in Spain are offered wholly or partly in Spanish/Catalan/Basque or Galician. There are around 80 degrees offered wholly in English and a list of them can be found via the Qué estudiar y dónde en la universidad ([QEDU](https://siii.universidades.gob.es/QEDU/)) website.

How to apply

If you apply with International A levels, you will need to obtain accreditations that match the Spanish grade system. Your International A levels will be evaluated to obtain an Access Grade ([Calificación para Admisión](https://unedasiss.uned.es/faqs&idioma=es)) which can obtain you a maximum of ten points. Additionally, you might need to sit Pruebas de Competencia Especificas (PCEs) or Subject Specific Tests to increase your score by a maximum of four points (up to 14 points in total). If you apply to university through the homologation process, you will also need to take the PCEs. See below for details.

There are two possible pathways to applying to university in Spain:

- Direct access: students applying with International or UK A Levels and International or UK GCSEs are eligible for the Direct Access pathway based on a bilateral agreement signed by the Spanish and UK governments in July 2023. For this pathway, students can apply for accreditation through [UNEDassis](https://unedasiss.uned.es/home&idioma=en)
- Homologation: This pathway is for students applying to Spanish universities having completed their studies in an education system from any foreign country, either within the European Union or elsewhere. You will need to demonstrate that your qualifications are equivalent to the Spanish qualifications. Students should apply through the [Ministry of Education](https://siii.universidades.gob.es/QEDU/).

Taking either of the two routes will ultimately involve the calculation of a score for the selection purposes mentioned above. Apply to university in Spain:

Homologation requirements

For this pathway, the minimum academic qualifications required are two International or UK A levels + five International or GCSEs at grade C/4 or above. The supplementary Pruebas de Competencias Especificas (PCE) (maximum two subjects) may not be necessary; they are taken for admission / selection purposes; this usually depends on the cut-off scores that are applied to the course to which you may wish to apply.

Direct Access requirements

For this pathway, for all non-Spanish qualification holders, the minimum academic qualifications required are three International or UK A levels + five International or UK GCSEs at grade C/4 or above. International GCSE grades contribute to the calculated score. Access Qualification (CAU): A levels make up 60% of the CAU, with a greater overall weight given to Spanish exams (PCE). In addition, Pruebas de Competencia Especificas (PCE) (two subjects) are necessary to achieve the Access Qualification. Another two may be necessary to get the four extra points towards a higher Admission Score.

Recognition of Pearson Edexcel qualifications

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and International A levels (IAL®) are recognised for admission by Spanish universities.

As a result of the [bilateral agreement](https://boe.es/boe/dias/2023/07/27/pdfs/BOE-A-2023-17285.pdf) signed between the UK and Spanish Governments in July 2023, International A levels may be used for direct access to Spanish universities. You may use predicted grades provided by your school before results come through in August to begin the process with [UNEDassis](https://unedasiss.uned.es/home&idioma=en) but you may lose your place at university if you do not obtain those grades in the final exams.

Apply to university in Sweden

Overview of higher education

Sweden has over 50 universities and university colleges and around 100 bachelor programmes taught in English. It boasts numerous top-ranked universities. There are no tuition fees for EU/EEA nationals.

How to apply

- Create a profile on the [University Admissions Sweden website](https://www.universityadmissions.se/en/). You will need proof of identity and an email address. You will need to upload your documents, including copies of your Pearson Edexcel awards. You will only need to do this once and you can use the same information to apply to up to eight universities.
- Search for courses that interest you. Once you have added your information you can search for courses. You can browse available courses in advance via the [University Admissions Sweden website](https://www.universityadmissions.se/en/).
- Rank your choices. It is important to follow the guidance given on the number of credits you have selected.
- Upload your supporting documents, including your International A/AS level and GCSE certificates. You will need to check the specific entry requirements of your course.
- Complete payment if you are a non-EU/EEA national. If you are an EU/EEA national you will need to document your citizenship.

Recognition of Pearson Edexcel qualifications

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and International A levels (IAL®) are recognised for admission by Swedish universities.

There is a minimum general requirement of two International A Levels at grade E or above plus four International GCSEs at grade four or above. There are also course specific requirements. You can look at the course for course comparison via the [University Admissions Sweden website](https://www.universityadmissions.se/en/). You can meet the English requirement with an International or UK GCSE at grade four or above.



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University courses in Spain: <https://siii.universidades.gob.es/QEDU/>

Access grade (Calificación para Admisión) information: <https://unedasiss.uned.es/faqs&idioma=es>

UNEDassis: <https://unedasiss.uned.es/home&idioma=en>

Bilateral agreement: <https://boe.es/boe/dias/2023/07/27/pdfs/BOE-A-2023-17285.pdf>

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University Admissions Sweden: <https://www.universityadmissions.se/en/>

Courses list: <https://www.universityadmissions.se/en/search?period=21&freeText=>

Course entry requirements comparison: <https://www.universityadmissions.se/en/apply-to-bachelors/provide-application-documents-bachelors/country-instructions/united-kingdom-england-wales-northern-ireland/>

Apply to university in Switzerland

Overview of higher education

Switzerland has three main types of higher education institution:

- Universities: there are 12 universities offering degree programmes at a high scientific and theory-based level. Many degree programmes are offered only at these traditional universities, such as all humanities degrees, many science degrees, and some engineering degrees.
- Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts: there are nine universities of Applied Sciences and Arts. Their remit is to provide scientific and professional education, to conduct applied research, and to promote cooperation with practice and industry. Some degree programmes, such as landscape architecture, health sciences, music, theatre, film, art, and design are only offered in this type of university.
- Universities of Teacher Education: there are 20 universities of teacher education that offer practice-oriented training such as pre-primary education, primary education, secondary education, special needs education degrees.

How to apply

You should first research the university and the programme you wish to apply for. You can do that via the [Study Programmes in Switzerland website](#).

You should then check the admission criteria. Each university will set different criteria for admission to its programmes. You can check the criteria by following the links from this [Swiss Universities website](#).

You should apply via the university website. You can find a list of all the universities via the [Study in Switzerland website](#).

Recognition of Pearson Edexcel qualifications

Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs and International A levels (IAL®) are recognised for admission by Swiss universities.

A combination of International A levels and GCSEs is required and the subjects below must be included:

- First language (native language)
- Second language
- Mathematics
- Natural sciences (biology, chemistry or physics)
- Humanities and social sciences (geography, history or economics/law)
- Elective

You should check the specific requirements of each university either directly with the university or by following the links via the [Swiss Universities website](#).



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Study Programmes in Switzerland: <https://www.studyprogrammes.ch/en/start>

Swiss Universities criteria search: <https://www.swissuniversities.ch/en/topics/studying/admission-to-universities/countries-1>

University courses in Switzerland: <https://www.studyinswitzerland.plus/university-types/>

Glossary of terms

| Term | Description |
|---|--|
| ANABIN | German International Qualifications Database. |
| CAO | Central Admissions Office in Ireland. |
| DALF | Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française, the official advanced French language exam. |
| DELE | Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera, the official Spanish language exam. |
| DELF | Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française, the official French language exam. |
| DUT | Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie, an undergraduate technical diploma in France. |
| Grado/Grau/Gradu | Spanish and Catalan terms for bachelor's degree. |
| Grande Ecole | French term used to refer to prestigious French higher education institutions. |
| Homologation | The official validation and equation of qualifications from another country to a national system. |
| Liberal Arts Colleges | Institutions that emphasise degrees in the liberal arts fields of study, including humanities, sciences and social sciences. Often students will not focus on only one field of study. |
| Licence | French term for a bachelor's degree. |
| NARIC | National Recognition and Information Centre, a national agency that advises on the recognition of foreign qualifications in their country. NARIC is used for centres which are in country that are members of the EU. Non-EU centres are referred to as ENICs. |
| National Qualifications Framework (NQF) | A schematic representation of the different levels of qualifications in a given country. Each level on the framework has descriptors which are used to benchmark qualifications awarded in that country. |
| NOKUT | Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education. |
| NUCAS | The Norwegian Universities and Colleges Admission Service. It coordinates the admission to undergraduate study programmes at all universities, state university colleges and some private university colleges in Norway. |
| Numero programmato | A restriction on the number of places on offer on popular degree programmes. This is necessary where there is a huge demand for places and relatively low entry requirements. This term is generally used in Italy. |
| Numerus Clausus | A restriction on the number of places on offer on popular degree programmes. This is necessary where there is a huge demand for places. There may be local or national restrictions depending on the field of study. This term is used most frequently in Germany and Austria. |
| Numerus Fixus | A restriction on the number of places on offer on popular degree programmes. This is necessary where there is a huge demand for places and relatively low entry requirements. This term is generally used in the Netherlands. |

| Term | Description |
|--|---|
| Ordinary / Honours degrees | In Ireland these are two different degrees at different levels on the NFQ at ordinary degree may last three years and an honours degree may last up to four years. |
| Pruebas de Competencia Especificas (PCE) | University entrance exams for entry into specific courses at Spanish universities. |
| Stiftung fuer Hochschulzulassung | University Admissions Foundation for Germany. |
| UNEDassis | Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (National Distance learning University) is a service to support entrants with non-Spanish qualifications to university. |
| Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) | A professionally oriented higher education institution. |
| VWO Diploma | Voorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs, the Academic Upper secondary award used for access to research-oriented universities in the Netherlands. |



Why choose Pearson Edexcel as your qualifications provider?

Our qualifications heritage stretches back over 150 years

As the world's leading learning company and the UK's largest exam board, Pearson's qualifications heritage stretches back over 150 years, our modular and linear qualifications are offered in more than 100 countries worldwide with a choice of paper-based and onscreen assessments, and we mark over 10 million exam scripts per year on behalf of the UK Department for Education.

Today, we partner with more than 6,500 schools, universities, and employers worldwide:

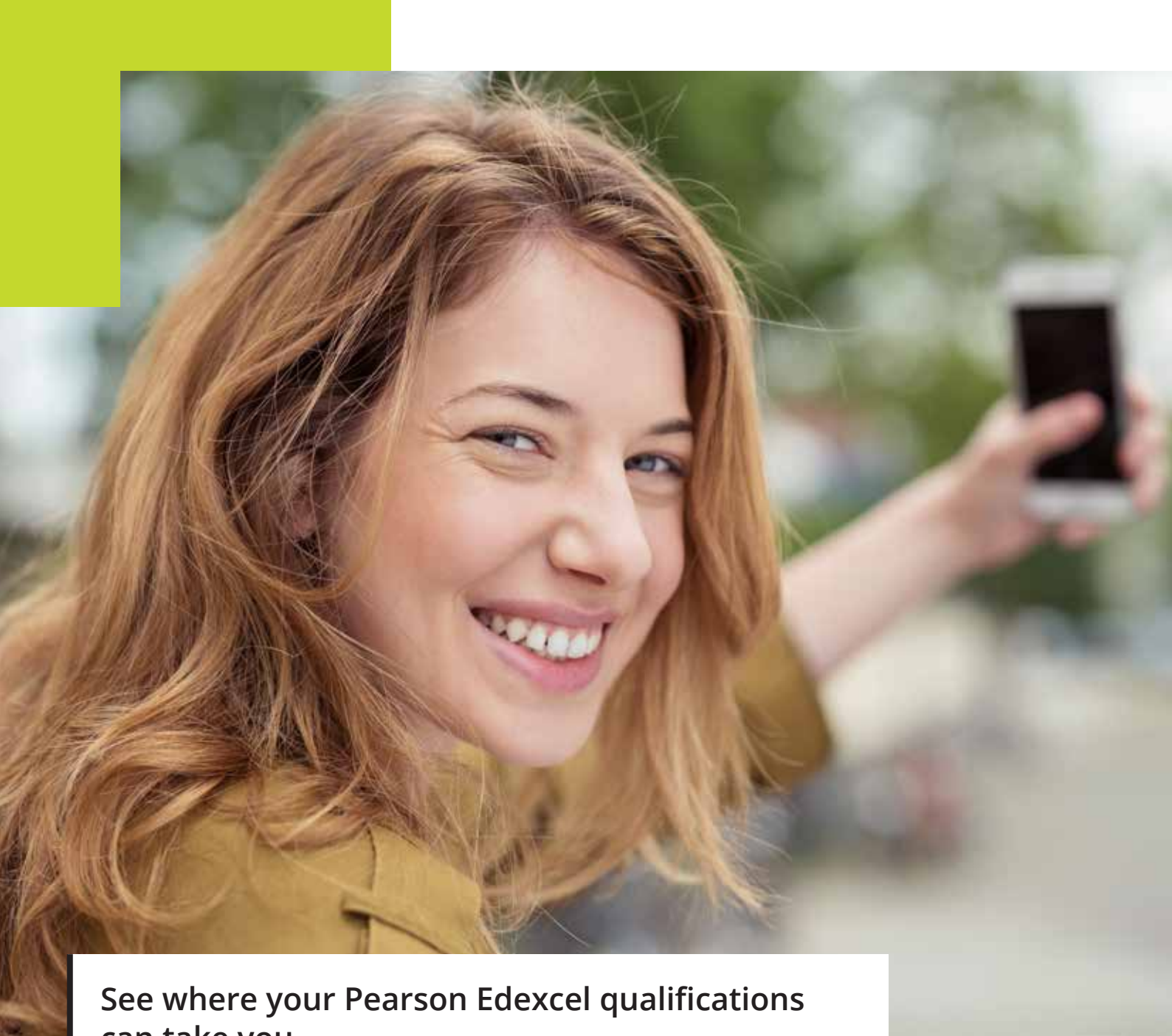
- at school level, to offer Pearson Edexcel International and UK qualifications to over 3.5 million students annually;
- at university level, to ensure Pearson Edexcel qualifications are recognised and accepted by universities all over the world;

- and with employers, by building 21st century skills into our qualifications at the outset, to ensure learners have transferable skills alongside the knowledge they need to progress into the careers of their choice.
- Pearson Edexcel is regulated by Ofqual, ensuring our curricula meet the highest standards and our exams follow carefully controlled procedures at every stage of development, delivery, marking and reporting. As the largest exam board in the UK, Pearson Edexcel regularly achieves the highest marking accuracy of all UK boards.

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You can trust Pearson Edexcel's international qualifications and curricula; thousands of students around the world follow our Early Years Foundation Stage, iPrimary and iLowerSecondary curricula, moving on to Pearson Edexcel International GCSEs before progressing onto International A levels (IAL®) and to the world's most respected universities.





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